

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Eleventh Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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*(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 11, 2002/Agrahayana 20, 1924 (Saka)

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

*(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government in its reply has tried to justify the yesterday's event or the situation which has been created on some pretext. Lathicharge took place on the orders of the officer named Shri Manoj Lal who was incharge there and the cassette of that sequence of events is with us. You can see that cassette. It was said yesterday that he would not be suspended. We want that you issue directions from the Chair and see the cassette. You are requested to take immediate action in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of discussion has taken place on this subject.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such an irresponsible officer should immediately be suspended.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday this issue was discussed twice and the hon. Minister also replied. You wanted to show that cassette but we could not see it. I will see that cassette right now and inform you accordingly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): It is a serious matter. We are not satisfied with the statement given by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. It has lowered the dignity of the House. The dignity of the House should be maintained. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to see the cassette because you desire me to do so. You asked me to see the cassette and I replied in the affirmative. What is wrong in it?

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has happened is not good. It is the Government's responsibility to see to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you had demanded. What wrong has gone today?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday this matter was discussed and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs also gave a statement. Second time he put forth his opinion in the House after reviewing the situation and you also gave a ruling at the end. We are grateful to you because the ruling made the intent of the Chair very clear that action should be taken against the guilty officer. But now the situation is taking another turn. Now the House would have to think as to whether or not the House should follow the Gandhian way? If any person wants to draw the attention of the country, House or the Government by holding peaceful procession towards the problems of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday we had a full debate on this issue.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want you to listen to us. I will conclude within two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Several Members want the Question Hour to start immediately.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This issue is even more important than the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have given you the permission to speak but you conclude quickly.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Whether the demonstrators would have to take weapons along with them to counter the police lathicharge. The Hon. Home Minister in his statement said that the statement made by hon. Chandra Shekhar ji and Dewegowdaji has proved that the allegation is prima facie correct.

Shri Advani has accepted in the House that prima facie the allegation is correct. Every body knows that the police is deployed under an incharge and the name of the incharge as referred in this case is Shri Manoj Lal. I would like to know whether Shri Manoj Lal Das is a relative of any Union Minister. If he is a relative of any Union Minister, is this the reason for the Government to use such words to protect him? What more perturbing can be the occurrence of such an incident and efforts by the Government to protect the guilty officer by virtue of his being the relative of some Minister and only when the Member of the Parliament shows his injured body the Government would order for inquiry into the incident.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cassette of this incident is available and you must show it to the entire House. There cannot be a powerful committee than this House and only the House would decide as to what course of action be adopted. No dilly-dallying in this matter be allowed. I have given the Notice of

Adjournment motion on this subject to you even today. Hence, this issue is more important than the Question Hour. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has expressed his views on it along with several other leaders. You must make an effort to ensure that their sentiments are honoured. The House would never yield to the Government's intent to continue their government by protecting the person resorting to use of force. I request you to once again give your ruling on this issue and also issue directions from the Chair to take action against the guilty officer. It has already been mentioned that some Manoj Lal Das has played a role in ordering the lathicharge. With these words I conclude and hope that you would certainly give your ruling by taking into consideration all the things including the injury caused to the Hon. Member which you yourself have witnessed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received the notice for Adjournment Motion from three hon. Members, namely Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Ramjilal Suman and Shri C.N. Singh. I would request all three of them to speak for two minutes each because I have to begin the question hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Member Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, two MLAs and many other persons have been injured in the lathicharge on the peaceful demonstration that took place the day before yesterday. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav had spoken in detail in the House in this regard and the same was confirmed by the former Prime Minister Devegowdaji also. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav was making all efforts to ensure that there was no breach of peace and was cooperating with the administration to maintain the peace. When Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav expressed his viewpoint it was said that the Hon. Home Minister would make a statement on it. The Home Minister made his statement in the evening and mentioned that he was received the information from three persons - Lt. Governor, Home Secretary and Commissioner of Police. Sir, they are a party to it in a way and their job is to protect their subordinates. The main question is whether the view point of the injured MP is more valid or of these bears more significance, who have briefed the Home Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. I want your protection. I think that if such kind of treatment is meted to a MP, anybody be able to work properly in a democracy. I am grateful to you for giving a ruling on it. However, I request you to take action against Shri Manoj Lal Das who was the officer in charge in this case.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to say two things in this regard. Firstly, yesterday discussion on this subject was held in the morning and in the evening during which it was declared that a House Committee be constituted on this subject. I wanted at that time also that this matter should be referred to

the Privilege Committee. The Hon'ble Members made a request and I honoured their sentiments. Someone has told me that the meeting of the House Committee would take place today at four o'clock. Yesterday the Home Minister had assured during his speech that the Committee may submit its interim report today and hon. Home Minister is ready to take action accordingly. Once again I would like to issue direction from the Chair to the Home Minister to take this matter seriously and take immediate action in this regard as one of our colleagues has been injured during lathicharge. When inquiry is already being conducted by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs can also attend meeting of the Committee whatever orders Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs wants to give in this regard he should give and the House should also be informed accordingly at the earliest.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Before the House is adjourned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If report is received before adjournment of the House today, then Members will be made aware of that, today itself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not completed yet. Please take your seats.

Like you, I also feel that it is a serious issue. That's why yesterday I allowed debate on this issue. You should also try to understand my point that right to dismiss or suspend an officer lies with the Government only and Parliament is the supreme body in this regard. When a committee of this Supreme body has been appointed we should wait for its report. The Committee might submit its report and decision today itself by 4 p.m. The decision of the Committee will be the decision of the Parliament. Whosoever may be Minister, he will have to accept the decision. Hon. Advaniji himself has stated that. In such circumstances, I do not find any need to continue further discussion on this issue.

Now, I would like to start Question Hour. Please help me in continuing the proceedings. I have stated that I agree with you and immediately some action should be taken in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JHARKHAND): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the officer, who has acted arbitrarily should be suspended. Then further action should be taken. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, the action will be taken only after the Committee submits its report but the officer responsible for lathicharge should be suspended. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have stated that action will be taken immediately after the report of the Committee is received.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs, yesterday revealed the malafied intention of the Government. His statement was not factual. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs has transcended the decorum of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Several hon'ble Members have requested me that Question Hour must be taken up now as several important questions are there to be replied by the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards one point. You may recall that yesterday morning while making statement in the House the Minister of Home Affairs received a slip which stated that there was no lathicharge. On the other hand while making statement in the evening, he discussed the matter with the persons who were not present there at the time of incident. Former Prime Minister hon'ble Devegowdaji, Hon. Members. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji and Shri Raghunath Jha, who were present there at the time of this incident have also made statements in the House. Sir, through you, I would like to ask that Government have given reply on the basis of the statements made by those persons who were not present at the spot where the incident took place whereas no action has been taken against the guilty police officials and even no attention has been paid towards the statement made by former Prime Minister and despite all that, inquiry report of the Committee is awaited. I do not consider this appropriate and request that immediate action should be taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me for one minute to have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow all of you. Out of those three Members, who have given notices, two were present and I have allowed them to express their views.

Now the Question Hour has begun and this issue cannot be discussed any more. Shri Chandra Nath Singhji, you were

not present in the House when I called your name. What can I do? I cannot continue this discussion any more. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue cannot be discussed any more. On this issue I fully cooperated with you and it is not proper that despite my full cooperation Members feel that they will not let the proceedings of the House continue. It is not justified, other business is also important.

Prabhunath Singhji, I had given you the opportunity to speak. I have allowed you twice to have your say. What you have stated in the House will be conveyed to Minister of Home Affairs. Now let me start Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have said a lot on this issue yesterday.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to his points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened to him yesterday. Today I am going to view the cassette given by him. We can sit together and discuss the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been published in newspapers. They have received at least ten stitches. ...*(Interruptions)* Water cannon were used on them. They were lathicharged. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are talking about interim report. I have been a member of Parliament for the last 13 years and I have never seen such an unprecedented incident. All proofs are there before us. You have rightly said that we raised the demand of constituting a Parliamentary Committee but that was a different situation. Now all the proofs are being presented and photographs of injured are shown. ...*(Interruptions)* You have given a ruling from the Chair that version of hon'ble Members will be considered authentic.

You had given this ruling from this Chair which is the Supreme. You are in the Chair of Justice. You want to do justice but the information being given to you and the House is totally misleading. ...*(Interruptions)* None of the officer among the three that is, Home Secretary, Lt. Governor or C.P. was present there. Shri Manoj Lal, DCP was present there. I reveal all the facts, it would hurt you a lot because you intend to protect

the privilege of hon. members. Should I reveal the truth that why action is not being taken. ...*(Interruptions)* Should I disclose the compulsion of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Should I reveal as to why the Home Minister is perturbed. ...*(Interruptions)* Today it has been published in newspaper that Manoj Lal is the relative of some Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has told about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir for protecting an officer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member. I request you that the subject on which.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: All the evidences are before you. You take a decision. I told you yesterday also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am about to take a decision. I will certainly take a decision on the matter within my jurisdiction.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Whatever your ruling be. ...*(Interruptions)* whatever be the ruling by the Chair but that officer be called for breach of the privilege. ...*(Interruptions)* It is my request that he be called in the dock of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It would be better for you if you cooperate with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given notice today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not have your notice for Adjournment Motion.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I want to speak for a minute. I have given a notice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the dignity of the House is safe in your hands. I am assured that learned Speaker like you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You quickly say what you want to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

Shri C. N. Singh: I would like to say that the insult of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, who is a senior Member and have also been the Minister, tantamounts to the insult of the House. I am of the view that it is really disturbing that the Hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister have not made a statement even after 24 hours of his beating by the police. Unless that officer is suspended the proceedings of the House should not continue. The House should be adjourned. If the officer keep on beating arbitrarily then we won't be able to discharge our duties. In this way, it won't yield anything. ...*(Interruptions)* it is not the insult of the Member but of the democracy.\* ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not use unparliamentary language.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: We cannot tolerate the beating of our colleague by a dishonest officer. ...*(Interruptions)* This way none of the Member would remain safe. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Members must take into cognisance that everything taken into consideration to protect the rights of the Members of the House. Yesterday, there was a debate for two hours on this issue. On the request of the House, a Committee was appointed. The Committee will start functioning from today. The Committee will give its report and the hon. Minister will act upon it. In the meantime, I have no other alternative but to resume the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please resume your seat. I request that as the Speaker of this House, whatever possible was to be done has been done by me. It is for the Minister to

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

decide what action is to be taken. We have already conveyed to him yesterday that the House desired that immediate action against the officer in-charge must be taken. He has also assured me that the Committee can meet and give an Interim Report. He is prepared to accept the Report of that Committee.

The Committee itself is like a Parliament. Now, there is a procedure and I cannot go beyond the procedure and force the Minister that he must do certain things immediately because there is a request from the Members. But still, let me assure the entire House that it is an insult to a Member of Parliament and I am totally with you on that issue that action against the concerned officer must be taken. The matter will be again put before the Home Minister. My only request is that let the Home Minister go in detail once again. Normally, it is not the procedure, but even though there is no procedure, I want to request the hon. Home Minister to look into this matter again, so that simultaneous enquiry can be made, and the Committee can go into it. The other thing is that the Minister can go into it.

I would request all of you to get satisfied. Let us give some time to the Home Minister also. I would also like to see the cassette which the hon. Member wants to give me. You must also give me time to watch the cassette. I am prepared to fix up the appointment of the concerned Member again with the Home Minister so that he can also explain the exact position to him. I hope that with this the House can conduct its business.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: We won't allow the proceedings to continue in such a situation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't do so.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is so serious that debate on it should be held. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please co-operate with me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: We are not satisfied with the action taken so far. We are concerned over the insensitivity of the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No.303, Shrimati Nivedita Mane.

11.23 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Research on Soft Drinks

\*303. + SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that several scientific researches carried out in America and European countries have established that soft drinks are injurious to health and cause headache, blindness, mental disorders, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

### Statement

Studies indicate that excessive consumption of soft drink, and lesser or non-consumption of milk, as also of fruits and vegetable juices, leads to many health problems. Excessive consumption of soft drink provide extra sugar, calories, caffeine acids, etc. at the same time lower consumption of milk, etc. does not provide the required mineral and vitamins thereby causing different health problems.

These studies have largely analysed the consumption patterns in the societies of developed countries.

No such study has been carried out in India. The situation in India is very different because the per capita consumption of soft drinks is negligible and there is greater emphasis on drinking milk.

Safety parameters have been laid down in the Rules under the PFA Act, 1954 which provide limits for sugar, caffeine, acids, etc.

Current global trends indicate milk consumption is gradually decreasing and intake of soft drinks is rising. There is a need to promote the consumption of more milk and natural fruit juices even in this country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given it has been stated that America and European countries have carried out study regarding soft drink and India has not carried out any study in this regard. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to what Shri Khaire wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Health is not present in the House to make his statement. Today condition of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ram Manohar Lohia and other hospitals is deplorable. Even Members of Parliament and their family members are not getting proper treatment. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Health has not delegated any power to the Minister of state. He just directs the Minister of State to reply to the question raised in the House and he himself remains absent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, you direct the Minister to be present in the House when there is a question relating to his Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raja, please inform the hon. Minister of Health that the desire of the hon. Members is that he has to be present in Parliament whenever there is question relating to his Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: We oppose it on behalf of Shiv Sena and submit that an inquiry should be conducted in this regard immediately. In legislative Assembly during your and Shri Sharad Pawar's tenure as Chief Minister we have seen that in such case the concerned officer was suspended and inquiry was ordered. We demand that he should be

suspended. The meeting of the Committee formed by you is scheduled to be held at 4 o'clock. Why it is not taken up at one o'clock. Orders should be issued to convene the meeting at one o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I will discuss that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The meeting can also be held at one o'clock. I have no objection, provided the Members agree.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Immediate action should be taken in this regard. The issue relates to all the members. Today it has happened with him tomorrow I may be affected and someone else next day. Such things should not take place, Officers need not to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This can be done. I would request the hon. Chairman of the Committee to hold the meeting if possible, at one o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that we are members of Parliament and by enacting a law arrangements were made to provide medicines to us. For the last 15-20 days or almost a month MPs are not getting medicines. People are facing problems and Minister of Health is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this question during Zero Hour. I will allow you.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: He is busy in shooting of his film and if he is here to reply to the question then why he is not given charge of this Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Jha has raised an important issue. I will convey this to the concerned Minister. This issue will also be raised during Zero Hour. Now take up this question.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Nobody is serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the

Minister of Health remains absent from the House.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can now go ahead with the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI A.C. JOS: No Cabinet Minister is sitting here. Nobody is there. You have to direct him. You have to direct the Government. You are the custodian of this House. Nobody is there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

[Translation]

Ramdasji, please take your seat, I am on my legs. You should try to bring good name of the State of Maharashtra.

[English]

Mr. Minister, the Members have raised a very important and pertinent issue that Shri Shatrughan Sinha, the hon. Minister, is not present today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you that this question was raised in the House several times. So, please let the Minister attend from next time regularly whenever there is a Question Hour, and convey this to the hon. Minister. The Members' anxiety can be very well understood by me. I will also personally speak to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are all aware that it is the Government. Minister means the Government. He represents the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. RAJA: As mentioned in the answer America and European countries have conducted research on consumption of soft drinks. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

SHRI A. RAJA: Consumption of soft drinks in India is almost negligible when it is compared with the ordinary traditional drinks and food. The Government of India has not come across any complaint or any disease-oriented complaint which may prompt us to have such a research. So, the Government of India, at present, is not in a position to conduct any such survey, as it is not at all necessary from the health point of view.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your cooperation. It is stated that a tooth melts if it is put in cocacola continuously for 12 hours. I would like to know that whether it is correct and has any survey been conducted in this regard by the Government. If not, the time by which it is proposed to be conducted?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: We have not conducted a survey and we have no idea of conducting a survey since there is no menace as such.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has accepted the fact in the information laid on the Table of the House that excessive consumption of synthetic soft drink is injurious to health. Synthetic soft drink is given to patients in all the Government hospitals. Synthetic soft drink is also served in Government functions, by Railways in Shatabdi and other trains in the flights of Indian Airlines and by other flights. I would like to know from the Minister as to whether ban will be imposed on serving synthetic soft drink in various Ministries, hospitals, Government functions, civil aviation and Railways and substitute it with pure fruit juice? It will benefit farmers as they will get market for their produce. It is not injurious to health. Whether such an arrangement will be made?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is nowhere in the world including India that any research has revealed that consumption of soft drinks is detrimental or injurious to health. The problem is that consumption of more and more of soft drinks might lead to some health problems. So, there should be a regulation.

So far as the biological context of India is concerned, we have not come across such a menace that consumption of soft drinks would lead to some disease.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek



your protection. On one hand the hon'ble Minister is accepting the fact that study has been conducted and it has been found that consumption of soft drink is injurious to health and on the other hand he says that no study has been conducted. Patients are served synthetic soft drink in hospitals which make them sick. Hon'ble Minister I should not have any problem to start fruit juices in his Ministry and other Government institutions. Its reply should come.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given his reply. What can be done if you do not accept the reply. Discussion can be held and what more can be done in this regard?

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Thank you, sir, for giving me this opportunity.

The answer is not specific which soft drinks are injurious to health. He has not conducted any survey but he says it is not to be encouraged. The answer is not specific but I want a specific answer. Even coconut water could also be termed as a soft drink. Which are the soft drinks that are not to be encouraged? Would the Government take steps for promoting natural soft drinks like tender coconut water and fruit juice? Is the Government aware of the project prepared by the Government of Kerala to market tender coconut water as part of the Coconut Mission?

SHRI A. RAJA: I want to make one aspect clear before this House. It is nowhere stated, whether it is in India or anywhere else, that consumption of soft drinks is injurious to health. The problem is that a higher level of consumption of soft drinks might lead to some diseases.

MR. SPEAKER: Excessive consumption would lead to some diseases.

SHRI A. RAJA: So far as India is concerned, such a study was not conducted.

In the Department of Health and Family Welfare, we formulated a dietary guideline of Indian population on what are the food items that could be had according to our biological context, specifically for infants, school-going children, adolescents, pregnant women and elderly people suffering from sugar complaint and other diseases. Apart from that the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of HRD has also issued a booklet *Food-based dietary guidelines in India* in which also they have stated the food items suitable to various age groups that are available in India and things like that.

As far as coconut water is concerned, it has not been classified under soft drinks. What have been called 'soft drinks' are some drinks that are coated with sweetness, in a carbonated process.

That is being called a soft drink. Taking soft drink is not at all injurious to health. There has not been any study conducted so far to say that it is detrimental to health.

SHRI A.C. JOS: In the answer given by the hon. Minister it has been mentioned that excessive consumption of soft drinks is injurious to health. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: It may lead to health problems.

SHRI A.C. JOS: It has been established world-over that excessive use of soft drinks is injurious to health. So, in the wake of this revelation, will the Government come forward to control the campaign launched by the big multinational companies in India and will the Government come out with their own campaign of our own natural drinks? The hon. Member, Shri P. Rajendran pointed out that tender coconut is a very good beverage and it can be a good soft drink. Now, the essence of tender coconut is coming and that can be promoted.

My question is this: will the Government try to contain propagation or the campaign of the big multinational soft drinks and, at the same time, promote consumption of tender coconut?

MR. SPEAKER: The question and answer, both should be very short.

SHRI A. RAJA: Since the per-capita consumption of soft drink is very negligible, at present, the Government of India is having no intention to regulate, curb or ban the soft drinks. On the other hand, we are promoting coconut water and other things in the dietary report including milk.

#### **Ban on Consumption of Tobacco Product**

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\*304. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that some High Courts had banned the Gutka Pan Masala for health reasons;

(b) if so, whether the government are also aware that the Supreme Court has recently granted Stay Order on the above order of the High Courts;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to contest this case alongwith other States;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to bring Central Legislation to curb consumption of tobacco products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### Statement

As per information received from Government of Madhya Pradesh, the manufacture, sale, transportation, possession and use of "Gutkha" and "Tobacco Guthka" was banned in Madhya Pradesh by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur Bench) vide Order dt. 2.8.02 in Writ Petition No. 3837 of 2002. A Special Leave Petition vide CC No. 6358/02 was filed in the Supreme Court of India, which stayed the application of the impugned order on 7.8.02.

As per information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad High Court vide order dated 18.7.2002 had directed the State Government to ban production, sale and advertisement of Pan Masala and Gutka in W.P. No. 3654/2002. Manufacturers of Gutka and Pan Masala filed an SLP against this order in the Supreme Court, which set aside the said order on 28.10.2002.

There is no proposal for the Government to seek review of the Supreme Court order. The Government has also not advised the State Governments in any matter pending before the Courts for which State Governments can take action as deemed fit.

Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the State Food (Health) Authorities have the independent power to prohibit the sale of any article of food in the interest of public health. Some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have already prohibited the sale of Pan Masala containing tobacco/Gutka/Chewing tobacco under the said provisions. A few more states like Rajasthan and Bihar have also announced their intentions to ban these products in their states. As the issue concerns the health of the people, the Government of India has not been opposed to such initiatives of the State Governments and has not considered appropriate to advise the State Governments to review their decisions imposing ban on Gutka/Pan Masala or other alike products.

A comprehensive legislation titled "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and

Distribution) Bill, 2001" was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in March 2001. This inter-alia aims to curb consumption of tobacco products by banning advertisement of tobacco products, sale of tobacco products to minors and smoking in public places, among other things. The Legislation was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. This Committee made certain recommendations. These were circulated to concerned Central Ministries/Departments for comments which have since been received. Action has been initiated to seek approval of the Cabinet on the recommendations of the Standing Committee. When approved, necessary amendments to the Bill will be introduced in Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh manufacturing, sale, transportation and possession (ownership) and consumption of 'Gutka' and Tobacco products was banned in Madhya Pradesh by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur Bench) vide order dated 2.8.02 on the Writ Petition No. 3837 of 2002. The Supreme Court of India. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji, please ask the question why are you reading all this?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am asking the question. Ban was imposed in Madhya Pradesh. Similarly the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu has decided to ban 'Gutka'. Similar type of announcements have also been made in Rajasthan and Bihar. My question is - What is the reason for banning 'Gutka' and 'Pan Masala'?

When permission was granted for products like 'Gutka' then what was deficient in it and if there was any deficiency in it then why at all the permission was granted? Further, I want to know, how many people have been affected adversely by consuming 'Gutka' and total number of 'Gutka' users in the country? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the question relates to ban on consumption of tobacco products by the High Courts. The judicial process has already started. In spite of that the hon. Member has asked about the status of the banning of Gutka and other tobacco products.

A comprehensive Bill, namely, The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco (Products, Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and

Distribution) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. In turn, it has been referred to the Standing Committee for some suggestions. We got back the Bill from the Standing Committee. Again, it has been referred to the Cabinet. We are awaiting directions from the Cabinet. As soon as it comes from the Cabinet, it will be discussed in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The reply is not correct. The Minister is correct but the reply is not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdas ji, what is incorrect in it? It is true.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that as hon. Minister has told about the Bill in Rajya Sabha in 2001, if there was something wrong with 'Gutka' then what was the need to give permission for it? He has done a good thing by banning Gutka. My submission is that tobacco, Bidi and Cigarettes affect health of its consumers adversely. My second question is when the Government propose to bring a Bill in Lok Sabha for banning tobacco, bidi and cigarettes and 'Gutka' is not banned ladies will oppose. Ladies are quite angry thus there is a need to ban it. I would like to know whether the Government propose to ban tobacco, bidi and cigarette?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I would like to categorically say before the House that the intention of the Government is not to ban the entire products of Cigarette or Gutka or Pan Masala, including Bidi. The Government has not at all intended to put an outright ban on the products. The intention of the Government in bringing a legislation is to regulate the sale and other things which may give adverse impact upon some sections of the society including the school children and other people. Therefore, we are bringing a comprehensive Bill. There is no such intention to ban the entire industry.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Why not? It should be banned.

SHRI A. RAJA: If the Chair permits, I will answer that.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. You have made your point clear.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the consumption of Tobacco, Pan-masala, Gutka is affecting the health of people especially the young, in the country, and their future is becoming dark. And some states have taken initiative

to ban it whereas some states have just made announcements only and have not implemented their decision. So, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Central Government contemplate to hold a meeting with the Health Ministers of all the states and bring a law in this regard after reaching consensus? Since it is a very serious problem affecting health of large number of our population, thus what action the Government propose to take for checking it?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as I have mentioned it earlier, the Bill is already in the Rajya Sabha and as soon as the Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, it will be introduced in the Lok Sabha and we will get it passed here after a lengthy discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Cottage industry has developed in a big way during last 20 years. Gutka is injurious to health which I do not deny. As on today, lakhs of people are employed in cottage industry in Kanpur and elsewhere in U.P. Tobacco is mixed into it. Whereas for the last several years the Government have made it mandatory for tobacco sellers to write, "Use of Tobacco is Injurious to Health" on its packets and similarly writing so is mandatory on bidi and cigarette packs. I would like to ask hon. Minister as to what extra ingredients are present in it due to which Government feel to ban 'Gutka' through this Bill? If it contains no other ingredients other than the tobacco then the Government have instructed producers and sellers of 'Gutka', pan-masala, cigarette or bidi to write, that the consumption of all this is injurious to health. I would like to know what are the harmful ingredients in 'Gutka' as the Ministry have introduced a Bill in this regard in Rajya Sabha and I am sure, he may have surely analysed it. He may be aware that all other ingredients than tobacco are injurious to health. Hon. Minister may please explain it.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the intention of the Government behind that legislation is that whatever be the other ingredients, once you are adding tobacco with those ingredients, whether they are chewable or smokable, they become injurious to health. So far as the legislation is concerned, it does not bother about what other ingredients are added with tobacco, whether they are chewable or other things, as the combination, which is formed after adding those things with tobacco, will be detrimental to health. That is our concern. So, this legislation is going to be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, all the manufacturers of Bidi, Gutka and Cigarette follow the

instructions. I want to ask hon. Minister, what are those harmful ingredients in Gutka which are forcing you to bring this Bill?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: That point of his is being incorporated in the Bill itself.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Doctors are of the opinion and it has also been reported in the Newspapers and further the Parliament and the Government too feel that Gutka is injurious to health. I would like to know as to how much annual revenue is earned by the Government from the production of 'Gutka'? Further, I would like to tell as the population is increasing thus its consumption will lead to more diseases and will cause more deaths consequently. So, whether the Government is encouraging the production of Gutka to check population.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, so far as the revenue is concerned, it comes to around Rs. 5,000 crore from tobacco products by way of excise duty and exports. On the other hand, I want to share with the hon. Members that as per the study conducted by ICMR, when we are having Rs. 5,000 crore by way of income from the tobacco products, we have to spend Rs. 13,500 crore to cure diseases being caused by tobacco. No doubt, the Government is having its own concern about the diseases caused by, and income coming from, tobacco products.

Apart from that, 1.10 crore people are being deployed in this industry. The welfare of labour should be looked into by the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Agriculture should look into the aspects relating to cultivation, growers and other things. These are the things to be looked into while passing regulations.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, my second question has not been replied.

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware of its reply.

[English]

How can the Government decide to have policy for this?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Minister should give us an assurance on the floor of this House that he will ban 'gutkha'.

[Translation]

### Sports Hostels

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\*306. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government wants to give a fillip to sports;
- (b) if so, the action plan being worked out; and
- (c) the number of sports hostels/sports complexes set up/proposed to be set up so far alongwith the details of the facilities being extended by them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. "Sports" is a State subject. Promotion of sports at grass root level is the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments. Government of India, through its various schemes, supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments for promotion of sports. Inter-alia, the following initiatives will give a fillip to sports in India:

1. A new National Sports Policy has been approved by the Govt. in 2001. An action plan is being prepared to implement the new sports policy.
2. All the sports schemes of the Ministry have been rationalized and are planned to be merged into six umbrella schemes, in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission, in order to make these schemes more effective.
3. Allocation of more funds is being proposed for infrastructure and other important schemes of the Ministry.
4. Two new schemes of State Sports Academies and Scheme for Dope Test are being introduced during the Xth Plan.

(c) Sports hostels and sports complexes are set up under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. Under this scheme, sports hostels, consisting of minimum 80 beds, with atleast, 30 beds, earmarked for

girls, are set up for the purposes of providing board and lodging, systematic and scientific training to the trainees. According to the Scheme, the sports complexes may have the facilities of an outdoor stadium with 6 to 8 lane cinder/green track, playfields, swimming pool, indoor hall, sports hostel, quarters for managers and coaches and centre for sports medicine. State-wise details of sports hostels and sports complexes, approved with the central assistance from 1991-92 till date (as on 8.12.2002) under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure are at Annexure-I.

Apart from the scheme of Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) also sets up sports complexes with hostel facilities. Numbers of sports hostels set up, on residential & non-residential basis, under the SAI Training Centre Scheme, Special Area Games (SAG) Schemes and Centres of Excellence are 57,17 and 8, respectively, as per details at Annexure-II. So far as SAI schemes are concerned, the availability of sports infrastructure facilities differ from centre to centre, depending upon the disciplines chosen for a particular centre. Presently, Sports Authority of India is also constructing three sports complexes having sports hostel facilities.

**Annexure-I**

| Sl.No. | State             | No. of Sports Hostels approved with Central Assistance | No. of Sports Complexes approved with Central Assistance |
|--------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1      | 2                 | 3  | 4  |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | -  | 12   |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh | -  | 3  |
| 3      | Himachal Pradesh  | 1  | 2  |
| 4      | Madhya Pradesh    | -  | 4  |
| 5      | Maharashtra       | 1  | 5  |
| 6      | Karnataka         | -  | 1  |
| 7      | Kerala            | 1  | -  |
| 8      | Nagaland          | -  | 5  |
| 9      | Punjab            | 2  | -  |
| 10     | Tamil Nadu        | -  | 8  |
| 11     | Uttaranchal       | -  | 2  |

| 1     | 2             | 3 | 4  |
|-------|---------------|---|----|
| 12    | Orissa        | - | 1  |
| 13    | Uttar Pradesh | - | 1  |
| 14    | West Bengal   | - | 1  |
| 15    | Rajasthan     | - | 1  |
| 16    | Tripura       | - | 1  |
| 17    | Manipur       | - | 1  |
| 18    | Haryana       | - | 1  |
| 19    | Bihar         | - | 1  |
| 20    | Meghalaya     | - | 1  |
| 21    | Chhattisgarh  | - | 1  |
| 22    | Assam         | - | 1  |
| Total |               | 5 | 53 |

**Annexure-II**

| States            | Number of SAI Training Centres | Number of Special Area Games Centres | Centres of Excellence |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                 | 2                              | 3                                    | 4                     |
| Andhra Pradesh    | 5                              | -                                    | -                     |
| Kerala            | 4                              | 2                                    | 1                     |
| Karnataka         | 3                              | -                                    | 1                     |
| Tamil Nadu        | 2                              | 1                                    | -                     |
| Pondicherry       | 1                              | -                                    | -                     |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 5                              | -                                    | -                     |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 7                              | 2                                    | 1                     |
| Uttaranchal       | 2                              | -                                    | -                     |
| NCT of Delhi      | 1                              | -                                    | 1                     |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1                              | -                                    | -                     |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 2                              | -                                    | -                     |

| 1                         | 2  | 3  | 4 |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|
| Haryana                   | 3  | -  | - |
| Punjab                    | 3  | -  | 1 |
| Chandigarh                | 1  | -  | - |
| West Bengal               | 4  | -  | 1 |
| Bihar                     | 1  | 2  | - |
| Orissa                    | 2  | 2  | - |
| Gujarat                   | 1  | -  | 1 |
| Rajasthan                 | 2  | -  | - |
| Maharashtra               | 1  | -  | - |
| Goa                       | 1  | -  | - |
| Meghalaya                 | 1  | -  | - |
| Assam                     | 2  | 1  | - |
| Nagaland                  | 1  | -  | - |
| Manipur                   | 1  | 2  | 1 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | -  | 1  | - |
| Jharkhand                 | -  | 1  | - |
| Sikkim                    | -  | 1  | - |
| Tripura                   | -  | 1  | - |
| Mizoram                   | -  | 1  | - |
| Total                     | 57 | 17 | 8 |

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, with a view to encourage sportsmen in the country the Central Government have set up Sports Hostels throughout the country. Sportsmen as well as coaches are trained through these hostels. In reply to Question No. 305, hon. Minister has stated that the States are provided grants for this purpose. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the amount as grants is spent by the States or the Central Government provide it so that sportsmen are encouraged and they bring laurels to the country. In addition, I want to know how much funds are allocated to the states and how many players are trained thereby?

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Sir, the funds, are not provided

to the states as grants but under different schemes keeping in view the players.

When we receive proposals for developing the infrastructure from the states generally 50 percent amount is spent by the states and remaining 50 percent amount is provided by the Central Government as grants. But in case of tribal and special areas it is provided in the ratio of 75 and 25 percent. Further, under the schemes of SAI, hostel facilities are provided by the States in sports training centres. Remaining expenditure is met by the Central Government. Each year funds are not earmarked separately for any state for sports.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Just now hon. Minister told that funds are provided through SAI whereas many centres of SAI are getting closed. A sports centre of SAI in my constituency Aurangabad has been closed. They asked the State Government to keep the centre functioning. But the state did not do so as it did not have adequate funds to keep it functioning. I would like to say that whichever state requested the Central Government for funds, only 50 percent share was provided by the Centre. Despite receipt of Central funds, some to the states did not utilise the amount and consequently the funds were surrendered. I would like to tell hon. Minister, to provide maximum funds under the scheme so as to train maximum number of sportsmen so that they can perform better abroad. Our performance is not of international level. And it is because our training and coaches are not of good standard. I would like to know what steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has just now been submitted by the hon'ble Member that there was a sports training centre in his constituency which was being operated by the State Government but due to some reasons it has been closed. I do not have any information as to under what scheme that was functioning, however, I will collect information in this regard. In his question the hon'ble Member has submitted that our performance in sports in international sports events has been laudable. Our performance in recently held Commonwealth Games and thereafter in Asian Games remained considerably better in comparison to previous year's performance. Special coaches and trainers have been appointed in sports training centres to train our players and sportsmen so that they may perform better in sports events. They are provided all types of facilities in the hostel. Besides this, we also invite coaches from outside, if required. Thus we are also taking help of the foreign coaches and all efforts are being made in this direction.

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to accord administrative and financial sanction for the proposed hostel building attached to the Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, which is under SAI?

Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister whether any proposal from the Government of Kerala is now awaiting approval before the Ministry for setting up of District Sports Complexes at, Attingal and Munnar in Thiruvananthapuram and Idukki Districts respectively.

I also want to know from the Minister whether the Ministry has initiated any steps to introduce sports as compulsory education through the academic curriculum of the school children beginning from the Vth standard at the national level; if so, whether the Government intends to allocate necessary financial aid for that purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the first part of the question is concerned, various proposals have been received from the State Government in this regard. If the proposal sent by the State Governments fulfills all the requisite conditions, we will certainly examine the proposal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: As far as sports are concerned, Kerala is a very important State.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply, then only you speak.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rest of the proposals have been sent through proper channel by the State Governments and they have fulfilled all the requisite conditions. However, in LNCP, Thiruvananthapuram already there is a hostel and that has the capacity to accommodate 75-75 boys and girls respectively.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The question is whether any proposal is pending before the Government for approval.

[Translation]

Presently, it is functioning there. So I would like to submit that it is already functioning there.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh Government has told all the districts that the sports complex will be set up in those districts which will provide 100 acres of land. The Balia district has made efforts to provide 100 acres of land to Sports Authority of India two-three years back. The officers of the Authority had also gone there, however, no sports complex has yet been set up there. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should personally look into the matter.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is being examined and our officers had also gone there to inspect and that proposal is under consideration of the Department. The necessary action will be taken in this regard. However, that proposal has not received by us after being recommended by the State Government. It would have been better, had it come after being recommended by the Government.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I would like to request hon'ble Prime Minister that he may please get it recommended.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Sports and the Prime Minister to an important issue. We have formulated a national policy for the promotion of sports. Time and again we ponder over this fact as to why our sports are not achieving the international level? I would like to submit it to you that today the basic need is to make arrangements for providing play grounds. Government lands in the villages have been encroached. There are many such villages where there is no play ground available. In urban areas we find that children play cricket on the roads and sometimes becomes victims of road accidents. There are no playgrounds in towns also. I would like to ask as to whether the Government would consider to reserve a certain portion of land in the village, Panchayat or towns having a certain population as the playground. The playground should be exclusively used for sports purposes as forest lands have been reserved and it should not be used for any other purpose.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sports is a State subject therefore, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary steps in this regard. If there is any encroachment on any such land then it is the responsibility of the State Government, district administration, Panchayat or Talukas to clear the land from encroachment. Our responsibility is to develop the play grounds. Our scheme is to give

[English]

grant to rural schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground and grant of permission for sports in Universities and colleges.

[Translation]

We provide financial assistance to schools and colleges in rural areas to develop play grounds and purchase equipment. It is the responsibility of the State Government to preserve play grounds.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 32nd National Games is being held at Hyderabad. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constructed eight beautiful stadia in the State. But these stadia are not only meant for holding National Games but these are also capable of holding Asian and Olympic Games. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constructed these stadia by taking a loan of Rs. 100 crore from HUDCO. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Government requesting the hon. Sports Minister that 50 per cent of the cost of construction should be borne by the Government of India. These are properties of the nation. The proposal is still pending with the Government.

12.00 hrs.

Hon. President of India is inaugurating the 32nd National Games on the 13th of this month. That is why we are expecting a reply to that. What is the reaction of the Government to that letter, and what is the reply of the Minister?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Why is he giving cash incentives. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Question Hour is getting over. Please reply in brief and quickly.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Minister reply.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Renukaji, I have not given you permission to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such scheme directly with the Ministry for providing lump sum amount as grant directly for the national sports, however in the case of proposals regarding development of infrastructure received from the states we provide half of the total expenditure proposed to be incurred on that. Necessary action will be taken, on the proposals for the development of infrastructure which are already lying pending after reviewing them.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Performance at Commonwealth Games

\*302. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian athletes (weight lifter) could not excel in the recent Commonwealth Games;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to enforce a strict code of conduct to improve the functioning of the sport bodies in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The performance of Indian athletes (Weightlifters) in the recent Commonwealth Games has been outstanding. India won 69 medals (30 Gold, 22 Silver and 17 Bronze) in these Games. Out of these 69 medals, as many as, 27 medals (11 Gold, 9 Silver and 7 Bronze) medals were won by our weightlifters.

(c) No, Sir. No decision, in this behalf, has, so far, been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Nehru Yuva Kendras

\*305. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Nehru Yuva Kendras functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the system of review of their activities by the Government;

(c) whether the objectives of the setting up of these Kendras have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the funds spent on these Kendras in each State, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) A state-wise list, showing Nehru



Yuva Kendras, functioning in the country, is in enclosed statement-I.

(b) Activities of Nehru Yuva Kendras are regularly monitored by the Ministry through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and their Zonal/Regional Offices. In addition, the Ministry has set up four Information Development and Resource Agencies (IDARAs).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Kendras have been successful in achieving the determined objectives.

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

(e) A state-wise and year-wise list, showing funds spent during the last three years, is in enclosed statement-II.

**Statement-I**

| Details of Zonal Offices/<br>Location of Zonal Offices |                                      | Details of Regional Offices                         |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
|  | No. of Kendras<br>under Zonal Office | Location of Regional Offices<br>Under Zonal Offices | No. of Kendras<br>under Regional Office |
| 1  | 2                                    | 3   | 4                                       |
| 1. Guwahati (Assam)                                    | 42                                   | 1. Guwahati   | 13                                      |
|  |                                      | 2. Jorhat   | 14                                      |
|  |                                      | 3. Itanagar   | 04                                      |
|  |                                      | 4. Shillong   | 05                                      |
|  |                                      | 5. Agartala   | 06                                      |
| 2. Imphal (Manipur)                                    | 16                                   | 6. Imphal   | 09                                      |
|  |                                      | 7. Kohima   | 07                                      |
| 3. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)                             | 64                                   | 8. Gorakhpur  | 12                                      |
|  |                                      | 9. Allahabad  | 11                                      |
|  |                                      | 10. Kanpur  | 12                                      |
|  |                                      | 11. Meerut  | 11                                      |
|  |                                      | 12. Dehradun  | 09                                      |
|  |                                      | 13. Agra  | 09                                      |
| 4. Kolkata (West Bengal)                               | 28                                   | 14. Jalpaiguri                                      | 09                                      |
|  |                                      | 15. Howrah  | 13                                      |
|  |                                      | 16. Port Blair                                      | 06                                      |
| 5. Jaipur (Rajasthan)                                  | 30                                   | 17. Udaipur   | 15                                      |
|  |                                      | 18. Jodhpur   | 15                                      |
| 6. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)                                | 16                                   | 19. Bhubaneswar                                     | 08                                      |

| 1                               | 2  | 3               | 4   |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------------|-----|
|                                 |    | 20. Sambalpur   | 08  |
| 7. Mumbai (Maharashtra)         | 33 | 21. Pune        | 12  |
|                                 |    | 22. Nagpur      | 10  |
|                                 |    | 23. Panji       | 11  |
| 8. Hyderabad (A.P.)             | 24 | 24. Warrangal   | 12  |
|                                 |    | 25. Vijayawada  | 12  |
| 9. Patna (Bihar)                | 50 | 26. Ranchi      | 15  |
|                                 |    | 27. Kishanganj  | 10  |
|                                 |    | 28. Muzaffarpur | 10  |
|                                 |    | 29. Gaya        | 15  |
| 10. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)        | 31 | 30. Madurai     | 16  |
|                                 |    | 31. Coimbatore  | 15  |
| 11. Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) | 16 | 32. Calicut     | 16  |
| 12. Gandhinagar (Gujarat)       | 22 | 33. Baroda      | 12  |
|                                 |    | 34. Rajkot      | 10  |
| 13. Solan (Himachal Pradesh)    | 12 | 35. Bilaspur    | 12  |
| 14. Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir)     | 14 | 36. Kathua      | 14  |
| 15. Chandigarh (Punjab)         | 15 | 37. Jalandhar   | 15  |
| 16. Alipur (Delhi & Haryana)    | 19 | 38. Mehrauli    | 09  |
|                                 |    | 39. Karnal      | 10  |
| 17. Bangalore (Karnataka)       | 20 | 40. Mysore      | 11  |
|                                 |    | 41. Dharwar     | 09  |
| 18. Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)     | 48 | 42. Tikamgarh   | 10  |
|                                 |    | 43. Jabalpur    | 10  |
|                                 |    | 44. Gwalior     | 10  |
|                                 |    | 45. Raipur      | 08  |
|                                 |    | 46. Ujjain      | 10  |
| Grand Total                     |    |                 | 500 |

**Statement-II**

*Detail of funds spent in the state during the last three years  
1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

| S.No. | State             | 1999-2000   | 2000-2001   | 2001-2002    |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1     | 2                 | 3           | 4           | 5            |
| 1     | Haryana           | 8664999.00  | 9321181.24  | 13197195.50  |
| 2     | Himachal Pradesh  | 7244064.00  | 7163047.50  | 11360991.00  |
| 3     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 6533468.00  | 7414733.20  | 11713526.00  |
| 4     | Punjab            | 7223867.00  | 7643561.00  | 10977806.00  |
| 5     | Rajasthan         | 12662876.00 | 14808740.90 | 20564423.69  |
| 6     | Chandigarh/UT     | 501961.00   | 1090502.00  | 1253855.00   |
| 7     | Delhi             | 2109359.00  | 3091379.00  | 4341669.00   |
| 8     | Andhra Pradesh    | 10837439.00 | 14623928.99 | 19731660.98  |
| 9     | Karnataka         | 9579101.00  | 11141851.05 | 14960024.60  |
| 10    | Kerala            | 8468556.00  | 11375307.80 | 16948882.26  |
| 11    | Tamil Nadu        | 13599314.00 | 18681592.57 | 26369478.84  |
| 12    | Pondicherry       | 0.00        | 536204.40   | 911196.65    |
| 13    | Uttar Pradesh     | 27057559.00 | 33669091.70 | 109665833.00 |
| 14    | Uttaranchal       | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         |
| 15    | Assam             | 14013016.00 | 13372365.00 | 23114172.00  |
| 16    | Arunachal Pradesh | 1409471.00  | 1543931.00  | 2857807.00   |
| 17    | Manipur           | 5504104.00  | 7347205.00  | 9248302.00   |
| 18    | Meghalaya         | 2320305.00  | 3196226.00  | 5817471.00   |
| 19    | Nagaland          | 2934173.00  | 3119406.00  | 5719628.00   |
| 20    | Mizoram           | 1626442.00  | 1538211.00  | 3176849.00   |
| 21    | Sikkim            | 1468133.00  | 1357872.00  | 3455216.00   |
| 22    | Tripura           | 2353362.00  | 2190244.00  | 4277480.00   |
| 23    | Bihar             | 17510908.00 | 16739067.00 | 29971686.00  |
| 24    | Jharkhand         | 0.00        | 6967983.00  | 12438677.00  |

| 1     | 2                         | 3            | 4            | 5            |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 25    | Orissa                    | 9075971.00   | 8403799.00   | 15573962.00  |
| 26    | West Bengal               | 11415475.00  | 13990956.00  | 19246844.00  |
| 27    | Gujarat                   | 8781400.00   | 8887041.50   | 15818115.00  |
| 28    | Madhya Pradesh            | 22406113.00  | 20526584.19  | 27813419.00  |
| 29    | Chhattisgarh              | 0.00         | 2684479.00   | 6234787.00   |
| 30    | Maharashtra               | 14232945.00  | 17737831.20  | 25736353.30  |
| 31    | Goa                       | 674160.00    | 960261.00    | 1194330.00   |
| 32    | Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 269093.00    | 1711528.00   | 1295587.00   |
| 33    | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 2519248      | 2822470      | 3813039      |
| Total |                           | 232996882.00 | 275658581.24 | 478800266.82 |

[English]

#### Admission in Medical Colleges

\*307. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical colleges in the country both Government and private have been admitting students to the pre-graduate and post-graduate courses in the middle of the session;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court have in its recent order directed the medical institutes that no admission be made after the commencement of the session;

(c) if so, whether the Medical Council of India have formulated any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997 stipulates that the Universities/the concerned authorities shall organize the admission process in such a way that teaching in the first semester in respect of a newly admitted batch of MBBS students starts by 1st of August of each year. In addition, while according permission to establish a new college or for renewal of permission annually, the Central Government specifies that the College shall ensure minimum of 240 teaching days between two batches before they conduct examination as per the MCI Regulations. Similarly, in the

Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 it has been laid down that an academic year shall be from 1st of January to 31st December of a calendar year. However, it has been found that this schedule for admitting students is not being strictly adhered to by some of the Universities/State Governments due to late counselling, repeated rounds of counselling and other reasons. Even where academic session has begun as per schedule, students are admitted mid-session as and when the vacancy in seats arises. In one of such cases, the MCI declined permission when admission was sought to be given against vacancies of the previous academic session, i.e. after more than one year from the commencement of the concerned academic session. The matter has been taken to the Supreme Court through a Special Leave Petition filed by the Council. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement dated 11.09.2002 in Civil Appeal No. 5166/2001 - Medical Council of India Vs. Madhu Singh and others, directed that there shall be no admission of students in the mid-term as that would be against the very spirit of statutes governing the medical education. The Council has been directed by the Hon'ble Court to ensure that the examining bodies fix a time schedule specifying the duration of the course, the date of commencement of the course and the last date for admission. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Council has initiated necessary follow up action, inter-alia, to fix a time schedule to be followed by the State Governments, Universities and Institutions with regard to declaration of results of the qualifying/entrance examinations; completion of admission process and commencement of the academic session and closure of admissions for the concerned session.

[Translation]

### Medical Institutes

\*308. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where medical institutes are located, State-wise;

(b) the conditions required to be fulfilled by any hospital for getting the status of medical institutes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to accord the status of AIIMS to the Savai Man Singh Hospital at Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A statement containing list of recognized post graduate medical institutions as available in the Medical Council of India's Bulletin cum Directory 2002 is enclosed. In addition to these, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has been set up in 1956. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) is being set up at Shillong on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi. The project is expected to be completed by 2005. There are 205 approved/recognized Under-graduate medical colleges in the country. Of them, 114 are in Government sector.

"Health" is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to set up Hospitals/Institutions according to their needs. At present, there is no proposal with the Central Government for according the status of AIIMS to Savai Man Singh Hospital at Jaipur.

### Statement

#### List of Recognised Post Graduate Medical Institutions in India

#### Andhra Pradesh

1. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati- 517507
2. Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Panjagutta, Hyderabad-500082
3. National Institute of Nutrition, Jamal Osmania Post, Tamaka, Hyderabad-500007

#### Chandigarh

4. Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh-160012.

#### Delhi

5. Army (Research & Referral), Hospital, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi-110010.
6. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi-110029.
7. Central Health Education Bureau, Aiwane-e-Galib Marg, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110 002
8. G.B. Pant Hospital, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi - 110002
9. Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) Brig. S.K. Mazumdar Road, Timarpur, New Delhi - 110054
10. National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Munirka, New Delhi- 110 067
11. Rajan Babu T.B. Institute, Kingsway Camp, GTB Nagar, Delhi -110007
12. V.P. Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007

#### Gujarat

13. Sheth K.M. School of PG Medicine and Research, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380 006
14. Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute (M.P. Shah Cancer Hospital), NCH Campus, Asarwa, Ahmedabad - 380 016

#### Jharkhand

15. Central Institute of Psychiatry, P.O. Kanke, Ranchi- 834006.

#### Karnataka

16. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bangalore-560029.
17. Institute of Aerospace Medicine IAF, Vimanal Pura PO, Airport Road, Bangalore-560017.
18. Command Hospital Air Force, P.O. Agra, Bangalore-560017
19. Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560 029
20. Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 029

21. Father Mueller's Institute of Medical Education & Research, Kanakanady, Mangalore - 575 002

**Kerala**

22. Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 011

**Maharashtra**

23. National Institute of Virology, Ambedkar Road, P. Box No.11, Pune
24. Tata Memorial Hospital, Dr. Ernest Borges Road, Parel, Mumbai - 400012
25. Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences, 12, Marine lines, Mumbai - 400 020
26. Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, 16, Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411005

**Punjab**

27. Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports Medicine, Moti Bagh, Patiala - 147001

**Tamil Nadu**

28. Medical Research Foundation & Attached Hospital, Shankar Netralaya & UCS Shaha & PG Centre, 18th College Road, Chennai - 600006
29. Dr. A.L.M. Postgraduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113
30. Cancer Institute, College of Oncological Sciences, East Canal Bank Road, Adayar, Chennai - 600 020
31. Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust, Ambathurai, Dindigul Dist., Tamilnadu - 624 302
32. M.V. Hospital & Diabetes Research Institute, 35, Conransmith Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai - 600 086
33. Aravind Eye Hospitals & Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology, No.1, Anna Nagar, Madurai - 625020
34. Institute of Ophthalmology, Joseph Eye Hospital, Tiruchirapalli - 620 001

**Uttar Pradesh**

35. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Sitapur - 261 001

36. Sanjay Gandhi PG Institute of Medical Sciences, P.B. No. 375, Rai Barelli Road, Lucknow- 226014

**West Bengal**

37. Dr. B.C. Roy Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, University College of Medicine, 244-B, Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020
38. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, 110, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata - 700 073
39. Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, 224, Acharya J.C. Bose Marg, Kolkata - 700 017
40. Institute of Child Health, 11, Dr. Bresh Goha Street, Kolkata - 700 017
41. Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Chitranjan Avenue, Kolkata - 700 073
42. Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan, 99, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 026.

*[English]***CGHS Dispensaries/Hospitals of ISM&H**

\*309. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CGHS facilities are not available in all States;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to start CGHS dispensaries/hospitals of ISM&H in various States, especially in Kerala;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present, the CGHS facilities are available in the States of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Kerala apart from the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.

In the last year of the IXth Five Year Plan, the CGHS

facilities were extended to the cities of Chandigarh, Bhopal and Shillong.

Central Government servants who have their place of residence in a non-CGHS covered area automatically get, their medical cover under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposals to start CGHS facilities of ISM&H by opening one Ayurvedic and one Homoeopathic Unit each in Guwahati, Jabalpur and Trivandrum during the year 2003-2004. In addition to this, two Unani Units, one each at Jaipur and Delhi have also been proposed to be opened. During the Xth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to open seven Ayurvedic Units, seven Homeopathic Units and one Siddha Unit in different parts of the country. Efforts for opening of new dispensaries/units under CGHS depend upon availability of funds, creation of new posts and other infrastructure.

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

#### **Exploitation of Opportunities**

\*310. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether World Economic Forum in a recently released report has assessed the capacity of 75 countries to exploit opportunities offered by information and communication technology sector;

(b) if so, the rank of India in the said report;

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing the rank;

(d) whether the report has identified some bottlenecks with regard to use of ICT in India; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve India's position in ICT sector?

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

(b) India has been ranked 54 in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) readiness among the selected 75 countries that represent more than 80% of the World's population.

(c) Networked Readiness Index (NRI) for a country has been computed based on the assessment of the level of Network Use Component Index and Enabling Factors Component Index as per the following details:

**Networked Readiness Index** 54

Network Use Components Index 60

Enabling Factors Component Index 49

Further the Enabling Factors and ranking of their sub-components, is as given below:

**Network Access** 50

- Information Infrastructure 65

- Hardware, Software and Support 34

**Network Policy** 47

- Business & Economic Environment 57

- ICT Policy 36

**Network Society** 52

- Networked Learning 31

- ICT Opportunities 53

- Social Capital 71

**Network Economy** 42

- E-Commerce 29

- E-Governance 33

- General Infrastructure 63

(d) The analysis of the Network Readiness Indexes up to the micro-index level indicates that there is need to focus and prioritise plans for creating more Information Infrastructure, higher Social Capital, better Business & Economic Environment and requisite General Infrastructure of Power, Airports, Rail & Road etc.

(e) Government has taken following steps for improving the ICT position of India:

- Telecom sector has been fully opened-up and new investments are being made by several private and Government service providers in the areas like National and International Long Distance, Internet Service Providers, Basic telephony etc.

- Government of India has set up 487 Community Information Centers in the North eastern region, which provide Internet access to the people in this region including several other value added services. Subject to the availability of financial resources, there is plan to provide at least one such Community Information Center in each of the around 6000 Blocks in the country.

- Government has supported R&D initiatives of the institutions like IITs, Regional Institutions and Universities for development in Local languages and the computer interfaces in some languages have already been developed and are being used.

Towards the objective of achieving "Information for All", Government has set up Media lab Asia in collaboration with MIT USA. Its objective is to pursue need based and relevant R&D like low cost home computing and networking products and solutions so as to provide affordable systems to the masses in India.

Broad milestones to be achieved by the year 2008 are as follows:

|                               | 2001-2002 | 2008-2009 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Computers per 1000 people     | 6         | 20        |
| Internet User per 1000 people | 6         | 40        |

#### Cargo Handling

\*311. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cargo handling at major ports is likely to go up from the existing 288 millions tonnes per year to about 415 million tonnes in 2006-07;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to handle such a growth;

(c) the ports which require more attention in this regard; and

(d) the details of a comprehensive plan to tackle such requirements to streamline port management in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (d) The Working Group for Port Sector for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has projected an aggregate traffic of 415 Million Tonnes (MT) for major ports during the terminal year of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2006-2007 as compared

to 287.59 MT during 2001-02. The Port-wise information is as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

| Sl. No | Name of the Port | Traffic handled in 2001-02 | Projected traffic in 2006-2007 |
|--------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1      | Kolkata          | 30.40                      | 54.80                          |
| 2      | Mumbai           | 26.43                      | 30.40                          |
| 3      | JL Nehru         | 22.52                      | 34.50                          |
| 4      | Chennai          | 36.12                      | 40.00                          |
| 5      | Cochin           | 12.06                      | 17.20                          |
| 6      | Vizag            | 44.34                      | 60.00                          |
| 7      | Kandla           | 37.73                      | 51.00                          |
| 8      | Mormugao         | 22.93                      | 26.30                          |
| 9      | Paradip          | 21.13                      | 28.90                          |
| 10     | New Mangalore    | 17.51                      | 32.70                          |
| 11     | Tuticorin        | 13.02                      | 18.70                          |
| 12     | Ennore           | 3.40                       | 20.50                          |
| Total  |                  | 287.59                     | 415.00                         |

To cope with the increasing traffic during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to enhance capacity and improve productivity with focus on measures aimed at modernization, rendering cost effective services, enhancement of service quality etc. This is planned to be achieved, through upgradation/conversion of existing conventional berths to suit emerging requirements; construction of new berths; upgradation of cargo handling equipment and maintenance procedures; redesigning and upgradation of internal road network and circulation systems where required; upgradation of storage facilities and other port infrastructure coupled with commercial accounting practices, improved equipment and labour productivity, optimization of work force, training, optimal use of information technology etc.

Maintenance procedures are proposed to be streamlined and modernized through Total Productivity Management (TPM) for which a seminar is scheduled to be held jointly with Confederation of Indian Industry.



It has also been decided to develop a hub port each on the East and West coasts of the country, at Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports respectively and to develop an international container transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin so as to tap the increasing potential for container traffic.

By the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan period in March, 2007, the aggregate capacity for handling cargo in the major ports is expected to go upto 470.60 MT.

[Translation]

#### **Schemes to Promote Swimming and Archery**

\*312. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for promotion of swimming in the coastal areas and archery in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be provided for the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) The promotion of a particular sport, primarily, is the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF). NSFs, are registered Societies, which are autonomous in their functioning. Accordingly, formulation of any scheme for promotion of a particular sport is the responsibility of the concerned NSF. However, the Government supplements efforts of NSFs by providing assistance under its "Assistance to National Sports Federations" scheme, for training and participation of national teams in overseas tournaments, holding of national championships at sub-junior, junior and senior levels, organization of international tournaments in India, training/coaching of national teams under Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and providing requisite technical and scientific back-up.

Besides, as far as Swimming and Archery are concerned, these disciplines are also included in the sports promotion schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), namely, SAI Training Centres (STC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) and Special Area Games (SAG) Centres.

There is no scheme exclusively for training swimmers

in the coastal areas. However, swimmers are selected from the coastal areas for admission under the above said schemes of SAI. At present, two centres, namely, Trissur (Kerala) and Goa have 24 swimmers from coastal areas.

In case of Archery, under the schemes of ABSC, STC and SAG.. 121 trainees are being trained at 11 centres. All these archers are scouted from the tribal belt and trained in the centres.

(c) Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, assistance is provided to NSFs on the basis of proposals received from them. Under the sports promotion schemes of SAI, during 2002-03, funds to the tune of Rs. 77 lakhs will be provided for the disciplines of Swimming and Archery.

#### **Indo-ASEAN Cooperation to Fight Terrorism**

\*313. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and ASEAN countries have agreed to increase cooperation to fight terrorism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the first India-ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh on November 5, 2002, India and ASEAN agreed to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism, at regional and international fora, particularly in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In this context, they agreed to develop concrete programmes of cooperation which could include exchange of information and experience, and training of personnel in counter-terrorism. India also conveyed its support to the ASEAN Declaration on Terrorism and its willingness to enter into a joint declaration with ASEAN for cooperation in combating terrorism.

[English]

#### **Recommendation of Qureshi Commission**

\*314. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched any proceedings against private hospitals in the capital which have

not followed the Government's directives to provide treatment to the poor;

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

(c) whether the Government have set up Qureshi Commission to recommend measures to enforce the agreement between Government and private hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no proceedings have been launched by them. The Government of NCT of Delhi had set up a high level Committee headed by Justice A.S. Qureshi to review the status of charitable hospitals that were allotted land on concessional rates in Delhi. The Committee submitted its report on 23.5.2001. Salient points of the recommendations of the Committee are as under:

1. Most of the representative of the hospital submitted that 25% beds earmarked for poor patients were excessive since the cost of medicines was too high. It was agreed that it should not be more than 15% in any case, but 10% would be ideal. Therefore, committee recommended 10% indoor beds free for poor patients for all-purpose including medicines and consumables. The free treatment services should be available to 25% of total OPD patients. This condition should be applicable to all hospitals that have been allotted land by the Government.

2. The free treatment should be totally free and not partly free and should be uniform for all hospitals that have been allotted land by the Government.

3. It is also suggested that those institutions should provide the free services to the extent of 10% also who have not been allotted Government land. Even Nursing Homes should provide 5% of their beds for poor and needy patients.

4. In consideration of persistent violation of expressed and implied terms by the institutions, the allotment of land should be cancelled and should be re-allotted by a new lease deed on new and uniform terms and conditions for thirty years, on commercial rates of ground rent, to a new management in which Government should have at least 3 nominees by Lt. Governor having wide experience of rendering free services. The renewed lease must clearly mention that the lease is not transferable and any contravention would result in automatic cancellation.

5. The annual ground rent should be revised every thirty years. The revision of ground rent should be for all allottees of land (to educational institutions and industrial institutions also) and not only for hospitals.

6. The free IPD patients may be identified through a proforma declaration and undertaking.

7. Every hospital should have a poor patient's advisory committee to screen and investigate the correctness of statement made in the proforma.

8. A Monitoring Cell should be set up in DHS to screen and investigate the correctness of statement made in the proforma. This Cell should be empowered to monitor, scrutinize the monthly reports of the free services, to make periodic surprise visits to the hospitals. This Cell should include some eminent persons also who have the experience of running Charitable hospitals where free service to the poor is rendered efficiently.

9. Every hospital, must send a monthly statement showing the total number of patients and free patients.

10. A proper reference system by allowing the hospitals which treat the patients and do not have the required facility, equipment, skill or expertise to treat a particular case and not by any other individual or body of persons or institution, government or non-government. The speciality or super-speciality hospitals will entertain the cases of poor patients only on a reference from the treating hospitals.

11. A drastic amendment to be made in Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act or to enact a new comprehensive legislation to enlarge and define the powers of the Directorate of Health Services.

12. It is also suggested that a commission under the Commission of Enquiry Act, may be constituted to go into the entire gamut of problems facing the hospitals and nursing homes in the NCT of Delhi and to draft the new comprehensive legislation for effective enforcement and monitoring mechanism.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the recommendations of Justice A.S. Qureshi Committee have been accepted in principle by the competent authority of the Government of NCT of Delhi. Modalities of giving effect to the recommendations of the aforesaid Committee are being worked out, in right earnest.

#### C-DOT Products

\*315. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) technology based products manufactured in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some units deploying C-DOT technology are facing closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether lack of upgradation of C-DOT has affected its role as a premier R&D centre; and

(e) the steps taken to retain its pre-eminent position?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As per available information, the total value for C-DOT technology based products manufactured in the country during each of the last three years are as follows:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 997 crores  |
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 1537 crores |
| 2001-2002 | Rs. 901 crores  |

(b) and (c) While there are no recent reports of closure of such manufacturing units, the quantum of procurement by the service providers like BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) varies based on their requirements for the products manufactured by these units.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Every effort is made by C-DOT to provide technological upgradation and it accordingly has developed new and value-engineered technology solutions. It has also undertaken new telecom R&D projects in such a way that it retains its prominent position in the changing

technological scenario as premier R&D institution and its manufacturers would also benefit from such efforts.

### Training Centres

\*316. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India have set up training centres all over the country to identify talent in the field of sports, particularly from backward areas;

(b) if so, the number of such centres set up and the grants given to them during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of sports person selected out of those trained for the international events?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Training Centre & Special Area Games Scheme, presently, there are 74 training centres, functioning in various States of the country, including hilly, coastal & backward areas.

Under the Sports Promotional Schemes of SAI no funds are released, directly, to the State Governments. Funds are released to the SAI Regional Centres for implementation of the schemes.

Region-wise details of the funds, provided to the Heads of regional centres of SAI, in the last three years, for implementation of the above schemes, are at statement enclosed.

(c) Two hundred and forty seven sports persons, trained under the above schemes, participated in the international competitions, during the last three years, in various disciplines.

### Statement

| S.No. | Region   | 1999-2000     |         |        |       |       | 2000-2001     |         |        |       |       | 2001-2002     |         |        |       |       |
|-------|----------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
|       |          | (Rs. in lacs) |         |        |       |       | (Rs. in lacs) |         |        |       |       | (Rs. in lacs) |         |        |       |       |
|       |          | NSTC          | ABSC    | STC    | SAG   | COX   | NSTC          | ABSC    | STC    | SAG   | COX   | NSTC          | ABSC    | STC    | SAG   | COX   |
| 1     | 2        | 3             | 4       | 5      | 6     | 7     | 8             | 9       | 10     | 11    | 12    | 13            | 14      | 15     | 16    | 17    |
| 1     | Central  | 10.00         | *175.00 | 70.00  | 20.00 | 1.00  | 3.24          | *130.00 | 149.78 | 20.75 | 26.90 | 12.00         | *100.00 | 252.00 | 26.00 | 24.15 |
| 2     | Northern | 20.00         |         | 70.00  |       | 6.00  | 20.25         |         | 155.20 |       | 18.00 | 9.00          |         | 148.00 |       | 21.00 |
| 3     | Western  | 20.00         |         | 100.00 |       | 12.00 | 6.10          |         | 137.27 |       | 18.93 | 10.00         |         | 149.00 |       | 10.00 |

| 1     | 2                           | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7     | 8     | 9      | 10     | 11     | 12     | 13    | 14     | 15      | 16     | 17     |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| 4     | Eastern                     | 40.00  |        | 83.00  | 50.00  | 10.00 | 38.68 |        | 134.13 | 81.61  | 14.53  | 38.00 |        | 131.00  | 117.00 | 18.00  |
| 5     | Southern                    | 17.00  |        | 185.00 | 35.00  | 1.00  | 10.84 |        | 248.85 | 40.10  | 28.97  | 9.00  |        | 302.00  | 44.00  | 23.96  |
| 6     | North<br>Eastern            | 15.00  |        | 40.00  | 41.00  |       | 1.65  |        | 64.10  | 83.01  | 17.60  | 5.00  |        | 72.12   | 102.00 | 26.00  |
| 7     | Sub-<br>Centre,<br>Guwahati | 20.00  |        | 33.00  |        | 2.00  | 6.92  |        | 57.67  |        | 8.50   | 7.00  |        | 77.00   | 17.00  |        |
| Total |                             | 142.00 | 175.00 | 581.00 | 146.00 | 32.00 | 87.68 | 130.00 | 947.00 | 225.47 | 133.43 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 1131.12 | 306.00 | 123.11 |

Note: \* The grant in respect of ABSC Scheme is released to DGMT for further distribution of BSCs on requirement basis.

**Economic Partnership between East ASEAN Economies and India**

\*317. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian Prime Minister during his recent visit to New Delhi proposed a formal economic partnership between East ASEAN Economies and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) proposed shape of this economic partnership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In his speech at the India-ASEAN Business Summit, held in New Delhi on October 17, 2002, the Prime Minister of Malaysia called upon India and ASEAN to work on a comprehensive economic partnership.

(b) and (c) While no details were indicated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, an India-ASEAN Task Force on Economic Linkages has been set up, and will, inter alia, prepare a draft Framework Agreement on enhancing bilateral economic cooperation.

**Leprosy Vaccine**

\*318. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the National Institute of Immunology has developed leprosy vaccine indigenously;

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) whether the Government are still importing leprosy vaccine;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the indigenously developed vaccines has not yet been recommended by ICMR or WHO for use; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Immunology has developed Mw anti-leprosy vaccine indigenously. The cost of the leprosy vaccine developed by the National Institute of Immunology is Rs.400/- per patient in the recommended 8 injectable doses.

The Government has not imported Leprosy Vaccine for use in the country at any time. Indian Council of Medical Research and WHO have not yet finally recommended the general use of the Leprosy Vaccine developed by the National Institute of Immunology. In a comparative trial, undertaken by ICMR in South India, the Mw Vaccine developed by National Institute of Immunology was found to provide only 24.5% protection against leprosy. An expert group set up by ICMR recommended that Mw Vaccine can be cleared for marketing as an immuno-therapeutic adjunct to chemotherapy with MDT for a limited period of two years and the decision can be reviewed at the end of this period based on the additional information generated during these two years. The vaccine could be used by treating physician according to his/her

preference. Accordingly, the Drugs Controller General of India had cleared Mw Vaccine for marketing as a immuno-therapeutic adjunct to chemotherapy with MDT for a limited period of two years and six months. No final recommendation in this matter has been received from ICMR. Moreover, the presently used oral chemotherapy (MDT) effectively provides leprosy cure.

#### Fluoride in Drinking Water

\*319. SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether a number of States have been badly affected due to the presence of fluoride in the drinking water;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Central Government to fight this menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Based on the fluorine content of the drinking water, fluorosis is a problem in 19 states, which are; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Naidu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Fluorosis can only be combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a state subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on Fluorosis endemicity in the states. Along with Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of fluoride in Drinking Water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and medical professionals to generate awareness about Fluorosis and check the spread of Fluorosis in the country.

#### Test for Cervical Pre-Cancer Screening

\*320. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new test for early detection of cervical pre-cancer screening and management, the Human Papilloma (virus) DNA test is much more dependable and accurate than the traditional "pap smear" method, introduced at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi;

(b) if so, main features of this new test and its comparative dependability and advantages over the other methods; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the new facility available throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) At present, Human Papilloma Virus testing is being done as a part of the research projects at AIIMS. In this regard, a new test of Hybrid capture is also to be taken up as a research project. This testing is not a substitute to the conventional "Pap smear" test, but the addition of this test may increase the accuracy of the conventional "Pap smear" test. Since the test is currently at a research stage only, the question of providing the facility country-wide does not arise at the present juncture.

#### Master Plan of AIIMS

\*321. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIIMS faculty questions restructuring project" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated November 18, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Master Plan was not discussed with the faculty members before being finalised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be completed;

(f) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of treatment facilities; and

(g) if so, any specific expansion plan drawn up for Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. All India Institute of Medical Sciences is planning to upgrade their facilities and a detailed Master Plan has already been submitted to Delhi Urban Arts Commission. Faculty members have been involved in the preparation of the Plan at various stages and their views and suggestions have been incorporated in the Plan. The Master Plan includes expansion of housing facilities, expanded hostel facilities, new institutional buildings like Pay Wards, expanded OPD, Digestion Centre, Renal Centre, Dental College, Captive Power Plant etc., extensive parking arrangements, boring of new tube wells, covering of nallah etc. The Project is expected to cost Rs. 1300 crores and is planned to be implemented phasewise as part of vision 2025. The project has not been considered by the Government yet. Its implementation will depend on due clearances and availability of funds.

[Translation]

#### CGHS Dispensary in North Avenue

3317. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that costly medicines are procured on the IC number of the MP's at North Avenue CGHS Dispensary while the MP does not know about it;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees in this Dispensary are working for years due to which they misuse their position;

(c) if so, the reasons for not transferring the said staff;

(d) the number of employees who have served for more than two years in the said Dispensary;

(e) whether patients are dissatisfied with the functioning of said dispensary; and

(f) if so, the nature and details of the complaints received during the last three years and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Hon'ble MP's are supplied medicines on their IC No. against the prescription given by the specialist irrespective of the cost of the medicine. Till date, no complaint has been received in

CGHS dispensary North Avenue from the Hon'ble MPs that medicines are being issued against their I.C. No. without their knowledge.

(b) and (c) Though some employees in this dispensary are working for a longer period, no complaint has been received against any employee of this dispensary for misusing their position.

As per existing transfer policy, Group 'A' officers in the CGHS are normally transferred on completion of three years of their tenure of posting and CMO In-charge are transferred on completion of four years in a particular dispensary. Group 'B' officers in CGHS are transferred on the basis of individual request/official exigencies. By and large, Group 'C' and 'D' staff including office bearers of associations in CGHS are transferred on completion of 4 to 5 years of their tenure of posting except in exigencies of service.

(d) 9 employees are working for more than two years in the said dispensary.

(e) and (f) 4 complaints were received against CGHS dispensary, North Avenue, New Delhi. The nature and details of the complaints received against the dispensary during the last three years is as under:

(1) Complaint received regarding not issuing medicines against prescription written by a Doctor in private practice. The matter was enquired into and it was observed that:-

(a) It is a normal practice for any medical doctor whether in Government or in private practice to examine a patient before prescribing or issuing any medicines. It is not feasible for the CGHS doctor to simply copy the prescriptions written by another doctor and issue the medicines. This practice is not only unethical but is also against the well being of the patients.

(b) The necessary medicines were made available to the complainant against the prescription of Dr. R.M.L. Hospital.

(2) Anonymous Complaint against CMO I/c, North Avenue Dispensary alleging that the CMO I/c and another doctor do not see any patients and are busy preparing the indents the whole day. The matter was enquired into and it was observed that:

(a) CGHS dispensary, North Avenue being a VIP dispensary and owing to the overall shortage of drugs available in the dispensary from the CGHS Medical Stores Depot, there is a heavy load on local purchase indent. Also, there is a heavy demand from VIPs to supply medicines on the same day and

as such, the indents have to be prepared for the day right from the time the dispensary starts functioning. As there is no other Pharmacist who can assist the Store Keeper in preparing the local purchase indent, the CMO I/c himself along with any other available Medical Officer has to prepare the same. Moreover, the Storekeeper of the dispensary who prepares the Local Purchase indent has also to receive the medicines which were indented on the previous day, distribute the same and prepare the indents for the same day also. The CMO In-charge also has other administrative work pertaining to (i) Issue of permission for treatment/investigations in private hospitals and diagnostic centres for the CGHS pensioner beneficiaries. (ii) Ensure punctuality of staff attending to duty, cleanliness and sanitation of the dispensary. Check the attendance register and countersign the same. (iii) Maintain, scrutinize and countersign the expenditure of drugs from the stock ledger of medicines issued by the storekeeper. (v) Countersign all the entries in receipt column of medicines as per voucher of indents. (vi) Maintain the imprest money register (vii) Coordinate with the Area Welfare Officer and the Committee (viii) Maintain the casual leave record and compensatory off register for all the dispensary staff (ix) Supervise the Family Welfare Programme in dispensary including immunization and Pulse Polio Programme (x) Responsible for the weeding out of the old records in the dispensary (xi) To revalidate the pensioner CGHS card as when it falls due (xii) Keep an account of all chit books and authority slips and issue the same to the Medical Officer in the dispensary. (xiii) Prepare the acquittance roll for the dispensary. Besides these administrative functions, the CMO In-charge is responsible for the overall smooth functioning of the dispensary.

Keeping the above in view, the complaint could not be sustained. Further, the complaint was also anonymous.

(3) Complaint received regarding irregularity in delivery of medicines at CGHS dispensary, North Avenue.

The matter was inquired into and it was noticed that a mistake was made by the dispensary staff inadvertently. The medicines were, found available in the dispensary itself and they were issued to the complainant later on. The complainant had later written to the Addl. Director (HQ), CGHS Delhi, that he was satisfied with the functioning of the CGHS dispensary, North Avenue dispensary and that the medicines were issued to him.

(4) Complaint against Dr. (Smt.) Seema Tyagi regarding irresponsible behaviour towards the beneficiaries including Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

The complaint is being inquired into and its report is awaited.

[English]

### Opening of New Post Offices

3318. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering of opening of new post offices in eastern sub-urbs Mumbai;

(b) whether residents, various associations and public representatives have represented for opening of new post offices at Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli East and Mulund East;

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

(d) whether the MHADA was approached for getting the land for the said POs;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial requirement for the purpose; and

(f) by when these Post Offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is considering to open a new post office in Mulund East subject to availability of a suitable building on rent, to house the post office. The Department is in receipt of representations from residents, associations and public representatives for opening of new post offices at Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli East, and Mulund East. The details in respect of some of the requests received is given in the statement. Post Offices are opened on norm based justification, subject to availability of requisite resources.

(d) and (e) In Tagore Nagar and Kannamwar Nagar of Vikhroli East area, departmental land is available. MHADA was approached in 1998 for post office land in Mulund East. As no offer of land has been made by MHADA to the Department of Posts, the financial implications are not known.

(f) A post office is planned to be opened in Mulund East during the current financial year that is 2002-03. However, the opening of post offices is subject to justification of departmental norms and availability of requisite resources.

**Statement**

*Details of some of the requests received  
for opening of new post offices*

| Area                 | Request received from   |
|----------------------|---|
| Pantnagar/ Ghatkopar | Mr. Ashok Katore for P.O.<br>Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar   |
| Mulund East          | Shri Kirit Somaiya<br><br>Shri Sadkware Samartha<br><br>Sahakari Row-House<br>Sankul<br><br>Smt. Vatsala Vasant Vaili<br>(Corporator)<br><br>Shri Nandkumar Vaiti (SEM) |
| Vikhroli East        | Shri I.M. Rame for PO in<br>Suryanagar area.<br><br>Shri Sashikant Rakake for<br>PO in Tagorenagar area.  |

**ISRO Research on Life in Atmosphere**

3319. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists in ISRO, Hyderabad are conducting any research regarding the subject "Life can materialise out of thin air"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A joint Indo-UK Team of Scientists conducted an experiment on January 21, 2001 employing ISRO's cryogenic sampler balloon payload to test the presence of extra-terrestrial micro-organisms in the Earth's stratosphere at 41 km. The experiment consisted of a cryogenic sampler which was launched in a balloon flight from TIFR- ISRO balloon facility at Hyderabad.

(b) The samples collected have been extensively analysed by the Team in India and U.K. The results, inter-alia,

suggestive of the presence of extra-terrestrial micro-organisms entering Earth's atmosphere, were presented at several international symposia/conferences in USA, Europe and India, where they were well received.

[Translation]

**Promotion of SSI in Bihar**

3320. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken during the last three years to promote small scale industries in Bihar and the year-wise amount spent thereon; and

(b) the future plan of the Government to promote small scale industries in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) For the promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country including Bihar, the Government is implementing various schemes / programmes viz., Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, Entrepreneurial, Managerial Training Programmes and Technical Skill Development Programme through Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs), Tool Rooms, etc. Besides, Government has also announced a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30.08.2000, which, inter-alia, includes enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure, marketing facilities and incentives for Technology Upgradation. A Credit Guarantee Trust Fund has also been created which provides quarantine for bank loans to SSI units upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs without collaterals. A scheme to provide 12% capital subsidy on projects of Technology Upgradation by SSI units in the specified sectors/ sub-sectors is also being implemented. In the State of Bihar, there are two SISIs; one at Patna and the other at Muzaffarpur. These SISIs provide the Entrepreneurship/ Managerial / Skill Development Training, consultancy, project profiles, extension services and common facilities to the Small Scale Entrepreneurs. Funds are allocated / spent, Scheme / Programme-wise and not State-wise.

**Genetically Modified Soya Oil**

3321. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the "Genetically Modified" soya oil being imported from abroad reportedly injurious to health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Government is likely to impose a ban on its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry of Health, there is no evidence that imported soya oil produced from Genetically Modified soya beans is injurious to health.

(c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests approved the import of refined soya oil on 5.7.2002 by CARE India from the USA for the ICDS programme. Recently, Crude Degummed Soya Bean oil has also been approved by the GEAC in its meeting of 7th November 2002 for import by CARE India for a period of one year.

[English]

#### Rural Postal Life Insurance

3322. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rural Postal Life

Insurance (RPLI) a comparatively new service from the Department of Posts is very popular among the villagers;

(b) if so, the number of policies sold in the twin categories of Postal Life Insurance and RPLI during the last three years in the country, year-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether 'melas' / 'camps' were organized by the Department of Posts in districts to sell policies in the state of Madhya Pradesh particularly in the Adivasi areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Rural Postal Life Insurance was introduced with effect from 24th March, 1995 by Department of Posts for the benefit of weaker section of rural populace and it has become very popular among the villagers.

(b) The number of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) policies and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policies sold in the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in each state (Postal Circle) are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) Melas/camps were organized by Department of Posts in district towns of Madhya Pradesh for selling RPLI policies.

(d) The details of places where 'melas' / 'camps' were organized by Department of Posts in normal and Adivasi areas are given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*No. of Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance Policies Sold during past 3 years (Circle-wise)*

| S.No. | Name of Circle | Year 1999-2000<br>No. of Policies |        | Year 2000-2001<br>No. of Policies |        | Year 2001-2002<br>No. of Policies |        |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|
|       |                | PLI                               | RPLI   | PLI                               | RPLI   | PL                                | RPLI   |
| 1     | 2              | 3                                 | 4      | 5                                 | 6      | 7                                 | 8      |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh | 1,67,786                          | 20,598 | 11,362                            | 41,783 | 15,426                            | 86,902 |
| 2.    | Assam          | 4,761                             | 2,180  | 3,506                             | 2,383  | 5,066                             | 3,508  |
| 3.    | Bihar          | 3,996                             | 7,423  | 3,318                             | 4,584  | 3,273                             | 21,287 |
| 4.    | Delhi          | 2,481                             | 11     | 2,743                             | 0      | 4,445                             | 0      |
| 5.    | Gujarat        | 24,885                            | 7,077  | 15,042                            | 3,033  | 21,390                            | 5,934  |
| 6.    | Haryana        | 4,893                             | 1,053  | 3,412                             | 1,831  | 5,827                             | 12,228 |

| 1     | 2                | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | 8        |
|-------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 7.    | Himachal Pradesh | 2,424    | 879      | 2,441    | 657      | 2,950    | 1,045    |
| 8.    | Jammu & Kashmir  | 2,575    | 248      | 2,598    | 2,543    | 2,119    | 4,595    |
| 9.    | Karnataka        | 16,789   | 6,014    | 14,546   | 2,750    | 17,833   | 7,975    |
| 10.   | Kerala           | 3,524    | 2,977    | 2,790    | 2,510    | 4,436    | 11,908   |
| 11.   | Madhya Pradesh   | 5,110    | 44,547   | 3,847    | 31,999   | 6,226    | 25,149   |
| 12.   | Maharashtra ***  | 14,486   | 23,763   | 9,582    | 18,495   | 16,211   | 54,448   |
| 13.   | North East **    | 1,254    | 587      | 1,670    | 338      | 1,738    | 762      |
| 14.   | Orissa           | 5,159    | 3,500    | 5,044    | 3,662    | 4,711    | 3,049    |
| 15.   | Punjab           | 2,766    | 1,612    | 3,906    | 10,403   | 6,122    | 18,785   |
| 16.   | Rajasthan        | 3,702    | 484      | 2,947    | 2,309    | 3,785    | 3,314    |
| 17.   | Tamil Nadu       | 14,245   | 22,927   | 13,426   | 21,120   | 15,738   | 35,827   |
| 18.   | Uttar Pradesh    | 4,372    | 8,816    | 5,760    | 10,491   | 8,234    | 14,804   |
| 19.   | West Bengal      | 5,279    | 3,127    | 5,210    | 1,317    | 6,289    | 10,520   |
| 20.   | APS              | 25,134   | 0        | 43,659   | 0        | 20,344   | 0        |
| 21.   | Chhattisgarh *   | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 40,081   |
| 22.   | Jharkhand *      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 527      |
| 23.   | Uttaranchal *    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5,834    |
| Total |                  | 1,64,621 | 1,57,823 | 1,56,809 | 1,62,208 | 1,72,163 | 3,68,527 |

\* These 3 Circles are newly created Circles and PLI Business is being done in their Parent Circles at present. RPLI Business in these Circles has started only from 2001-02.

\*\* N.E. Circle includes Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram.

\*\*\* Maharashtra Circle includes Goa also.

### Statement

*Details of Melas/Camps organized by Department of Posts in District Towns of M.P. State in Normal & Adivasi Areas*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | Month & Year   | Places where Melas/Camps were organised |               |
|--------|------------------|----------------|---|---------------|
|        |                  |                | Normal Areas                            | Adivasi Areas |
| 1      | 2                | 3              | 4                                       | 5             |
| 1.     | Balaghat         | Jan-April/2002 | Kishnapur, Lanji                        | Baihar        |
|        |                  | Oct-Nov/2002   | Lanji                                   |               |

| 1   | 2           | 3               | 4                                     | 5   |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2.  | Betul       | Jan-March/2002  | -                                     | Bhainsdehi                                    |
| 3.  | Chhindwara  | Jan-March/2002  | Parasiya, Junnardeo                   | Amarwada                                      |
|     |             | Oct-Nov/2002    | Junnardeo                             | -   |
| 4.  | Jabalpur    | Jan-March/2002  | Patan, Kundam                         | -   |
| 5.  | Katni       | Jan-March/2002  | Barhi, Vijayraghavgarh, Kymore, Rithi | -   |
|     |             | Oct-Nov/2002    | Barhi, Vijayraghavgarh, Kymore        | -   |
| 6.  | Mandla      | Jan-March/2002  | -                                     | Nainpur, Keolari                              |
|     |             | Oct-2002        |                                       | Nainpur                                       |
| 7.  | Reewa       | Jan-March/2002  | Maoganj, Hanumana, Naigarhi, Sirmore- |   |
| 8.  | Satna       | Oct-Nov/2002    | Semariya, Nagod                       | -   |
| 9.  | Seoni       | Jan-March/2002  | -                                     | Bindori, Lakhnadone, Barghat,                 |
|     |             | Oct-2002        |                                       | Lakhnadone                                    |
| 10. | Shahdol     | Feb-2002        | -                                     | Budhar, Umariya, Gohparu                      |
|     |             | Sep-Nov/2002    | -                                     | Jaisinghnagar, Gohparu, Anuppur, Rajendragram |
| 11. | Sidhi       | Feb-2002        | Churhat, Rampurnaikin                 | -   |
|     |             | Oct-2002        | Majholi                               |   |
| 12. | Hoshangabad | March-2000      | Hoshangabad                           |   |
|     |             |                 | Harda                                 |   |
|     |             |                 | Pipariya                              |   |
|     |             |                 | Gaderwara                             |   |
| 13. | Bhind       | March-2002      | Bhind                                 |   |
|     |             | Oct-2002        | Bhind                                 |   |
| 14. | Indore      | Oct-2002        | Mahow                                 |   |
| 15. | Bhopal      | August-Nov/2002 | Bairagarh                             |   |
|     |             |                 | Bairasa                               |   |
|     |             |                 | Patilawad                             |   |
|     |             |                 | Kannod                                |   |
|     |             |                 | Bagli                                 |   |
|     |             |                 | Sonkach                               |   |
| 16. | Dewas       | Oct-2002        | Dewas                                 |   |

[Translation]

**Financial Assistance to Gujarat for  
Emergency Facilities**

3323. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have provided funds for upgrading facilities and providing emergency facilities in the Government hospitals in different States during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more funds to Gujarat for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways. State-wise details of the amount sanctioned for the purpose during the last three years till September 30, 2002 is given in the statement.

(c) to (e) Release of more funds to Government of Gujarat under the above Pilot Project depends upon the proposal(s) received from the State Government as per guidelines of the Project and availability of funds.

**Statement**

*Financial Assistance to Gujarat for Emergency Facilities*

The state-wise details of amount sanctioned to various States/UTs during the last three years till 30th September, 2002 under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways are as under:

**Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Rs.59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and

emergency care service at Pasighat General Hospital, Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01.

2. Rs.116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

**Bihar**

1. Rs.53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna during the year 1999-2000.

2. Rs.150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.

3. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.

4. Rs.62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi; District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.

**Gujarat**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for up gradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda during the year 2001-02.

2. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad during the year 2002-03.

**Goa**

1. Rs.142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma and Accident Unit at Hospicio Hospital, Margao during the year 2002-03.

**Haryana**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal during the year 1999-2000.

**Himachal Pradesh**

1. Rs.147.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla and Zonal Hospital, Bilaspur during the year 2002-03.

**Jammu and Kashmir**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/trauma services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan during the year 2001-02.

**Kerala**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam during the year 2001-02.

**Madhya Pradesh**

1. Rs.97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore during the year 1999-2000.

**Mizoram**

1. Rs.58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs.74.30 lakhs upgradation and strengthening of accident & emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizawl during the year 2001-02.

**Pondicherry**

1. Rs. 78.00 lakh for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-2001.

**Sikkim**

1. Rs.70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency Care Unit at S.T.N.M. Hospital, Gangtok during the year 2000-01.

**Tripura**

1. Rs.70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Tripura Sundari Hospital (South District), Udaipur during the year 2000-01.

**Tamil Nadu**

1. Rs.105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.

**Uttar Pradesh**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow during the year 2000-01.

**Postal Services**

3324. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of complaints received regarding poor postal services in Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal during the last two years;

(b) the nature and details thereof;

(c) whether officers and employees have found responsible for dereliction of duty while investigating into these complaints; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against them alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Number of complaints about poor postal services received in Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal during the past two years are as under:

| Year      | No. of complaints received | No. of complaints received |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|           | Jammu & Kashmir            | West Bengal                |
| 2000-2001 | 5798                       | 43,196                     |
| 2001-2002 | 8463                       | 51,683                     |

(b) The complaints were mainly about delay in delivery of mails and payment of money orders, loss of articles, non-receipt of payees acknowledgements, delay in revival of Pass Books and misbehaviour of the staff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)

| Jammu & Kashmir  | West Bengal  |
|--|--|
| 4 officials were punished with the stoppage of increments. | 33 officials were punished with the punishment of Censure, withholding of increment, recovery of pay and reduction of pay. |

### Computerisation of Post Offices

3325. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the Jharkhand State where computers have been installed and computerised registration has been started during the last three years;

(b) the names of these post offices; and

(c) the post offices where the Government are going to install computers and start computerised registration during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Registration work is being done through computers for the last three years in Post Offices in Jharkhand. Subsequently 6 more Post Offices were computerized. The details are given in the statement.

(c) Further computerization will depend on completion of necessary formalities and availability of funds.

#### Statement

*Post Offices doing registration work through computers in Jharkhand*

| Sl.No. | Name of the post office |
|--------|-------------------------|
| 1      | Ranchi GPO              |
| 2      | Dhanbad HO              |
| 3      | Jamshedpur HO           |
| 4      | Doranda HO              |
| 5      | B.S. City HO            |
| 6      | Chaibasa HO             |
| 7      | Ramgarh Cantt HO        |
| 8      | Hazaribagh HO           |
| 9      | Daltonganj HO           |

[English]

#### Sign of Agreement with Belarus

3326. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from Belarus, one of the Commonwealth of Independent States member-nations for developing a close relationship between its hardware and software industry in the Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the said proposal;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard has been received from Belarus.

(b) Does not

(c) and (d) During the course of the visit of a high level delegation from Belarus, a Programme of Cooperation between India and Belarus in Information Technology and Electronics was signed on 4th February, 2000, for cooperation in the following areas:

(1) Information Technology including computer Systems, Computer Software and Services.

(2) Cooperation in the areas of electronics such as microelectronics, consumer electronics, industrial electronics, electronic components etc.

(3) Standardisation & Quality Certification of Electronics and Information Technology products.

(4) Exchange of Trade Information.

(5) Human Resource Development in the area of Electronics and Information Technology.

(6) Promotion of joint venture, trade and business partnership in the areas of Information Technology, Consumer Electronics, Industrial Electronics and Electronic Components specifically in the field of Microelectronics.

#### Speed Post Service

3327. SHRI M. DURAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the district head quarters in the State of Tamil Nadu are yet to be connected with Speed Post Services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal to provide Speed Post Services to those district head quarters where at present this service is not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. All the 30 District Headquarters in Tamil Nadu Circle have been provided with Speed Post service.

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

#### Telephone Facility in West Bengal

3328. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having telephone facility at present in West Bengal district-wise;

(b) the number of villages not having said facility as yet in the State, District-wise;

(c) whether villages in Barjora P.S. and Gangajalghati P.S. of Bankura district in State have applied for the telephone where the cables are yet to be laid;

(d) by when these villages are likely to be connected by the cables;

(e) whether the telephone facility of Maliara village in Bankura District West Bengal are being properly utilized; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) District-wise, number of villages having telephone facility and without telephone facility in West Bengal States are given in the statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. While most of the applicants have been provided with telephone facilities in Barjora and Gangajalghati P.S., a total of 212 applicants are waiting due to non availability of cable pairs. These are likely to be covered by June, 2003 subject to availability of resources.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The equipment capacity of Maliara exchange is 1000 lines. Out of this, 292 connections have already been provided. There is a waiting list of 222 applicants which are likely to be covered by June, 2003.

#### Statement

##### Status of District-wise VPTs in West Bengal

| Sl.No. | District        | No. of villages with telephone facility | No. of villages without Telephone facility |
|--------|-----------------|---|--|
| 1      | Burdwan         | 2488                                    | 0  |
| 2      | Murshidabad     | 1837                                    | 81   |
| 3      | Bankura         | 3263                                    | 175  |
| 4      | Howrah          | 1345                                    | 0  |
| 5      | Hoogly          | 1245                                    | 0  |
| 6      | 24 Parganas (N) | 2487                                    | 0  |
| 7      | 24 Parganas (S) | 1273                                    | 0  |
| 8      | Coochbehar      | 1170                                    | 0  |
| 9      | Jalpaiguri      | 703                                     | 0  |
| 10     | Midnapur        | 1016                                    | 200  |
| 11     | Nadia           | 1248                                    | 0  |
| 12     | Malda           | 1641                                    | 0  |
| 13     | Purulia         | 2161                                    | 522  |
| 14     | Dinajpur (N)    | 1510                                    | 0  |
| 15     | Dinajpur (S)    | 1535                                    | 0  |
| 16     | Darjeeling      | 628                                     | 0  |
| 17     | Birbhum         | 2232                                    | 0  |
| 18     | Sikkim          | 374                                     | 53   |
| Total  |                 | 37306                                   | 1031                                       |

#### Spread of Lymphatic Filariasis

3329. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme to eradicate the Lymphatic Filariasis has been launched in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WHO is providing financial assistance for the campaign; and



(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Programme for elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis has been in operation in 30 districts of 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rs. 10.83 lakhs during 2000-01 and 7.47 lakhs during 2001-02 have been provided by WHO. During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs.106.09 lakhs has been earmarked for this campaign.

#### **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga**

3330. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding salary and promotion prospects of Staff Nurses in Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Representations have been received for promotion and higher nursing allowance. Steps have been taken to implement Assured Career Progression (ACP) for promotion of eligible nurses. Higher nursing allowance has not been approved due to lack of functional justification.

#### **Invitation to Defence Minister**

3331. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any invitation has been extended to the Defence Minister by China to visit that country;

(b) if so, whether India has accepted the invitation; and

(c) if so, the issues likely to be taken up for discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Dates for the visit and the agenda for discussions will be settled through diplomatic channels.

#### **Tele-Medicine Cell in AIIMS**

3332. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tele-medicine cell has been set up at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, whether such cell is proposed to be set up in other Medical Colleges and hospitals in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Tele-medicine set up exists at All India Institute of Medical Sciences under the Department of Computer Facility.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal for setting up of Tele-medicine cells in Medical Colleges and hospitals in Delhi.

#### **Indo-Sino Ties**

3333. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attitude of Chinese Government towards India has, of late, hardened and betrays distinct pro-Pakistan tilt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of the People's Republic of China describes its relationship with Pakistan as an "all-weather friendship" and is willing to make common efforts to further deepen and expand a "comprehensive cooperative partnership" between China and Pakistan.

(c) Government seeks friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality.

#### **Norms for Gyms**

3334. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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



(a) whether Government are aware of substantially large number of gyms run by health clinics with untrained instructors and without any authorization in major metros of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the norms for running of gyms, if laid;

(c) if so, whether the Government have made any study to identify such gyms in the metros;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, such information is not maintained by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

[Translation]

#### **Financial Assistance for Medical Waste Management**

3335. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being run by Government for "medical waste Management in Government Hospitals" and the quantum of loans, grants and other financial assistance provided for the implementation of these schemes;

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

(c) whether the schemes are being run in Rajasthan for the last four years, viz. from April 1, 1998 to till date; and

(d) if so, the details of loans or financial assistance sanctioned by Government, year-wise and agency-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Pilot Project/Demonstration Projects providing financial support to the selected Government Hospitals for Hospital Waste Management. State-wise details of the amount sanctioned for the purpose during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 till March 31, 2002 is given in the statement.

(c) and (d) Rs.145.75 lakhs has been sanctioned to Government of Rajasthan for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in S.M.S. Hospital, Jaipur, M.G. Hospital, Jodhpur and General Hospital, Udaipur.

#### **Statement**

##### *Financial Assistance for Medical Waste in Management*

#### **Assam**

1. Rs.110.00 lakhs for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati, Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, Silcher Medical College, Silcher and Mohendra Mohan Choudhary Hospital, Guwahati during the year 2001-02.

#### **Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in General Hospital, Naharlagun and General Hospital, Pasighat during the year 2001-02.

#### **Bihar**

1. Rs.63.50 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management during the year 2000-01.

#### **Delhi**

1. Rs.46.00 lakhs for providing facilities for disposal of hospital waste in G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi and Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi during the year 2000-01.

#### **Himachal Pradesh**

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla, Dr. R.P. Medical College & Hospital, Dharamshala, District Hospital, Chamba and District Hospital, Una during the year 2001-02.

#### **Mizoram**

1. Rs.55.00 lakhs for providing facilities for management of bio-medical waste at Civil Hospital, Aizawl during the year 2000-01.
2. Rs.55.00 lakhs for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in Civil Hospital, Lunglei during the year 2001-02.

#### **Meghalaya**

1. Rs.116.20 lakhs for providing facilities for Hospital Waste Management in the six hospitals of the State (Rs.8.50 lakhs during the year 2000-01 and Rs.107.70 lakhs during the year 2001-02).

**Nagaland**

1. Rs.134.40 lakhs for providing facilities for Hospital Waste Management in Naga Hospital, Kohima and Civil Hospital, Dimapur during the year 2001-02.

**Pondicherry**

1. Rs.100.00 lakhs for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management in Government General Hospital, Pondicherry and Government General Hospital, Karaikal during the year 2001-02.

**Rajasthan**

1. Rs.145.75 lakhs for providing facilities for Hospital Waste Management in SMS Hospital, Jaipur, MG Hospital, Jodhpur and General Hospital, Udaipur during the year 2001-02.

**Sikkim**

1. Rs.136.00 lakhs for providing facilities for Hospital Waste Management in the five hospitals of the State during the year 2001-02.

**West Bengal**

1. Rs.38.48 lakhs for providing facilities for Hospital Waste Management in Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Kolkata and Medical College Hospital, Kolkata during the year 2001-02.

**Leakage from Nuclear Plants**

3336. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "leakage from Nuclear Plants" appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated October 15, 2002 and 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 20, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the number of employees and officers who suffered physical impairment due to the said leakage?

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

(b) and (c) The news item was based on a report published in the Christian Science Monitor on October 11, 2002. The radioactive releases from the nuclear power plants to the environment are well within the limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In 200 reactor years of operation in India, there have been no accidents. A technically sound mechanism is in place in every nuclear power plant to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

(d) No employees or officers have suffered physical impairment due to incidents of leakage in nuclear power plants.

[English]

**Department of Medicine for  
Emergency Purposes in AIIMS**

3337. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a full fledged department of emergency medicine in All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, by when this department is likely to be set up;

(c) whether AIIMS has also proposed to start a post graduate course in emergency medicine for MBBS students; and

(d) if so, by when this course is likely to be started and its broad parameters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government have so far not received any proposal in this regards. Such proposals require consideration by different Institute bodies before being sent to the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Equipment for Cancer**

3338. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the expensive equipment imported by various Government hospitals in Delhi for treatment of cancer patients lying idle for the last few years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with the names of the hospitals that are not using the equipment and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In so far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its Associated Hospitals are concerned, no equipment for treatment of cancer patient is lying idle.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has informed that all patient care equipment are functional except the following which are not being used for patient care activities:

| Sr. No. | Name(s) of the equipments |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1.      | Selectron LDR             |
| 2.      | Micro Selectron HDR       |
| 3.      | Brachytherapy Ultrasound  |
| 4.      | GE Simulator              |

The reason for non-utilization are that Dr. B.R Ambedkar IRCH expansion/construction work in the ground and the first floor is still continuing. As a result of on going renovation work it is not feasible for Dr. B.R Ambedkar, IRCH to use these expensive machines and these can be put to use again as soon as the remodelling/renovation work is over.

#### **Cellular Subscribers**

3339. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELEN:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) the number of cellular subscribers in metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai & Hyderabad as on date, City-wise;

(b) whether there has been a fall in the number of cellular subscribers during the past few months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the rate of increase in the number of cellular subscribers during the first six months of the current financial year in the above cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licences, the country is divided into 24 Service Areas consisting of 4 Metro City Service Areas (Viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai) and 20 Telecom Circle Service Areas. A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of Service Area and not a particular place within the Service Area. Thus, a subscriber in Bangalore or Hyderabad would belong respectively to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Service Areas.

As per the information provided by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, the number of CMTS subscribers as on 31.10.2002 in the six Service Areas are given in the statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The number of Cellular subscribers and the rate of increase during the first six months of the current financial year in the six Service Areas is given in the statement.

#### **Statement**

*Number of CMTS Subscribers as on 31.10.2002 and the rate of increase during first 6 months of the current financial year.*

| Sl.No. | No. of Subscribers in the Telecom Circle/ Metro City Service Area as on | Delhi   | Mumbai  | Chennai | Kolkata | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka |
|--------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|-----------|
| 1      | 2   | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7              | 8         |
| 1      | 31.3.2002   | 1067676 | 974081  | 260237  | 265763  | 495841         | 400134    |
| 2      | 30.4.2002   | 1121630 | 1015188 | 267774  | 284449  | 509753         | 412376    |
| 3      | 31.5.2002   | 1174428 | 1066358 | 275401  | 304771  | 533183         | 424344    |
| 4      | 30.6.2002   | 1250248 | 1121714 | 286047  | 322019  | 559056         | 447197    |
| 5      | 31.7.2002   | 1300065 | 1150433 | 308027  | 344328  | 591115         | 478919    |
| 6      | 31.8.2002   | 1351218 | 1277963 | 332683  | 362761  | 630637         | 504550    |
| 7      | 30.9.2002   | 1404370 | 1348773 | 353044  | 384536  | 652880         | 531282    |

| 1 | 2  | 3       | 4       | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      |
|---|--|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 8 | Rate of increase in CMTS Subscribers from 31.3.2002 to 30.9.2002 | 31.54%  | 38.47%  | 35.66% | 44.69% | 31.67% | 32.78% |
| 9 | No. of Subscribers as on 31.10.2002                              | 1474203 | 1415132 | 370530 | 412785 | 660918 | 548732 |

### Training Programme for Officials and Doctors

3340. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has instructed the atomic power stations to hold training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such training and familiarisation programmes organised by various atomic power stations so far, plant-wise;

(c) the extent to which the Off-Site Emergency Exercises (OSEE), conducted recently in certain power stations, are likely to fulfil their objectives; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to impress upon the district administration the importance of good coordination among various agencies during any emergency or disaster?

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

(b) The training programmes to medical professionals are conducted in a centralised manner. Nine such programmes have been held. The training and familiarisation programme to District officials is conducted at all sites just before the off-site emergency exercise is planned which is once in two years.

(c) The off-site emergency exercises (OSEE) conducted by nuclear power stations could very satisfactorily fulfil the objectives of being in a state of preparedness for the unlikely event of an off-site emergency. After every off site exercise is conducted, the observers from different agencies such as Nuclear Power Corporation and Atomic Energy

Regulatory Board give their comments on the exercise which are reviewed and shortcomings, if any, are rectified in the subsequent exercises.

(d) The improvement of off-site emergency preparedness is an on-going programme and it is carried out by continuous interaction between station authorities, district administration and other agencies.

[Translation]

### Passport to Afghan Nationals

3341. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several Afghan Nationals, living in India as refugees, have managed to procure Indian passports in connivance with Passport Officers;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light so far; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Since the middle of 1999, 65 such cases have been detected.

(c) All 65 passports were issued by Regional Passport Office, Delhi on the basis of clear police reports or verification certificates issued by officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above to the Government of India. Passports in all these cases have been revoked. The police authorities have taken appropriate action against the Afghan nationals concerned and also against the government officials who provided the clear verification reports/certificates.

### Indus Water Treaty

3342. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to scrap the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the demand of scrapping the said treaty was also raised during the workshop organized on the National Water Policy, 2002; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There have been suggestions including in the press that India should consider abrogating the Indus Waters Treaty in view of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism directed against India in violation of international law and bilateral agreements. Government have taken appropriate diplomatic and other measures to effectively defeat the menace of cross border terrorism. Pakistan has made a commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not to allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

(c) and (d) The said workshop was on 'Policy Action Dialogue' to discuss the Action Plan for implementation of the National Water Policy. The matter of 'Indus Waters Treaty' was not a part of the agenda of the workshop.

[English]

### Ceramic Matrix

3343. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are funding a project to develop a ceramic matrix;
- (b) if so, the present status of the project; and
- (c) by when the above project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is funding a project for the development of ceramic matrix for immobilisation of high level radioactive waste. The study is being carried out in the Institute of Science, Mumbai.

(b) So far, the studies pertaining to preparation and characterization of sodium zirconium phosphate have been completed.

(c) The funding for the study is scheduled at present to be over by the year 2004. The studies, however, are expected to continue thereafter.

### India's Foreign Policy

3344. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have brought out a booklet, 'Milestones of Success';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the context under which Pakistan's continuous hostility was mentioned in the booklet; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. A booklet entitled 'Milestones of Success' has been published by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) in October, 2002, with a view to publicizing the Governments programmes/highlights the achievements to reach the masses.

(c) Pakistan's continuous hostility was mentioned in the context of highlighting the constraints under which initiatives of Indian foreign policy aimed at establishing ties of good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan could not fulfil its desired objectives.

(d) India took several initiatives such as the Composite Dialogue which was initiated by India in 1998, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee went to Lahore in 1999 and President Pervez Musharraf was invited for summit level talks to Agra in July, 2001. However, Pakistan's continued sponsorship and support for crossborder terrorism has prevented creation of a conducive atmosphere for meaningful dialogue. The international community has been appreciative of India's position and concerns on cross-border terrorism.

### National Internet Backbone

3345. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national internet backbone based on optical fibre system has been planned and is under execution;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether Hyderabad is given only A2 Status and would be without an international internet gateway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) BSNL has already set up National Internet Backbone (NIB) based on optical fibre systems which consist of 45 Major Internet Nodes parenting 391 other Internet nodes, The NIB is being connected to International Gateways at 6 places located at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune.

(c) and (d) The Hyderabad Internet node is connected to the NIB like any other major internet node in NIB in turn is connected to International Gateways.

### Funds under PMGY

3346. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States have been categorised as special category and non-special category States for the allocation of Central assistance under PMGY;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in categorisation;

(c) the difference between these two categories;

(d) whether certain States represented that allocations under PMGY are too meagre; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The States have been categorised as Special and Non-Special category States for allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) on the pattern of Normal Central Assistance.

(b) and (c) The backward and hilly States of North-East alongwith the States of the Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have been included in the Special Category States - While the rest belong to the Non-Special Category. 30 per cent of the ACA for PMGY is earmarked for the Special Category States while 70 per cent of the ACA funds are earmarked for the Non-Special Category States.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Reservation of Sportsmen

3347. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made reservation for sportsmen in various Central Government Offices, departments and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the number of seats reserved in various Ministries/Departments/Offices/PSUs and norms/terms & conditions prescribed in this regard;

(c) the number of persons (sportsmen) given jobs during the last three years and number of vacancies yet to be filled;

(d) the reasons for not filling vacancies; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage sportsmen by offering them Government jobs and attractive benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the extant Government Instructions, 5% vacancies can be filled up by the outstanding sportspersons in Groups 'C' and 'D' posts, in various Ministries/Departments



and Public Sector undertakings of the Central Government by relaxing the recruitment procedure, through advertisement in various dailies, from time to time. Following are the eligibility conditions for the recruitment of sportspersons:

(a) Appointments under these orders can be made of a sportsman considered meritorious with reference to the following criteria:

- (i) Sportsmen, who have represented a State or the Country in the National or International competition in any of the games/sports.
- (ii) Sportsmen, who have represented their University in the Inter-University Tournaments conducted by the Inter-University Sports Board.
- (iii) Sportsmen, who have represented the State Schools Teams in the National Sports/Games for Schools conducted by the All India School Games Federation.
- (iv) Sportsmen, who have been awarded National Awards in Physical Efficiency under the National Physical Efficiency Drive.

(b) No such appointments can be made unless, the candidate is, in all respects, eligible for appointment to the post, applied for, and in particular, in regard to age, educational or experience, qualification, prescribed under the Recruitment Rules, applicable to the post, except to the extent to which relaxations thereof, have been permitted in respect of class, category of persons to which the applicant belongs.

(c) and (d) The Ministry does not maintain any records of the number of sports persons given jobs or vacancies to be filled in various Ministries/Departments and Government undertakings.

(e) Besides providing 5% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Government Jobs, Government is also implementing the following schemes with a view to encouraging the sportspersons:

- (A) Awards Schemes
  - (i) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches
  - (ii) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
  - (iii) Dhyanachand Award for life time Achievement
  - (iv) Arjuna Award
- (B) Pension Schemes
  - (i) National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons
  - (ii) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi etc.

3348. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to encourage sports like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Long jump and High jump in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the amount to be provided by the Government for promotion of each of the above sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is already implementing the scheme of "Rural Sports Programme" under which competitions are organized in the disciplines like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Long Jump and High Jump (as events of Athletics).

Besides the aforesaid programme, sports persons in the disciplines of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball etc. are also being trained in the Sports Authority of India Training Centres which are situated throughout the country. Many of the trainees admitted in these training centres are identified and selected from the rural and backward areas of the country.

(c) An amount of Rs. 30,000/- per discipline, including the discipline of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Long jump and High jump, is provided to State Government's for organization of State level Sports Tournaments on receipt of viable proposals from them. In case of Union Territories, an amount of Rs. 15,000/- per discipline is sanctioned. The national level tournaments, separately for men and women, are also organized by Sports Authority of India. A financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakhs, per discipline is given for these tournaments to be organized in various States, by rotation.

[English]

#### Fraud in Banks

3349. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the large number of frauds, scam and corruption in banks the Central Vigilance Commission, has decided to appoint banking experts as members of the CVC; and

(b) if so, by when expert members are likely to be in position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In terms of Paragraph 1.3 of the Resolution, No 371/20/99-A VD.III dated 13.1.2002 of the Department of Personnel & Training, two Vigilance commissioners are to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee comprising the Prime Minister as the Chairperson and the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha as Members. On the basis of the recommendations made by this Committee on 19.8.02, Shri Janki Ballabh, former Chairman of the State Bank of India, has joined as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission on 5.11.02.

#### **National Highway No. 93**

3350. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Agra-Moradabad road has been declared National Highway No.93;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of money spent on its upkeep, improvement and upgrading since its declaration as National Highway; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the funds allocated therefor during 2002-2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This road was declared as a National Highway (NH 93) on 12.10.2000. It is 220 km long, starts near Agra on NH-3, connects Aligargh - Babrala - Chandausi and terminate near Moradabad on NH-24 in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Since its declaration as a National Highway, an amount of Rs.200.22 lakhs has been spent for the maintenance and repair of this National Highway upto October, 2002.

(d) Subject to availability of funds, works for development of this National Highway have been taken up. An estimate of Rs. 1.72 crore for improvement of riding quality in 10 km. stretch has already been sanctioned.

#### **Metro Bus Services in Bangalore**

3351. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka have forwarded proposals for approval of the Ministry to introduce Metro Bus Services in Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry will extend financial assistance to these projects;
- (d) whether any foreign technical assistance has also been sought in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) This Ministry had received a proposal from Government of Karnataka seeking financial and technical assistance from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for a pilot project relating to introduction of Metro Bus System in Bangalore city. The proposal had been recommended to Department of Economic Affairs for taking up the matter with SIDA. This Ministry does not extend any financial assistance for such projects.

#### **Medical Care to Paraplegic Patients**

3352. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that voluntary agencies involved in medical services, in the earthquake affected areas of Kutch, Gujarat had identified some paraplegic patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is an acute shortage of specialized doctors for such patients; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide medical care and to rehabilitate these paraplegic patients?

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



[Translation]

**Dispute between Patients and OPD Staff**

3353. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether incidents of scuffling frequently take place between the patients and OPD personnel of the Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to ensure that such incidents do not occur again;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

**Shortage of Doctors in Rural Health Institutions in A&N Islands**

3354. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of Indian Drug Authority (IDA) in its meeting held on October 17, 2001 had agreed that arrangements be made to enable local Doctors to specialize in different disciplines in Mainland Institutions (PG Course) considering shortage of specialist in the Rural Health Institutions;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Administration so far to implement the above decision; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

**Registration of Doctors**

3355. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the total number of students who have obtained medical degrees from the foreign countries from 1995 to 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): The Medical Council of India has received 4441 applications from the students who have obtained medical qualifications from foreign countries directly or through the State Medical Councils during these years for registration.

[English]

**Reduction of Charges of Cellular Mobile Phone**

3356. SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the charges for the Mobile Phones operated by the BSNL are higher than the Mobile Phone charges of the Private Cellular Operators;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the Mobile Phone Charges of BSNL to facilitate the BSNL Cellular subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. On overall basis BSNL charges are comparable to the mobile phone charges of the private cellular operators.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Radioactive Monitoring Stations**

3357. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of radioactive monitoring stations set up to check radioactive levels in the country;

(b) whether air samples are being collected and

analysed regularly by these stations to check environmental pollution caused by radioactive substances;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the agencies monitoring the radioactive level; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to check the pollution created by these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are twenty five (25) radioactive monitoring stations set up in the country to check the radioactive levels.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Environmental Assessment Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Health Physics Units and Environmental Survey Laboratories of Health, Safety & Environment Group of BARC at different locations in the country, two Defence laboratories (Jodhpur and Tezpur) and two universities (Andhra University and Mangalore University) regularly monitor the radioactive levels.

[Translation]

#### **Vacant Reserved Posts for OBCs**

3358. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts in various ministries/departments and other subordinate offices under the Government grade-wise, along with the number of posts against which appointments of candidates belonging to OBCs has been made on the basis of open examination under the general category;

(b) the number of officers/employees appointed from other backward classes till 31st March, 2002 after the implementation of new reservation policy;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding non-filling of posts reserved for the candidates belonging to other backward classes; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the posts reserved for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Information is not centrally maintained.

(b) As per information received from all Ministries/Departments, 1,24,003 OBCs were recruited till 30-4-1998. During 1998, 1999 and 2000, a total of 44,803 OBCs were recruited.

(c) and (d) Implementation of the reservation policy is the responsibility of each administrative Ministry/Department. Complaints in regard to non-filling up of reserved posts are also looked into by the concerned Ministry/Department. However, in order to fill up vacancies reserved for OBCs, various concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by three years etc. are given to them. There is a ban on dereservation of vacancies for OBCs.

[English]

#### **Infant Mortality Rate**

3359. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present birth rate in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, separately; and

(b) the infant mortality rate per 1000 live births in these Metropolitan Cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The crude birth rate and infant mortality rate are not compiled separately for Metropolitan Cities due to inadequate sample size. However, as per Sample Registration System (SRS) the latest available crude birth rate and infant mortality rate for the year 2000 for urban areas of Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu where these metropolitan cities under reference are located are given below:

| Crude       | Birth Rate | Infant Mortality Rate |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Delhi       | 20.1       | 32                    |
| Maharashtra | 20.4       | 33                    |
| West Bengal | 14.1       | 37                    |
| Tamil Nadu  | 18.1       | 37                    |

### Ayurvedic Drugs

3360. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the ayurvedic drugs are covered under the Indian System of Medicines;

(b) if so, whether permission are not required for the introduction of Ayurvedic drugs in the country and also no approvals are required for conducting the trials of the ayurvedic drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) A licence is required for the manufacture of Ayurvedic drugs. No permission is necessary for conducting clinical trials.

### Shifting Sub-Depot

3361. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that family welfare sub-depot is accommodated in IDPL Building, Kapashera, New Delhi, if so, since when;

(b) the details of the monthly rent of this site alongwith the facilities included in rent agreement;

(c) whether the said sub-depot has since been shifted to an unapproved/unauthorized colony in a rented accommodation, if so, since when and monthly rent of new site alongwith facilities included in rent agreement; and

(d) the reasons the said depot could not be shifted to the Medical Store Depot of Directorate-General (Health Services) in Institutional Area, Mehrauli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Family Welfare sub-depot was accommodated in IDPL Building, Kapashera, New Delhi since 15.10.98.

(b) The monthly rent of the site was Rs.69,384/- p.m. for 3,920 sq.ft. No rent agreement was executed with IDPL. Electricity, sanitation (urinal), water, proper loading-unloading facilities were not available in the premises.

(c) The sub-depot was shifted to Vijay Enclave, Palam Dabri road, New Delhi on 15.6.01. The said premises is constructed as per approved plan. The rent of this premises is Rs.1,13,400/- p.m. for 5,400 sq. ft. The facilities such as proper electricity, water, telephone, sanitation (urinals) loading-unloading space etc., are available in the premises.

(d) A request was made to Medical Store Organisation, Directorate General (Health Services) to accommodate the goods of Family Welfare sub-Depot, in their depot at Institutional Area, Mehrauli. The MSD declined the request for want of sufficient space.

### Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

3362. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand telephone exchanges and provide modern communication facility in Gujarat during the Tenth Plan period;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Circle-wise/District-wise targets of expanding the exchanges are planned at the beginning of each financial year based on the waiting list and resources available. The details of Digital Electronic Exchanges with modern communication facility planned for expansion during 2002-03 in Gujarat are given in the statement. The expansion is subject to availability of resources.

(c) Rs. 875.45 Crores has been allocated for development of Telecommunication in Budget Estimate 2002-03 for Gujarat circle.

### Statement

#### *District-wise details of Expansion of Telephone Exchanges Planned in Gujarat during 2002-2003*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | Capacity |
|--------|------------------|----------|
| 1      | 2                | 3        |
| 1.     | Ahmedabad        | 34600    |
| 2.     | Gandhinagar      | 7400     |

| 1     | 2             | 3      |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| 3.    | Amreli        | 13064  |
| 4.    | Bharuch       | 8500   |
| 5.    | Narmada       | 2500   |
| 6.    | Bhavnagar     | 4472   |
| 7.    | Bhuj          | 12880  |
| 8.    | Godhra        | 9440   |
| 9.    | Dahod         | 2000   |
| 10.   | Sabarkantha   | 3744   |
| 11.   | Jamnagar      | 10804  |
| 12.   | Junagarh      | 6964   |
| 13.   | Porbandar     | 500    |
| 14.   | Kheda         | 3476   |
| 15.   | Anand         | 12500  |
| 16.   | Mehsana       | 10944  |
| 17.   | Patan         | 4500   |
| 18.   | Banaskantha   | 9792   |
| 19.   | Rajkot        | 14088  |
| 20.   | Surat         | 65160  |
| 21.   | Surendranagar | 7000   |
| 22.   | Vadodara      | 26000  |
| 23.   | Valsad        | 24464  |
| Total |               | 294792 |

#### Loss in Cellular Service in U.P.

3363. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure to terminate the licence of Koshika Telecom Limited Licence Operator in Uttar Pradesh Circle during 1998-99 caused a loss of more than Rs. 440.00 crores to the Government;

(b) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has commented on this lapse in his report for the year 2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. M/s Koshika have disputed the dues claimed by Department of Telecommunications and started various litigations. In terms of Arbitration Clause in the Licence Agreement, Delhi High Court have appointed Arbitrator to determine the dispute; the matter is at present pending before the Arbitrator.

(b) to (d) Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India in his report on Posts and Telecommunications for the year 2002 (Report No.6 of 2002) has pointed out regarding non-termination of Uttar Pradesh (U.P) - East Circle License and non-recovery of dues from M/s Koshika. M/s Koshika Telecom Limited defaulted in payment of Government dues under the licenses and were given notice for termination of all their four Licences for Orissa, Bihar, UP-West and UP-East Telecom Circles in April, 1999. Three out of these four Licences except for UP-East were terminated on 22.5.1999. The licence for UP-East Telecom Circle was not terminated as the only other operator in that Circle was also a defaulter who had also been issued a termination notice; termination of both the licences would have deprived the customers in UP-East Circle from any Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and in view of this, further approach was to be evolved. Subsequently, in view of a belated unconditional acceptance of the offer of Migration Package in respect of UP-East Circle furnished by M/s Koshika on 30.11.1999, a modified offer of migration to revenue sharing regime was given to them on 17.4.2000 which was again accepted unconditionally by them on 25.4.2000. Offer of restoration of the three terminated licenses along with simultaneous migration to revenue sharing regime was also unconditionally accepted by M/s Koshika on 25.4.2000. In pursuance of the accepted conditions of the migration package, M/s Koshika withdrew litigations started by them in Delhi High Court and paid an amount of Rs.101 Crores between 2.5.2000 to 21.9.2000. However, the company disputed the dues claimed by the Government and made various representations. M/s Koshika were reminded from time to time and lastly on 19.9.2001, for payment of license fee dues failing which the license was to be terminated. Thereafter, M/s Koshika started litigation in Delhi High Court afresh and were granted stay on termination of UP-East license on 24.9.2001. M/s Koshika also filed four Arbitration Applications and raised dispute on the demand of license fee dues and

requested for appointment of an Arbitrator in terms of arbitration clause in the license agreement. Finally, when the Stay on termination from the Court was no longer in operation, the licence for UP-East was terminated on 30.9.2002.

[Translation]

### **Drug Formulations**

3364. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of multitudes of useless and harmful drug formulations being marketed in our country;

(b) if so, whether World Health Organisation has suggested only limited number of the existing drugs to be marketed in the country as essential drugs;

(c) if so, the details regarding the guidelines suggested by the World Health Organisation in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ban the marketing and manufacture of useless and harmful drugs?

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

(b) and (c) World Health Organization in its report 'The use of Essential Drugs' has given Model List of Essential Drugs which should satisfy the health care needs of the majority of the population. It has however recommended that the selection of essential drugs is a continuous process which should take into account changing public health priorities and epidemiological conditions and the current medical knowledge. It has also been stated that it does not imply that no other drugs are useful.

(d) The drug formulations reported to be harmful or irrational are examined in consultation with leading experts and an Expert Committee constituted by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB). Recommendation of the Expert Committee are then examined by the Board. The drugs considered harmful or irrational are prohibited for manufacture and sale under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. 74 categories of drugs/drugs formulations have so far been prohibited under the said Act.

### **ISM&H Facilities in Rajasthan**

3365. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the primary health centers, hospital and dispensaries in Rajasthan where the Government propose to provide Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Yogic facilities during the next two years;

(b) the amount of funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any special scheme for the desert areas of Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government of Rajasthan has reported that there is no proposal to provide any new Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Yogic facilities in the State during the next two years.

### **Development of Ayurveda**

3366. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any scheme to develop Ayurveda as an alternative system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open an Ayurveda University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department has implemented the following Schemes to develop Ayurveda:-

- (i) Strengthening of Undergraduate and Post-graduate Institution;
- (ii) Strengthening of State Pharmacies and Laboratories;
- (iii) Pharmacopoeial standards and quality control;
- (iv) Intra-mural and extra-mural research;
- (v) Assistance for holding Conferences and Seminars;
- (vi) Information Education & Communication (IEC) activities.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

*[English]***Financial Assistance to C-DOT**

3367. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose and the total amount of central grants sanctioned to the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) at Bangalore and other locations during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) whether the amount allocated to C-DOT has been fully utilised in those years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The total amount of grants to C-DOT at all the locations during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as follows:

| Years     | Govt. Grant (Rs. Crores) |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 2000-2001 | 110.66                   |
| 2001-2002 | 108.00                   |
| 2002-2003 | 82.00                    |

(b) and (c) For the year 2000-2001 the grant was fully utilized. During the year 2001-2002 the grant received was Rs. 108 crores but only 98.23 crores could be spent. The shortfall in the expenditure was mainly due to reduced spending on the campus construction because of delay in the construction. The grant of Rs. 82 crores for the year 2002-2003 is likely to be utilized fully during the years seeing the present expenditure trends and commitment of payments.

*[Translation]***Irregularities in Recognition of Medical Colleges**

3368. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the instances of irregularities committed in according recognition to Medical Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officers of the Ministry and other Government officials have been found involved therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any instances of irregularities committed in according recognition to medical colleges under section 11(2) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Indians Missing in Israel**

3369. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any information regarding 39 Indians who went to Israel on the invitation of an agricultural firm and were found suddenly missing from a hotel there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have asked for information in this regard from the Government of Israel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) These 39 Indian nationals from Andhra Pradesh ostensibly arrived in Israel to participate in a workshop organised by an Israeli irrigation company. They were found missing from their hotel on 27-10-2002. As on 04-12-2002, 22 of these Indian nationals have been located and deported back to India by the Israeli authorities. Efforts are being made to locate and deport the rest of them to India. It has been found that they had come to Israel with the intention of finding employment and remaining in the country as undocumented workers. They claimed to have paid large sums of money to agents in India who had promised them jobs in Israel.

(c) The Embassy has taken up the issue of the missing Indians with the Government of Israel.

(d) The Government of Israel has extended all possible cooperation in the matter.

*[English]***Internet Security Centre**

3370. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Society for Electronic Transactions and security has received a request from the States for setting up its base in the States alongwith Internet security centre;

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

(c) whether the Government have set up a committee headed by Dr. M. Vidyasagar to examine the matter relating to internet security in the country;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS) is looking for a space to set up its operational headquarters. Representatives of a few State Governments have made presentations to the Board of Directors of SETS in this context for a decision by the Board.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Committee, with Dr. M. Vidyasagar as Chairman, was set-up in March, 2001 by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India to examine various aspects related to information security. The main recommendation of that Committee was to register a non-profit society for looking after all aspects related to information security in the country. On the basis of that recommendation, the SETS was registered with the Registrar of Societies, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 on the 22nd of May, 2002.

**Cancer Awareness Camp in Tihar Jail**

3371. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the cancer awareness camp held in Tihar Jail in the month of November, 2002, 80 per cent of the women inmates were found suffering from chronic infection of the cervix;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken by the Government to conduct special Health Awareness camps in the various jails of the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

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

*[Translation]***Transfer of Sports and Youth Affairs Subject from the State to the Union List**

3372. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer sports and youth affairs subject from the State to the Union list; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Radiation Exposure on Rise**

3373. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Radiation exposure on the rise" appearing in the Times of India dated November 8, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure exposure to radiation does not exceed the prescribed limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

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

(b) and (c), The news item is based on the Annual Report of the Atomic Energy regulatory Board (AERB) for the year 2001-2002. After reviewing the radiation doses to workers in the nuclear power plants, the report stated that there is near total compliance with the dose limits prescribed by AERB.

(d) Though the radiation exposures to workers are within the limit prescribed by AERB, the accepted policy of AERB is that the radiation doses to workers should be As Low As Reasonably Achievable. This is called the ALARA principle.

Committee to control radiation exposures to values As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) are set up at each station to monitor radiation doses to workers.

#### **Financial Assistance for Homoeopathic System**

3374. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from Government of Maharashtra for extension of financial assistance to improve Homoeopathic systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of financial assistance to Sangamner Homoeopathic College duly recommended by State Government of Maharashtra is pending with Union Government since 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The applications for Central assistance for strengthening the Colleges in Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy are received through the State Government.

(c) to (e) This college has been granted assistance for procuring equipments and books. Grant for construction has not been provided as private Colleges are not eligible for this.

#### **Snooker Team at Busan Asiad**

3375. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the managers of Indian contingent to Asian Games in Busan failed to arrange for proper facilities to players particulars this snooker team;

(b) whether the matter has been investigated;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) The members of the Indian contingent had been provided with well furnished accommodation in the Games Village. Government of India had paid USD 50/-, per person, per day, to the organizers towards board and lodging of the players. As reported by the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India, on the 6th October, 2002, India had to play the English Doubles' Finals at the venue of the tournament. There was a few hours' gap between the Semi-final and the Final. Considering that it was raining that day, the long distance involved between the Athletes' Village & the Tournament venue and the possibility of match schedule being changed at very short notice, the Team Manager/Chief Coach & the players decided to stay at the venue. Since there was no rest room provided for the players at the venue, they decided to rest, wherever they could. It is true that Shri Geet Sethi/players had to make do with viewers' gallery/chairs to take rest, as there was no rest room provided at the venue.

(b) to (d) The Billiards and Snooker Federation of India has indicated that it was a matter of arrangement constraints that the playing countries had to bear with. As such, there appears to be no need for further inquiry in the matter.

#### **Primates in Research Laboratories**

3376. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of primates in the research laboratories in the country;

(b) the number of primates kept for more than 10 years in cages;

(c) the number of primates which died last year or have been euthanased; and

(d) the number of them which suffering from tuberculosis?



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

**Expansion, Upgradation and Widening  
of NH in Orissa**

3377. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the expansion, upgradation and widening of National Highways in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon as on date, section-wise and phase-wise; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The length of National Highways (NHs) in Orissa up to the 8th plan was 1625 km; 1568 km were added during the 9th plan period. Total length of NHs in the State of Orissa now is 3193 kilometres, out of which four lanning of 437 kilometres is included under the Golden Quadrilateral of NHDP being implemented by NHAI. Four laning of 28 kilometres has been completed and the balance length is targeted for substantial complete by December, 2003. The remaining length of 2756 kilometres is with the State PWD. An aggregate length of about 1200 kilometres has been improved during the last three years. During this year improvement has already be sanctioned for another 941 kilometres. Balance length is targeted to improve by March 2004.

(b) Allocations for National Highways are made state-wise and not section-wise or phase wise. The detail allotment and expenditure for National Highways in Orissa are as under:-

(Rs in crore)

|               | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-02 | 2002-03                 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| NH (Original) |           |           |         |                         |
| Allocation    | 43.5      | 67.04     | 60.00   | 65.00                   |
| Expenditure   | 38.50     | 67.04     | 45.00   | 26.33<br>up to Nov., 02 |
| M&R           |           |           |         |                         |
| Allocation    | 36.22     | 42.77     | 47.31   | 36.42                   |
| Expenditure   | 29.22     | 42.77     | 47.11   | 15.84<br>up to Nov., 02 |

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process.

conference of the Youth Employment Summit during 2003.

**Global Conference for Youth  
Employment Summit**

(b) Does not arise.

**Burn-Trauma Centre**

3378. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

3379. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global conference of the Youth Employment Summit is proposed to be held in India in 2003; and

(a) whether Government have proposal to finance Burn-Trauma centers in different parts of the country on the same model as Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(b) if so, the cities or States selected for such Trauma centers for burn victims;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) There is no such proposal for holding a global

(c) the cost of each such center;

- (d) by when such centers will be completed;
- (e) whether Government have also proposal to send specialists to such centers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) to (f) Do not arise.

### Blast at Chemical Plant at Nuclear Fuel Complex

3380. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a major blast took place recently at the Chemical Plant at Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any enquiry had been ordered into it;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof;
- (e) whether there was any loss of life;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A minor blast took place at the chemical plant in Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad on 17.11.2002.

(b) This type of Blast is known as "Red Oil Explosion". Such blasts can take place when over heating occurs and temperature reaches beyond 135°C in the presence of tributyl phosphate and nitric acid both of which are used in uranium refining process.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

- (d) Report of the inquiry is awaited.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) Steps have been taken to modify the process to eliminate hazardous thermo syphon evaporation where the temperature may not go beyond 135°C during operation.

[Translation]

### Handing Over of Pak based Gurdwaras to Indians

3381. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Sikh jathas which visited Gurdwaras in Pakistan during 2000, 2001 and 2002;
- (b) whether any demand has been made from any Indian quarter with regard to handing over the operations of Pakistan based Gurdwaras to Indians;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the present status of the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In the year 2000, no official Sikh jatha visited Pakistan. Four official Sikh jathas in 2001 and one official Sikh Jatha in 2002 visited Gurdwaras in Pakistan.

(b) to (d) Under the Protocol on 'Visits to Religious Shrines' signed by India and Pakistan in 1974, it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that places of religious worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved.

[English]

### Magnetic Therapy Beds

3382. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that some magnetic therapy beds are in market in the country for healing of various diseases;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have checked the quality and the healing efficacy of these beds; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government are aware of such claims. However, Government have no information about the quality/therapeutic efficacy of such beds.

#### **Funds for Inland Water Transport Sector**

3383. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to give 90 per cent grant instead of 50 per cent reimbursable loan to States for development of the Inland Water Transport Sector;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Government have sought assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for Inland Water Transport development;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Asian Development Bank has initiated a technical assistance mission for the IWT Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Proposal for obtaining external assistance has been processed by the Govt. World Bank have shown interest to provide such assistance. However, before giving this assistance they would like to update the studies based on which proposals for assistance were prepared.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The ADB technical assistance mission has approved technical assistance of US \$ 1.125 million under which they would appoint consultants for up-dating studies and preparation of IWT investment projects before sanctioning assistance.

#### **Clearance to Bio-Tech Units in AP**

3384. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications filed by leading Bio-

Tech Units in the State of Andhra Pradesh for clearance by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications cleared by the DCGI during each of the last three years and during the current year;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh Government for early clearance of applications by DCGI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Before approving indigenously manufactured Bio-tech products, the proposal is required to be gone through various stages like Clearance of Recombinant Committee for Genetic Manipulation (under Department of Bio-Technology), Validation of test report by CDL, Kasauli/Kolkata, Conduction of Clinical Trial, Clearance of Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Health for r-DNA based Therapeutics, Clearance of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment, verification of manufacturing facility as per GMP norms etc.

The details indicating the number of applications filed by the leading Bio-Tech units in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the corresponding year by which the approval accorded by the office of DCG (I) in respect of Recombinant products proposed to be indigenously manufactured during the last three years and current year are in the statement.

(c) to (e) Shri B.P. Acharya, Secretary to Government A.P. through a copy of letter from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh addressed to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare dated 03.08.2001, requested that suitable instruction be issued to DCG (I) for an early disposal of the pending proposal pertaining to leading biotech units in the States and not to take credence of certain allegations and counter allegations by certain prominent Bio-Tech companies in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The office of DCG (I) approved the three proposals pertaining to biotech products for units existing in the State of Andhra Pradesh, after completion of statutory requirements. Permission for conducting clinical trial have been accorded in respect of remaining three applications i.e. (i) r-streptokinase of M/s Shantha Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, (ii) r-streptokinase of M/s Bharat Biotech (I) Limited, Hyderabad and (iii) Interferon alpha 2b of M/s Dr. Reddy's Lab, Hyderabad.

## Statement

| Year | No. of Applications Received | Year in which required formalities completed   | Year in which the proposals cleared by the DGC (I) office                                      |
|------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1999 | 1                            | Dec. 2001  | Feb.. 2001   |
| 2000 | 4                            | One proposal in the year April 2001 and second proposal in the year March 2002. In the third proposal the clinical trial is being undertaken by the applicant. In the fourth proposal, the report of clinical trial received on 30.6.2002 and GEAC approval is awaited | One proposal cleared in the year June 2001 and second proposal cleared in the year March 2002. |
| 2001 | 2                            | In both the proposals the clinical trial is being undertaken by the applicant.   |  |

## Inland Water Transport

3385. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the inland water transport facilities in the country during Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the 10th Plan the Government have planned to stabilize and strengthen and upgrade the infrastructure on the existing national waterways in term of river control providing adequate depth, terminal with mechanical facilities and navigational aids. The Government also proposes to expand the existing coverage from 19-20% under existing three national waterways to 38-40% of the entire waterways by declaring new waterways.

## Visit of British Foreign Secretary

3386. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Foreign Secretary recently visited Pakistan after his talks with the Indian leaders and returned to India with some feed back;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of feedback on Indo-Pak relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Following his visit to India on 19th July, the British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited Pakistan on 20th July. Mr. Straw returned to Delhi on the evening of 20th July and met with then EAM. He shared an assessment of his meeting with then Pakistani Minister of State for External Affairs, Inam-ul-Haq.

(c) The UK side was fully sensitized that despite assurances given by the Pakistani leadership at the highest level, cross border terrorism has not ceased. Nor has Pakistan dismantled the infrastructure of terrorism. The above would be essential pre-requisite for improvement of relations between India and Pakistan.

## Cases of Disproportionate Assets

3387. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission also examines the complaints against the Central Government officials who, by indulging themselves in the bungling/ embezzlement of funds in their capacity as office bearers in Group House Co-operative Societies, acquire properties disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the number and names of the officials Ministry/ Department/ Organisation-wise against whom such complaints have been received during the last two years and action taken against them;

(c) if not, whether there is any other alternative mechanism available to entertain such complaints; and

(d) if not, the manner in which Government propose to bring to book such corrupt Government officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Amassment of Wealth by BSNL  
Staff at Bahadurgarh**

3388. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received regarding amassment of wealth by BSNL officers/staff at Bahadurgarh in Haryana by misusing their official position;

(b) whether BSNL has so far not conducted any inquiry in the matter and even promoted guilty employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the phones of the consumers who made such complaints have been disconnected by local employees at the instance senior officers of BSNL and connections are not being revived for months despite their repeated complaints sent through fax and certified post; and

(e) the details thereof and action taken or are proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) One such complaint has been received against an officer posted at Bahadurgarh in Rohtak SSA.

(b) The case has been entrusted to the vigilance section for investigation. No regular promotion has been given to the concerned officer.

(c) The case is under investigation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**Indo-Sino Border Talks**

3389. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India, China working to resolve differences over maps" appearing in the "The Hindu" dated November 22, 2002;

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

(c) the progress made so far in border talks between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The 14th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on 21st November 2002. The discussions, which were spread over three sessions, were held in a positive and forward looking manner.

Both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification. They also continued discussions on further Confidence Building Measures. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Expert Group (EG-14), which is a sub group of the JWG, would be held in Beijing in January 2003.

A detailed review of bilateral relations since JWG-13, which was held on 31 July, 2001, was undertaken. Chinese side welcomed the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Speaker to China in early January 2003. This is a return visit for the visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress of China to India in January 2001. Both sides agreed, inter alia, on the need to substantially enhance trade and economic relations, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Both sides also reviewed the functioning of the existing dialogue mechanisms such as on counter terrorism and security. The usefulness of these dialogues and need to sustain and broaden them was reaffirmed. Regional and international issues were also discussed. Chinese side conveyed that China sees its relations with India in a broader perspective and not only in the perspective of South Asia.

**Assistance to IBT for HIV-AIDS**

3390. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Business Trust (IBT), a

branch of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been assisting the Government and voluntary organizations in prevention of HIV-AIDS and care of patients;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken any programmes in association with IBT in West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Business Trust (IBT) of Confederation of Indian Industries has been involved in advocacy, prevention & extending home based care to HIV/AIDS patients in collaboration with State AIDS Control Societies and Voluntary Organizations in selected places.

(b) and (c) The Government have not undertaken any programme in association with Indian Business Trust in West Bengal.

#### **Strike of Chemists**

3391. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that CGHS beneficiaries particularly pensioners, in Delhi are facing a lot of hardships as they are not getting medicines recommended by specialists/CGHS doctors in dispensaries due to the strike by the chemists supplying medicines to their respective dispensaries;

(b) the reasons for non-supply of the medicines by the chemists;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the beneficiaries have to purchase medicines from the market and for reimbursement of expenses have to go to Nirman Bhavan to get the reimbursement claim forms which are in short supply there; and

(d) the reasons for which the reimbursement forms are not made available to the dispensaries for the benefit of the beneficiaries particularly pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The strike by the authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS Delhi for supplying indented medicines to the CGHS dispensaries is continuing with effect from 1.11.2002 till date.

The authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi have gone on strike due to withholding of 10% amount from their bills on account of Sales Tax and delayed payment of their pending bills by the CGHS. The issue relating to the Sales Tax has been referred to the C&AG.

(c) At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate. Due to the ongoing strike of the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Government. The forms for preferring reimbursement claims have been made available in the CGHS dispensary itself so that the beneficiaries need not come to Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi for collecting the same. The reimbursement of the expenditure incurred in respect of serving employees is being done by the respective office/department where they are working. Arrangements have been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioners beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.

Steps are in hand to procure essential and frequently used medicines at the earliest.

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

[Translation]

#### **Infant Mortality Rate**

3392. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the infant mortality rate remained at 69 in the country while other developing countries achieved a rate of 29-51 by 1998 as per C&AG Report No.3 of 2000 (Civil);

(b) if so, the reasons for the poor performance of the country in comparison with other countries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the Sample Registration System, the infant mortality rate (IMR) in India has declined from 80 per thousand live births in 1991 to 68 per thousands live births in 2000. As per "The State of World Population 2001 - UNFPA", (i) IMR in the world and in India was 55 and 65 per 1000 live births respectively and (ii) in less developed regions and least developed countries, it was 59 and 92 respectively.

(b) Major reasons for infant mortality include premature births, acute respiratory infections and vaccine preventable diseases like measles. Factors that contribute to high mortality include low literacy and other social developmental indicators.

(c) Steps are being taken by the Government to further reduce the IMR. Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, immunization against six vaccine

preventable diseases namely Childhood Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Measles and Tetanus, facilities for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections and dehydration due to diarrhoea and essential newborn care are being provided. Towards improving the nutritional status of infants and children, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices is being undertaken. Programme for prophylaxis against Vitamin 'A' deficiency and iron deficiency anaemia are under implementation. To improve outreach of these services several schemes including organisation of RCH Camps, RCH Outreach Scheme, Dai Training Programme are under implementation.

[English]

#### **Manufacturing of Hand Sets or Cellular Phone**

3393. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no company, foreign or domestic, has shown interest in establishing manufacturing facilities for hand-sets or cellular phones in the country:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's long term view on this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Manufacturing of telecom equipment including handsets or cellular phones has been de-licensed, and therefore, companies are free to setup manufacturing units for the same. Furthermore, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in this sector on automatic basis. Therefore, foreign or domestic companies do not require any approval from the Government for

establishing manufacturing facilities for handsets or cellular phones in the country.

Manufacture of handsets/ cellular phones requires, high volume for economical viable capacities. The increased demand of the mobile phones is expected to encourage both foreign and domestic companies to set up manufacturing base in India. However, as it is a de-licensed sector, market forces will decide setting up of such facilities in the country.

#### **Pending MPLAD Projects in Gujarat**

3394. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain projects under MPLAD Scheme are pending at the Surendranagar District level in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the projects in the Surendranagar district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) Details of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Projects recommended and taken up for execution in Surendranagar District in the State of Gujarat are given in the statement.

According to the information furnished by the Collector, Surendranagar, some of the projects could not be taken up due to delays in receipt of plans and estimates from implementing agencies/changes in location. The implementation of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is reviewed every month in the meetings of the Executive Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector, Surendranagar; and in the meetings of the District Planning Board under the Chairmanship of a Minister of the State Government.

#### **Statement**

*Details of works recommended/approved/completed/in progress under the MPLADS in Surendranagar Parliamentary Constituency*

| S.No. | Year      | Works recommended | Works approved |                     | Works Completed | Works in Progress | Works not yet started |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|       |           |                   | No.            | Amount (Rs.in lakh) |                 |                   |                       |
| 1     | 1999-2000 | 281               | 197            | 201.02              | 147             | 25                | 25                    |
| 2     | 2000-01   | 302               | 171            | 199.89              | 80              | 40                | 51                    |
| 3     | 2001-02   | 202               | 75             | 88.86               | -               | -                 | 75                    |
| 4     | 2002-03   | 63                | 12             | 9.49                | -               | -                 | 12                    |

**Target set for Modernisation of Postal Services**

3395. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Posts failed to achieve physical and financial targets in modernisation of postal services despite availability of funds, which remained unspent;

(b) if so, the details of targets and achievements during the last three years in the country, State-wise particularly of Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 196.55 crores approximately was

earmarked for various modernisation activities in the Department of Posts. As against this outlay, the Department was able to utilise an amount of Rs. 128.72 crores. However, physical targets for different projects by and large could be achieved.

The information is being maintained activity wise and not state wise. Details of physical targets and financial achievements activity wise are given in statement I & II respectively. Separate information regarding Andhra Pradesh will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Remedial action that has been taken by the Government is as follows:

(1) The Department is regularly monitoring and reviewing implementation of various plan activities.

(2) The Government of India has since reviewed the powers of the Secretary to the Government of India in Department of Posts and Para 21(a) of Delegation of Financial Power Rules has been suitably amended thus thereby enabling in quick completion of procedures and formalities before according approval.

**Statement-I***Financial Performance in Ninth Plan (Last 3 Years)*

(Rs. in crores)

| Activity   | Total Financial Outlay | Total Expenditure |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1  | 2                      | 3                 |
| <b>Upgradation of Technology</b>                 |                        |                   |
| Installation of ESMOs                            | 10.33                  | 11.22             |
| Installation of VSATs                            | 19.05                  | 8.49              |
| Upgradation of VSATs                             | 0.00                   | 0.00              |
| Facility for centralised upgradation of software | 0.70                   | 0.70              |
| PC based Counter machine including SB LANs       | 31.20                  | 25.85             |
| Modernisation of Post offices                    | 17.95                  | 17.42             |
| Consumables for MPCMs/VSATs                      | 12.00                  | 10.40             |
| Software refinement/consultancy                  | 0.33                   | 0.33              |
| Mechanical equipment                             | 2.70                   | 1.56              |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                 | <b>94.26</b>           | <b>75.97</b>      |



| 1  | 2     | 3     |
|--|-------|-------|
| <b>Material Management</b>   |       |       |
| Computerisation of PSDs and networking with directorate                                      | 1.61  | 0.96  |
| Sub Total  | 1.61  | 0.96  |
| <b>Human Resource Development</b>  |       |       |
| Computer training to officials   | 3.36  | 3.15  |
| Sub Total  | 3.36  | 3.15  |
| <b>Modernisation of Mail Processing</b>  |       |       |
| Mail office modernisation  | 1.11  | 1.09  |
| Culling, facing and cancelling machine in AMPCs  | 23.00 | 11.09 |
| Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System  | 29.85 | 1.75  |
| Upgradation of operational equipment for delivery  | 0.86  | 0.00  |
| TMO computerisation  | 1.30  | 1.01  |
| HRO/DOs computerisation  | 2.00  | 1.46  |
| Registration Sorting Office computerisation  | 2.51  | 1.59  |
| Upgradation/Expansion of Mailnet   | 1.17  | 0.00  |
| International postal system project (Track and Trace-EMS)                                    | 0.57  | 0.55  |
| Computerisation of International Mail Accounting (Acs at HRO and DAA section of Directorate) | 0.51  | 0.59  |
| Fabrication of new Air brake mail vans   | 13.02 | 13.00 |
| Modification of existing RMS Vans and their conversion in air brake                          | 0.07  | 0.07  |
| Purchase of MMS Vehicles and body building   | 1.02  | 0.58  |
| Body building on Chassis purchased earlier   | 0.06  | 0.08  |
| Sub Total  | 77.05 | 32.86 |
| <b>Business Development &amp; Marketing</b>  |       |       |
| Computerisation of PPCs/SPCCs in Nodal Offices & Networking                                  | 4.74  | 5.27  |
| Mechanisation of pick up and delivery  | 0.16  | 0.09  |
| Mail Networks between BD Dte. and units in the Circles                                       | 0.00  | 0.00  |
| Modernising business office for Speed Post   | 2.23  | 1.95  |

| 1  | 2      | 3      |
|--|--------|--------|
| Mass Mailing, inserting and sealing equipment  | 2.98   | 2.16   |
| Sub Total  | 10.11  | 9.47   |
| Postal Life Insurance  |        |        |
| Computerisation of work in Regions   | 0.10   | 0.11   |
| Upgradation of computer systems in Circles   | 0.17   | 0.17   |
| Sub Total  | 0.27   | 0.28   |
| <b>Modernisation &amp; Development of Philately</b>  |        |        |
| Computerisation  | 2.05   | 1.45   |
| Tools and equipment for Bureaux  | 0.32   | 0.31   |
| Sub Total  | 2.37   | 1.76   |
| <b>Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management</b>   |        |        |
| Development of MIS interlinking all regional and Circle head quarters with Directorate                     | 3.00   | 0.94   |
| Computerisation of various items of work in Postal Accounts Offices and Budget branches in Circles         | 0.64   | 0.63   |
| Computerisation of Administrative Branches in Directorate for monitoring and administering Plan programmes | 1.59   | 1.36   |
| Sub Total  | 5.23   | 2.93   |
| <b>Public Grievances</b>   |        |        |
| Customer Care Centres  | 2.29   | 1.34   |
| Sub Total  | 2.29   | 1.34   |
| Surrender to Central NE Pool   |        |        |
| NE allocation  |        |        |
| Grand Total  | 196.55 | 128.72 |

**Statement-II***Modernisation Activities in Ninth Plan (Last 3 Years)*

| Activity                         | Total Physical targets in 3 years | Total Physical Achievement in 3 years |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1                                | 2                                 | 3                                     |
| <b>Upgradation of Technology</b> |                                   |                                       |
| Installation of ESMOs            | 1132                              | 1132                                  |
| Installation of VSATs            | 150                               | 150                                   |

| 1   | 2     | 3     |
|---|-------|-------|
| PC based Counter machines including SB LANs                         | 3250  | 3354  |
| Modernisation Pos   | 300   | 430   |
| Head Cancellers   | 5000  | 14279 |
| Stamp cancelling machines   | 60    | 60    |
| Electronic franking machines  | 311   | 311   |
| <b>Material Management</b>  |       |       |
| Training in systems operation to officials                          | 100   | 100   |
| <b>Human Resource Development</b>                                   |       |       |
| Computer training to officials                                      | 15200 | 40654 |
| <b>Modernisation of Mail Processing</b>                             |       |       |
| Mail office modernisation   | 67    | 85    |
| Culling, facing and cancelling machine in AMPCs                     | 2     | 2     |
| Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System                         | 2     | 0     |
| Upgradation of operational equipment for delivery                   | 250   | 0     |
| TMO computerisation   | 14    | 14    |
| HRO/DOs computerisation   | 21    | 19    |
| Registration Sorting Office computerisation                         | 12    | 19    |
| Modernisation of registration delivery system for registered mails  | 10    | 0     |
| Upgradation/Expansion of Mailnet                                    | 5     | 0     |
| Fabrication of new Air brake mail vans                              | 28    | 28    |
| Modification of existing RMS Vans and their Conversion in air brake | 2     | 2     |
| Purchase of MMS Vehicles and body building                          | 21    | 12    |
| Body building on Chassis purchased earlier                          | 8     | 8     |
| <b>Business Development &amp; Marketing</b>                         |       |       |
| Computerisation of PPCs in Nodal Offices & Networking               | 124   | 39    |
| Computerisation of SPCCs  | 50    | 47    |
| Mechanisation of pick up and delivery                               | 20    | 14    |
| Modernising business office for Speed Post                          | 109   | 75    |

| 1  | 2   | 3   |
|--|-----|-----|
| Mass Mailing, inserting and sealing equipment  | 67  | 124 |
| <b>Modernisation &amp; Development of Philately</b>                                    |     |     |
| Computerisation  | 214 | 217 |
| Tools and equipment for Bureaux  | 144 | 320 |
| <b>Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management</b>                         |     |     |
| Development of MIS interlinking all regional and Circle head quarters with Directorate | 17  | 17  |
| <b>Public Grievances</b>   |     |     |
| Customer Care Centres  | 104 | 103 |

*[Translation]**[English]***Management of AIIMS**

3396. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "AIIMS Mein Surgery Ke Yanter Bhi Uplabdh Nahin" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 3, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All commonly used and Life saving/emergency items in the AIIMS hospital are procured and provided for all in-patients. However, costly/other surgical items are bought by the Patients' attendants, though for very poor indigent patients, Employee Health Services (EHS) patients all the required items are provided by the Institute. The Institute has a full fledged Department of Dietetics. All the dietary items purchased for private and General Ward patients are bought from the Government agencies like NAFED, Modern Food Industries, DMS and Mother Dairy. General ward food is as nutritious as the Private ward food. There is variation only in the service as the General ward food is free of cost and Private ward food is on payment basis. As regards modernization of kitchen, the proposal has been incorporated in the new Master Plan which includes construction of different Centres, expansion of OPD and other allied Hospital services.

**CGHS Dispensary in Gurgaon**

3397. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of doctors have been transferred out of CGHS Dispensary No. 73 (Gurgaon) during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for continuation of certain doctors there in spite of a large number of complaints against them;

(d) the reasons for not following the transfer policy with respect to Para-medical staff in the said dispensary;

(e) the details of such staff working there for the last five years and not transferred indicating the reasons for their continuation in the same dispensary;

(f) whether any complaints have been received in respect of the staff of the said dispensary during the last three years;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following doctors have been transferred during the last one year from the CGHS dispensary, Gurgaon:

1. Dr. S. Dutta, CMO
2. Dr.(Mrs) S. Chand, CMO
3. Dr. Sunil Arya, CMO
4. Dr. N.C. Dass, CMO (NFSG)
5. Dr. Amit Dabral, MO
6. Dr. P.C. Chugh, CMO
7. Dr. P.K. Mohapatra

(c) There is no complaint against any of the doctors posted in CGHS dispensary, Gurgaon.

(d) and (e) By and large the transfer policy is being followed in the case of para- medical staff of the dispensary except in administrative exigencies and related constraints.

The details of staff working in CGHS dispensary Gurgaon for the last five years is as under:

1. Mrs. Janak, Pharmacist.
2. Mr. Ajay Chowdhary, Pharmacist.
3. Mr. Bali, Male Staff Nurse.
4. Mr. Phool Singh, Lab. Technician.
5. Mr. Balbir, Lab. Attendant.
6. Mr. Prithvi Singh, Nursing Attendant.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) The information is given in the statement.

#### **Statement**

*Two complaints were received during the last 3 years.*

The first complaint was about abusive behaviour and man-handling by the male nurse at CGHS dispensary Gurgaon. However, in the enquiry report, it was observed that the allegations made in the complaint by Shri M.L. Bebeja and Mrs. Pushpa Bebeja could not be substantiated as there was some confusion in identifying the staff. Further, Shri M.L. Bebeja had withdrawn his complaint as he realised that there was some misunderstanding and miscommunication which had led to the confusion. The complainant had also regretted the inconvenience caused to the authorities.

The second complaint received was a pseudonymous

complaint against the CGHS dispensary, Gurgaon on the following issues:

1) Miserable condition of the dispensary and behaviour of the staff 2) No specialist posted in the dispensary and no provision for ENT, Dental, Paediatrician or other specialized treatment 3) Lab. attached with the dispensary not equipped to perform LFT and other specialities 4) Medicines supplied are not branded medicines. Authorized chemist of Gurgaon is in Palam, which is 21 Kms. Away. 5) No ambulance was provided by Safdarjung Hospital.

The Additional Director (Central Zone), CGHS Delhi, after carrying out a surprise inspection submitted the report as under:- 1) CGHS dispensary is functioning in Private Rented building and the landlord does not maintain the building properly. However land has been acquired from HUDA for construction of dispensary building. 2) Beneficiaries are satisfied with the functioning of the dispensary and there was no specific complaint against any staff with regard to their behaviour. 3) Due to the shortage of specialists in ENT, Dental and Paediatrician, it is not possible to provide Specialist Services at the dispensary. However one of the Medical Officers who was a post-Graduate in Medicine was instructed to work as a Specialist for 2 days in a week i.e. Tuesday and Wednesday. Beneficiaries of the dispensary obtain specialized consultation in other specialities from the State Govt. Hospital, Gurgaon. 4) CGHS procures all medicines through the Medical Stores Organisation under the Dte. GHS and medicines, which are not available in the dispensary are procured through local purchase and made available to the beneficiaries on the 3rd day. The local chemist attached to the dispensary is situated in Palam Colony, Delhi, which is 19 Km away and no local chemist from Gurgaon had applied for registration for being appointed as the local chemist for the said dispensary. 5) The laboratory attached to the dispensary is conducting all routine tests on all working days but certain bio-chemical tests like Blood Sugar, Blood Urea, Blood Cholesterol, pregnancy test, blood group are being done twice a week i.e. Tuesday and Friday. 6) During the surprise inspection, it was found that all the 3 Pharmacists were present on duty.

#### **Pulse Polio Drive**

3398. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the news-item captioned "Importance rumour hits polio drive" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated November 29, 2002;

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Government is aware of the false rumour among certain sections of the community about polio drops causing impotency which are baseless and malicious. Both the Central and State Governments, UNICEF as also NGOs are taking necessary IEC measures to dispel this misgiving.

#### CMOs In CGHS Dispensaries

3399. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CMOs of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi in General and of North Avenue in particular do not attend to any patient;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have received any complaints to the effect that the CMOs and other staff of the above dispensaries sit idle and are impolite to the beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir. The CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries including the CGHS North Avenue dispensary attend to the patients in

addition to performing various administrative duties assigned to them.

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

(c) and (d) Neither any complaint of rude or impolite behaviour has been received from any CGHS beneficiary nor has any such behaviour been noticed during surprise inspection. An anonymous complaint, however, was received alleging the CMO and the MO not attending to patients and remaining busy on preparing indents which was enquired into and found to be baseless.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Adalats in Bihar

3400. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the rules and regulations laid down for holding telephone adalats;
- (b) the dates on which telephone adalats were organised in each district of Bihar during the last two years;
- (c) the number of cases received in these adalats during these two years, district-wise;
- (d) the number of cases disposed off; and
- (e) the details of relief provided to telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Telephone adalats are organised once in two months at Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Head Level and once in three months at Telecom Circle Head Level.

- (b) to (e) Reply is given in the statement.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Adalats in Bihar Telecom Circle during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02*

| S.No. | Name of Telecom District | Dates of Telephone Adalats Organised   | No. of Cases Received | No. of cases Disposed of | Details of relief provided to the subscriber in Rs. |
|-------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1     | 2                        | 3  | 4                     | 5                        | 6   |
| 1     | Arrah                    | 31.12.2000, 30.1.2001, 4.3.2001, 24.5.2001, 25.9.2001, 27.11.2001, 29.2.2002 | 121                   | 121                      | 2,09,133  |

| 1  | 2           | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6         |
|----|-------------|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| 2  | Bettiah     | 15.1.2002, 22.1.2002, 24.2.2002  | 431 | 431 | 6,59,955  |
| 3  | Bhagalpur   | 9.11.2000, 22.12.2000, 23.2.2001<br>10.5.2001, 11.7.2001, 12.9.2001<br>16.11.2001, 16.1.2002, 21.3.2002  | 55  | 55  | 21,842    |
| 4  | Chapra      | 4.5.2001, 28.3.2002  | 77  | 77  | 5,500     |
| 5  | Darbhangha  | 13.10.2000, 20.10.2000<br>5.11.2000, 17.05.2001, 11.7.2001,<br>27.9.2001, 12.11.2001, 8.1.2002,<br>13.2.2002   | 388 | 388 | 6,54,114  |
| 6  | Gaya        | 31.12.2000, 30.1.2001, 24.2.2001<br>4.3.2001, 28.4.2001, 4.3.2001<br>28.4.2001, 7.7.2001, 31.12.2001,<br>22.9.2001, 27.10.2001, 30.3.2002  | 147 | 147 | 81,505    |
| 7  | Hajipur     | 12.1.2001, 15.5.2001, 28.9.2001,<br>28.11.2001, 10.1.2002, 8.2.2002  | 158 | 91  | 1,19,012  |
| 8  | Katihar     | 28.11.2000, 24.4.2001, 25.5.2001,<br>10.7.2001, 18.9.2001, 28.11.2001,<br>29.1.2002  | 413 | 413 | 5,44,597  |
| 9  | Khagaria    | 18.10.2000, 24.10.2000,<br>10.5.2001, 18.7.2001, 21.9.2001,<br>27.11.2001, 9.1.2002, 12.3.2002   | 257 | 237 | 1,05,795  |
| 10 | Muzaffarpur | 22.9.2000, 18.12.2000, 10.1.2001,<br>18.5.2001, 10.8.2001, 27.9.2001,<br>22.1.2002, 27.1.2002  | 232 | 230 | 1,14,100  |
| 11 | Munger      | 10.11.2000, 9.1.2001, 16.1.2001<br>20.6.2001, 21.8.2001, 9.11.2001,<br>13.2.2002, 21.3.2002  | 80  | 80  | 23,413    |
| 12 | Motihari    | 8.8.2000, 10.8.2000, 5.1.2001,<br>7.1.2001, 12.1.2001, 16.1.2001,<br>19.1.2001, 22.1.2001, 29.1.2001,<br>30.1.2001, 6.2.2001, 7.2.2001,<br>22.5.2001, 5.6.2001, 12.6.2001,<br>23.8.2001, 30.8.2001 | 937 | 906 | 17,30,488 |
| 13 | Patna       | 8.11.2000, 28.6.2001, 7.3.2002   | 441 | 210 | 51,639    |
| 14 | Sasaram     | 29.6.2000, 29.9.2000, 12.12.2000<br>21.3.2001, 15.5.2001, 12.7.2001  | 68  | 68  | 94,199    |
| 15 | Saharsa     | 11.8.2000, 21.11.2000,<br>29.11.2000, 11.5.2001, 12.7.2001,<br>12.9.2001, 27.11.2001, 7.2.2002   | 329 | 329 | 2,19,633  |

| 1  | 2          | 3                                  | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----|------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 16 | Samastipur | Part of Darbhanga Telecom District |   |   |   |
| 17 | Kishanganj | Part of Katihar Telecom District   |   |   |   |
| 18 | Begusarai  | Part of Khagaria Telecom District  |   |   |   |

[English]

**Four Laning of Chandigarh-Ambala Road**

3401. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the need to four-lane the Chandigarh-Ambala and Chandigarh-Ludhiana roads;

(b) if so, the time frame fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to build fly-overs at critical and busy points on these roads;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the volume of traffic on these two roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Government has considered four laning of Zirakur-Ambala Section. Zirakpur-Chandigarh section is already four-laned or six-laned. No proposal for four-laning the Chandigarh-Ludhiana section is under consideration.

(b) Technical proposal has not yet been finalized. So no time frame can be fixed.

(c) This can be known after technical proposal is finalized.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Volume of traffic is as under:

| Section             | Volume of traffic in Passenger Car Unit |
|---------------------|---|
| Chandigarh-Ambala   | 35,000-40,000                           |
| Chandigarh-Ludhiana | 15,000                                  |

[Translation]

**Cyber Forensic Laboratory**

3402. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish a "Cyber Forensic Laboratory" to tackle the increasing number of cyber crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government Examiner of Questioned Laboratory (GEQD), Hyderabad, under the administrative control of Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs has already established a Computer Forensic Laboratory to tackle the cyber crimes. The Laboratory became fully functional during the year 2000 and is capable of handling computer crime related to stand-alone computers. It has thereafter taken up a R&D project under 10th Plan on forensic facilities for internet and networking crimes.

[English]

**Report of Hari Haran Committee**

3403. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommended the restructuring of the Central Health Services and General Duty Medical Officers sub-cadre, in particular;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the percentage of senior administrative grade level officers of GDMOs sub-cadre and the percentage of SAG officers in rest of the three sub-cadres;



(d) whether there is a great disparity between the SAG and four sub-cadres;

(e) whether Government have appointed the Hari Haran Committee to further review and restructure the cadre of the officers;

(f) if so, whether the report of the committee has since been submitted to the Government; and

(g) if so, the reasons for delay in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has not made any specific recommendation for restructuring of the General Duty Medical Officer (GDMO) sub-cadre of Central Health Service.

(c) and (d) The percentage of Senior Administrative Grade level officers of GDMOs sub-cadre is 4.02 whereas the percentage of Senior Administrative Grade level officers in the Non-Teaching, Teaching and Public Health sub-cadres are 11.22, 11.02 and 10.25 respectively.

(e) to (g) This Ministry had appointed Shri Hariharan a Consultant to undertake Cadre Review of Central Health Service. He has submitted his report. Cadre review involves consultations with participating units, Department of Personnel & Training & Finance etc. The restructuring will also have to be carried out by the participating units. The process may take time.

#### **Ovary Transplantation**

3404. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian doctors have successfully conducted ovary transplantation operation which is unique and first of its kind in India and also in the World;

(b) If so, the details about operation and research conducted in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have recognized the research and achievement therefrom;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

It has been reported to the Government that a doctor from Mumbai has performed one operation of ovary transplantation in a patient of Turner's Syndrome. The request received to give recognition to the procedure performed by the doctor was put before the subject experts who opined that additional information is required for examination of the case.

#### **Promotion of Ayurveda System in Tenth Plan**

3405. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote Ayurveda system of medicine;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether additional amount of fund has been earmarked for promoting Ayurveda system during the Tenth Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to promote Ayurveda system in the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department of ISM&H has already implemented various schemes e.g. upgradation of undergraduate/post-graduate institutions, standardization of drugs, encouraging intra-mural and extra-mural research and dissemination of information and awareness building through information, education and communication (IEC). The Department has also developed Pharmacopoeia of Ayurveda.

(c) and (d) The allocation for 10th Plan has been raised to Rs.775.00 crores from allocation of Rs.364.43 crores in 9th Plan for the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

(e) A number of new schemes have been envisaged during 10th Plan for promotion of Ayurveda.

#### **Bangladesh Stand on Terrorist Groups**

3406. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has rejected the charges of our Government regarding Bangladesh territory being used by several terrorist groups including Al-Qaida as reported in several newspapers on November 29, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been regularly taking up the issue of presence of terrorist groups on Bangladesh territory with Government of Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries.

The view of the Government of Bangladesh as reported in newspapers on 29 November 2002 has not been officially received in the Government of India. However, officially the Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its assurance that it would not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest. The Government would continue to engage Government of Bangladesh on this important matter of mutual concern.

#### **Reproductive Child Health Programme in Karnataka**

3407. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government withdraw its permission to the Government of Karnataka to undertake several works under the Reproductive Child Health Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total financial assistance withdrawn by the Central Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to permit the State Government to restart the remaining works under the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir, permission has not been withdrawn. The outlay of Reproductive & Child Health conveyed to the state is Rs.190.10 crores, indicated quantum of funds available in the entire programme, the actual releases including permission of works is decided on the basis of progress of the programme

in the state. In case of RCH Sub-Project, one of the components of RCH Programme, as the progress was found to be slow, therefore, the outlay was brought down from Rs.15.05 crores to Rs.12.82 crores in November, 2000. It was agreed that the outlay could be revised if adequate progress was shown. Till now, a sum of Rs.12.29 crores has been released while an expenditure of only Rs.8.39 crores reported. The Sub-Project is scheduled to close by March 2003. In view of short time available, revision of Sub-Project outlay does not appear possible.

#### **Production of Hydrogen from Sea Water**

3408. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DAE is planning to produce hydrogen from seawater for generating Electricity and produce fresh water;

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

(c) the details thereof including the expected time by which the production is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the future energy requirements, a part of the Department of Atomic Energy's long term strategy is to expand the role of nuclear energy as a primary energy source with production of hydrogen as one of the objectives. However, it will take considerable time before the results of research in this area can find practical application.

The Department of Atomic Energy has also set up a demonstration plant at Kalpakkam for the conversion of seawater into fresh water.

#### **Infrastructure Status to Health Care**

3409. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the CII-Mckinsey Health Care Study and propose to accord infrastructure status to health care in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are other measures proposed by the Government on the recommendations of this study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Department has not received the Report of the CII McKinsey Health Care study. At present there is no proposal to confer infrastructure industry status to the health care in the country. However, the National Health Policy, 2002, recently announced by the Government has taken into consideration various relevant factors including inter-alia health care financing, equity, public health infrastructure, etc. which would have an impact on making available and improving the quality of health care services in the country.

#### **Issuance of Passports in West Bengal**

3410. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received in West Bengal during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 up to November 30, 2002; and

(b) the number of passports issued within the prescribed time span during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The number of passport applications received in West Bengal during 2001-02 was 1,17,202 and during 2002-03 (upto Nov. 30, 2002) was 64,942.

(b) The Government endeavours to issue passports within 6 weeks provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Passports are issued by the Regional Passport Office, Kolkata within the prescribed time frame.

#### **Pending Road Projects**

3411. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the number of road projects of various States including Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra lying pending with the Government for approval/clearance;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in according clearance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. The work is generally executed through State Governments under Agency System.

Our effort is to sanction the estimates for National Highway works within 3 months after their receipt from the State Governments. This is subject to the proposals being sent with complete details. 28 estimates amounting to Rs. 98.98 crores are presently pending in the Ministry for sanction for over three months. State-wise details are given in the statement.

(c) The pending estimates could not be sanctioned in some states as the Bank of Sanction has been exceeded and in some other cases because the proposals did not have full required details and also clarifications are awaited from State PWDs.

(d) Missing details have been called for from the States.

#### **Statement**

##### *Pending Road Projects*

| Sl.No. | Name of State    | Total number of road projects pending | Total estimated cost (Rs. in crore) |
|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1      | Assam            | 5*                                    | 14.39                               |
| 2      | Gujarat          | 3                                     | 21.78                               |
| 3      | Himachal Pradesh | 1                                     | 3.47                                |
| 4      | Jammu & Kashmir  | 1                                     | 0.63                                |
| 5      | Kerala           | 1                                     | 12.23                               |
| 6      | Manipur          | 8*                                    | 19.52                               |
| 7      | Meghalaya        | 3*                                    | 5.71                                |
| 8      | Mizoram          | 1                                     | 2.16                                |
| 9      | Nagaland         | 1                                     | 1.81                                |
| 10     | Punjab           | 3                                     | 13.54                               |
| 11     | Uttar Pradesh    | 1                                     | 3.74                                |
| Total  |                  | 28                                    | 98.98                               |

\* Bank of sanctions exceeded.

[Translation]

### Introduction of E-Post Service

3412. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide 'E' mail service in head post offices, reduce the price of post card to 25 paise by printing advertisements on one side, opening of post office in each and every panchayat and deposit of electricity/water bills in post offices by the year end; and

(b) if so, by when the above proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) It is proposed to provide E-post service to most of the District Headquarters in the country subject to availability of internet, computers in the post office selected and other related infrastructure.

Meghdoot Postcard providing for advertisement for half portion of the address side, priced at 25 paise has been introduced from 2.9.2002.

As regards depositing electricity and water bills in post offices, the Department has issued orders fixing the rates for collection of bills in post offices. The service provider can approach the Department for availing the facility.

Opening of post offices in each and every Panchayat by the year-end is not under consideration.

(b) There is no fixed time target for introduction of the services as it would depend on various procedures to be finalised and infrastructure availability. E-Bill post extension depends on willingness of service providers like Electricity Boards etc. to avail the service. Meghdoot Post Card is already introduced.

[English]

### Services Offered by STQC

3413. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that revenue generated from the services offered by Standardisation, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) are to be credited to Society for Electronic Test Engineering (SETE) and not to the consolidated Funds of India;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether approval of Finance Ministry was obtained in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total amount generated from the services offered by STQC and credited into SETE during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) the amount utilized out of the funds of SETE during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The income generated from calibration, testing and development assistance services was deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). However during the period 1994-95 to 99-2000 the income from training, certification, consultancy and specialized testing was credited to Society for Electronic Test Engineering (SETE), which constituted about 18% of total income. This was done with the due approval of administrative authorities. Subsequently audit observed that the total income generated from all STQC services has to be credited to Government of India accounts only.

(e) and (f) Total revenue generated by STQC services offered for the year 1999-00 Rs. 1100 lakhs, 2000-01 Rs. 1283 lakhs and 2001-02 Rs. 1708 lakhs respectively and had been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. No amount is credited in SETE account.

### Anti Snake Venom

3414. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of anti snake venom has been stopped;

(b) whether there is any proposal to purchase anti snake venom from abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per the directions of Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), the production of Anti-Snake Venom has been stopped from equines of more than 21 years of age. This has resulted in

reduction/stoppage of production in institutes where age of equine is above 21. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Environment & Forests for relaxing this condition. There is no proposal to purchase Anti-Snake Venom Serum from abroad, at this stage.

[Translation]

### **Sports During Tenth Plan**

3415. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of sports during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated/spent on the implementation of the scheme during the above plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Zero-Based budgeting exercise, all the existing plan schemes of the Ministry are being merged into the following six Umbrella Schemes, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

- (i) Schemes relating to Infrastructure
- (ii) Schemes relating to talent search and training
- (iii) Schemes relating to events, including holding of National/International sport events.
- (iv) Schemes relating to awards
- (v) Schemes relating to institutions
- (vi) Incentives for Promotion of Sports activities

The Government is also formulating following two new schemes during the 10th Five Year Plan:

1. State Sports Academy
2. Scheme for Dope Test.

(c) Proposed 10th Plan outlay for sports is Rs. 1132.36 crores, however, the funds are not allocated, State-wise. Financial assistance is sanctioned to States/UTs on receipt of viable proposals from them.

### **Commission Agents in Post Offices**

3416. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed commission agents for disposal of work in the post offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of such post offices in the country;

(c) whether any cases of cheating of the public as well as account holders in post offices by these agents have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, number of complaints received in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to streamline the work in Head POs and other post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

### **Foreign Investment in Nuclear Power Programme**

3417. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its willingness to invite foreign investment in India's nuclear power programme;

(b) whether certain countries have shown interest in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign in the nuclear power sector. However, the Government have not received any concrete proposals so far to set up nuclear power plants in the country. Such offers, when received, will be considered under the prevalent rules and regulations.

*[Translation]***Mortuaries of Government Hospitals**

3418. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "HC fines Centre for not improving Government Hospital Mortuaries" appearing in the Times of India dated November 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) While hearing the Civil Writ Petition No. 4889 of 2001 filed by common cause V/s Union of India and others, on 11.11.02, the Bench of High Court of Delhi comprising Justice Anil Dev Singh and Justice R.S. Sodhi imposed a fine of Rs. 20,000/- on the Union Government due to non-appearance of the Government Counsel and non-submission of action taken note on the R.K. Sharma Committee Report. However, the fine was waived off by the Hon'ble Court after hearing the emergency writ petition filed by the Government Counsel.

*[English]***Corruption in Public Service Commissions**

3419. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to prevent Chairmen and Members of Public Service Commissions from misusing their positions in view of instances of corruption in the Public Service Commissions; and

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

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

(b) Union Public Service Commission in their Memorandum submitted before the National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution, had inter-alia, suggested that the relevant provisions in the Constitution may be amended to ensure that only persons with spotless reputation are appointed as Chairmen and Members of the Commissions. The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution, however, recommended that it did not see any need for change in the existing provisions concerning UPSC or other Public Service Commissions or any enactment. The said Commission has recommended that healthy conventions may be developed.

**National Commission on Population**

3420. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the National Commission on Population held its first meeting with the State Population Commissions in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of participants in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have desired/ suggested their own ways to control and achieve target of population control in the said meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other norms Government propose to adopt to check population growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes. The National Commission on Population has held its first meeting with the State Population Commissions/Councils on 25.9.2002 in New Delhi. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Vice-Chairman, National Commission on Population and was attended to by the Hon'ble Union Ministers for Human Resource Development, Health & Family Welfare, some Members of National Commission on Population, Member (Health), Planning Commission, Health & Family Welfare Ministers from States who are also Vice-Chairmen of State Population Commissions/Councils, Secretaries to Government of India, Health and Family Welfare Secretaries of State

Governments and representatives of NGOs and organizations working in the field of population stabilization.

(c) and (d) The details of the views expressed at the meeting by the State Governments relating to population control etc. are being prepared and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The norms of checking population growth are outlined in the National Population Policy 2000. However, in view of the demographic diversity prevailing in the country, some of the States have also formulated their population policies to address the specific problems faced by them.

### **Corporatisation of STPI**

3421. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been actively considering to corporatise Software Technology Parks of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### **Extension to IAS Officers**

3422. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS officers who have been given extension in service during the last three years;

(b) the number of officers who had requested for such extension and the number out of them given extension; and

(c) the details of guidelines followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Three.

(b) Six proposals received from the State Governments concerned out of which extension granted as in (a) above.

(c) Second proviso to Rule 16 (1) of the All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958 provides that an IAS officer dealing with budget work or working as a full time member of a committee which is to be wound up within a short period may be given extension of service for a period not exceeding three months in public interest, with the prior approval of the Central Government.

[English]

### **Vidya Vahini Project**

3423. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Department of Information Technology have taken to ensure free fund flow for its ambitious Rs. 6,000 crore Vidya Vahini project that aims to take computer education to 60,000 schools across the country in three years;

(b) the districts in the States where this pilot project is being introduced; and

(c) the latest position of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology has formulated a specific programme "Vidya Vahini" to integrate technological tools and Internet in the learning environment. The focus of the project is to use computer-aided learning techniques to develop and train the faculty to impart education to students, teachers and encourage them to develop course content and lessons in the digital form. The emphasis is to develop and provide content in the local language.

The programme is proposed to be implemented in 60,000 Government and Government-aided senior secondary schools in the country. Each school is envisaged to be provided with one computer lab having 10 PCs, Server and other computer items, Internet connectivity of 128 Kbps and course content as per CBSE syllabus. The project proposes to set

up fully networked training labs with similar equipment as proposed at each school to train the teachers on use of IT tools and development of course content. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 6,000 crores.

Before taking up the main project, a pilot project has been initiated. 140 Government schools in the rural and semi-urban areas across the following seven districts have been included.

1. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
2. Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
3. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
4. Gandhinagar, Gujarat
5. Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
6. Parli Vajirath, Maharashtra
7. South 24-Parganas, West Bengal

A training lab fully equipped with the equipment as proposed at each of the school is also being set up at each of the above-mentioned districts.

A central portal is proposed to be hosted to provide access to students and teachers to all the education related material and course curriculum content in different languages, news and other educational tools.

(c) The site preparation at the schools in the districts of South 24-Parganas, Gandhinagar and Kuppam has been completed. The work is in progress at Lucknow, Allahabad, Parli Vajirath and Hazaribagh. The project is in advance stage of implementation. The equipment has been ordered and is under transportation to the selected schools. The portal is in final stage of development.

The Principals of the schools included in the pilot project in the districts of Lucknow, Allahabad, Gandhinagar, South 24 parganas and Hazaribagh have been given training on the use of computers. A batch of 20 teachers of the selected schools in each district has also been given two weeks training on the use of computers and development of content.

[Translation]

#### **National Sports Development Fund**

3424. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a National Sports Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective behind setting up National Sports Development Fund; and

(d) the source of funding proposed for National Sports Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The Government has already set up a National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) during 1998-99 through a notification, dated 12.11.1998. The NSDF has been set up with the following objectives:

1. To administer and apply the moneys of the Fund for promotion of sports, in general, and specific sports disciplines and individual sports persons, in particular, for achieving excellence at the national and international level;
2. To impart special training and coaching in relevant sports disciplines to sportspersons, coaches and sports specialists;
3. To construct and maintain infrastructure, as may be required for promotion of excellence in sports;
4. To supply equipment to Government and Non-Governmental Organizations and individuals with a view to promoting excellence in sports;
5. To identify problems and take up research and development studies for providing support to excellence in sports;
6. To promote international cooperation, in particular, exchanges which may promote the development of indigenous sports and human resources, as also, the activities which are within the amount of Exchange Programmes, entered into between India and other countries; and
7. To provide low interest or interest-free loans for projects and activities, related to any of the aforesaid objects.

The Fund can accept grants and contributions, both recurring and non-recurring, from the Central Government, State Governments, statutory bodies, United Nations and its associated bodies, other international organizations, private and public corporate sector, trusts, societies and individuals. The Government has made initial contribution of Rs.200 lakhs as seed money. Further Government contribution is on matching basis to the contribution received from other sources.



*[English]***Rate of Heart Disease**

3425. SHRI MAHSOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that according to study by University of California, Indians have the highest rate of heart disease as compared to Americans, Europeans, Chinese and Japanese;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the below 30 age group, the Coronary Artery Disease mortality among Indians is three-fold higher than in the UK and ten fold higher than Chinese in Singapore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 25 percent of heart attacks among Indians occur when they are younger than 40; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of studies have shown that Indians and other South Asians are more predisposed to Coronary Heart Disease than other ethnic groups like Caucasians (Whites), Afro-caribbeans and Chinese. The mortality of Coronary heart disease has increased in younger patients and those with first heart attacks. The significant proportion of heart attacks in Indians are in patients younger than 40 years of age.

(d) Cardio Vascular diseases are managed at various levels in the Urban Health Care Institutions and Rural Health Care Delivery System in the country both in the public and private sector. Apart from several district level hospitals, which provide secondary level health care facilities, premier Government hospitals and autonomous institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (PGIMER) provide specialized tertiary care facility in the field.

*[Translation]***Filling up of Reserved Posts**

3426. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant reserved posts for SC/ST filled during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch special campaign for the filling up of these reserved posts;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per information received from all Ministries/Departments, 21,865 Scheduled Castes and 8,424 Scheduled Tribes were recruited in the year 2000. Information is collected calendar year-wise and not financial year-wise.

(b) to (d) Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/Departments to carry out review for early assessment of the backlog vacancies in respect of SCs and STs by way direct recruitment and promotion and make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies.

**Out of Orders Test-Equipments in S.J.H.**

3427. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many test-equipments of Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi are not in working condition and the patients are referred to get their medical tests done from a specific laboratory and the doctors earn a fixed commission thereon;

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

(c) the details of the steps Government have taken/proposed to be taken to make these machines operational and arrest such tendency amongst doctors in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) All the equipments required for diagnostic purposes are in working order in the Department of Laboratory Medicines and Radiology. The patients are not referred to get their medical tests done from out side. However, when the CT Scan gets out of order, the patients requiring immediate CT Scan are referred to Dr. RML Hospital and AIIMS.

[English]

**Works Allotted to Sulabh International  
under MPLAD Scheme**

3428. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an NOD named Sulabh International has been entrusted various works in different places in the country, particularly in Maharashtra under MPLAD Scheme and has been paid advances of huge amounts for the execution under MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of works along with the amount of advances paid to Sulabh International, particularly in State of Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the aforesaid NGO has been blacklisted by different States and agencies for various irregularities committed by it; and

(d) if so, reasons for allotting development works to such an organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) In accordance with the provisions in Para 2.1 of the Guidelines, implementing agencies can be either Government or Panchayati Raj Institutions or any other reputed non-Governmental organizations that may be considered by the District Heads as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily. Therefore, works under MPLADS can be entrusted to Sulabh International, an NGO, if the District Head considers this organization to be a reputed one and capable of implementing the works satisfactorily.

(b) Information regarding works awarded to individual implementing agencies is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not received any report from State Governments/District Heads regarding blacklisting of Sulabh International.

**Manasarovar Expedition**

3429. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of youth are joining the Manasarovar expedition;

(b) if so, whether a heavy fee is levied on the participants;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to defray the cost or subsidise the fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

**Issuance of Passports in Andhra Pradesh**

3430. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued in Andhra Pradesh in 2001-2002, 2002-2003 up to October 31, 2002.

(b) whether there is inordinate delay in issuance of passports; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the expeditious disposal of the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The number of passports issued in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-2002 was 2,92,847 and during 2002-2003 (up to 31.10.2002) was 2,31,999.

(b) No. The Government endeavours to issue passports within 6 weeks provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Passports are issued by the Passport Offices in Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam within the prescribed time frame.

(c) Does not arise.

**Telecommunication Towers in POK**

3431. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of telecommunication towers being used by the terrorists in Pak occupied Kashmir was handed over to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As part of their ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation through a bilateral Joint Working Group, established in January 2000, India and the United States share assessment and information on infiltration and other indicators of Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in India, which includes terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(c) This is part of Government's initiative to sensitise the international community, including the United States, to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, which continues to take place despite President Musharraf's commitments to the international community on ending cross-border terrorism in India.

#### Deaths due to Malaria

3432. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the death of people due to Malaria is on the increase in some States and particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the number of people who died due to Malaria during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Increase in number of deaths due to malaria during 2002 (upto November) has been reported from Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Orissa as compared to the corresponding period of the year 2001.

Number of deaths due to malaria during the last three years, State-wise is given in the statement.

#### Statement

*Malaria Deaths Reported in India during 1999, 2000 and 2001 (P)*

| Sl. No. | State/UTs         | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 (P) |
|---------|-------------------|------|------|----------|
| 1       | 2                 | 3    | 4    | 5        |
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh    | 11   | 6    | 1        |
| 2.      | Arunachal Pradesh | 1    | 0    | 14       |
| 3.      | Assam             | 111  | 43   | 122      |
| 4.      | Bihar             | 131  | 2    | 0        |
| 5.      | Chhattisgarh *    |      | 63   | 33       |

| 1   | 2                 | 3   | 4   | 5   |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 6.  | Goa               | 17  | 11  | 12  |
| 7.  | Gujarat           | 7   | 2   | 19  |
| 8.  | Haryana           | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 9.  | Himachal Pradesh  | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 11. | Jharkhand *       | -   | 16  | 21  |
| 12. | Karnataka         | 11  | 14  | 21  |
| 13. | Kerala            | 7   | 9   | 9   |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh    | 50  | 92  | 81  |
| 15. | Maharashtra       | 46  | 40  | 50  |
| 16. | Manipur           | 8   | 0   | 5   |
| 17. | Meghalaya         | 5   | 11  | 17  |
| 18. | Mizoram           | 73  | 33  | 43  |
| 19. | Nagaland          | 12  | 0   | 1   |
| 20. | Orissa            | 399 | 467 | 302 |
| 21. | Punjab            | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| 22. | Rajasthan         | 0   | 10  | 36  |
| 23. | Sikkim            | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu        | 2   | 1   | 0   |
| 25. | Tripura           | 11  | 6   | 9   |
| 26. | Uttaranchal *     | -   | 0   | 0   |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh     | 0   | 0   | 15  |
| 28. | West Bengal       | 144 | 103 | 191 |

#### Union Territories

|     |                           |   |   |   |
|-----|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| 29. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 30. | Chandigarh                | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu               | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1     | 2           | 3    | 4   | 5    |
|-------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| 33    | Delhi       | 0    | 0   | 0    |
| 34    | Lakshadweep | 0    | 0   | 0    |
| 35    | Pondicherry | 0    | 0   | 0    |
| Total |             | 1048 | 931 | 1003 |

\* The States Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal were carved out from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively in the year 2000.

(P) = Provisional

### Telephone Connections

3433. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applicants are waiting for telephone connections in Delhi and other parts of National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the position as on October 31, 2002;

(c) the steps taken to clear the waiting list; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in MTNL Delhi and in National capital Region as on 31.1.2002 is given below:

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| MTNL Delhi              | 4,108  |
| National Capital Region | 15,377 |

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken to clear the existing waiting list:

- (i) Expansion of capacities of telephone exchanges.
- (ii) Laying of telephone cables.
- (iii) Deployment of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) for non-feasible areas.
- (iv) Deployment of DLC (Digital Loop Carrier) in Delhi.

### Creation of New Postal Division at Punalur, Kerala

3434. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a new postal division in Punalur in Kollam district, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Creation of separate postal division at Punalur is not justified as per existing norms prescribed for the purpose.

### Faulty Phones in Bahadurgarh, Haryana

3435. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of phones which continuously remained out of order for the last six months in Bahadurgarh, Haryana;

(b) whether a number of consumers have sought compensation for harassment and mental agony caused by non-availability of telephone service; and

(c) if so the details thereof and by when the consumers are likely to get compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, no telephone has continuously remained out of order for the last six months in Bahadurgarh.

(b) and (c) Sir, Only one consumer has sought compensation whose telephone remained out of order from 9.9.2002 to 17.9.2002 for which the rent rebate has been sanctioned as per rules and will be adjusted in the next bill.

### MPCMS

3436. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Multi Purpose counter Machines (MPCMs) procured during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that not only the proposed number of MPCMs were procured but also the procured machines have not been put to use so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the period with particular reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During the last three years, 3000 Multi purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs) were procured.

(b) The machines procured were installed and put to use in the offices identified.

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

#### **ECF in POS'**

3437. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce electronic clearance facility in respect of POSB account holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this said proposal is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to provide Electronic Clearance facility to Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) account holders is under consideration. This facility is proposed to be provided through the Reserve Bank of India's Electronic Funds Transfer scheme, which facilitates inter bank and intra bank fund transfers.

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

(d) While the Department of Posts has obtained admission as a member of the RBI's Electronic Funds Transfer system, the proposal can be implemented only upon completion of the necessary operational, technical and financial formalities.

#### **Indo-Russian Ties**

3438. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding "Indo-Russian ties poised for quantum jump" appearing in the Hindu dated November 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the issues discussed with the Russian authorities;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of bilateral agreements signed between the two countries during the recent visit of Russian President to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Details of the discussions held and outcome thereof are placed at statement-I.

(d) During the visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India from 3-5 December 2002, the two countries signed 6 official documents. Two commercial documents were also signed between the Canara Bank of India and the Vnesheconom Bank of Russia. Details of the official documents are placed at statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

The President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin paid a state visit to India from 3-5 December 2002. President Putin met the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who also hosted a banquet in his honour. The Vice President of India Shri B.S. Shekhawat, the Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani, the Minister of External Affairs Shri Yashwant Sinha and the Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi called on President Putin. The Prime Minister of India Shri A.B. Vajpayee and the President of the Russian Federation held talks on a range of bilateral, international and regional issues. Both sides expressed satisfaction regarding the established practice of holding annual meetings at the summit level as well as meetings and exchanges at Ministerial

and other levels. Both sides reiterated their determination to continue and further expand the excellent political contacts between the two countries. Both sides shared a positive assessment of the work of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, and noted that energy security was a promising area of cooperation between the two sides. This was demonstrated by the conclusion of an agreement enabling participation of ONGC Videsh Limited in the Sakhalin Oil and Gas Project in the Russian Federation. The progress being made in the implementation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project was noted with satisfaction, as was the expanded cooperation in the field of military technical cooperation, especially joint research, development and training, as well as inter-services contacts, which were considered consistent with the national security interests of both countries and for the cause of peace and stability in Asia and beyond.

The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. They noted a high degree of mutual understanding and close proximity of views. India and Russia, as strategic partners, reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate bilaterally and at international fora on issues relating to strategic stability for the development of a multipolar world based on a new cooperative security order. The relationship of friendship, trust and confidence contributed to Eurasian stability as a whole and was a factor of global significance. Both sides agreed on the necessity of continuing the reform of the United Nations Security Council with a view to making it more representative and effective. The Russian Federation reaffirmed its support to the Republic of India as a deserving and strong candidate for the permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

Both sides confirmed that international terrorism, religious extremism, separatism and secessionism, transborder organised crime and illicit traffic in arms and drugs constitute a growing and serious threat to international peace, security and stability. Both countries agreed that there should be no double-standards in the fight against terrorism. Roots of terrorism which lay in their common neighbourhood posed a threat to their security interests. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of Afghanistan, Iraq and Middle East. They stressed the importance of Islamabad implementing in full its obligations and promises to prevent the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into the State of Jammu and Kashmir and at other points across the border, as well as to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territory as a prerequisite for the renewal of the peaceful dialogue between the two

countries to resolve all outstanding issues in a bilateral framework as envisaged in Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1998.

#### Statement-II

**1. Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin:** This document contains the positions of the two sides on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India in October 2000, the two countries had signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. In the present document, the two sides have further enunciated their cooperation on political issues of mutual interest and concern. Russia has reaffirmed its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two sides have also outlined their common position on terrorism, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Middle East, etc. This document will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of their strategic partnership.

**2. Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President, Vladimir V. Putin:** The document sets out the ideas of the two countries on further strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. The two sides have decided to undertake several measures in this direction, including: Creation of a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection; and enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa. Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development; strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and services, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor. Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields; streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth; and harmonizing national

standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries. Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries; putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges; encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries; exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises; and consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.

**3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism by Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Sinha and Mr. Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation:** Under this agreement, the two countries will set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. It will be an inter-agency group on both sides and will be coordinated by their respective Foreign Offices.

**4. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Protection and Use of Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation dated 30 June 1994 signed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and S&T and Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry and S&T:** Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1994, the two countries had to decide on the issue of intellectual property rights on the results of joint work in S&T field. The objective of this Protocol is therefore to deal with the issues of effective and proper acquisition, distribution, protection, sharing or transferring of intellectual property rights, created in the process of joint activity in the framework of the 1994 bilateral Science and Technology agreement between the two countries.

**5. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation by Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L.D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Informatization:** Under this MoU, the Ministries of Communications of the two countries will exchange information on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in the telecom sector, develop

and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and share training facilities in this sector.

**6. Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S.M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K.A. Titov, Governor of the Samara Region:** This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.

#### **Agreement with Japan in IT Sector**

3439. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to increase tie up between India and-Japan in Information Technology sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held between two countries in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the Indian I.T. sector is likely to be benefited by this tie-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Continuous efforts are being made by the Union Government for increasing exports in the Information Technology sector to several countries, including Japan with a view to increase our export to Japan, several initiatives have been taken by Government and industry associations which, inter-alia, include participation in exhibitions and seminars held in Japan for promoting IT, launching of a scheme for Language Related Market Access Facilitation Initiative in the Japanese IT Market (LRMAFI) for providing financial assistance to IT exporters and IT students for successful completion of courses in Japanese language and interaction at the highest level in both the Governments.

- (c) and (d) On a invitation from the Japanese

Government, a high level delegation visited Japan in September, 2001, to participate in India-Japan IT Summit and IT Persons Meet. The members of the National Advisory Committee on Information Technology also accompanied the delegation and participated in the IT Eminent Persons Meet.

Several important issues of mutual concern for increasing India-Japan Cooperation in the field of IT for promoting development of IT industry in both the countries were discussed. Both sides agreed that they should endeavour to mutually complement each other's strengths and requirements to compete in third country markets. This would be advantageous to industry in both the countries.

(e) The above said steps are directed towards giving momentum to electronics and IT exports from India to Japan.

#### **R&D in Domestic Pharma Industry**

3440. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Greater Synergy in drug industry vital" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated November 16, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the R&D position of domestic pharma industry?

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

(b) The news item refers to an address delivered by DGHS at the annual symposia of India Institute of Foreign Trade in which it was stated that in order to build the Indian pharma industry into a global brand it is required to have increased synergy between the government and the private sector in respect of R&D, product quality etc.

(c) and (d) A Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals has looked into various issues for improving R&D in the country.

#### **Typhoid Vaccine**

3441. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to lift ban on the production of Typhoid vaccine by certain firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of the Government thereon;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of this vaccine; and

(d) if so, the details of the number of firms manufacturing Typhoid Vaccine in the country and the total quantity produced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received in the Government for grant of permission to Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical corporation Limited (HBPCL), Mumbai to restart production of Whole Cell Killed Typhoid (AKD) Vaccine. The Government has decided in principle to permit the production of Whole Cell Killed Typhoid (AKD) Vaccine by HBPCL, Mumbai to meet the requirement of Typhoid vaccine for the Armed Forces HBPCL, Mumbai has been requested to send its application to Drug Controller General of India for seeking licence for production of AKD vaccine. There are no reports on shortage of Typhoid Vaccine in the country.

#### **Ban on Animal Testing**

3442. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on testing on animals is creating hurdles in research and development efforts of Indian Pharmaceutical Companies in the country;

(b) if so, the manner in which the companies are supposed to test the new medicines; and

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

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



is no ban on animal testing in research and development efforts of Indian Pharmaceutical Company in the Country. However, the rules prescribed for animal experimentation and procedure prescribed by, GPCSEA (Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of experiments on Animals) makes it very difficult for research based industry to use larger animals like Beagle dogs and Monkey. Being a statutory requirement companies have to conduct such studies through private contract research organizations abroad which is very costly.

(b) and (c) Companies are screening the molecules in two stages. In the first phase screening experiments are being done under in-vitro conditions wherever possible. In the second phase these are screened in-vivo conditions only using animal models. Presently most of the work is being conducted on in-vitro cell lines as well as on molecular targets. However animals are also used wherever mandatory and necessary.

[Translation]

#### **Indo-Sino Ties**

3443. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any hope for improvement in Indo-Sino relations following change in leadership in China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality. This has been underscored during recent high level political exchanges between India and China, including during the visit of President to China in May-June 2000, visit of senior Chinese leader and NPC Chairman in January 2001, visit of Chinese Premier in January 2002 and the visit of EAM to China in March-April 2002.

Prime Minister has been invited to visit China and has accepted the invitation. Dates for the visit are being worked out through diplomatic-channels.

#### **Warnings of Liver Toxicity of Paracetamol**

3444. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a U.S. based Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) advisory panel

has made a recommendation that explicit warnings about the danger of liver toxicity should be added to all packs of over the counter (OTC) drugs containing paracetamol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The reported recommendation of Advisory Panel of US-FDA is being examined by the Experts Sub-Committee of the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).

[English]

#### **Courier Service Charges**

3445. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various courier service providers charge considerably less than the amount charged by Postal Services for local delivery of letters etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the desirability of lowering the postal rates for such services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other proposals, if any to improve the postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The Department does not have authentic information about tariff charged in courier industry.

(b) and (c) Tariff setting in the Department of Posts is a dynamic process and takes into account several factors including cost of operation, user profile, price elasticity of demand, prices of competing services etc.

(d) The Department has proposal for upgrading, networking and setting up of Computerised Customer Care Centres depending on development of infrastructure and availability of fund.

#### **Mental Hospital in Capital**

3446. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has ordered the

Centre to institute an inquiry into the nine-year delay in a mental hospital project in the Capital;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 18 crore was sanctioned by the Central Government for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government have conducted the inquiry;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those held responsible?

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

(c) to (e) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has in its recent order dated 23rd October, 2002 directed the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India to make an inquiry in delay in the project and to fix responsibility for the delay. The process of taking appropriate action in order to implement the High Court's order has been started.

[Translation]

#### **Profits of Kendriya Bhandar**

3447. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total profit earned by the Kendriya Bhandars during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, Year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new branches of Kendriya Bhandar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The total Profit of Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years is as under:-

| Year      | Profit         |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1999-2000 | Rs.403.95 lakh |
| 2000-2001 | Rs.640.98 lakh |
| 2001-2002 | Rs.621.51 lakh |

(c) and (d) Outlets of Kendriya Bhandar are opened when suitable accommodations are made available by Government or other agencies at a location having good sale potential.

#### **Sports Activities for Disabled Persons**

3448. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme or a national action plan to promote sports activities for disabled persons and youths;

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

(c) the funds sanctioned/proposed to be sanctioned by the Government for implementation of the Scheme; and

(d) the details of the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) to (d) Sir, no scheme has yet been formulated for the promotion of sports activities for the disabled persons and youth. However, the Scheme, "Assistance to National Sports Federation", provides for assistance to be provided to the physically and mentally challenged sportspersons who possess standards, equal to or close to the international standards, prevalent in the recognized tournaments in that sport, through the concerned National Sports Federation and not directly to the individual.

[English]

#### **Internet Service Through OFC**

3449. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

propose to provide internet through Optical Fibre Cable to protect the consumers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received any complaint from the consumers alleging cheating from internet service providers or BSNL;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the legal safeguards exist for the consumers against dubious internet service providers who provide internet connections through cable;
- (f) whether any regulatory body exists to hear complaints of the consumers against internet service providers;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has set up National Internet Backbone (NIB-I) based on optical fibre system which consists of 45 major Internet nodes parenting 391 other Internet nodes.

(c) and (d) Complaints from consumers regarding improper service were received against a few Internet Service Providers (ISPs) namely M/s Dishnet DSL Ltd., M/s Patriot Automation Projects Ltd. and M/s Mylai Karpagambal Information Systems (P) Ltd. The same were taken up with ISPs and sorted out.

(e) Directions have been issued to operational ISPs to ensure that in case of interconnection with an entity who provides Internet service to its customers, the entity has a valid ISD licence.

(f) Government has established Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal under Section 14 of Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India, Act, 1997 (as amended), inter-alia to adjudicate any dispute between the service providers and a group of consumers. The other channels for consumer complaints are Consumer Courts and Consumer Forums.

(g) and (h) Do not arise in view of (f) above.

### **Handling of Food Grains**

3450. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh nominated to the Union Government the Andhra Pradesh State warehousing corporation as the nodal agency for bulk handling of food grains on the east coast at Vishakapatnam;
- (b) if so, the decision taken thereon;
- (c) whether Vishakapatnam Port Trust were requested to allot 10 acres of land on nomination basis at lease rent to take up warehousing of exports and imports of food grains by APSWC; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the land is likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) As per the National Policy on Handling, Storage & Transportation of Foodgrains, there is no provision for nominating any agency as a nodal agency for creation of bulk grain handling facility.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Visakhapatnam Port Trust has already allotted land measuring 10 acres to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) for construction of godowns, subject to payment of rent etc. APSWC has to arrange advance payment of annual rent and non refundable premium to the tune of Rs. 9.65 lakhs so as to take possession of the land.

### **Ship Service from Kochi to Gulf**

3451. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposals for starting ship service from Kochi to Gulf Countries;
- (b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Blindness Among Children

3452. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blindness among children in the country is almost five times more than that of developed nations;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No nationwide survey has been undertaken to ascertain the prevalence of childhood blindness in the country. Pilot survey undertaken in 2000-01 indicated that only 0.10% of children in Delhi and, 0.18% in rural area of Andhra Pradesh were estimated to be blind. Main reasons for blindness in Children are refractive errors, corneal opacity, congenital cataract and retinal disorders.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to prevent and control childhood blindness are:

- (i) School eye screening programme to detect and correct refractive errors.
- (ii) Vitamin - A Prophylaxis to children below 6 years.
- (iii) Mass awareness regarding eye hygiene and prevention of injuries.
- (iv) Promoting eye donation and utilization of donated eyes for corneal transplantation

### Loan from ADB

3453. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether Government have recently received a loan of \$ 320 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for refurbishing the national highways system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn any action plan to utilise the loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the East-West corridor and other highway projects in Maharashtra would benefited out of this ADB loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Government has recently negotiated with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a loan of US \$ 320 million for upgradation of National Highways of 504 kms length of East-West Corridor.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Construction of the project is scheduled to commence by September, 2003.

(e) No part of East-West Corridor is in the State of Maharashtra.

### Use of Wireless Computers

3454. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow the use of wire-free computer;

(b) if so, by when licensing for indoor use of wireless local area network be not required; and

(c) the details of hindrances delaying permission of use of wireless computers etc. all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information received from Wireless Adviser, Government of India.

"The indoor use of Wireless LAN in 2.4-2.4835 Ghz band using IEEE 802.11b standard and Bluetooth technology with 100 mill watt (mW) RF power output and spread spectrum modulation has been exempted from licensing with effect from 2nd November, 2002".

### Seamen Provident Fund

3455. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation action and recovery in Seamen's Provident Fund has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Immediately on receiving the information regarding the alleged fraud, the Ministry of Shipping entrusted the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation and effective action against those involved. CBI is in the process of finalizing their enquiry and filing charge sheet in the Court. After the irregularities in the investment of Seamen's Provident Fund came to notice the following action, inter-alia has been taken:-

(i) A Chartered Accountant Firm has been appointed as Internal Auditor who shall submit the quarterly progress report, which will be placed before the Board of Trustees, Seamen's Provident Fund in its subsequent meetings. The first report has already been placed.

(ii) All physical securities required to be converted into demat form have been converted.

(iii) A Finance Sub-Committee has been constituted for considering investment proposals.

#### **Anti-AIDS Drug**

3456. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ranbaxy's Anti-AIDS drug received WHO approval;

(b) if so, whether this drug be included by Government in the WHO approved list of Anti-AIDS drugs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per information available in this Ministry the following anti-AIDS drugs of M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories received WHO recognition - Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Lamivudine + Zidovudine and Nevirapine tablets.

#### **Disability Certificate**

3457. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Government hospitals in Bangalore which can issue disability certificates;

(b) whether Government are aware that the physically handicapped persons are facing a lot of problems in getting physically handicapped certificates;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the certificates are issued to the handicapped persons without much hustles;

(d) the reasons for not notifying medical institutions authorized to issue disability certificates even though the disability act was passed in the year 1996; and

(e) the steps being contemplated by the Central Government to notify the list of medical institutions immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore issues disability certificates for mental illness, mental retardation and other neurological physical disabilities. For non-neurological disabilities, the State Government hospitals in Bangalore are authorised to issue such certificates. According to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996 notified on 31.12.1996 by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (2) of section 73 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, authorities to give medical certificates will be a medical board duly constituted by the Central and the State Government. The State Government may constitute a Medical Board consisting of at least three members out of which at least one shall be a specialist in the particular field for assessing locomotor/visual including low vision/hearing and speech disability mental retardation and leprosy cured, as the case may be. Such medical boards for issuing disability certificates exist in Central Government hospitals.

#### **Production at Hindustan Latex Ltd.**

3458. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Latex Ltd. Products are competitive in the World Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any step to increase the production of HLL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Hindustan Latex Limited (H.L.L.) manufactures the following products:

- (1) Condoms
- (2) Blood Bags
- (3) Cu T
- (4) Oral Contraceptive Pills - Steroidal and Non-Steroidal

HLL has got International Quality Certificate like ISO-9001 (2000) and CE marks for Condoms & Blood Bags for European markets, SABS accreditation for condoms for South Africa markets. HLL has also registered their products in other countries for exports. HLL exports condoms to more than 70 countries. It also exports Blood Bags. These export orders are received against competitive tenders in the World Market.

(c) Government has allowed HLL to increase the manufacturing capacities for its various products. The initial installed capacity and the present manufacturing capacity of HLL in respect of various products are given below:

| Sl.No. Products      | Initial Installed capacity | Present manufacturing capacity |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Condoms           | 576 M Pcs                  | 692 M Pcs                      |
| 2. Blood Bags        | 2 M Pcs                    | 2.17 M Pcs                     |
| 3. Non-Steroidal OCP | 30 M Tablets               | 30.0 M Tablets                 |
| 4. Steroidal OCP     | 30 M Cycles                | 46.09 Cycles                   |

(d) The increase in production of condom was mainly due to addition of one line of 30 M Pcs and also due to technical innovations carried out internally.

#### **Privatisation of Ports**

3459. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to disinvest/corporatise/privatise all the major ports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the private companies/corporations which have associated themselves with each of these ports;
- (d) the total amount generated by the corporatisation/privatisation of these ports;

(e) whether the amount so generated has been gainfully utilized;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) There are 12 major ports in the country out of which 11 are autonomous bodies governed by the provisions of Major Port Trusts, Act, 1963. The 12th major port at Ennore has been set up as a corporate entity under the Companies Act, 1956. Government has decided to corporatize these 11 major port trusts in a phased manner. For this purpose, the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001, which has an enabling provision for corporatisation of Major Port Trusts, has been introduced in the Parliament on 31/8/2001. The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001 stands referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report. At present there is no proposal for disinvestment in major ports.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

#### **Vacant Posts in CBI**

3460. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies are lying vacant in CBI Group 'A' category;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in each grade as on date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill these vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As on 1.12.2002, there were 201 vacancies of Group "A" posts in the Central Bureau of Investigation. The number of vacancies in each grade is given in the statement.

There are 3 distinct processes for filling vacancies of Group "A" posts in the Central Bureau of Investigation, viz., through deputation, direct recruitment and promotion. While deputation posts above SP are filled through the CBI Selection Board, those of Deputy Superintendent of Police/ Additional Superintendent of Police/ Legal Officers are filled in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission; direct recruitment is made through the Union Public Service Commission; and for the promotion posts, meetings of departmental promotion committees are convened as and

when necessary. From 1.1.2002, a special recruitment drive was initiated by the Government to fill the Group 'A' vacancies in Central Bureau of Investigation through a conscious action by undertaking forward planning. As a result of this drive, 114 Group 'A' vacancies have been filled on the recommendations of the CBI Selection Board and Union Public Service Commission.

Since post of Deputy Superintendent of Police constitutes an important group for investigation and there are existing 101 vacancies, besides organizing a time-bound exercise for filling the deputation posts through the Union Public Service Commission, it has been decided to divert 24 deputation posts to promotion quota.

#### Statement

##### *Regarding Vacant Posts in CBI*

| Post                               | Sanctioned Strength | Actual Strength | Vacancies |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Spl. Directors/<br>Addl. Directors | 3                   | 2               | 1         |
| Joint Director                     | 16                  | 15              | 1         |
| DIG                                | 39                  | 35              | 4         |
| Sr. SP                             | 10                  | 9               | 1         |
| SP                                 | 89                  | 77              | 12        |
| Tech. Officer (A&IT)               | 3                   | 0               | 3         |
| Lecturers                          | 2                   | 0               | 2         |
| Addl. SP                           | 75                  | 51              | 24        |
| DSP                                | 236                 | 135             | 101       |
| ALA                                | 6                   | 5               | 1         |
| DLA                                | 20                  | 15              | 5         |
| Sr. PP                             | 67                  | 51              | 16        |
| PP                                 | 96                  | 66              | 30        |
| Total                              | 662                 | 461             | 201       |

[Translation]

#### **Prof. Satish Dhawan Space Centre**

3461. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prof. Satish Dhawan Space Centre has made an offer to provide satellite launch services for the satellites of other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has so far launched four small satellites for other countries from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR. Continuous efforts are on for providing launches for international satellite customers.

(b) The following are the four satellites of other countries launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR:

- KITSAT -3 for Republic of Korea weighing 107 kg in PSLV-C2 mission during 1999.
- DLR-TUBSAT for Technical University of Berlin/German Space Centre, Germany weighing 45 kg in PSLV-C2 mission during 1999.
- PROBA for Verhaert Design & Development, Belgium/European Space Agency weighing 94 kg in PSLV-C3 mission during 2001.
- BIRD for German Space Centre weighing 94 kg in PSLV-C3 mission during 2001.

[English]

#### **Motor Vehicle Act, 1988**

3462. SHRI MANSOOR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delete or amend the provisions of Chapter VI of Motor Vehicle 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to abolish the monopoly to operate the buses by S.T.U.s on nationalized routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The power under Chapter VI of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are exercised by the State Governments/UT Administrations and therefore the matter comes under the purview of States/UTs.

### Inclusion of SC/ST Officers in Select Lists

3463. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Select Lists of Grade-I (Under Secretary) of the CSS for the years 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, comprising 439 Officers, the names of only 1 SC and 4 ST officers have been included as against their reserved quota of 84 and 42 respectively;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in doing so, General Category Officers have been promoted against the quota reserved for SC/ST Officers;

(c) whether this has been done by applying DOP&T's Office Memorandum dated 2.7.1997 retrospectively for the vacancies accruing many years before 1997; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to include the names of 121 more SC/ST Officers in the Select Lists of 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Instructions regarding introduction of post-based rosters for providing reservation to SCs/STs issued by the Government on 2.7.1997 are applicable to cases other than those where selections had been finalized before the date of their issue.

The Select Lists of the years 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 for promotion of Section Officers to the grade of Under Secretary in CSS were issued during the years 2000 and 2001 respectively. While preparing the Select Lists, reservations were provided for SC/ST officers on the basis of post-based rosters in accordance with the relevant instructions. No general category officer has been promoted against the quota reserved for SC/ST officers.

(d) Does not arise.

### BPL Population in Gujarat

3464. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rural population living Below Poverty Line (BPL) at present in Gujarat;

(b) the comparative figures, State-wise of the BPL population as of All India averages; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the percentage of BPL population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Based on the data from the latest large sample survey of the 55th Round on household consumer expenditure conducted by, the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 13.17 per cent of the rural population live below poverty line in Gujarat in 1999-2000.

(b) The state-wise figures of the percentage of rural population living below poverty line in 1999-2000, along with the All-India estimate are given in the statement.

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

### Statement

#### Percentage of Rural Population Living Below Poverty Line in 1999-2000

| No. | States/U.T.s      | % of Persons |
|-----|-------------------|--------------|
| 1   | 2                 | 3            |
| 1.  | Andhra Pradesh    | 11.05        |
| 2.  | Arunachal Pradesh | 40.04        |
| 3.  | Assam             | 40.04        |
| 4.  | Bihar             | 44.30        |
| 5.  | Goa               | 1.35         |
| 6.  | Gujarat           | 13.17        |
| 7.  | Haryana           | 8.27         |
| 8.  | Himachal Pradesh  | 7.94         |
| 9.  | Jammu and Kashmir | 3.97         |
| 10. | Karnataka         | 17.38        |



| 1         | 2                         | 3     |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
| 11.       | Kerala                    | 9.38  |
| 12.       | Madhya Pradesh            | 37.06 |
| 13.       | Maharashtra               | 23.72 |
| 14.       | Manipur                   | 40.04 |
| 15.       | Meghalaya                 | 40.04 |
| 16.       | Mizoram                   | 40.04 |
| 17.       | Nagaland                  | 40.04 |
| 18.       | Orissa                    | 48.01 |
| 19.       | Punjab                    | 6.35  |
| 20.       | Rajasthan                 | 13.74 |
| 21.       | Sikkim                    | 40.04 |
| 22.       | Tamil Nadu                | 20.55 |
| 23.       | Tripura                   | 40.04 |
| 24.       | Uttar Pradesh             | 31.22 |
| 25.       | West Bengal               | 31.85 |
| 26.       | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 20.55 |
| 27.       | Chandigarh                | 5.75  |
| 28.       | Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 17.57 |
| 29.       | Daman & Diu               | 1.35  |
| 30.       | Delhi                     | 0.40  |
| 31.       | Lakshadweep               | 9.38  |
| 32.       | Pondicherry               | 20.55 |
| All India |                           | 27.09 |

**Notes:-**

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

**[Translation]****Allocations Under CRF**

3465. SHRI. RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI. G.S.BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Central Road Fund has been revamped;

(b) if so, the allocations made under the revamped CRF for the year 2002-03, State-wise;

(c) whether pace of utilisation of CRF fund is low; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The pace of utilisation of Central Road Fund (CRF) was initially slow and has shown improvement now. The State-wise accrual of Funds for 2002-03 and details of utilisation are given in the statement.

**Statement****Allocations Under CRF**

| Sl.No. | Name of State/<br>Union Territory | Accrual for<br>2002-2003<br>(Rs. in Lakh) | % of Utilisation<br>of Funds |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                                 | 3   | 4                            |
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh                    | 8145.08                                   | 51.64                        |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh                 | 1086.08                                   | 22.63                        |
| 3      | Assam                             | 1540.08                                   | 54.92                        |
| 4      | Bihar                             | 3390.08                                   | 23.35                        |
| 5      | Chhattisgarh                      | 1728.08                                   | 72.92                        |
| 6      | Goa                               | 409.08                                    | 22.16                        |
| 7      | Gujarat                           | 6813.08                                   | 54.44                        |
| 8      | Haryana                           | 3575.08                                   | 42.31                        |

| 1                      | 2                      | 3        | 4     |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------|-------|
| 9                      | Himachal Pradesh       | 1075.08  | 47.09 |
| 10                     | Jammu and Kashmir      | 3105.08  | 23.19 |
| 11                     | Jharkhand              | 1125.08  | 12.83 |
| 12                     | Karnataka              | 5813.08  | 34.16 |
| 13                     | Kerala                 | 2771.08  | 19.51 |
| 14                     | Madhya Pradesh         | 6659.08  | 38.30 |
| 15                     | Maharashtra            | 10141.08 | 29.66 |
| 16                     | Manipur                | 324.08   | 34.19 |
| 17                     | Meghalaya              | 429.08   | 53.64 |
| 18                     | Mizoram                | 296.08   | 99.99 |
| 19                     | Nagaland               | 247      | 56.72 |
| 20                     | Orissa                 | 2982.08  | 11.08 |
| 21                     | Punjab                 | 4043.08  | 40.18 |
| 22                     | Rajasthan              | 7671.08  | 53.01 |
| 23                     | Sikkim                 | 110      | 69.60 |
| 24                     | Tamil Nadu             | 6722.08  | 41.03 |
| 25                     | Tripura                | 193      | 47.94 |
| 26                     | Uttar Pradesh          | 9643.08  | 15.37 |
| 27                     | Uttaranchal            | 759.08   | 51.46 |
| 28                     | West Bengal            | 3688.08  | 40.84 |
| <b>Union Territory</b> |                        |          |       |
| 1                      | Anaman & Nicobar Admn. | 183.00   | 10.90 |
| 2                      | Chandigarh             | 221.00   | 25.41 |
| 3                      | Delhi                  | 2705.00  | 12.47 |
| 4                      | Daman & Diu            | 76.00    | 11.90 |
| 5                      | Dadra & Nagar Haveli   | 107.00   | 22.72 |
| 6                      | Lakshadweep            | 5.00     | 11.65 |
| 7                      | Pondicherry            | 219.00   | 26.22 |

*[English]***Purchase Policy of Kendriya Bhandar**

3466. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the purchase policy of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) whether the Kendriya Bhandar violate the policy by reducing the number of suppliers of photocopier papers; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to inquire into the matter and to bring the people concerned for flouting the purchase policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A copy of the purchase policy is given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Bhandar invited tenders for the supply of photocopier paper. The samples of photocopier paper submitted alongwith the offers were sent for testing. The test reports were found satisfactory only for three firms. Two of the firms did not agree to supply at the lowest rate. Hence there was only one supplier of photocopier paper for some time. Subsequently, offers were invited from various manufacturers through newspapers which were processed. Presently Kendriya Bhandar has various brands of photocopier paper like Century, J.K., ITC Bhadrachalam, TNPL and Bilt Copy Power.

**Statement****Purchase Policy**

*Extract of 72nd Board Meeting Held on 25.08.2000*

**Agenda Item No. 6 Purchase/Procurement Policy**

Purchase Policy for procurement of various items in consumer division, grocery division and stationery division was discussed in detail. Chairman stated that the Purchase Policy has been framed mainly to streamline the procurement of the goods for the Society as also for registration of the supplier for various items in the Society. He also expressed his opinion that purchase policy can be reviewed by the Board

if not found practicable to the actual requirement of the Society. The various suggestions of the Directors were considered by the Board and the Purchase Policy was approved unanimously. A copy of the purchase policy as approved by the Board is enclosed.

Any deviation from the guidelines of the purchase policy shall be made with the approval of Chairman and the same will be reported to the Executive Committee in its next meeting.

### **Kendriya Bhandar**

*New Delhi*

#### *Sub: Purchase/Procurement Policy - Guideline*

#### **1. General Policy**

- (a) Purchase of branded products shall be made from the manufacturers directly. Only where the manufacturers express their inability to do so the purchases will be made from their authorised distributors.
- (b) Tenders shall be invited normally for items which are procured as per generalised specifications and for which brand names are not relevant.
- (c) Purchase of fast moving items should be made frequently so as to avoid the blocking of capital and payment of interest on overdraft. For those items, whose rate are not fluctuating, the society may enter into a contract for suitable period with the suppliers for supply of such goods.
- (d) As far as possible approved quality products indicated by Agmark, ISI etc. will alone be purchased.
- (e) In order to secure satisfactory performance of contractual obligations by the suppliers, they shall be required to fill up registration form along with affidavit, security amount of Rs.25,000/- (for one group of items) along with other relevant document. For suppliers seeking registration for more than one group of items security amount shall be Rs.50,000/-. Relaxation from submission of security deposit either in case of multinational/reputed Indian companies or in case of welfare organisation etc. may be granted with the approval of Chairman on the recommendation of General Manager.
- (f) Purchases should be made strictly in accordance with the delegation of the powers given in this policy.
- (g) Quality and competitive price will be the corner-stones of the above policy to be employed.
- (h) In order to provide choice to the consumers and also inducing healthy competition amongst the suppliers, 3 to 4 brands of varieties of products/commodity would be simultaneously purchased/procured.

The following procedure should be followed for Grocery, Consumer, Ration Articles, Stationery and other items.

#### **2. Grocery Items**

- (a) For common nature of items having generalised specification such as pulses/rice/spices, fortnightly tenders shall be invited along with samples of goods from the Public sector cooperative and registered suppliers having pulses licence/food grain licence/Agmark licence etc. and goods conforming to Kendriya Bhandar specification which should be better than that prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA specification)/Agmark specification. Time to time specification may be reviewed. Purchases may be made on the recommendations of the purchase committee on the basis of rates and samples submitted by the suppliers and their performance against the previous supplies. While recommending the purchase of these items, the fluctuation in rates as published in the Economic Times shall also be taken into consideration. In case, the committee feels that the rates and quality is not upto mark, they may visit market to know the reasonable prices and then purchases should be made as per purchase policy from the registered suppliers. The sample selected by purchase committee shall be divided in 3 parts. One part in sealed cover duly signed by AGM, P&SE and CAO/AO shall be given to Supdt. of concerned godown to ensure that goods received from supplier conform to the sample. Second part of sample may be kept under the custody of AGM. The goods shall be unloaded in godown after comparing with the approved samples by Supdt. of Godown. Thereafter, random samples shall be taken from bulk supplies by Quality Control Department and the same shall be tested in approved Laboratory. After getting satisfactory report, goods shall be cleared for packing and onward sale through outlets of Kendriya Bhandar. These goods should be packed in the godowns of Kendriya Bhandar affixing the lot number, date of packing and selling price. Similarly, superior quality of pulses/rice/spices/Dry Fruits shall be purchased through monthly tender by purchase committee for Govt. institutions, I.T.D.C. Hotels, Hospitals, Govt. Schools and other agencies such as Maruti Udyog Limited etc.

- (b) Effort should be made for supply of Rice/pulses in supplier's pack directly to the stores so that supplier may be held responsible for any deficiency.
- (c) Atta and Besan may be purchased through contract awarded to reputed firms having their own grinding mill and rates shall be fixed on the basis of rates of Chakki wheat and Besan published in the Economic Times every week.
- (d) Other grocery items like edible oil, Vanaspati Pure Ghee etc. shall be purchased either directly from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors at rates applicable to wholesalers. As far as possible products conforming to PFA/Agmark/ISI specification in manufacturer's original packing may be purchased. Preference may be given to a product available in public/cooperative sector.
- (e) For washing soap, advertised tender shall be invited and based on the rates, brands, past performance and sale potential etc., same shall be purchased.
- (f) For the provisioning of polythene for packing pulses/ rice/sugar and spices, advertised tender shall be called for every year. Based on rates, capacity and performance of tenderer, the contract may be awarded.
- (g) Other products such as Aggarbati, Dalia, Papad, Basmati Rice, Fancy Masala/spices etc. may be purchased of reputed make in supplier's pack from the manufacturer or their authorised distributor at whole sale rates. Before introduction of any new product market survey with regard to rates and popularity shall be carried out. At the same time random samples of these products shall be purchased from market and tested in approved laboratory. As such only products which are established in the market and are of acceptable quality shall be introduced.
- (h) Wherever institutions do not purchase dietary items against the rates fixed by ISU on the basis of monthly tender and they call for the tender separately from different agencies, Kendriya Bhandar may participate in the tender after obtaining the quotations from registered and past suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar on back to back basis. For this Kendriya Bhandar margin may be kept upto 3% maximum and depending upon the competition in the tender and value of order, the margin may be reduced so that Kendriya Bhandar may not loose orders.

- (i) Generally payment to the suppliers shall be made in following days.
 

|                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1) Rice, Pulse etc. | - | 10 days   |
| 2) Spices           | - | 30 days   |
| 3) Branded items    | - | As per terms mutually agreed terms between Kendriya Bhandar and Manufacturer or their Authorised distributor. |

### 3. Ration Articles

These are purchased from the agencies sponsored by the Government at the prices fixed by the government. There is no question of either for inviting tender or negotiations or open market purchases for these items. These items, therefore, be purchased from Government sponsored institutions at the prices fixed by them.

### 4. Consumer Items

Consumer Division deals with toilet soaps, detergents, beauty and health care items etc. which are branded and there is no scope of inviting tenders.

- (i) Reputed multinational/national products shall be procured either directly from the manufacturer or from their authorised distributors on their whole sale rates.
- (ii) Exercise note books, registers etc. shall however be purchased on the basis of Advertise tenders.
- (iii) Before introduction of any new product market survey regarding rates, sale potential etc shall be done.
- (iv) Payment terms shall be 7 days to 40 days as mutually agreed between manufacturers and their authorised distributors in case of godown supply. In case of direct supply item payment generally shall be made on consignment basis.

### 5. Stationery Items

#### Tenders

Tenders should be invited normally for items which are procured as per generalised specifications, for which brand names are not relevant and marketing support from supplier is neither feasible nor required. A list of illustrative items is at Appendix-1 which shall be reviewed from time to time. Tenders for registration

and price approval shall be called at regular intervals and will be remain valid for a maximum period of 2 years subject to revision of rates depending on market conditions.

- (a) Tender process will be conducted into two stages technical and financial. For each tender both technical and financial evaluation shall be conducted. During technical evaluation all technical aspects including capacity and capability of the firm, market reputation and standing of the firm, financial soundness etc. will be carefully evaluated. The tenderers shall be asked to submit technical and commercial tender (bids) together. Short listing will be done after technical evaluation and the short listed firm may be given another opportunity to the extent to reduce their rates, if any, in their financial bid. Financial bids received from the short listed firms will be opened in, presence of their representatives and the lowest tender (L1) shall be accepted. In case it is found that lowest tenderer (L1) does not have the capacity to supply the entire quantity, balance quantity may be offered to (L2) firm at the same price and terms and conditions.
- (b) Depending upon monthly consumption of an item, minimum turnover of eligible tender shall be indicated. Tenderers shall be required to furnish audited balance sheet along with their offer.
- (c) It shall also be made clear that no brand name should be mentioned on the items supplied against tender and Kendriya Bhandar shall be within its right to procure branded items outside tender system.

#### 6. Branded Products

- (a) Branded product shall be excluded from the purview of tender system. For procurement of such items Kendriya Bhandar shall approach manufacturers for direct supplies at rates applicable to bulk purchasers. In case they express their inability to do so in writing to Kendriya Bhandar the same shall be procured from distributors authorised by them.
- (b) The number of approved suppliers for different brands of same product shall be restricted to five for items having sale upto Rs.5 lakhs per month. For items sale exceeding this limit number of suppliers e.g. photocopier; paper and machines, computers etc. shall be restricted to (10) except in case of furniture where there are at present (20) suppliers wherein the objective shall be to reduce it to 15 nos. A sale target shall be

given to all the suppliers including new supplier at the time of registration which should be reviewed annually (six monthly for new suppliers).

- (c) Before registering a new manufacturer for furniture items their manufacturing unit shall be visited by a team of officers to assess their capacity and to determine their category depending upon their infrastructure, plant and equipments, experience and sale to private customers.
- (d) There are a large number of items specially different-varieties of papers for which demand is unpredictable e.g. Maplitho paper, Art card, Art paper etc. for which normally stocks are not maintained, neither manufacturer nor their authorised distributors are interested in giving supplies to Kendriya Bhandar. In that event a tender should be invited indicating name of mills etc. asking interested suppliers to indicating their source of supply etc. and lowest rate from authorised tenderer may be approved.
- (e) Registration of suppliers shall be valid for one year and shall be reviewed thereafter. At the time of renewal supplier shall be required to furnish their latest ITDC, balance sheet, sales target etc.
- (f) Kendriya Bhandar shall normally sell a product on fixed margin of profit ranging from 3% to 9% except in case of submitting its quotation against tenders wherein its margin shall be reduced upto 50% of the normal margin: In order to facilitate follow up against Govt. tenders consisting of number of items a supplier registered with Kendriya Bhandar for more than 60% of value of order (covered in the tender) shall be permitted to execute entire order at rates not exceeding those approved in Kendriya Bhandar, if any.
- (g) In order to sell capital equipment, furniture etc. Kendriya Bhandar enter into price agreement with the suppliers, who will be required to do marketing of their product on behalf of Kendriya Bhandar. Capital items being costly normally inventory shall not be maintained by Kendriya Bhandar.
- (h) There are certain items (e.g. Photocopier machines) on which rate of local sales tax is much higher than that in the other states. Further, as per existing Govt. policy manufacturing units located in a particular area are either totally exempted from Sales Tax, or lower Rate of Sales Tax is applicable. Since Kendriya Bhandar's objective is to make available goods to its customers either at a lower price or at the same price

it is available in the market such products may be sold to the customers on the agency sale basis. In such transactions suppliers shall raise their bills directly to the customers. Customers shall however send the cheque to Kendriya Bhandar for entering before forwarding it to the suppliers. Kendriya Bhandar shall receive agency commission on such transactions.

*As a policy "agency sales" shall be discouraged and will be permitted only in exceptional cases.*

## 7. Approval on case to case basis

- (a) Whenever requirement of special furniture and other items are received Kendriya Bhandar shall invite limited tender from the registered suppliers and the lowest rate out of minimum three tenders shall be approved.

## 8. Payment terms for Stationery Items

- |       |                                    |   |  |
|-------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| (i)   | Tender items                       | - | 40 days credit   |
| (ii)  | Branded items                      | - | As per terms mutually agreed between Kendriya Bhandar and manufacturer or their authorised distributors. |
| (iii) | Capital equipments, furniture etc. | - | After realisation from customers.  |

## 9. Handling of Tenders

### (i) Preparation of tender notice for advertised tenders.

With a view to enable intending tenderers to have a clear idea of the stores to be purchased by the Kendriya Bhandar, a brief and clear indication of the items required should be given.

### (ii) Fixation of time for receipt and opening of tenders

The date and time for receipt and opening of tenders should be indicated in the tender notice as well as tender enquiry. In case of advertised tenders, it should be not less than 4 weeks from date of publication of tender notice and in case of limited tenders it should not be less than 2 weeks.

### (iii) Time allowed for offers to remain open for acceptance.

Normally the tenderers should be asked to keep their offers open for acceptance for a period of one month

from the date of opening. But for difficult items for which tender samples are to be tested or in other similar cases, a longer period may have to be fixed for the tenders to remain open.

Ordinarily there should be no occasion to seek extension of time beyond the original validity period. Extensions should be sought in exceptional case for such period within which it is expected to cover the demand.

### (iv) Postponement of opening date of tenders

Request for extension of the opening date of tenders will have to be decided on merits. When a decision regarding postponement of the date of opening of a tender is taken, it should be communicated to all concerned well in advance of the originally stipulated date of opening, in order to avoid complaints.

### (v) Sale of Advertised tenders

Tender sets should be sold at the cash counter on payment of Rs. 200/- per set. A copy of the advertised tender notice shall be sent under certificate of posting to registered/likely suppliers of that item. In all events a copy shall be displayed, on notice board.

### (vi) Limited Tender Enquiries

Those enquiries should be sent to all the past/likely firms under certificate and should also ensure that the list is kept upto date by removing the names of those firms who have been black listed/suspended/banned and including new suppliers and past suppliers.

### (vii) Receipt and Custody and Opening of Tenders

All the tenders should be received in sealed tender box kept for this purpose. The tenders should be entered in a register kept for the purpose. The tender opening committee should consist of the following officers:

1. Accounts Officer/System Analyst
2. Purchase & Sales Executive

If any of the officer is not available, Divisional head may Nominate any other officer.

### (viii) Opening of Tenders

The committee opening the tenders should verify that only authorised representative of the firms which have

actually submitted the tenders are present at the tender opening. The unauthorised representative or representative of firm which have not submitted the tenders should not be allowed to be present. The tendering firms should be requested to indicate the name and address of the representative who would be attending the opening of tenders on their behalf.

The Committee opening the tenders should prepare on the spot comparative statement of the quotations received indicating the salient features thereof. Each tender should be numbered serially, initialed and circled on the front page. Each page of the schedule of the prices, delivery period etc. should be circled and initialed. Blank tender should be cancelled under the initials and date by the committee members opening the tenders. Overwriting/corrections in the tender, if any, made by the firm should be initialed by the officer opening the tender. No amendment to the tenders will on any account be permitted after the tender opening has commenced. Under no circumstances tender in which the prices quoted are doubtful be considered.

**(ix) Late and Delayed Tenders**

The tenders or modifications to tenders received after the specified time of opening are treated as 'Late' while tenders and modifications to tenders received before the time of opening but after the due date and time for receipt of tenders are considered as "Delayed" tenders. Late/Delayed tenders should not be considered. The question whether a firm submitting Late/Delayed tenders should be called for negotiation, in case it is decided to have negotiation after opening of tenders. The Late/Delayed tenders should not be normally considered and not called for negotiation. The question whether a firm who have originally submitted their offer in time but makes a post tender revision should be called for negotiation.

The post tender revision should not be considered. However, if negotiations are to be held for solid reasons which are in no way connected or influenced by the post tender revision by a particular firm that firm should also be called for negotiation. In case post tender revision is not affecting the ranking of their offer and Kendriya Bhandar is gaining then only the post tender revision may be accepted.

**(x) Comparative Statement - Preparation of**

After the tenders have, been opened and on the extract prepared, the P&SE concerned will prepare

comparative statement indicating necessary details concerning the firm's offer such as rates, delivery, quantity offered discounts etc. together with any other relevant information. The P&SE will also be responsible for the correctness of the comparative statement.

The quotations received from the tenderers for consideration of a particular demand should be carefully examined by the Purchase & Sales Executive. The comparative statement should thoroughly be checked vis-a-vis the tenders received from the firm so as to avoid the possibility of any mistake.

**(xi) Revision of Rates**

While considering the fixation/revision of the rates, the Purchase Committee shall consider whether the revision is necessitated by

- a) general increase in price of raw materials;
- b) increase in the quantum of levies/taxes etc. by the Government and
- c) any other relevant factor

**10. Purchase Committee for procurement of items shall be as follows:**

**(a) Purchase Committee for Stationery Goods**

1. DGM (Sty.)/AGM (Sty.) - Chairman
2. CAO/AO - Member
3. P&SE (Sty.) - Member Secretary
4. Supdt. (Sty.Godown) - Member
5. Sr. Manager/Manager/Incharge Sty. Counter - Member

**(b) Purchase Committee for Consumer Goods**

1. AGM © - Chairman
2. CAO/AO - Member
3. P&SE © - Member-Secretary
4. Supdt. Consumer Godown - Member

**(c) Purchase Committee for Grocery Goods**

1. AGM (G) - Chairman
2. CAO/AO - Member

- |    |  |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|
| 3. | P&SE (G)                                   | - | Member-Secretary                            |
| 4. | Supdt. Grocery<br>Godown, Mahadev<br>Road  | - | Member                                      |
| 5. | Supdt. Grocery<br>Godown, Pushpa<br>Bhawan | - | Member                                      |
| 6. | Incharge Masala<br>Unit                    | - | Member (for<br>purchase of<br>spices only). |

Chairman/GM may Co-opt or reconstitute the purchase committee depending upon the need.

### 11. Quality Control

#### (a) Pre-testing

Pulses, rice, spices purchased through tenders may be pre-tested before releasing the sale. The random samples from the bulk supply lifted by quality control division and sent for testing in laboratory. On receipt of the test report confirming to specification, goods shall be released for sale by the godown.

#### (b) Post-testing

Goods may be lifted from the self-service store by the quality control division randomly and the sample may be tested in laboratory. In case goods are not confirming as per specification of goods purchased, the sale of that lot/batch may be stopped and action may be taken for replacement. The random post testing shall also be applicable for stationery items. Any edible item should be tested before introduction in Kendriya Bhandar.

#### (c) STY Items

In order to ensure quality, to the extent possible, items should be procured in original manufacturer/mill packing at the time of acceptance of items by Supdt. (Godown)/Manager concerned, quality of goods supplied shall be physically checked with reference to approved sample and other physical parameters such as weight, size, packing labels etc. Samples may also be drawn at regular intervals and sent for testing in the laboratory. In order to ensure that spurious items are not supplied to Kendriya Bhandar some samples of the items should be sent to the original manufacturer to certify the authenticity of the item.

### 12. Indemnity

- (a) The terms and conditions applicable between Kendriya Bhandar and its 4 customers against supplies made by the supplier shall also be applicable to them on back to back basis.
- (b) In event of any damages being claimed by any customer of Kendriya Bhandar or any statutory authority for whatsoever reason against any product supplied by the suppliers shall be applicable to them and will indemnify Kendriya Bhandar and its employees in such case.
- (c) For edible items the supplier should submit their bill with warranty certificate as prescribed in P.F.A.

### 13. Delegation of Power

Financial powers for making purchases will be as under:

- (a) In case supplies are proposed to be procured/purchased from manufacturers or their authorised distributors, manufacturers/distributors will be identified by the purchase committee and the rates obtained.
- (b) In case of articles like pulses, other food grains, spices etc. efforts should be made by the purchase committee to procure the requirements from State Cooperative Marketing Federation and registered supplier.
- (c) GM may accord approval for purchase of goods worth Rs. 20 lakhs at any time. If the value exceeds Rs. 20 lakhs approval of Chairman shall be obtained.
- (d) Registration of new supplier and introduction of new item shall be introduced only after the approval of Chairman.
- (e) General Manager may accord approval of revision of price of existing product or may authorise to divisional head or any other officer depending upon the product. He may also authorise divisional heads for purchase upto Rs. 1 lakh.
- (f) G.M. shall be competent to write off damaged goods worth upto Rs. 1 lakh and for value exceeding this limit approval of Chairman shall be required.

#### List of Tender Items

1. Exercise Notebooks
2. Notesheet pads



3. File Covers
4. File Board, Flaps, Index file, Dak pad
5. Ruled Registers
6. Diaries
7. Fax Rolls, Amonia paper
8. Different varieties of paper
9. Envelopes
10. Shorthand Notebooks, Slip pads

#### **Stationery Counter-II**

11. Table Glass
12. Tags, Thread Balls, Paper Weight
13. Tat, Sutti, Rubber Band, Ash Tray, Drawing Pins, Hammer
14. Towels

#### **Stationery Counter-IV**

15. Brushes, Brooms, MOPS etc.
16. Bleaching powder, Gamaxine, Soda Ash
17. Dusters

#### **Extracts of Executive Committee Meeting Held on 21st October, 2000**

##### **Agenda Item No.3**

##### **Consideration of the points raised by Elected Directors in regard to Purchase Policy**

The points raised by the Elected Directors regarding Purchase Policy were considered and following decisions were taken:

- (a) In case of procurement of items in deviation of the guidelines laid down in the Purchase Policy, approval of the Chairman may be obtained. However, such cases should be placed before the Executive Committee in their next meeting.
- (b) It was decided that in case 60% of the value of the order covered in the tender are to be supplied through registered suppliers, the same supplier may be

permitted to supply the remaining items also at the rates not exceeding approved rate in Kendriya Bhandar even though he may not be registered in Kendriya Bhandar in respect of the remaining items.

- (c) It was decided that new items not on the existing list of Kendriya Bhandar shall be introduced with the approval of Chairman and the same may be brought before the Executive Committee subsequently for its information.
- (d) It was decided that damaged goods may be written off as per delegation of powers defined in the Purchase Policy, however, such cases may be placed before the Executive Committee for its information. Shri M.D. Pandey was of the view that damaged goods in the store may be identified and a Committee may be formed to consider writing off the said items. This was agreed to and a Committee was proposed to be constituted under the direction of Chairman.
- (e) It was decided that in case of purchase of any item of more than Rs. 20 lakhs from source other than established manufacturer or their authorised agent approval of the Chairman may be obtained and the same should be placed before the next, Executive Committee.

#### **Extracts from the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 28.09.2001**

##### **Agenda Item No.3 Amendment to the Purchase Policy**

After detailed discussion the amendment proposed in the Purchase Policy was approved with the observation that while tendering process is initiated, it should be ensured that supply of goods and sale thereof should not suffer. The existing para 6 of the Purchase Policy may now be read as under:

"Branded items may be procured from the manufacturers by direct negotiations with the Company or its wholesale distributors (in case the company does not have a system of direct sales). However, in order to generate competition and get the best price, Kendriya Bhandar may resort to limited tendering for the same/similar products from the registered/reputed suppliers or even resort to open tenders.

#### **New National Highways in Bihar**

3467. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bihar Government has submitted a proposals for clearance/sanction in October 2002 new National Highways; and

- (b) if so, the status and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### **Pension Policy**

3468. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the present Pension Policy of the Government in respect of both organized and unorganised sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Presently, the Central Government has a pension policy in respect of employees falling within its purview and the employees covered under the, Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. Salient features of the above Schemes are given in the statement.

Besides the above, a Pension Scheme for the unorganized sector is also under consideration in the Government.

#### **Statement**

Salient features of the Pension Scheme in respect of Central Government employees and employees covered under EPS 1995 are given below:

#### **Pension Scheme For Employees of the Central Government**

The Present scheme is a defined benefit scheme for which the employee makes no contribution and the pensionary liability is met from the Consolidated Fund of India. The present package of retirement benefits include:

- Pension at 50% of a average emoluments of the last 10 months of service. The minimum period of service for eligibility to pension is 20 years except for those retiring on superannuation pension after 10 years.
- Commutation of pension - the Government servant can commute up to 40% of his pension on retirement with effect from 1.1.96. This commuted

portion of pension is restored after 15 years from the date of payment of commuted value.

- DCRG - Death cum retirement gratuity is payable at 16½ times the emoluments depending on the qualifying service subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.5 lakhs. Emoluments for this purpose includes basic pay and D.A.

#### **Pension scheme for employees covered under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995:**

- To Members:
  - Pension for life on superannuating/retirement and permanent total disablement;
  - Facility for capital return (corpus accretion) on option formulae basis; and
  - Commutation of pension upto 1/3rd of pension amount.
- To the members of the family upon death of the member:
  - Pension to Widow/Widower for life or till re-marriage.
  - To children two at a time up to 25 years of age simultaneously with widow/widower pension/ orphan pension two at a time up to 25 years of age.
  - Children/orphan with total and permanent disability shall be entitled to payment of children pension or orphan pension as the case may be irrespective of age and number of children in the family.
  - Facility for payment of pension to nominee in the event of death of the member who is unmarried or without any eligible family member to receive pension, and
  - Facility for payment of pension to dependent father/mother in the event of the member dies leaving behind no eligible family members and where no nomination by such deceased member exists.

[Translation]

#### **Special Category Status to Bihar**

3469. Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister in August 2002 for according Bihar of the special category status;

(b) if so, whether this issue is likely to be placed before NDC for consideration in the next NDC at its next meeting; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Sales of Kendriya Bhandar**

3470. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sales made from stationery division and consumer/grocery during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Kendriya Bhandar is charging a margin of profit of nine per cent;

(c) if not, the margin of profit charged by it item-wise and the total gross and net income during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Kendriya Bhandar is purchasing most of the items from re-sellers than the manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to purchase all items from the manufacturers only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **N.H. 200 and 201**

3471. SHRI PARSURAM MANJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set any time frame for the completion of N.H.- 200 and N.H.-201 National Highway projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work and funds released for the purpose project-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement of Riding Quality and Renewals are scheduled to be completed by March 2004.

(b) and (c) Details of sanctioned works on these two National Highways and their values are given in statement. Till September 2002 Rupees 842.34 lakhs has been spent on these two National Highways.

(d) Close monitoring and frequent inspections are done to ensure timely completion of projects.

#### **Statement**

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | NH  | Name of work                           | Amount of Sanction | Present Progress % | Expenditure as on 30.9.02 |
|--------|-----|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1      | 2   | 3                                      | 4                  | 5                  | 6                         |
| 1.     | 201 | IRQP with Widening from km. 240 to 256 | 420.89             | Completed          | 420.89                    |
| 2.     | 200 | IRQP from km 42 to 54                  | 173.46             | Completed          | 111.21                    |
| 3.     | 200 | IRQP from km 405 to 413                | 155.88             | Completed          | 128.38                    |

| 1   | 2   | 3  | 4      | 5                      | 6      |
|-----|-----|--|--------|------------------------|--------|
| 4.  | 200 | IRQP from km 413 to 428                          | 298.28 | Completed              | 162.99 |
| 5.  | 201 | IRQP from km 143 to 147 & 177 to 185             | 189.46 | Work started           | --     |
| 6.  | 201 | Construction of culverts                         | 72.08  | 30 %                   | 18.41  |
| 7.  | 201 | Widening & strengthening from km 257 to 270      | 763.28 | Tender being finalised | 0.46   |
| 8.  | 200 | IRQP from km 389.5 to 405.00                     | 28.68  | Tender being processed | --     |
| 9.  | 200 | IRQP in km 66 to 72                              | 99.23  | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 10. | 201 | IRQP in km 300 to 313                            | 250.46 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 11. | 200 | IRQP in km 294 to 300 & 309 to 319               | 187.75 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 12. | 201 | IRQP in km 1 to 3 & 6 to 19                      | 276.72 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 13. | 200 | IRQP in km 219 to 227 & 232 to 240               | 83.30  | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 14. | 200 | IRQP in km 0 to 6, 10 to 15, 17 to 20 & 30 to 34 | 161.95 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 15. | 201 | S & I from Hati Bridge                           | 8.89   | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 16. | 200 | IRQP in km 342 to 352 & 378 to 389.5             | 364.10 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |
| 17. | 201 | IRQP in km 72 to 80, 116 to 134 & 147 to 152     | 422.88 | Recently sanctioned    | --     |

**MD Courses in Gastroenterology**

3472. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Medical Colleges/Institutions offering MD courses in Gastroenterology, State-wise; and

(b) the details of number of seats in each colleges for MD courses in Gastroenterology, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) State-wise name of the medical colleges/institutions recognised and permitted under Section 10(A) of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for running DM (Gastroenterology) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Most of these institutions started the course prior to amendment to IMC Act in 1993 and as such the permission of the Central Government for starting the course was not required. However, after amendment to Indian Medical Council Act in 1993 the Central Government have permitted starting of the course in the following medical colleges:

- |    |                                       |   |         |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. | SMS Medical College, Jaipur           | - | 2 seats |
| 2. | Kailpauk Medical College, Chennai     | - | 2 seats |
| 3. | Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam | - | 1 seat  |

**Statement****Andhra Pradesh**

1. Andhra Pradesh Medical College, Visakhapatnam

**Chandigarh**

2. Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

**Delhi**

3. G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi.
4. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

**Kerala**

5. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram

**Rajasthan**

6. S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.

**Tamil Nadu**

7. Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai

8. Christian Medical College, Vellore

9. Chennai Medical College, Chennai

10. Stanley Medical College, Chennai

**Uttar Pradesh**

11. Sanjay Gandhi Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow.

**Profits/Losses of Ports**

3473. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ports earning profits/running in losses during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of loss/profits; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce losses/increase profits during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The port-wise net surplus/deficit earned/incurred by the major ports governed by the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 during last 3 years are given below:

| Name of Major Port | Net Surplus/Deficit<br>(in Rs.crores) |           |           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                    | 1999-2000                             | 2000-01   | 2001-02   |
| 1                  | 2                                     | 3         | 4         |
| Mormugao           | 23.44                                 | 22.20     | 7.72      |
| Jawaharlal Nehru   | 133.05                                | 101.21    | 112.97    |
| Kandla             | 214.92                                | 170.65    | 192.40    |
| Cochin             | 2.71                                  | (-) 33.76 | (-) 35.02 |

| 1             | 2         | 3        | 4          |
|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| New Mangalore | 55.72     | 42.89    | 49.69      |
| Mumbai        | 83.41 (-) | 367.35   | (-) 159.50 |
| Visakhapatnam | 29.01     | 19.46    | 42.83      |
| Paradip       | 46.70     | 72.88    | 32.85      |
| Tuticorin     | 36.89     | 37.38    | 40.49      |
| Chennai       | 145.26    | 37.60    | 213.55     |
| Kolkata       | 43.64     | (-) 7.53 | 120.37     |

(c) Improvement in working of the ports is a continuous process. The financial condition of the ports has been reviewed from time to time and the ports suitably advised to increase their income and economise on expenditure through cost reduction. The steps taken by different ports include creation of facilities and grant of incentives for attracting more cargo, streamlining of systems and procedures, improvement in efficiency and productivity in cargo handling through close monitoring, reduction in manpower through roll back of retirement age, voluntary retirement scheme and ban on recruitment.

**Withdrawal of Flugrastim**

3474. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether M/s Nicholas was shown special favours vis-a-vis Dr. Reddy's Laboratories by DCGI for their medicine Flugrastim;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dr. Reddy's have been asked to withdraw their drug from the market;

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

(d) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir, Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad was accorded permission to manufacture and market r-hu-GCSF inj. on 28.6.2001. The reference given by Dr. Reddy's Laboratory for r-hu-GCSF/Filgrastim in package insert were contested by Nicholas Piramal, as actual literature reference pertains to

NEUPOGEN (Filgrastim). Dr. Reddy's Laboratory was instructed to delete such references. Presently the matter is under examination of a Committee headed by DG, ICMR as M/s. Nicholas Piramal India, contested the use of INN name Filgrastim by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories have not been asked to withdraw their drug from the market.

(c) to (e) Question do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Transfer of Heavy Water Plant**

3475. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy water plant has been set up at Thal in Raigad district of Maharashtra which is co-located with the Ammonia Plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to transfer it to RCF; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of Eye Specialists**

3476. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a shortage of eye specialists in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to encourage study of ophthalmology to meet in shortage of eye specialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There are more than 11,000 qualified eye surgeons in the country with a ratio of one eye surgeon per one lakh population besides MS and DOMS courses in various Medical

Colleges of the country, post graduation in ophthalmology can be undertaken through National Board of Examinations in various recognised institutions of the country.

[English]

#### **Appointment of DCGI**

3477. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present DCGI is still discharging his functions on ad-hoc basis; and

(b) if so, when the Government are likely to appoint a regular DCGI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The post of DCGI was upgraded. The upgraded post will be filled up on regular basis after the amendment of the Recruitment Rules for this post is completed. Pending this, the work of the post of DCGI is being looked after by the senior most officer in the hierarchy on current charge basis.

#### **Acquisition of Ships**

3478. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has recently mooted a proposal to acquire more ships;

(b) if so, the total cost of the ships to be acquired; and

(c) the rationale for such acquisition in view of the ongoing disinvestment proposal of the Shipping Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) has submitted a proposal to the Government, for acquisition of 2 nos. Very Large Crude Carriers.

(b) As per the proposal submitted to the Government, the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) has assumed an indicative price of US\$ 70 million per vessel, which would mean a total investment of about Rs. 679 crores.

(c) The acquisition of these vessels form part of SCI's acquisition plan during the first year of the 10th Five Year Plan, the outlay for which has been approved by the Planning Commission. Currently, there are no VLCCs in the Indian fleet and oil companies in India have to charter in VLCCs from the International market to cater to their needs. SCI has planned this acquisition with a view to offer Indian flag vessels to the Indian trade, and expects that the acquisition would not

hamper the disinvestment process currently going on at SCI. On the other hand, by ordering these vessels the company will have a healthy order book position, which may improve valuation of SCI.

#### High Rates in Kendriya Bhandar

3479. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff of Kendriya Bhandars do not make a survey about the rates of commodities in the open market and the rates on which the suppliers supply these articles to the Kendriya Bhandar management;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Kendriya Bhandar Management have received complaints from Residents Welfare Associations stating that various articles are being sold by Kendriya Bhandars at higher rates in comparison to other Co-operative Stores;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received by the Kendriya Bhandar management during the period 1.1.2002 and 31.11.2002 alongwith the details of complaints;

(e) whether the management has not shown the courtesy to send an acknowledgement to the complainant; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken propose to be taken by the Government against guilty officers for such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar checks the prevailing prices of commodities in the market from time to time in order to compare these with prices offered by suppliers and also to determine the sale price.

(c) to (f) Complaints are some times received from customers and Residents' Welfare Associations. Efforts are made to attend to such complaints as and when received. However, no systematic records are maintained of such complaints.

#### Stadiums in Orissa

3480. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government requested for financial assistance from the Union Government for development of sports field and stadiums;

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The district-wise details/status of proposals received for development of playfields and construction of stadiums from Orissa Government under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, during the last three years viz. 1999-2000 to 2001-02, have been indicated in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### Stadiums in Orissa

| Sl.No. | Details of proposals | Status |
|--------|----------------------|--------|
| 1      | 2                    | 3      |

#### Cuttack District

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Playfield at Khuntakata High School, Athagarh | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.1.2002 |
| 2 | Playfield at Khuntakata High School, Bramba   | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.1.2002 |
| 3 | Playfield at Gadadhar High School, Tigrid     | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.1.2002 |

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|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|

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**Dhenkanal District**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | Playfield at Govt High School, Bonsa Pokhari         | Deficiencies conveyed on 30.7.2001 and 18.10.2001  |
| 5 | Playfield at Parikul High School, Dhenkanal          | Deficiencies conveyed on 30.7.2001 and 26.9.2001   |
| 6 | Playfield at Mathakargola High School, Kamakhyanagar | Rejected on 7.8.2001 because assistance for compound wall is not admissible under the scheme |
| 7 | Playfield at Gunadeva High School, Gunadevi          | Advised on 27.12.01 to reformulate the proposals as per norms of the scheme.                 |

**Bhadrak District**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 8 | Stadium & Basket Ball Court at Nehru Stadium, Bhadrak | Approved with Central assistance of Rs 17.841 lakhs on 22.3.2002 |
|---|---|--|

**Bhubaneswar District**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 9  | Indoor Stadium AT Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar | Rejected on 5.9.2002 because assistance for galleries is not admissible under the scheme.      |
| 10 | Stadium at Athanallick, Angul, Bhubaneswar  | Rejected on 3.10.2001 because assistance for compound wall is not admissible under the scheme. |

**Behrampur District**

- |    |                             |   |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 11 | Sports complex at Behrampur | Rejected on 5.9.2002 because assistance for galleries is not admissible under the scheme. |
|----|-----------------------------|---|

**Bolangir District**

- |    |                                       |  |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|
| 12 | Sports Complex at Patuagarh, Bolangir | Rejected on 22.5.2002 because NGOs are not eligible for Sports Complex under the scheme. |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|

**Balasore District**

- |    |                            |   |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 13 | Indoor Stadium at Balasore | Advised on 11.8.2000 to reformulate the proposals as per norms of the scheme. |
|----|----------------------------|---|

**Deogarh District**

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | Playfield at Kandhal High School, Kandhal | Rejected on 27.11.2001 because private schools are not eligible for grant under the scheme. |
|----|---|---|
-



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|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|

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**Sundergarh District**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 15 | Athletic Track at Panchayat High School, Bargason | Rejected on 19.4.2002 because of less availability of land |
|----|---|--|

**Khurda District**

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 16 | Stadium at Balgarh                               | Advised on 29.8.2000 to reformulate the proposal as per norms of the scheme |
| 17 | Playfield at MB Vidyapith, Chandaka              | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.1.2002              |
| 18 | Playfield at Kalupada Ghata Girls School, Khurda | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.10.2001             |

**Keonjhar District**

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 19 | Playfield at TipTop High School, Bhimpur, Ukhandia | Approved with Central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakhs on 31.1.2002 |
|----|--|--|

**Kendrapara District**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 20 | Playfield at R.N High School, Rajkanika   | Rejected on 24.7.2001 because assistance for compound wall is not admissible under the scheme. |
| 21 | Playfield at Patkura High School, Patkura | Rejected on 7.8.2001 because assistance for compound wall is not admissible                    |

**Nayagarh District**

- |    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 22 | Playfield at SP Vidyapith, Godipada,              | Deficiencies conveyed on 8.8.2001   |
| 23 | Playfield at Jagannath Prasad High School, Bhopur | Deficiencies conveyed on 11.12.2001 |

**Ganjam District**

- |    |                       |  |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 24 | Stadium at Chhatarpur | Rejected on 10.7.2001 because there is no provision for assistance towards construction of gallery under the scheme. |
|----|-----------------------|--|

**Mayurbhanj District**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 25 | Playfield at Bapuji High School, Mayurbhanj | Rejected on 14.9.2000 because private schools are not eligible for grant under the scheme. |
|----|---|--|

**Puri District**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 26 | Playfield at Jagabhas Vocational High School, Titipa, | Rejected on 12.9.2000 because private schools are not eligible for grant under the scheme. |
|----|---|--|
-

**Corruption**

3481. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the US Treasury Secretary during his visit to the country on November 22, 2002 remarked that "India may have moved up in the World Economic Forum's latest global competitiveness ranking" but for widespread corruption and bribery;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures to curb the widespread corruption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the report of Transparency International concerning India's ranking in the Corruption Perception Index. The Government is fully alive to the need to root out corruption and to ensure transparency in its dealings, as far as possible.

(c) The Government has taken several measures such as setting up of 90 facilitation centers in various Ministries/Departments/Organisations to provide information and assistance to the public regarding the schemes and procedures of the organization concerned. Also 71 Central Government Organisations have Citizens' Charters reflecting the commitment of the concerned ministries, departments or agencies to provide specific services within the timeframe specified. Some ministries and departments have also developed their own websites for promotion of E-governance. The Freedom of Information Bill 2000 has also been introduced in Parliament for ensuring greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies.

**Ban on Drugs**

3482. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned Banned drugs not fully banned yet appearing in The Hindu dated November 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that twelve globally banned drugs are still being produced, stocked and freely sold in the country;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the reasons behind the reluctance to put a ban on the drugs;

(e) whether the high power expert Committee has failed to put a ban on the sale of banned drugs; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to have a more stringent system to effectively check the entry and regulation of drugs into the country?

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

(b) to (f) Drugs withdrawn in some countries may continue to be used by other countries and decision rests on various factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is no such system as global banning of drugs. However, there is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO news letters etc. 74 drugs/drug formulation have so far been prohibited/phased out.

The drug or formulations discontinued in the developed countries are assessed in consultation with leading experts in the given specializations. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State drug enforcement authorities, experts, institutions, agencies that advise Government on technical issues related to the implementations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, like whether or not to ban/phase out an existing drug.

[Translation]

**Development of Range of Ravines**

3483. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that certain Lok Sabha constituencies have rich range of ravines lacking development;

(b) whether any package has been proposed for such area in addition to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (d) According to the information contained in the "Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000" brought out by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, the area of gullied and ravined land in the country is 2.06 million hectares. The States most affected by this problem are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. No specific Scheme/programme has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources for reclamation of ravine affected areas.

Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), developmental works are taken up in the Lok Sabha constituencies on the recommendation of the MPs concerned. There is no special package for development of ravines under the MPLAD Scheme.

[English]

#### High Level Committee

3484. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a

three member high level committee to address telecom related issues in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private sector in the telecom field is speedily expanding bases in the country in comparison to Government owned telecom companies; and

(d) if so, to what extent the high level committee will resolve such issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

#### Externally Aided Projects

3485. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Externally aided projects being implemented in the State of Orissa at present;

(b) the estimated cost of those projects and the quantum of external assistance made available for those projects, so far; and

(c) the progress of those project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The following externally aided projects are being implemented, at present, in the State of Orissa:

| Sl.No. | Name of Project   | Estimated Cost    | Loan Assistance          | Status       |
|--------|---|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1      | Four-laning of Chandikhole-Jagatpur Section of National Highway-5 under loan assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). | Rs. 105.61 crores | Japanees Yen 586 million | 70% progress |
| 2      | Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) component on Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of National Highway-5.   | Rs. 6.34 crores   | US \$ 1.5 million        | Bids invited |

### Modernisation of Mangalore Port

3486. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the modernisation of Mangalore Port; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Development and modernisation of Major Ports is an on-going process to cope with the demand of maritime trade. The important projects completed recently in New Mangalore Port include Second Oil Jetty for handling crude and product tankers, Vessel Traffic Management System and Multipurpose Liquid Cargo Jetty. In addition, an outlay of Rs. 147.40 crores, including for spill over projects, has been envisaged in the 10th Five Year Plan for the development and modernisation of New Mangalore Port. Some of the important projects included in the 10th Five Year Plan are construction of additional General Cargo berth (Deep Draft Berth), infrastructure for Container Handling Equipments and improvement, strengthening and deepening of General Cargo Berth.

### Computerization in Kendriya Bhandar

3487. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise the working of all the branches of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work in branches of Kendriya Bhandar is likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Efforts have been made to computerize different activities of Kendriya Bhandar. Local Area Network has been set up in the Stationery Division in Delhi. Recently computerized billing with bar code reader facility has been installed at one store in Delhi. Similarly Accounts Department, one Consumer Godown, Pulses and Spices under Grocery Purchases are computerized.

Computerisation is an ongoing process and no time frame is fixed.

### Children Suffering from Psychiatric Disorders

3488. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least 10 to 12 out of every 100 children are suffering from psychiatric disorders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in order to address this issue a workshop was held in New Delhi recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) While no reliable figures are available, it is estimated that about 10% of school going children suffer from psychiatric problems including neurotic/substance use disorder. A workshop on "International Congress of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions" was held at New Delhi recently sponsored by the Indian Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and PGIMER, Chandigarh. The recommendations of the workshop are yet to be received in the Ministry.

### Performance at Commonwealth and Asian Games

3489. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many athletes who performed excellent in the Commonwealth Games could not win even Bronze Medal at Busan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to prepare the sports persons for the next Olympic Games and also encouraging the young and promising/talented but poor sportspersons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, This is, primarily, because of the fact that with the participation of China, Japan, Korea and the CIS countries, the level of competition in the Asian Games is much higher, as compared to that of the Commonwealth Games.

(c) The preparation for major multi-disciplinary

events, including Olympic Games, is an on-going process. However, in the present sports management set up, at the international, as well as, the national level - promotion of sports, largely, falls in the domain of the Sports Federations.

Insofar as Government of India is concerned, in order to prepare the Indian teams for participation in major international events, such as, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games, Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) are finalized in consultation with concerned National Sports Federations, former-international sportspersons and training method experts. Besides that, the probables are provided with required scientific and equipment support, coaching by Indian and foreign coaches in Coaching Camps and assistance to participate in international tournaments.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to Promising Sportspersons and Supporting Personnel, assistance is provided to promising sportspersons for training and participation in tournaments abroad, for purchase of equipment for scientific support and for training and participation in tournaments in the country. The assistance, given under this Scheme, is aimed at winning medals in major multidisciplinary events.

#### **Youth Hostels in Karnataka**

3490. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of youth hostels constructed in Karnataka so far;
- (b) whether the said youth hostels are functioning satisfactorily, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of youth hostels which are under construction in Karnataka;
- (d) the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the post of warden in the Hassan youth hostel is lying vacant for the last several years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken to fill the vacant post of warden youth hostel at Hassan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) Three Youth Hostels, one each at Mysore, Hassan and Tirathameshwar, have been constructed in Karnataka.

(b) The Youth Hostels are managed by the Hostel Management Committee constituted for each hostel in accordance with the Youth Hostel Manual. There are no reports with the Government of India that these three hostels are not functioning satisfactorily.

(c) and (d) Two Youth Hostels, one each at Karwar and Sogalu are under construction. An amount of Rs. 40.00 lakh for Karwar and Rs. 39.20 lakh for Sogalu has been released for construction so far.

(e) to (h) The post of warden, Youth Hostel, Hassan fell vacant on 1.8.2002 due to resignation of the incumbent, Shri V.R. Kanekar was offered the post of Warden at Youth Hostel at Hassan on 28.6.2002 against the existing vacancy. He conveyed his acceptance to the post on 9.7.2002 but has not yet joined in spite of reminder dated 6.8.2002.

#### **Enterprises in IT Sector**

3491. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that start-ups are not getting adequate financial support from banks in the IT sector;
- (b) whether Government has made a proposal to the RBI to consider "Intellectual Capital" as collateral;
- (c) if so, the reaction of RBI to this proposal;
- (d) whether Government propose to set up a special fund to assist IT professionals to start own units; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed by Government to encourage enterprise in the IT sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Technically and economically viable proposals are considered for funding by the banks and financial institutions.

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

(e) Steps taken to encourage enterprise are given in the statement.

#### Statement

##### *Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector*

1. Export promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct Investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-Consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Areas (DTA) by EHTP/EOU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfilment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in the unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NFEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.
5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT hardware units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.
7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
8. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.
9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty

has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape from 15% to 10%, Ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%. 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semiconductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital goods (around 200 sub-items) for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues @ 15% and a ill storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @5% for specified raw materials for the electronics Industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) item of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @15%, parts of Telecom continue @5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at @0%.

10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate @16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, In the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) is available to the IT sector.
15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit

under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.

18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export house' status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities:
  - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
  - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOZ/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed Income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are

subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.

25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
29. To encourage re-location of Industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.
30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US \$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an Institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the

scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single-shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

#### Development of Sports

3492. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved

285 proposals under grants for creation of sports infrastructure and development of sports in the country upto March 31, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of NGO's Educational Institutions to which these projects were sanctioned, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated to each of the NGO's and Educational Institutions for the purpose; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Out of 285 proposals approved under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, 113 proposals were sanctioned to NGOs and Educational Institutions. Their State-wise details alongwith funds allocated have been indicated in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### Development of Sports

| Sl.No.                  | Name of NGO/Educational Institution                              | Purpose of Grant | Amount Sanctioned<br>(Rs. in Lakhs) |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1                       | 2  | 3                | 4                                   |
| <b>Assam</b>            |  |                  |                                     |
| 1.                      | Biswanath Distt Sports Association, Biswanath Chariale, Sonitpur | Outdoor Stadium  | 27.00                               |
| <b>Haryana</b>          |  |                  |                                     |
| 2                       | Lala Dewan Chand Modern Wrestling & Yoga Centra, Jhajjar         | Indoor Stadium   | 44.08                               |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> |  |                  |                                     |
| 3                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Lohara                       | Playfield        | 1.00                                |
| 4                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Ladraur, Hamirpur            | -do-             | 1.165                               |
| 5                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Bhareri, Hamirpur            | -do-             | 0.779                               |
| 6                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Rakkar, Kangra               | -do-             | 1.50                                |
| 7                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Ludamahadeo, Hamirpur        | -do-             | 1.00                                |



| 1                        | 2  | 3         | 4      |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------|
| 8                        | Government Girls High School, Kulthera, Hamirpur     | -do-      | 1.00   |
| 9                        | Government Senior Secondary School, Cholthera, Mandi | -do-      | 0.625  |
| 10                       | Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Hamirpur    | -do-      | 1.50   |
| 11                       | Government Senior Secondary School, Bawana, Kangra   | -do-      | 0.99   |
| <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b> |  |           |        |
| 12                       | Govt. High School, Koll, Pulwama                     | -do-      | 0.707  |
| 13                       | Govt. Boys High School, Nowgaon, Anantnag            | -do-      | 0.315  |
| 14                       | Govt. Middle School, Noonmad, Anantnag               | -do-      | 1.84   |
| 15                       | Govt. High School, Dalhori, Rajouri                  | -do-      | 0.485  |
| 16                       | Govt. High School, Dhangri, Rajouri                  | -do-      | 2.34   |
| 17                       | Govt. High School, Channiprat, Rajouri               | -do-      | 0.745  |
| 18                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Doru, Anantnag                | -do-      | 1.147  |
| 19                       | Govt. Boys High School, Sellar, Anantnag             | -do-      | 1.84   |
| 20                       | Govt. Boys Middle School, Kanelwan, Anantnag         | -do-      | 1.00   |
| 21                       | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Bhadawah Distt., Doda   | -do-      | 1.00   |
| 22                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Ramgarh, Jammu                | Playfield | 0.915  |
| 23                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School Sashtri Nagar, Jammu           | -do-      | 0.30   |
| 24                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School (Boys), Samba, Jammu           | -do-      | 0.30   |
| 25                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Amia, Jammu                   | -do-      | 0.678  |
| 26                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Raya, Jammu                   | -do-      | 1.5975 |
| 27                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Slethia Block, Jammu          | -do-      | 0.73   |
| 28                       | Govt. H.S.S. Smailpur, Jammu                         | -do-      | 0.825  |
| 29                       | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Samba, Jammu            | -do-      | 0.525  |
| 30                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Jourian, Jammu                | -do-      | 0.645  |
| 31                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Palanwala, Jammu,             | -do-      | 1.205  |
| 32                       | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Khoura, Jammu                 | -do-      | 1.22   |

| 1                     | 2   | 3              | 4     |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|-------|
| 33                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Gandhinagar, Jammu                     | -do-           | 1.30  |
| <b>Karnataka</b>      |   |                |       |
| 34                    | Shri Manik Prabhu Shikshan Samity,<br>Maniknagar, Distt Bidar | Swimming Pool  | 25.00 |
| <b>Kerala</b>         |   |                |       |
| 35                    | Trissur Tennis Trust, Punkunnam                               | Indoor Stadium | 20.00 |
| 36                    | Government Tribal Hr. Sec. School, Poomala, Idukki            | Playfield      | 1.75  |
| 37                    | Government Hr. Sec. School, Sreekandapuram<br>Kunnur          | -do-           | 1.443 |
| 38                    | Govt. Vocational Hr. Sec. School, Kayyar,<br>Kasargode        | -do-           | 1.50  |
| 39                    | Govt. Hr.Sec.School, Vellathooval, Idukki                     | -do-           | 1.30  |
| <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> |   |                |       |
| 40                    | Govt. Girls H.S. School, Tikamgarh                            | -do-           | 3.305 |
| 41                    | Govt. H.S. School, Kundeswar, Tikamgarh                       | -do-           | 3.46  |
| 42                    | Govt. Hr.Sec.School, Badagawar, Tikamgarh                     | -do-           | 3.75  |
| 43                    | Govt. Hr.Sec.School, Kharagpur, Tikamgarh                     | -do-           | 3.50  |
| 44                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Baldeogarh, Tikamgarh                  | -do-           | 3.77  |
| 45                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Tatara, Tikamgarh                      | -do-           | 3.32  |
| 46                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Mohangarh, Tikamgarh                   | -do-           | 3.05  |
| 47                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Palara, Tikamgarh                      | -do-           | 3.42  |
| 48                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Niwari, Tikamgarh                      | -do-           | 3.045 |
| 49                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School,Orcha, Tikamgarh                        | -do-           | 3.99  |
| 50                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Tricharkalan, Tikamgarh                | -do-           | 3.345 |
| 51                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Prathvipur, Tikamgarh                  | -do-           | 2.502 |
| 52                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Bijawar, Chhatarpur                    | -do-           | 3.50  |
| 53                    | Govt. H. Sec. School Gulganj, Chhatarpur                      | -do-           | 3.50  |
| 54                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Ghura, Chhatarpur                      | -do-           | 3.50  |
| 55                    | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Lidhore, Tikamgarh                     | -do-           | 3.05  |

| 1                  | 2   | 3               | 4      |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| <b>Maharashtra</b> |   |                 |        |
| 56                 | Parwara Gramin Shiksha Sanstha, Ahmednagar          | Swimming Pool   | 47.40  |
| 57                 | Satchikitsa Prasara Mandal, Waghepar, Yavatmal      | Swimming Pool   | 36.80  |
| 58                 | JM Rathi Trust, Roha, Raigadh                       | Swimming Pool   | 37.50  |
| 59                 | Patashibai Ratanchand Manav Kalyan Trust, Sangli    | Sports Hostel   | 30.00  |
| 60                 | Shipra Prathistan, Pune                             | Swimming Pool   | 25.00  |
| 61                 | Sangli Mahila Parishad, Sangli                      | Indoor Stadium  | 11.035 |
| 62                 | Jillah Rashtriya Talim Sangh, Kolhapur              | Indoor Stadium  | 19.254 |
| 63                 | RL Tawde Foundation Society, Kolhapur               | Swimming Pool   | 24.54  |
| 64                 | Navjeeven Education Society, Nasik                  | Swimming Pool   | 25.00  |
| 65                 | Central Hindu Military Education Society, Nagpur    | Swimming Pool   | 60.00  |
| <b>Manipur</b>     |   |                 |        |
| 66                 | Table Tennis Association, Thoubal                   | Indoor Stadium  | 30.00  |
| 67                 | Youth Social Welfare Assn., Bishnupur               | Outdoor Stadium | 27.00  |
| 68                 | Social Development & Education Organisation, Haokha | Outdoor Stadium | 22.50  |
| 69                 | Angtha Western Panthobi Club, Angtha                | Outdoor Stadium | 27.00  |
| 70                 | Integrated Rural Upliftment Services, Thoubal       | Playfield       | 3.38   |
| 71                 | Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Imphal          | Skating Rink    | 2.997  |
| <b>Nagaland</b>    |   |                 |        |
| 72                 | Expression Voluntary Organisation, Dimapur          | Swimming Pool   | 76.50  |
| 73                 | KK Club Youth Welfare Society, New Tesphenyu        | Swimming Pool   | 30.00  |
| 74                 | Teens Club, Wokha                                   | Playfields      | 5.33   |
| 75                 | Hill Pioneers, Phek                                 | Indoor Stadium  | 30.00  |
| 76                 | Nagaland Tennis Association, Dimapur                | Indoor Stadium  | 67.50  |
| 77                 | Seicku Society, Phek                                | Indoor Stadium  | 29.85  |
| 78                 | Mummy's Multipurpose Society, Kashiram Village      | Playfields      | 2.25   |
| 79                 | Social Welfare Orgn., Lakhuti, Wokha                | Playfields      | 2.25   |

| 1                 | 2   | 3              | 4      |
|-------------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 80                | Mixed Farm Society, Baghty  | Playfields     | 2.25   |
| 81                | Tribal Welfare Development Assn., Dimapur                         | Playfields     | 4.152  |
| <b>Orissa</b>     |   |                |        |
| 82                | MB Bidyapitha, Chandaka,<br>Dist Kurda, Orissa                    | Playfield      | 1.50   |
| 83                | Khuntakanta High School Bramba, Distt. Cuttack                    | -do-           | 1.50   |
| 84                | Khuntakata High school, Athagarh.<br>Dist. Cuttack                | -do-           | 1.50   |
| 85                | Gadadhar High School, Tigrid, Dist. Cuttack                       | -do-           | 1.50   |
| 86                | Tip Top High School Bhimapur, Ukhanda, Distt.<br>Koenjhar         | -do-           | 1.50   |
| 87                | Kalupada Ghata Girls School, Dist. Khurda                         | -do-           | 1.50   |
| <b>Rajasthan</b>  |   |                |        |
| 88                | Government Girls Hr. Sec. School, Deogarh                         | -do-           | 0.79   |
| <b>Tamil Nadu</b> |   |                |        |
| 89                | Tirupur Sports Organisation, Tirupur, Distt.<br>Coimbatore        | Indoor Stadium | 60.00  |
| 90                | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Pothanur, Distt. Namakkal,<br>Tamilnadu    | Playfield      | 0.9145 |
| 91                | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Athur, Salem                         | -do-           | 0.2885 |
| 92                | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Manapparai, Distt.<br>Tiruchirapalli       | -do-           | 0.75   |
| 93                | Govt. Girls High School, Tivadiputti, Distt.<br>Madurai           | -do-           | 0.9395 |
| 94                | Govt. Boys Hr.Sec.School, Ondi                                    | -do-           | 1.00   |
| 95                | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Chinnadarapuram, Dt.<br>Karur        | -do-           | 0.2415 |
| 96                | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Uppidamangalam, Distt.<br>Karur            | -do-           | 0.2445 |
| 97                | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, West Mambalam Ashok<br>Nagar Post, Chennai | -do-           | 0.739  |
| 98                | Govt. Boys Hr. Sec.School, Ponneri, Dt. Tiruvallore               | -do-           | 0.705  |
| 99                | Govt. Hr.Sec.School, MMDA Colony Arumbakam,<br>Chennai            | -do-           | 1.00   |

| 1                    | 2   | 3               | 4      |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| 100                  | Govt. Girls Hr.Sec.School, Palani Distt. Dindigul           | -do-            | 1.495  |
| 101                  | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Ariyadur, Dt. Perambalur             | -do-            | 1.405  |
| 102                  | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Vridhachalam, Dist. Cuddalore  | -do-            | 1.442  |
| 103                  | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Nondivaram Dt. Kunchipuram     | -do-            | 0.9375 |
| 104                  | Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Marthandan Kanyakumari          | -do-            | 1.50   |
| 105                  | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Avalvoimozhi, Kanyakumari            | do-             | 1.00   |
| 106                  | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Rajakkamangalam, Kanyakumari         | -do-            | 2.50   |
| 107                  | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Kadayal, Kanyakumari                 | -do-            | 1.00   |
| 108                  | Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Kadyamallur, Tirunelveli Distt. | -do-            | 0.75   |
| 109                  | MKBCCM Govt Girls High School, Manjoor Kundah, Ooty         | -do-            | 0.30   |
| 110                  | Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Anikoral, Ooty                       | -do-            | 0.30   |
| <b>Uttar Pradesh</b> |   |                 |        |
| 111                  | Bhartiya Shiksha Samity, Kanpur                             | Outdoor Stadium | 18.00  |
| <b>West Bengal</b>   |   |                 |        |
| 112                  | Jalpaiguri Indoor Badminton Players Assn., Jalpaiguri       | Indoor Stadium  | 20.00  |
| 113                  | Tarun Sangha, Fakirchak, Midnapore                          | Playfield       | 1.385  |

12.02 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER  
RECENT VISIT OF SHRI VLADIMIR PUTIN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION, TO INDIA**

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, President of Russian Federation paid a state visit, to India from 3 to 5 December, 2002. His visit has uphold the established practice of convening annual meetings at summit level - a practice which we started since

October, 2002. President Putin called on our President who hosted a banquet in the honour of the distinguished guest. Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha also met President Putin.

The President Putin and I had a detailed discussion on bilateral relations. We exchanged our views on regional and international issues of our mutual interests. By these indepth discussions, we have reached to several bilatera' agreements between the two countries on mutual interests.

Important documents were issued at the end of the

summit which reflect our mutual interests. These include Delhi Declaration on further consolidation of strategic partnership, Joint Declaration on strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in combating terrorism. These documents and other related joint declarations have been placed on the Table of the House. Documents related to cooperation in telecommunication sector and intellectual property rights in the field of science and technology were also signed. A protocol was also signed for cooperation between Karnataka Government and Samara region of Russian Federation.

I hope these documents will further strengthen the political and legal basis of the multifaceted cooperation between India and Russian Federation.

President Putin and I agreed that we should take initiatives to promote bilateral trade and economic relations. We will have to expand trade in high value and high-tech goods and in other fields such as oil and gas, diamond, etc. There is immediate need of diversification in trade because under bilateral agreement of Rupee-Rouble, there would be steep fall in the repayment by the year 2005. At present, the entire export is funded by this repayment only. We also expressed our consent to promote the mutual investments.

Cooperation in energy sector has a long term significance for both the countries. Both sides will hold regular bilateral discussion through appropriate mechanisms regarding global energy production and supplies. Sakhalin-I Project has made a good progress in our cooperation. We have agreed to extend our cooperation to other projects including Caspian Sea Projects and other aspects of the energy sector.

We expressed satisfaction on the progress being made in the implementation of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and recognised that the expanded scope of the project would be in the interests of both the countries. President Putin confirmed Russia's interest to continue its cooperation to India in peaceful and civilian application of nuclear energy. During the joint press conference held after our talks, he expressed the need to reform the international situation. We fully agreed with this.

Hon'ble Members are aware of expanded defence cooperation between the two countries. Now our cooperation is not confined to buyer and seller of weapons rather it includes joint research, development and production also. The latest Brahmos missile is a product of our joint research and development efforts. Both the countries are going to start co-production of this missile system so that it could be inducted

in armed forces of both the countries. President Putin and I agreed that there are number of other projects for which we need mutual cooperation in future.

Delhi Declaration, emphasized that none of the two countries would take any action which may threaten the security of the other. We have declared that both the countries would follow these principles in their security and defence policies and in military-technical cooperation with third countries. These are important mutual commitments which strengthen the active defence cooperation between India and Russian Federation.

While reviewing the international situation, we were of the similar view that strong and permanent measures should be taken to combat international terrorism. United Nation's Security Council Regulations - especially 1373 - should be implemented strictly against terrorism. Both the countries are victims of terrorism and its roots are in our common neighbourhood. It is in the interest of both the countries to combat terrorism through preventive and deterrent measures at national and bilateral level. An agreement to set up a Joint working Group for combating terrorism will further strengthen our cooperation in this regard. Both the countries expressed concern at the threat to Afghanistan's security from the possible regrouping of Former Taliban and Al Qaeda elements and their continuing links with their sponsors. We expressed full support to the President Karzai's Government in Afghanistan and the efforts made by it for national harmony, economic reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghan institutions. India and Russia will cooperate in promoting reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's priorities would be considered in this regard, India would also continue its bilateral dialogue with Afghanistan leadership and would further strengthen its traditional relations with the people of Afghanistan.

Our views on the situation in South Asia have been expressed in our joint statement. Russia agrees with our point that we can resume dialogue with Pakistan only when it stops cross border infiltration and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territory.

In short, President Putin's visit has served our purpose to continue summit level dialogue with Russia on all the issues of mutual interests of both the countries. His visit has emphasised the importance of our mutual commitment to constantly strengthen our strategic partnership and political consultations and to give a new dimension to our economic relations. His visit has proved our common views on various major international issues.

We will continue to give highest importance to our relations with Russian Federation. I have accepted President

Putin's invitation to visit Russia next year keeping in view our commitment to hold annual Summits.

[English]

**\* Delhi Declaration on**

**Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between  
the Republic of India and the Russian Federation**

The Republic of India and the Russian Federation,

- relying on long-standing traditions of friendship and good-neighbourliness;
- recalling the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation of 28 January 1993 and the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation of 5 October 2000;
- proceeding from the fact that the strategic partnership between India and Russia is founded on the complementary of national interests and geopolitical priorities of the two countries;
- determined to elevate their strategic partnership to an even higher and qualitatively new level in both bilateral and international arenas;
- recognizing respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, plurality, diversity and tolerance as the cornerstone of a stable and enduring multi-polar world;
- recognizing also their unique role and responsibility as multi-ethnic and pluralistic States in contributing to a stable world order, as envisaged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 and the Moscow Declaration by the Republic of India and the Russian Federation of 30 June 1994 on the Protection of Interests of Pluralistic States, and in contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and all over the world;
- determined to counter new challenges and threats to security primarily international terrorism - through mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation;

hereby declare:

Our strategic partnership provides a solid framework for long-term and all-round development of relations. Mutual security, development and prosperity of our peoples are core objectives of this partnership. It also contributes to countering

global challenges and threats and promoting stability at the international level.

The established practice of holding annual meetings at summit level as well as at Ministerial and working levels, and exchanges between Parliamentary, judicial and other constitutional bodies would be further intensified. There would be particular emphasis on deepening the economic content of bilateral relations. People to people contacts would be strengthened through an expanding network of ties between the two societies.

Internationally accepted standards of democracy and the rule of law, as enshrined in our respective Constitutions, are basic components of our political systems. They are reliable guarantees for a pluralistic political, social and economic framework and for the promotion and protection of the aspirations of our peoples for human rights, life with dignity, and freedom from want and fear. These are standards which shall also guide our relations with other countries. As large multiethnic and pluralistic states, we are convinced of our special responsibility to combat and bring to an end challenges posed to our unique attributes, including our territorial integrity, by forces of terrorism, extremism and separatism.

We reiterate our support for each other's territorial integrity and respect for each other's sovereignty, enshrined in our respective Constitutions. Neither side shall take any actions which might threaten or impair the security of the other. Both sides shall be guided by this principle in determining their security and defence policies as well as in military technical cooperation with third countries.

Bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation with other countries would be further enhanced to meet the various challenges of globalization, in particular the mitigation of its negative manifestations. Globalization and national identity represent complementary components of world order. Recognition of and respect for diversity is a necessary precondition for human progress, and an essential component of the Dialogue between Civilizations.

Enduring ties of friendship, trust and confidence and commonality of interests confer on India and Russia a unique capability to contribute to the evolution of a new world order, which would be stable, secure, equitable and sustainable and will be based on the respect for the principles of the UN Charter and international law. To fulfil this vision, both sides would endeavour to strengthen relevant international institutions and mechanism. Both countries reaffirm that now more than ever before there is a need for the international community to commit itself to the UN and multi-lateralism.

Both countries favour strengthening of UN's central role in promoting international security in a multi-polar world. They stand for enhancing the efficiency of the UN and its Security Council and making them more reflective of the contemporary geo-political and economic realities and rendering them more representative of the interests of the vast majority of the UN members by completing the process of rationally reforming the Organisation based on the broadcast consensus of its member-states. In this context, Russia reaffirms its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

We take note of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg and in this context, welcome the reaffirmation of the Rio principles. Taking note of the importance attached to the issue of climate change by both the countries, we welcome the results of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change hosted by India in October-November 2002 and the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation to convene in Moscow in Autumn 2003 the World Conference on Climate Change.

Both the countries reiterate their commitment to work towards a new cooperative security order that recognizes the legitimate security interests of all countries and promotes global peace and stability at lower levels of armaments and strengthens non-proliferation and disarmament goals. India and Russia are convinced that the promotion of the disarmament process, including reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, is one of the most important components of security both in Asia and in the world at large.

We call for early start of multilateral talks aimed at preparing a comprehensive arrangement on non-deployment of weapons in outer space, non-use or threat of use of force in respect of space based objects and preserving the use of space for full range of cooperative, peaceful and developmental activities.

Situation in our common neighbourhood - Afghanistan and Central Asia - is of vital security interest to both the countries. We feel that there is a need to continuously assess the evolving Afghan situation and intend to continue and expand the close cooperation on Afghanistan. We welcome the successful implementation of the Bonn Agreement and extend full support to the Transitional Administration, aimed at promoting national reconciliation, reconstruction of Afghan economy and rebuilding the Afghan institutions, including indigenous security structures, which are important for countering and defeating internal and external threats to Afghanistan's security. India and Russia agree to cooperate

closely in the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and agreed that these should be driven by Afghan priorities. We underline the need for the United Nations and the international community to remain engaged for ensuring the revival of Afghanistan as a sovereign and independent state, free from terrorism, drugs and external interference. Both sides have a vital interest in maintaining security, stability and a secular order in the Central Asian region.

We call for containment of the spiral of violence in the Middle East and resumption, in good faith, of the negotiations towards establishment of a just and durable peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397(2002).

Both the countries support the continuation of political and diplomatic efforts to fully implement all the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Iraq.

India and Russia have been victims of terrorism and, as democratic and open societies, have been vulnerable to the threats posed by globalization of terror, including new manifestations of linkage between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Terrorism constitutes a gross violation of human rights, particularly the most fundamental right - the right to life - and is a crime against humanity. India and Russia firmly condemn all acts of terrorism wherever they may occur and whatever may be their motivation. Terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds and must be condemned unambiguously wherever it exists. Both the countries strongly condemn those who support terrorism or finance, train, harbour or support terrorists. States that aid abet or shelter terrorists are as guilty of the acts of terrorism as their perpetrators.

We are fully determined to strengthen our cooperation in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, and the support these phenomena receive from organized crime and illicit arms and drugs trafficking. Both the countries regard these as global threats, which can be effectively countered only through collective, comprehensive, determined and sustained efforts of the international community. The fight against terrorism must not admit of any double standards and should also target the financial and other sources of support to terrorism. Both the countries reaffirm the relevance of the Moscow Declaration by the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on International Terrorism of 6 November 2001. In this regard, they also stress the paramount importance of strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on the fight against terrorism, in particular Resolution 1373, and universal anti-terrorist conventions which create the basic framework for national, regional and international obligations and cooperation of the international community in combating



terrorism, in accordance with the UN Charter. India and Russia remain fully committed to implement this Resolution and call for an early agreement on, and entry into force of, the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

As victims of terrorism having its roots in our common neighbourhood, we have a particular interest in putting an end to this common threat through preventive and deterrent measures nationally and bilaterally. The two countries agree to enhance bilateral cooperation in order to combat terrorism, including in the context of the cooperation under the aegis of the Joint Working Group on Afghanistan and the Group on terrorism set up by the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation. The agreement to set up an Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism will further strengthen our cooperation in this sphere.

Both sides recognize that factors influencing global energy production and supplies constituted an element of vital national interest and would be the subject of regular bilateral discussions through relevant mechanisms. India and Russia would strengthen cooperation in all areas of the energy sector taking into account the needs of sustainable development and environmental protection.

The Republic of India and the Russian Federation are convinced that this Declaration will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of our strategic partnership.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Sd/-                                       | Sd/-                                   |
| Prime Minister of<br>The Republic of India | President of The Russian<br>Federation |

New Delhi, 4 December 2002

**Joint Declaration on Strengthening and  
Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological  
Cooperation between the Republic of India  
and the Russian Federation**

1. The Republic of India and the Russian Federation consider it vitally important to expand economic relations between the two countries. Along with the political & strategic dimensions, effective cooperation in the economic & allied fields is at the core of the Indo-Russian partnership. In the longer term perspective of further cementing the bilateral relationship, this subject received special focus at the talks between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation during the State visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India from 3-5 December 2002. The two leaders underlined the following principles of cooperation.

2. India and Russia have growing market economies, with abundant natural and human resources, well-established productive capacities in industry, agriculture, services and science & technology. In the last decade, with the stimulus of reforms and liberalization, the economies of the two countries have acquired a new dynamism and significant new capabilities and Requirements have emerged.

3. This has created a qualitatively changed environment for bilateral economic cooperation. The two countries should strive to make optimal use of the enhanced opportunities that have thus arisen, for mutually beneficial interaction which would add to the strength of the two national economies, and to the welfare and prosperity of the two peoples. This would also be essential for reinforcing the overall relationship, and for providing more substance and long term sustainability to the strategic partnership between India and the Russian Federation.

4. While progress is being made in this direction, through increased bilateral investment and business exchanges, the great inherent potential of economic cooperation is far from being fully realized, and falls short of excellent political relations between the two countries.

5. Taking the above elements into account, special focus and direction will be given to upgrading bilateral economic relations. While the business sector and the scientists and technologists of the two countries would be the leading participants, the two governments will fulfil their key responsibility in facilitating and sustaining this process. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment in this regard.

6. Accordingly, the Governments of India and the Russian Federation would strengthen their regular contact and consultation with the business sector on progress in economic cooperation. They will work out broad concepts and a roadmap for strengthening and enhancing bilateral economic relations.

7. They would also strive to ensure that governmental policy and the framework of institutions, agencies and regulations provide for a positive environment for the conduct of business interaction and investment. They will work together for putting in place the following measures:

- (1) Creating a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection.
- (2) Enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa.

Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development.

- (3) Strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and service, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor. Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields.
- (4) Streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth.
- (5) Harmonizing national standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries. Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries.
- (6) Putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges.
- (7) Encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries.
- (8) Exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises.
- (9) Consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.

8. Adequate up-to-date information about mutual requirements and possibilities is necessary for the healthy growth of economic cooperation between the two countries. There is therefore a pressing need to assist and reinforce the efforts of the business and related sectors for instituting arrangements for effective information flow through regular contact, exchange of visits, communication through electronic means, use of mass media, and holding of and active participation in trade fairs and exhibitions. The two Governments would make the best effort to encourage this activity. They would also assist in the establishment of a joint business centre, in both countries, for disseminating information and functioning as a database on developments and trends in the national economies of India and the Russian Federation for identifying possibilities for trade and investment.

9. The two sides recognized that a sustained

business sector dialogue is vital to progress in their economic relations. Hence, strengthened regular contact between business federations, both national and regional is essential. In this regard they were encouraged by the activation of the work of the Joint Business Council, and the new contacts between Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and Confederation of Indian Industry. Such exchanges will be strengthened.

10. Recognizing the vital importance of small and medium enterprises in the economies of India and Russia, in the export sector in particular, and the special emphasis being given to this sector in both countries, it was agreed that attention will be paid to promoting contacts as well as informational and commercial exchanges, and bilateral investments, in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises.

11. The two sides will encourage cooperation on exchange of experience in management, and support business sector initiatives in this field, especially in the Small and Medium Enterprises sector.

12. The Governments of the two countries would support measures for expanding existing trade exchanges in commodities, consumer goods, light engineering items, food processing and agricultural products. They will also make efforts to develop trade in, and joint ventures for the production of, knowledge-based high technology goods and services that might be added to the trade basket.

13. Both sides would take practical steps to further enhance the quality and international competitiveness of their goods and services. The business community would be encouraged to establish quality assurance mechanisms consistent with national legislation.

14. The two Governments will jointly explore possibilities of regional trade and economic cooperation arrangements with other countries in a manner that is in harmony with their respective national interests.

15. Both countries have a long tradition and well-established capabilities in science and technology and a record of fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation. This interaction will be strengthened with special emphasis on the creation of conditions for meaningful commercialization of key technologies consistent with national legislation and international agreements. This would also involve attention to high-technology and frontier areas of research and application. The possibilities of working together in key areas such as telecommunication, computerization, information technology and space research will be actively taken up. Both Governments will provide organizational and other necessary support for this purpose.

16. The two sides will strive to maximize the opportunities provided by the presence of large reservoirs of skilled manpower in their respective countries for the creation of knowledge based industries, while also ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights in each others' markets, especially with regard to copyrights and patents.

17. Particular attention will be devoted to the issue of energy security which is considered all increasingly important component of bilateral relations between India and the Russian Federation. The two sides indicated their common desire to intensify long-term cooperation in this sector, which could be extended to other areas, including the Caspian Sea, and to other aspects of the energy sector.

18. In the pursuit of strengthening bilateral economic relations, due importance will be given to the principles of sustainable development an environmental protection.

19. The two sides recognized the importance of cooperation in their interaction with international trade, economic and financial bodies. India supports the early accession of Russia to the World Trade Organisation, and will extend all possible assistance in this regard.

20. The two sides recognize the sustained contribution of the Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in providing direction and a larger systematic framework for their economic relations. The Inter-Governmental Commission and its subsidiary bodies will play an essential coordinating and nodal role in implementing the provisions of this Joint Declaration. The inter-Governmental Commission will set up a task force to monitor the progress in implementing the steps elaborated in this Joint Declaration and to report at the next Summit meeting.

Sd/-  
Prime Minister of  
The Republic of India

Sd/-  
President of The Russian  
Federation

New Delhi, 4 December 2002

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

*between the Government of the Republic of India and the  
Government of the Russian Federation on  
Cooperation in Combating Terrorism*

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Taking into account the goals and principles of the

existing international agreements on combating terrorism, resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies,

Acting in pursuance of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation of 5 October 2000 and the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism by the Republic of India and the Russian Federation of 6 November 2001,

Expressing concern about the growing terrorist threat,

Condemning all forms of terrorist activities without any exception,

Recognizing that terrorism poses a threat to the international peace and security, development of friendly relations among States, as well as to the enjoyment of basic human rights and freedoms,

Bearing in mind the existing links between all forms of organized crime, primarily between terrorism and crimes related to narcotic drugs and various smuggling activities,

Have agreed as follows:

#### **Article 1**

1. The Parties shall, in accordance with their national legislation:

(a) exchange information on terrorist groups whose activities undermine their interests, including information on the establishment of contacts between terrorist groups of both countries;

(b) exchange information about possible terrorist acts against their countries and nationals, including through diplomatic channels, as necessary;

(c) when their interests are affected, the Parties shall interact with each other in actions to prevent and investigate terrorist acts, search for and detain persons responsible for committing them.

2. The Parties shall cooperate in providing security during contacts at state and government levels, as well as during international public sports and other events.

3. The Parties shall interact in providing security of transport communications between both countries and, for this purpose, shall take measures to share information and experience between respective security authorities.

4. The Parties shall maintain contacts on matters related to the prevention of terrorist acts with possible use of nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

5. The Parties shall take measures to exchange information and cooperate in prevention and suppression of illicit drugs and arms trafficking, which plays an important role in financing terrorist organizations.

6. The Parties shall share knowledge and experience in prevention and suppression of specific terrorist acts, such as taking of hostages and skyjacking, and shall conduct relevant joint activities.

7. The Parties shall organize, on a mutual basis, training of their counter-terrorist units personnel, as well as exchange of knowledge and experience with a view to improving equipment, weapons and technical protection.

8. The Parties shall facilitate exchange of appropriate equipment and technologies.

9. The Parties shall cooperate and assist each other:

(a) in studying the causes, substance, structure, dynamics and manifestations of terrorism;

(b) in exchanging relevant scientific and training materials, experts and trainees;

(c) in organizing joint working meetings, workshops and seminars;

(d) in identifying, preventing and suppressing the funding of persons and organizations involved in terrorist activities;

(e) in exercising control over the organizations conducting money or other property transactions to counteract legalization (laundering) of income from criminal activities for the purposes of financing terrorism.

10. In order to improve the efficiency of their cooperation under this Memorandum the Parties may designate, on a mutual basis, responsible liaison officers.

#### **Article 2**

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation shall establish a Working Group on combating terrorism. The activities of the Group shall be governed by the Annex constituting an integral part of this Memorandum.

#### **Article 3**

This Memorandum shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from other international treaties or convention to which they are parties.

#### **Article 4**

1. This Memorandum shall enter into force 30 days after receipt of the last written notification about the completion by the Parties of their domestic procedures necessary for its entry into force and shall remain in force for one year.

2. This Memorandum shall be automatically extended to subsequent one-year periods unless one of the Parties, at least 90 days in advance, shall notify the other Party in writing of its intention to terminate it.

Done at New Delhi on 4 December 2002 in two copies, each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd/-  
Prime Minister of  
The Republic of India

Sd/-  
President of The Russian  
Federation

#### **Annex**

#### **The Establishment of a Joint Indian-Russian Working Group on Combating International Terrorism**

1. The Parties shall establish a Joint Indian-Russian Working Group with the aim:

- to exchange experiences and results of assessments of actions of international terrorists, drug trafficking and their relationship;

- to coordinate approaches to combating international terrorism and drug trafficking;

- to exchange information on activities of the terrorist groups based in India and Russia or any other terrorist groups with transnational links;

- to suppress activities of terrorist groups, including those planning, supporting or committing terrorist acts against India and Russia;

- to institutionalize cooperation.

2. The Working Group will:

- endeavour to uncover international networks supporting terrorist activities and illegal drug trafficking;

- consider procedures for the exchange of operational intelligence information;

- suggest means for enhancing cooperation in the following areas:

(a) arrest, extradition and criminal prosecution of terrorists;

- (b) mutual technical assistance, in particular in the form of training of police and public security officers and exchange of professional experience;
- (c) identification, prevention and suppression of financial sources/flows of funds to terrorist organizations;
- explore ways and means of supporting legal measures against international terrorism and drug trafficking;
- exchange experience in preventing skyjacking, rescuing hostages and protecting of very important persons;
- cooperation in preventing access of terrorist organizations, acting against any countries or from their territories, to weapons of mass destruction;
- interact with a view to track and suppress legalization of income from criminal activities;
- coordinate efforts with a view to promptly negotiate and adopt a comprehensive convention to combat international terrorism;
- cooperate with a view to track activities of terrorist organizations with transnational links;
- discuss means of coordination of efforts with Interpol, the United Nations and other multilateral fora;
- upon mutual agreement of the Parties, maintain cooperation in other areas.

3. On the part of India, the Ministry of External Affairs will be the leading agency for coordinating activities of the Working Group, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and departments concerned with anti-terrorist activities as well as issues relating to the prevention of drug trafficking and money laundering. On the part of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be the leading agency for coordinating activities of the Working Group, with the participation of representatives of appropriate Russian departments.

4. The Working Group will hold its meetings at least twice a year in suitable for both Parties time. The meetings will be held alternately in New Delhi and Moscow.

The Working Group will abide by strict confidentiality in its work. Any information provided by one party to the other pursuant to cooperation under this Memorandum may not be disclosed to a third party without the consent of the party which provided the information.

### **Joint Statement**

The President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin paid a state visit to India from 3-5 December 2002.

The President of the Russian Federation met the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The Vice President of India Shri B.S. Shekhawat, the Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani and the Minister of External Affairs Shri Yashwant Sinha and the Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi called on the President of the Russian Federation. The Prime Minister of India Shri A.B. Vajpayee and the President of the Russian Federation held talks on a range of bilateral, international and regional issues.

The wide-ranging discussions took place in the traditional atmosphere of warmth and cordiality, trust and friendship and mutual confidence characteristic of the relationship between the two countries.

The Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of the Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation, signed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation during the visit, aims at elevating the strategic partnership to an even higher and a qualitatively new level in both bilateral relations and in the international arena. A "Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation" was also signed. This document focuses in particular on upgrading bilateral economic relations - trade, investment, new areas of cooperation and science and technology projects with a commercial content. A number of other agreements were also signed to facilitate the further development of Indo-Russian relations in various fields of cooperation.

Both sides expressed satisfaction regarding the established practice of holding annual meetings at the summit level as well as meetings and exchanges at Ministerial and other levels. Both sides reiterated their determination to continue and further expand the excellent political contacts between the two countries. The regular and in-depth Foreign Office consultations on a wide range of issues were considered useful and productive.

The enhanced level of interaction between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation has provided a valuable dimension to the consultations between the two countries on addressing common threats and challenges.

Both sides reaffirmed their intention to redouble their efforts to further strengthen trade and economic relations aimed at promoting investment, boosting trade as well as removing trade barriers. Sharing a positive assessment of the work of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, the leaders stressed the need to adopt a farsighted approach/long-term strategy based on the changes anticipated in the content of bilateral economic ties as well as emerging trends in the global arena. In this connection, the Inter-Sessional Review Meeting of the Co-Chairmen held in New Delhi in November 2002 was considered to be of significance.

Both sides noted that energy security was a promising area of cooperation between the two sides. This was demonstrated by the conclusion of an agreement enabling participation of ONGC Videsh Limited in the Sakhalin Oil and Gas Project in the Russian Federation. Both sides would hold regular bilateral discussions, through appropriate mechanisms, regarding global energy production and supplies, which impact on their mutual interests.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress being made in the implementation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and recognised that the expanded scope of the project would meet the interests of both countries.

The successful launch of the GSLV in April 2001, which used a Russian cryogenic stage, was an example of the productive potential of cooperation between India and Russia in the peaceful applications of space technology. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further expand cooperation in this area.

Both sides noted that expanded cooperation in the field of military technical cooperation, especially joint research, development and training, as well as inter-services contacts, were consistent with the national security interests of both countries and for the cause of peace and stability in Asia and beyond.

Both sides agreed that it was important to strengthen the traditional contacts in the field of culture and consolidating the long-standing historical links between the peoples of the two countries. It was reiterated that Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2003-2004 would be signed in the very near future.

India and Russia noted the need to protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural legacy of the Roerich family which has an abiding significance to Indo-Russian friendship.

Both sides decided to bring out a joint publication of the important agreements and documents signed between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation since 1993.

The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. They noted a high degree of mutual understanding and close proximity of views.

India and Russia, as strategic partners, reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate bilaterally and at international fora on issues relating to strategic stability for the development of a multipolar world based on a new cooperative security order. The relationship of friendship, trust and confidence contributed to Eurasian stability as a whole and was a factor of global significance.

The objectives of strengthening regional and international security as well as extending support for advancing towards internationally recognised disarmament goals, in particular, through systematic and progressive efforts aimed at reducing nuclear weapons globally with the ultimate goal of eliminating them, were considered to be of priority importance. India welcomed the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons signed by Russia and the US to progressively reduce their strategic offensive weapons. India and Russia called upon other nuclear weapon states also to join the process of nuclear reductions at an appropriate stage.

Both sides re-affirmed their commitment to further strengthening their system of national export controls without adversely affecting the peaceful application of dual use materials and technologies. They would also work towards further enhancing high-technology exchanges, trade and commerce consistent with the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Both sides confirmed their determination to contribute to the establishment of a just multipolar world based on the principles of respect for the UN Charter and international law in the interest of removing threats to international peace and security. They advocate further reforming the United Nations with a view to strengthening it as the central mechanism for ensuring international peace and security as well as democratising international relations. Both sides agreed on the necessity of continuing the reform of the United Nations Security Council with a view to making it more representative and effective. The Russian Federation reaffirmed its support to the Republic of India as a deserving and strong candidate for the permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

Both sides confirmed that international terrorism, religious extremism, separatism and secessionism, transborder organised crime and illicit traffic in arms and drugs constitute a growing and serious threat to international peace, security and stability. The tragedy involving hostage-taking in Moscow in October 2002 as well as the wave of terrorist attacks in India and other countries demonstrate that the international community is faced with an extensive threat by the forces of international terrorism, India and Russia firmly reject and condemn all types of terrorism, based on any ground - political, religious or ideological - and wherever it may exist. It was emphasized that the countermeasures against this menace should be taken on a comprehensive and sustained basis. Such measures should be directed also against those states, entities and individuals who support, fund or abet terrorists or provide them shelter or asylum to engage in cross-border terrorism. There should be no double-standards in the fight against terrorism. Both sides also reaffirmed the relevance of the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism of 6 November 2001. They stressed the importance of strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on the fight against terrorism, in particular Resolution 1373. They also advocated intensifying efforts to finalise in the United Nations the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. Roots of terrorism which lay in their common neighbourhood posed a threat to their security interests. Both sides would take preventive and deterrent measures in meeting these threats and cooperate in this regard. Both sides declared their determination to enhance collective and bilateral efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism. This determination is reaffirmed by the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on Combating International Terrorism during the current Indo-Russian Summit.

In their in-depth discussions regarding developments in Afghanistan, both sides noted the continuing threat to security in Afghanistan. Concern was expressed at the possible regrouping of former Taliban and Al Qaeda elements and their continuing links with their sponsors. At the same time, both sides expressed the hope that the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan will succeed in restoring peace in the country, rehabilitating economic and social infrastructure and ensuring economic recovery. They stressed that it is in the interest of the international community to see a stable and sovereign government in Afghanistan. All states concerned should, therefore, maintain a consensus on continuous support to the transitional Administration. Both sides supported further increasing international economic and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and agreed to continue to closely coordinate their actions. India and Russia made a positive assessment of the continuing utility of their Joint Working Group on Afghanistan,

established during the visit of President Putin to India in October 2000.

Both sides considered security and stability in Central Asia to be of vital significance to them and supported further consolidating the secular and democratic way of life chosen by the people of Central Asia.

Both sides discussed in detail the current situation in South Asia. They stressed the importance of Islamabad implementing in full its obligations and promises to prevent the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into the State of Jammu and Kashmir and at other points across the border, as well as to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territory as a prerequisite for the renewal of the peaceful dialogue between the two countries to resolve all outstanding issues in a bilateral framework as envisaged in Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1998.

Both sides noted the ever-increasing importance of Asia-Pacific Region and stressed the significance of the bilateral and multilateral relations with the countries of this region in the interest of stability and security in this vast region.

Both sides strongly opposed unilateral use or threat of use of force in violation of the UN Charter, as well as interference in internal affairs of other states. It was stressed that a comprehensive settlement of the situation around Iraq is possible only through political and diplomatic efforts in strict conformity with the rules of international law and only under the aegis of the United Nations. Both sides noted the importance of continuing intensive work with the Iraqi leadership in order to encourage it to cooperate in good faith with the United Nations.

Both sides expressed their concern over the developments in the Middle East where a critical situation still persists. They advocated urgent measures to resume the Israeli-Palestine dialogue and noted that there is no alternative to the peace process. They strongly condemned any acts of violence against both Palestinians and Israelis and called for the earliest possible implementation of Resolution 1435 of the United National Security Council.

Both sides expressed their confidence that the visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India and the discussions held during the visit would contribute to further development of strategic partnership between the two countries, and to the expansion of bilateral cooperation and interaction aimed at strengthening international stability and building of a just, fair, democratic and multipolar world order.

The President of the Russian Federation invited the Prime Minister of India to visit the Russian Federation. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The dates for the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

New Delhi  
4 December 2002

12.10 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:-
  - (i) S.O. 1204 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Ganjam to Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
  - (ii) S.O. 1205 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Ganjam to Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
  - (iii) S.O. 1206 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 from Sunakhala to Khurda (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
  - (iv) S.O. 1207 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the State of Orissa.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6310/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways

Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6311/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-
  - (i) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 228 in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2001.
  - (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229 in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2001.
  - (iii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 139 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (iv) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 140 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (v) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 141 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (vi) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 142 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.



- (vii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 143 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (viii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 144 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (ix) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 145 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (x) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 146 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (xi) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 147 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.
  - (xii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 118 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6312/2002]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process Cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process Cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6313/2002]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6314/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6315/2002]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 2001-2002 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6316/2002]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6317/2002]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6318/2002]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Dr. Sanjay Paswan, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Information Technology (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1015 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 86 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6319/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6320/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6321/2002]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6322/2002]

- (6) 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 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) Regulation, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 5-4/2000 (A&L) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2001.
- (ii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Service Providers (Maintenance of Books of Accounts and other Documents) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 782 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2002.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item No. (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6323/2002]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for the year 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6324/2002]

- (3) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(b) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) Showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6325/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 732 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2002 prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of certain drugs mentioned in the notification for human issued under section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6326/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6327/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6328/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cancer Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cancer Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6329/2002]

(6) A copy of the Annual Report for the year 2001-2002 (Hindi and English versions) along with Audited Accounts in respect of the following Centres:-

(i) Population Research Centre, Bangalore.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6330/2002]

(ii) Population Research Centre, Baroda.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6331/2002]

(iii) Population Research Centre, Bhubneswar.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6332/2002]

(iv) Population Research Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6333/2002]

(v) Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6334/2002]

- (vi) Population Research Centre, Delhi.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6335/2002]
- (vii) Population Research Centre, Dharwad.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6336/2002]
- (viii) Population Research Centre, Guwahati.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6337/2002]
- (ix) Population Research Centre, Tamil Nadu.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6338/2002]
- (x) Population Research Centre, Lucknow.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6339/2002]
- (xi) Population Research Centre, Patna.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6340/2002]
- (xii) Population Research Centre, Pune.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6341/2002]
- (xiii) Population Research Centre, Sagar.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6342/2002]
- (xiv) Population Research Centre, Shimla.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6343/2002]
- (xv) Population Research Centre, Srinagar.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6344/2002]
- (xvi) Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6345/2002]
- (xvii) Population Research Centre, Udaipur.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6346/2002]
- (xviii) Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam.
- (7) A copy of each of the Review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the above Centres for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6347/2002]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6348/2002]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2001-2002.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6349/2002]
- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Latex Limited and the Department of Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) for the year 2002-2003.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6350/2002]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): 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) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6351/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6352/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust Mormugao, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6353/2002]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

- (i) G.S.R. 222 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2002 containing Corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 246 (E) dated the 4th April, 2001.

- (ii) G.S.R. 284 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2002 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 379 (E) dated the 18th May, 2002.

- (iii) G.S.R. No. 750 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 380 (E) dated the 23rd May, 2002.

- (4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) and (ii) of item No. (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6354/2002]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

- (i) G.S.R. 285 (E) published in Gazette of

India dated the 15th April, 2002 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Interest Subsidy on House Building Advance) 1st Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (ii) G.S.R. 290 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2002 approving the Cochin Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (iii) G.S.R. 318 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2002 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (iv) G.S.R. 319 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2002 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees (Leave Travel Concession) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (v) G.S.R. 380 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2002 approving the Calcutta Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) 2nd Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 393 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2002 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (vii) G.S.R. 757 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002 approving the Calcutta Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

- (6) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) to (vi) of item No. (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6355/2002]

- (7) A copy of the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (Group 'A' and Group 'B' Non-Technical Posts) Recruitment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 714 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2002 issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6356/2002]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6357/2002]

12.12 hrs.

### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

### BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 2002."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 2002."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 9th December, 2002.

12.12½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

#### Twenty Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.13 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

#### Eighty-fourth to Ninety-first Reports

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports\* of the Standing Committee on Industry.

- (1) 84th Report on implementation of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala (Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries);
- (2) 85th Report on implementation status of financial assistance-cum-restructuring package and revival of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. (HSCL), Ministry of Steel;
- (3) 86th Report on Performance review of Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd. (MSTC), Ministry of Steel;
- (4) 87th Report on implementation status of financial assistance-cum-restructuring package and revival of Bharat Refractories Ltd. (BRL), Ministry of Steel;
- (5) 88th Report on Performance review of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Ministry of Steel;
- (6) 89th Report on Modernisation Restructuring and Expansion Programmes of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) Ministry of Steel;
- (7) 90th Report on Sickness in SSI Sector in the City of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (Ministry of Small Scale Industries); and
- (8) 91st Report on Coir Board - A performance Review (Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries).

12.14 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### Problems being faced by Indians working in Gulf countries

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I

\*Presented to the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 20th August, 2002 when the Parliament was not in Session.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The problems being faced by Indians going to and working in Gulf countries and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The problems generally faced by the Indian nationals living and working in the Gulf countries, particularly unskilled workers, relate mainly to non-payment of wages, long working hours, ill-treatment, denial of leave, cheating by recruiting agents, non-fulfilment of contractual obligations, poor working and living conditions, death and disability compensation, and transportation of dead bodies back to India. The semi-skilled and unskilled workers also suffer from a feeling of insecurity on account of diminishing demand for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and declining salary levels. There is also concern regarding rehabilitation and resettlement on their return to India in the event of premature termination of employment. Further, Gulf countries have introduced policies of localization and Arabisation which will affect the demand for Indian labour in the years to come. However, these policies are non-discriminatory and not directed at Indians specifically.

The Government of India has been taking the following measures to safeguard the interest of the intending emigrants as also of the workers who have already emigrated to Gulf and other countries for work.

All Indian Missions in the Gulf countries have full-fledged Labour Wings dealing with these problems.

It is being ensured that recruitment of workers for employment abroad is done only through the registered Recruiting Agents. When cases involving recruitment by illegal agents come to the notice of the Ministry, immediate action is taken to refer the matter to the police authorities for taking action under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Employment documents in respect of all workers requiring emigration clearance are properly scrutinised in the offices of the Protector of Emigrants with a view to ensuring that the workers are sent abroad against genuine demands. It is also ensured that unskilled workers are allowed to emigrate only after the papers are attested by the Indian Missions abroad.

Immigration authorities have been advised through the Ministry of Home Affairs, to scrutinise the passports and other documents before allowing workers to emigrate.

As and when cases relating to harassment of workers, non-payment of salary etc. are brought to the notice of the Ministry or, our Embassies abroad, the concerned registered Recruiting Agents are advised to settle the grievances of the workers immediately. In the majority of cases, the registered Recruiting Agents see to it that the grievances of the workers are settled expeditiously. In cases where the agents do not act on the directions of the Protector General of Emigrants, their registration is suspended and further action is taken as required.

Foreign agencies which do not make the payment of salary in accordance with the agreement or fail to provide the basic minimum facilities to the workers, are included in "Prior Approval Category" (PAC) and any further recruitment for these agencies is stopped till such time as fresh positive recommendation is received from the Indian Mission abroad.

As can be seen from the above, the Government is fully cognisant of the problems being faced by Indians going to and working in Gulf countries and that the necessary steps have been taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, earlier the labour outflow from India was almost entirely through permanent emigration. In the mid-1970s, the oil boom came which changed the entire complexion of the emigration. The Indian labour - semi-skilled and unskilled - is going in a large number to Gulf countries. Due to the increase in the revenue, the developmental activities have escalated in the Gulf region. If you look at the statistics, for the last five years, emigration for employment from India has come down drastically. In 1997, it was 4.16 lakh and in 2001, it is 2.79 lakh. This shows that a considerable decline in the employment opportunities is being witnessed in this area. The contribution of Indians to convert this desert into heaven is laudable. The mutual cooperation of the two countries have definitely helped in promoting peace, amity and development in the entire Middle-East.

The UAE Government is going to change the existing labour law from January 2003. It has been widely reported in all the Malayali dailies in Kerala that unskilled and semi-skilled workers will be losing the job opportunities in Gulf countries. An attempt is being made to give more opportunities to the citizens of UAE and other Gulf countries. This is not only going to affect the unskilled and skilled workers but also the workers who are working at higher posts. This may be for avoiding over-dependence of their citizens on foreign countries. From next year onwards, Oman is going to reserve seven more Departments for the local citizens. The Saudi Arabia Government has already enforced restrictions on giving visa s

to the Indians. There is a determined effort to enforce restrictions in many areas and more rigorous checks are being employed before granting the visas. Saudi Arabia is one country where very strict laws are being enforced in regard to visa and a very few people of our country are getting visas to this country

In the light of all these changing laws in UAE and the Middle-East countries, I would like to urge upon the Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs to take immediate steps to redress the grievances. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India, especially the Ministry of External Affairs, have regular interaction with the Missions abroad as also with the Governments of the Gulf region.

When some of us MPs get an opportunity to go abroad, we see how the Embassies are functioning there. In the case of Gulf Missions, they are dealing with thousands of people of the Indian origin. The Missions abroad are not properly manned and particularly the Labour Department in our Missions remains in dearth of staff. I would like to know whether the Minister will take adequate steps to give more number of officials for the proper functioning of the Missions, especially in the Gulf countries.

My next question is about creation of a consolidated fund in the Missions in Gulf countries so that the problems of the people of Indian origin can be attended to properly. When many cases are coming up, the Embassies feel helpless. They cannot do anything because they do not have any provision for spending money from their own budget. Will the Government contemplate to have a consolidated fund for helping the people of Indian origin who are suffering for various reasons in the Gulf countries? Will the Prime Minister as the Head of the Government and the Minister of External Affairs undertake friendly and goodwill tours or pay frequent visits to these Gulf countries and interact with the rulers of those States so that our trade relations can get a fillip, our bilateral relations can be strengthened and the Indian nationals working there will get more encouragement? It will also give more and more employment opportunities for the people in our country.

Our country is facing huge unemployment problem. Manpower is the only strength that we have. If the manpower restrictions are not removed, it will adversely affect the prospects of our country. So, it is the duty of the Central Government and in particular the duty of the External Affairs Minister to undertake frequent tours and goodwill missions to these Gulf countries, so that he can interact with those rulers and get more opportunities for our people to go abroad.

As regards rehabilitation and resettlement of the people

who are coming back from the Gulf countries, this problem has to be attended to more seriously. The Kerala Government has established a department called NORKA with Shri M.M. Hassan as the Minister who has been given the entire charge of looking after the needs of the people who come back from the Gulf countries. Will the Government of India extend all possible help to the NORKA Department of the Kerala Government to assist these people for their rehabilitation and resettlement?

Lastly, I would like to urge upon the Minister through you, Sir, that urgent steps should be taken to avoid inordinate delay in issuing of passports and renewing of passports. Cases relating to emigration pending with the Protector-General of Emigrants will have to be disposed of without delay. Will the Government take necessary steps in this regard?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): At least one member from every family is employed in the Gulf countries in my constituency.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): So is the case in my constituency.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): The same is true of my constituency also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This shows the magnitude of the problem. The net result is that if a death occurs in a family, the cremation will not take place the same day. It will have to be postponed to the next day or a day after because their relatives will have to come from the Gulf countries. This is the situation in Kerala. By saying all this, I just wanted to impress upon the Minister regarding the magnitude of the problem.

I would like to suggest certain rehabilitation measures that are very urgent. We all know that their number is on the decrease. People have started going in large numbers to US. Now they are being retrenched and their number is being reduced.

So, the major question is rehabilitation. For this purpose, both the State Government and the Central Government should take initiatives. In this respect, it may be worthwhile to mention that the immigration authorities are collecting Rs. 2000 from each and every employee who is proceeding abroad. By a rough estimate, I am given to understand that the amount has reached more than Rs. 1000 crore with the Central Government. This may form a nucleus rehabilitation fund which you may use. With the contribution from the State Government and the Central Government, the amount can be raised so that the people who are retrenched from the Gulf countries may find some betterment or rehabilitation in India.



[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

They are earning foreign exchange. In one way, they are rendering service to the nation and this may be taken with gratitude. So, we should do all that is possible to help these poor workers who are working under unsuitable conditions in the Gulf countries. You may see that their blood is being vaporised while working in those countries. Poor people are working there. It is because of the foreign exchange they thrive on and not because the amount that they pay is big. It is not that. The position is that they are helped by the foreign exchange which they earn. Because of the foreign exchange, they would be earning something and that is being sent to India. Unfortunately, most of them spend their money for building purposes and so on.

The second aspect is, hitherto, the Indian Airlines and Air India were really exploiting these people. Very exorbitant airfares were charged. Only recently, it has come down because other foreign services came into operation and the Indian Airlines and the Air India were forced to reduce their charges. But it has not been reduced to a large extent. Poor people are exploited by the Indian Airlines as well as Air India. So, this point must be taken into consideration.

There is another difficulty with regard to language. Among the Indians who are living there, at least, 75 per cent are Malayalees. As regards the language that is being used there, some staff members should be provided in all the Embassies there who can speak Malayalam as well. There is an apprehension among the Southern workers that they are being discriminated against because of the language difficulty. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that some Malayalees or Keralites work there as staff members in the Middle East countries. That will do a lot because poor and skilled people are working there. Some of them do not know even to read properly and they know only Malayalam. In such cases, they should get proper attention and report.

My next point is about the dead bodies being transported to India. One or two deaths take place in every day and the dead bodies will be sent to our State. But the difficulty is, the sponsor will turn away. He will not meet the expenses. An immediate intervention by the embassy people can do a lot in this matter. The Indian Airlines do not bring them free of charges. Exorbitant charges are being levied. So, I would request the hon. Minister to make an arrangement so that the dead bodies are brought to India without delay.

Lastly, several poor workers are languishing in jails there due to import difficulties and technicalities or due to some criminal charges against them. They are being dealt with in the Middle-East countries. Until and unless the Embassy people take some prompt measures, they cannot be brought back to India. So, the languishing Malayalees in jails may be

taken into consideration, and see that immediate steps are taken to bring them back to India and justice is done to them.

I again request the hon. Minister to be very prompt and active in the Indian embassies of the Middle-East countries, take into consideration that a lot of people are working there earning foreign exchange, do justice by rehabilitation, by arranging for bringing dead bodies to India and do all that is possible to help them in every way.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, in his reply at para 2(a), the hon. Minister has mentioned,

"All Indian Missions in the Gulf countries have full-fledged labour wings dealing with these problems."

But actually the problem of female workers who are working in the homes of local people in Gulf countries, is that they are always cheated by their employers. They are not given salaries and they are not allowed to write letters to their own homes. They are not allowed to go outside. Then how can they make a complaint against these local people? That is the main problem being faced by the Indians, especially the ladies in Gulf countries.

Secondly, here you have mentioned about the problems related to your Ministry only. But most of the complaints that we receive, as Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has mentioned, are regarding the high fares charged by the Air India and the Indian Airlines. We are getting so many complaints regarding high fares charged by the Air India and the Indian Airlines.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, most of the Keralites who are going to Gulf countries are from my constituency, Calicut. The airport at Calicut is monopolised by the Indian Airlines and the Air India. The airports at Cochin and Trivandrum are international ones, but the airport at Calicut is not an international one. It has only got international status. So, only the Air India and the Indian Airlines operate flights from Calicut airport. They are charging higher fares from the passengers. I request the hon. Minister to please reduce the fares. I am very much happy that the Civil Aviation Ministry is present here. You please do something to help the Indians in general and Keralites in particular who are working in Gulf countries.

Another important problem is, many applicants are waiting for Kuwait Compensation. That is a major issue, especially in Kerala. They have to fill up new forms prescribed by the United Nations Compensation Commission. I, therefore, request the Government that the United Nations

Compensation Commission be asked to extend the period for filling up the applications for claiming Kuwait Compensation. These are some of the points that I wanted to raise. These points are very important. We hope to get a favourable reply from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Rule 197 is clear that only those Members who have given notice should be allowed to speak in the House. Some Members have, unfortunately, not given notice. Therefore, I will not be able to allow any Member to speak now. We must go according to the rules.

Yes, Mr. Minister may reply now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is, no doubt, very important.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you can raise this issue under any other rule whenever it is possible, but not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Minister to take into consideration all the difficulties raised by the hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, hon. Members may be allowed to raise any new points. There should not be any repetition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not permitting any Member to ask questions. Mr. Minister, you please go ahead with your reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Members who want to raise this issue would write to the hon. Minister. That should also be considered by the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): Sir, both the Indian Airlines and the Air India are operating flights to Gulf countries. The Air India was generous enough to bring dead bodies free of charge with one escort, whereas the Indian Airlines which has got the maximum service, is not extending that benefit. As a result, dead bodies are kept there for days together. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I have got your point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: The hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is present here. That is why I am saying this.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the UAE Government has banned Indian workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramesh Chennithalaji has tried to draw the attention of the entire House and the Government through his calling Attention Motion and I am happy to inform you that the maximum foreign exchange comes from the Indians working in Gulf Area. Though these people comprise lower class yet they contribute the largest chunk of foreign exchange reserve to the country. Hence our Ministry of External Affairs keeps into consideration all the factors mentioned here. The first question Shri Rameshji had asked as to whether the number of our workers going to Gulf is decreasing and our role being restricted in the Gulf region which has been turned into a heaven with the efforts of Indians. The reason for it is that most of the big projects for which Indians were hired have almost been completed. Hence now the lesser number of workers is required there because about 70 to 80 per cent of the work of master plan has been completed and it would not be an exaggeration to say that the requirement of workers have dropped to an alarmingly low level. Second reason for it may be cited as the growing Arabisation i.e. giving preference to Arabians. However in this regard I would submit that the Indian are given priority in the whole region even today. Countries still accord top priority to the Indian workers and three to four lakh workers have been getting employment abroad. A total of approximately 35 lakh Indians have been working in gulf region and it is the duty of the Ministry of External Affairs to protect their interests. With regard to the concern expressed by you and hon. Radhakrishnanji that a lot of difficulty is faced in bringing the dead bodies of Indian labourers who die there, I would like to submit that the Minister of Civil Aviation is sitting here. We have reduced the fare of Air India by ten to fifteen per cent so that the people could travel back without problem. In most of the cases employers provide for the transportation of dead bodies but in case of their failure to do so, Air India and Indian Airlines both co-ordinate with each other and provide for the transportation of the body along with twenty kilograms of the luggage. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Mr. Minister, only the Air India is doing it. The Indian Airlines is not doing it. You may kindly ask your colleague about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am telling you. You are not aware of the fact. Even the Indian Airlines is doing it. Even if there is some reluctance on their part, the hon. Civil Aviation Minister, who is sitting behind me, will take care of it.

As far as the Government of India is concerned, I would like to say that both the Airlines are liable to bring back the body. I am telling you about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, apart from this fact, inordinate delay occurs in bringing back the bodies because of the laws in those countries, especially in Saudi Arabia. I would like to place it on record that whenever we, the Members of Parliament, write to the External Affairs Ministry, prompt action is being taken. But the common people working in the Gulf countries are not able to approach our Embassies and Missions there. So, our Embassies and Missions should intervene immediately.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: It is absolutely right, the Government tries its best on its own but the impediments in this way are created due to other some laws in the Saudi Arabia. However through you, I would like to apprise the House that the Government of India is making sustained efforts make the law simpler so that it could become easier to bring back the dead bodies. Murlidharan Saheb raised the matter regarding the plight of maid servants. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, I would like to make a point here.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I cannot yield all the time. Let me complete it. Then I will yield.

SHRI E. AHAMED: In a country like Saudi Arabia, more than 1.3 million Indians are working. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: You are lessening their number. It is 1.4 million people who are working there. Please do not underestimate it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: All right, I say it is 1.5 million people who are working there.

We have only two Missions there, one in Jeddah and another in Riyadh. But in Dama and other places there is no Indian Mission. It is very difficult for Indians living in those places to approach our Missions. So, will the Government open more Indian Missions there? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, as far Shri Murlidharanji's submission about the maid servants is concerned, the crux of the problem is the existing laws there. I would only like to say this much to you that the Government of India is monitoring the new recruitment for the maid servants very seriously. We have received no complaints about the ten thousand maid servants recently recruited through the embassies. If any of the hon. Members has received any complaint or information in this regard he should certainly share it with our mission or Ministry so that the necessary action could be taken in that regard.

Shri Ramesh Chennithalaji while raising a point had said that our Prime Minister or any other Minister or dignitaries should visit these so that our coordination with them could be maintained. The House is aware that Arab countries have an important place in our foreign policy and in accordance with that we always accord priority to the visits of our President, Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs or other dignitaries to those countries and also invite their representatives to India. This is a continuous process. Shri Radhakrishnanji had also proposed for the deployment of Malayali speaking staff in Embassy to facilitate better communication with the Malayalam speaking persons in those countries. It is worthy suggestion and I would pay due attention to it.

*[English]*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister include Tamil speaking staff also in Indian Missions there because a lot of Tamilians are also living in those countries?

*[Translation]*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am replying to the question raised in this particular context by the hon. Member. Malayalam, Tamil and Urdu, all are Indian languages. Hon. Member has given a suggestion and I would pay due attention to it. Shri Ramesh Chennithalaji has demanded for constituting welfare fund. I would like to inform that the Government propose to set up a welfare fund and not only that it is under consideration but the Government have started to work seriously in this regard. Eight councillors have been entrusted the work there in this regard. They have sent a proposal by holding a Conference for chalking out programme details as how to set up a Welfare Fund or what step should be taken to protect the interest of Indians there. The proposal is pending with the Cabinet. We should set up the fund as soon as the proposal is cleared and pay full attention to protect the interest of the Indian workers.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not said anything about the facilities provided by Indian Airlines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, Air India provides facilities to bring back the dead bodies to India, but Indian Airlines is not providing the same. Will the hon. Minister say something on this aspect?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Those facilities will be given by Indian Airlines also.

12.43 hrs.

#### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I go to 'Zero Hour' now. Dr. Nitish Sengupta.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to bring to the notice of this House and, through you, to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Nitish Sengupta, I will have to give preference to a privilege notice given by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Please take your seat now.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are aware that I have already disallowed your privilege notice. But you can make your submission now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Sir, I had given a Privilege Notice against the then Minister of Finance - Shri Yashwant Sinha, the then Minister of Rural Development - Shri Venkaiah Naidu and the Minister of Planning Shrimati Vasundhara Raje on 17.05.2002.

Sir, while replying to my question regarding the Bihar's share of funds for the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalikas to be provided as per the recommendations of the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission, the then Minister of Finance misled the House by saying that the Finance Commission

had recommended that the states which do not hold elections, would not be given funds. However the Commission had given funds to Bihar in 1996-97 without any elections having been held there. I reproduced this fact in the House. Then Venkaiah Naiduji and Vasundhara Rajeji misled House by saying that the funds have lapsed as per the Commission's directive even though the Commission had directed in opposite that the allocated funds can not lapse and it was in accordance with this principle that Bihar had received the funds in 2000-2001. This way these three Minister knowingly, willfully and deliberately misled the House and they have made the Government to withhold the decision of providing fund worth Rs. 6000 crore rupees to Bihar. I am thankful to you for demanding a statement in this regard and also giving them Show Cause Notice. I have presented the facts alongwith the proceedings and levelled allegations on the basis of it but his reply is incoherent and is lacking any new information. He has misled the House. They have not mentioned anything in this regard. The Show Cause Notice given by him is not satisfactory and so it should be referred to the Committee on Privileges for investigation and for taking action thereon. Shri Venkaiah Naidu is a Member of the Rajya Sabha so as per rules and conventions the matter of privilege against him should be referred to the Rajya Sabha. As per the rules and conventions, only that House of Parliament is competent to take action against any particular Member to which the Member belongs. The rules and facts are there in the Proceedings under which we have made allegations as also given evidences and the precedent so far is that that hon. Speaker deliberates on such issue. I, therefore, request the hon. Speaker to make considerations. I also urge that it should be referred to the Committee on Privileges. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh had given a notice of privilege on 17th May, 2002 against the Minister of State for Planning and the then Ministers of Finance and Rural Development for allegedly misleading the House regarding financial package to Bihar.

I had called for the comments of the concerned Ministers on the notice of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I have since received the comments from the hon. Ministers.

It is well established that if any statement is made on the floor of the House by a Member or Minister which another Member believes to be untrue, incomplete or incorrect, it does not constitute a breach of privilege. In order to constitute a breach of privilege or contempt of the House, it has to be proved that the statement was not only wrong or misleading but it was made deliberately to mislead the House. A breach of privilege can arise only when the Member or the Minister

makes a false statement or an incorrect statement wilfully, deliberately and knowingly.

On a perusal of the comments of the Ministers in the matter, I am satisfied that there has been no misleading of the House by them as alleged by the Member.

I have accordingly disallowed the notice of question of privilege. Copies of the comments of the Ministers have already been made available to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Commission has not made any comments, he has misguided the House by saying that the Commission has said so. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar's funds have been wasted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh ji, you know that the ruling has already been given, now please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, if any hon. Minister misguides the House, he tenders his apology. He has not even done that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the negligence of the Government towards the sad plight of several lakhs of settlers from the then East Pakistan - now Bangladesh - who were uprooted from their soils in the 50s and 60s and settled in several districts like Udham Singh Nagar and all that.

12.49 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

Under the Government of India Act, 1935, they were recognised as Scheduled Castes. The Schedule mentioned that. But they have been denied that status for the last 40-50 years on account of official apathy and prevarication. They belonged, by and large, to the Namasudra and Pundra Kshatria communities. They are not recognised as Scheduled Castes as per the Schedule attached to the Government of India Act, 1935. But when they came here and were settled by the Government of India, they cut down the forests and reclaimed them. They turned those lands into cultivable ones and grew rich crops there. But they have been systematically denied the status of Scheduled Castes for the last nearly 40-50 years. This is a very serious matter. They have been denied

educational and employment opportunities. The successive Governments in Uttar Pradesh gave them promises but have not done anything for them.

After a long time, the Government of Uttaranchal is now believed to have recommended their case to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. I appeal to the Union Minister of Home Affairs to give them this long delayed justice so that they can restart their lives with dignity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also willing to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you to associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, even after 55 years of independence, people belonging to SC category who have already been included in the list of Scheduled castes in one state, are not being included in such list in other states. I know that every state has its own set of rules and the persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste category in one state, which is their birth place, are not considered so in other states.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Same attitude is there with Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes Sir, for example, the Paswans come under the Scheduled Caste category in Bihar but they are not considered so in Delhi. Fishermen are considered Scheduled Castes in West Bengal, whereas they are included in the list of Backward classes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Washermen (dhobi) are included in the list of Scheduled Caste here, but are not considered Scheduled Caste in Karnataka and other states. The status of a person belonging to Scheduled Caste category does not rise, if he goes in some other state, but remains the same. The Government should make deliberations over this issue and a discussion should be held to the effect that if a person shifts to some other state, he should be given the same Scheduled Caste status there also. Though, the Government can say that he has got recognition in Central Government services, but I wish to submit that he is not given any priority in State Government service when he goes to some other state. Therefore, I demand that the persons, belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes should be given the same status throughout the country.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some castes viz Nunia, Mallah, Tatma, Kumhar and Turha have been recognised as Scheduled Caste in some States while in other States they have been included in the list of backward classes. A discussion to this effect should be held in the House.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SAROKE (UDUPI): Sir, we should have a half-an-hour discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Sir, so many people from Tamil Nadu, especially SC/ST people, have come to Delhi but they could not get any benefit. My request is that they should be included in the SC/ST list so that they can get the benefits, like medical facilities, education, etc. here too. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Sir, there are five crore people in this country who have been earlier denotified and belong to Nomadic Tribes commonly known as Tapriwas & Vimukt Jaties, which include communities like Aheria, Banjara, Bajania, Bherkut, Beria, Bauria, Bangali, Beldar, Bazigar, Chirimar, Chhara, Deha, Dhinwar, Dhangar, Garhi-Lohar, Gadaria, Gandhila, Jogi, Kol, Kanjar, Kapadia, Mirasi, Madari, Nath, Nat, Parahiya, Rai Sikh, Sikligar, Sehariya, Singiwala, Sapera, Sarera, Od and so on.

The All India Tapriwas & Vimukt Jaties Federation has been making representations to the Government since 1950 - no one has denied their genuine and constitutional demands - but no final decision has been conveyed to them till now.

The brief history of the case is that these communities were governed by Special Regulation No.XXII of 1785 and Presidency Act of 1871, which was subsequently amended as Criminal Tribes Act 1924 for imposing severe restrictions upon these tribes. This black Act was not rescinded even after Independence till 31st August 1952 when All India Criminal Tribes Enquiry Commission called as Ayyangar Committee (1949-52) submitted its report to the Government of India and recommended to give "Special Treatment" to these tribes. The Government followed the recommendations of the Committee by renaming them as Denotified Khanabados Jaties instead of Ex-criminal tribes, but Government did not follow the recommendations of "Special Treatment" to these tribes and included them in the Constitution (SC) Order 1950 by dividing them into SC, ST & OBC without any consideration.

Andther Committee which was called as Lokur Committee was appointed by the Government of India in 1965 to look into these issues. It also recommended in its report

that SC, ST & OBC lists are not scientific and are made without justification and must be revised.

Sir, in free India, the Punjab & Haryana High court in CWP No.132 of 1975 gave its verdict in 1982 directing the Government for the inclusion of Vimukt & Tapriwas Jaties in ST list. In another case the Allahabad High Court in CWP No.9286 gave its verdict in 2001 directing the Government to include Kol Tribe in ST list instead of SC. These people have sacrificed a lot for the country's Independence. So I think, that they should be included in the ST list.

Sir, the All India Tapriwas & Vimukt Jaties Federation has been moving from pillar to post for redressal of their grievances. Their representation is pending with the Minister of Tribal Affairs and he has given an assurance on the floor of the House that they will be included in the ST List.

So, I call upon the hon. Minister and the Government that they should be immediately put in the ST List.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, you have given notice on a different issue, I will call you. Whether you want to associate yourself with this matter?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I associate you in this discussion. Shri Prakash Ambedkar, please speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Sir, I would like to raise a very sensitive issue that the Government has started the process of privatisation of the holy Ganga River.

Under the World Bank system of public private management, the Ganges has been privatised and given to a French firm by the name, Suez-Degremont Private Limited. The Government has gone into an agreement and the work has already started. This company has gone into an agreement with the Delhi Jal Board. From Tehri Dam, the Upper Ganga canal flows nearly about 304 kilometres covering about 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh. This water discharge of 635 million cubic per day is now going to be used to supply water to Delhi. In the 21 districts, which are coming in this area, 19 lakh hectares are being irrigated. They are going to be deprived of this water. The Delhi Government has invested on its own two million dollars. This company is only going to supply the technology of purification of water. The management of the water is going to be the responsibility of the Delhi Government.

Further, the charges, which are going to be levied by this private firm for purification of water, are going to be round about Rs.2 a litre which I personally did not believe, but after going through the agreement which has been entered into by the Government, it is found true that the charges, which this company is going to charge, are Rs.2 per litre. This is the first phase of the agreement.

The next phase of the agreement is going to start in all the cities situated on the banks of the River Ganga. They will be forced to take water from this company. River and water are the properties of the nation. Without investing a single paisa into the whole project, this company is going to make a profit of Rs.20,000 crore, only by supplying water to Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. This is an important issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know it.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Not only this is being privatised but also let me tell you that the Government of Tamil Nadu has gone ahead and privatised one more River, Bhavani, a tributary of the Cauvery. If water is going to be privatised, what is going to be the condition of the common man? Can the common man afford this? I would like the House to join me in asking the Government whether they are going to proceed with this agreement or the agreement is going to be cancelled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, during 'Zero Hour', you will have to complete it in one minute. Do not make a speech.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: I will just conclude by saying that all the leaders should join me in getting the contract cancelled by the Government. The Government should reply whether this is a fact or not.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONEPAT): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday evening at five p.m. heavy stone pelting and firing took place between the police and unemployed youth and farmers in Ahulana Sugar Mill in my constituency Sonapat. We have not received any report with regard to the number of persons injured and died as also the extent of loss of property in this incident. It has created a lot of tension in the village. On the one hand, the police had cordoned off the village while on the other, the villagers are sitting. It seems to be a situation of attack by one country on the other. I, through you, request the Union Government to intervene in this matter, and a committee comprising MPs should soon make a visit there. Any mis-happening can take place there as the area is under high tension. Justice should

be done with farmers and the youth there. In fact stone pelting and firing continued there for the whole night.

13.00 hrs.

*[English]*

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to a reply to a Starred Question given on the 24th July, 2001.

According to the reply, 6,38,518.31 square kilometres of wasteland is available in India. It is given to understand that the hon. Prime Minister of India is going to convene a meeting of the National Development Council on the 22nd December, 2002. I urge upon the Government to focus the attention on this important issue.

Yesterday, a delegation met the hon. Prime Minister of India and requested him to allocate land for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the landless poor and underprivileged from this wasteland that is available. May I request the Government, through you, to allocate more funds for wasteland development for all the States. A state-wise report has been given and more funds need to be allocated in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The Planning Commission also has to have a critical evaluation. All the Chief Ministers of India have to be informed about the availability of wasteland and the action plan has to be discussed in the National Development Council.

In Tamil Nadu, for wasteland development, we are having a target of 20 lakh hectares per year. I would like the Government to allot more funds for this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government over a very important issue. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had attained initiation of Buddhism in Nagpur on 14th October, 1956 and at that time the number of seats for Scheduled Casts in Maharashtra were 36 in the Legislative Assembly and six in the Lok Sabha. But since we have made conversions from Hindu religion, the number of seats have been curtailed i.e. 18 Assembly seats and 3 Lok Sabha seats. Hon. Minister had given assurance at the time of discussion in meeting of the Delimitation committee, and that is why facilities to be given to the Scheduled Castes are now being extended to persons belonging to Buddhist religion, but our demand from the Government is that the 18 Assembly seats and 3 Lok Sabha seats reduced in Maharashtra, should be made reserved in the coming elections.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an embankment at 'Saran' was constructed on the bank of river Gandak during the British period so as to protect district Gopalganj of Bihar state from floods. No repair work of that river embankment has been done since last ten years. The embankments there have broken at dozens of places due to floods during the last three years. This damage to the embankments and Ring dam (Guarki) is destroying the crops of farmers of Kuchard, Kort, Kajha, Barauli, Siddwalia, and Baikunthpur blocks in district Gopalganj. There has been constant damage to roads, schools, government buildings, private property as also lives and property of common people. The State Government are not in a position to get the repair work of these embankments done with their own resources.

Department of Ganga flood control and Department of Water Resources of the State Government have sent an estimate to this effect to the Union Government. We will have to suffer losses due to floods in future also if repair work is not undertaken from the month of February.

I, therefore, request the hon. Union Minister of Water Resources to immediately approve the proposal of the State Government and provide funds as per their demand.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Please let me speak over a major issue. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have gathered in Delhi. Their problem is that the Members of ruling party and we are also demanding that all Gutka and Tobacco products should be banned. China, which used to import tobacco from us, is not doing so any longer. During Eighth Five Year Plan the then Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao had asked the farmers not to grow tobacco that year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they do so their future will be in dark. Therefore, during Eighth Five Year Plan, we had given the suggestion that our scientists should look forward for alternate use of Tobacco.

[English]

We will use tobacco for an alternate use. So, alternate use of tobacco should be researched and given to the farmers so that we can have a value added to their crop and not be used for traditional areas such as cigarettes, etc. So far as the research to be done by the Scientific Board in respect of value-addition crop is concerned, no feed back has come. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to take action in this regard. As we are going for the Tenth Five-Year Plan, we should see that alternate use of tobacco, which is used in our villages -

[Translation]

The people in villages apply tobacco in their door frames to make them termite free.

[English]

There should be an alternate use of tobacco for treatment of pests and mite and removing termites from the ground as a bio-pesticide. So, an urgent importance has to be given to this subject. Research has to be conducted so that the tobacco farmers can be given an assurance and also an alternate crop for such tobacco growing areas has to be identified quickly so that these farmers are not put to hardship that they are facing today.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of unemployment is aggregating in the country. The Government have not made any meaningful efforts to solve this problem. In 1998, the hon'ble Prime Minister had announced from the ramparts of Red Fort that in one year they will provide employment opportunities to one crore people. Last year, the hon. President in his Address, which in a way is also Government's commitment, had talked about solving the problem of unemployment but this year in the Presidential Address the hon. President has not even uttered a single word regarding solving the problem of unemployment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia and said that they are making efforts to create new opportunities for employment but the report of Ahluwalia Committee is contrary to the commitments made by the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government had constituted Second Labour Commission two years ago and it was expected that new opportunities for employment would be made available in the country but from the report of this Commission it seems that this commission is not going to make any meaningful efforts in the direction of solving the problem of unemployment rather it will increase unemployment. The recommendations of this Commission will serve the interests of the owners.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are well aware of the fact that what is happening in the country in the name of economic reforms and that it has resulted in making unemployment problem more serious. The report which the Second Labour Commission has submitted, is dangerous and anti-labour. Hence, my demand is that this report should be discussed in the House.



SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House, Government of India and the Country towards the demonstration being staged at Jantar Mantar by thousands of employees of Rural Banks coming from 196 Regional Rural Banks in 26 states on the call of All India Rural Bank Workers Organisation and All India Rural Bank Officers Organisation. Their demand is that the recommendations of M. V. Chalpatirao Committee, which are anti-people and anti-rural Banks should be withdrawn and a Bill should be introduced to set up National Rural Bank by merging all 196 Rural Regional Banks of the country in order to strengthen Rural Credit System.

Sir, these banks have earned the net profit of total 1265 crore rupees upto 31.3.2001, which is the appropriate basis of setting up of National Rural Bank of India. The demand of National Rural Bank, has been made since 1993 and the members of this House have supported this demand from time to time.

Sir, this demand was also approved by the Chairman of NABARD on 28.8.1992 and by Group of Commercial Banks including Reserve Bank of India on 5th September, 1992. In its 4th Report, the Standing Parliamentary Committee of Ministry of Finance had recommended for setting up of National Rural Bank of India. Through you, I would like to request the Government that the recommendations of Chalpatirao Committee should be withdrawn and announcement for setting up National Rural Bank of India should be made immediately so that they could get justice.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGOLI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with hon'ble Member Shri Suresh Chandel. I request you to give permission for this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, I give you permission to associate with this subject.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. I rise to focus on a specific problem concerning the Indian Railway. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All sides will get the attention of the Chair provided you keep peace here.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, the Technical employees in the Indian Railways are around eleven lakhs in number. There are non-technical employees also. But so far as the technical employees are concerned, they are being deprived of getting proper scale. For the non-technical employees, the qualification at the initial point is passing of Secondary School

examination and the pay scale starts at Rs. 3,000-4,590 and it may be upgraded to the scale of Rs. 7,450-11,500. But in the case of technical employees, though it starts at Rs. 3,000-4,590 scale, it goes up to the scale of Rs. 5,000-8,000 only. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to add one sentence here. This problem has been forwarded to the hon. Railway Minister and it was also under the consideration of the Group of Ministers.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this problem and request him to solve it. It is the problem concerning the technical employees of the Indian Railways. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Roy has also given notice on this. I allow him to associate with Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): No, Sir. My subject is different. Please allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you may raise your point.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the technical employees of entire Railway Departments of the country have no right to mark their attendance during their duty. Instead their attendance is marked by higher officials. My submission is that great injustice is being done with 10 lakh employees. They are being treated as slaves. They have to bear insult all the time. Hence my request to the Government of India is that like other employees, the technical employees of Railways should be given the right to mark their attendance while on duty.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Rajasthan, affected by severe famine for the last four years, are on the verge of committing suicide as they have been facing starvation, unemployment and their crops have destroyed. It is a matter of great concern. ...*(Interruptions)* National Crime Record Bureau. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Here a statement was given that no starvation death has taken place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhileshji, there is no time.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: According to National

Crime Record Bureau nearly 5000 farmers have committed suicide during the last three years. In the year 2001 itself, more than 500 such cases have come to light. According to the Bureau from 1997 to 2001, 3329 farmers have committed suicide. Continuous loss and increasing debt burden due to famine have made the Agriculture and Cattle-breeding useless.

Through you, I would like to request the Government of India that the debts upto Rs. 25,000/- should be waived off in order to provide relief to the farmers so that they could support their families. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You say this to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the hon'ble Prime Minister is saying that there is no starvation death. ...*(Interruptions)* On the other hand wrong statements are given in the House.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You should support this. We are the representative of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* We are saying to the Government and the Government is paying heed to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity. I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Water Resources is here. I am raising a very serious matter relating to the Ministry of Water Resources. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I want to bring to the urgent notice of the hon. House a very serious situation which has arisen in Kerala as a result of the efforts being made by the Government of Tamil Nadu to divert water from the two major rivers of Kerala - Pampa and Achen Coil. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb now.

*... (Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, this step, on the part of Tamil Nadu, will result in serious scarcity of water in many parts of Kerala, especially in my constituency. The National

Water Development Agency is said to be of the view that there is surplus water in these rivers. On the other hand, the Centre for Water Resources Management is of the view that there is no surplus water in these rivers.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, I understand, is going ahead with the project of constructing a dam in the hope that the Central Government will give its approval. Both the reports of these Agencies are said to be under the consideration of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources.

If the proposed dam at Mekkarai near Sengottai is constructed, many areas like Konni, Achen Coil of my constituency will be under water. It is estimated that if this dam becomes operational, about 2,000 hectares of forest land in Konni and Achen Coil area will be totally under water. This will be very disastrous for the people of central Travancore, particularly in my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want from the Central Government? You put forth your request.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, as the House is aware, millions of devotees visit the holy shrine of Sabarimala every year. They use the water from River Pampa, which is treated as one of the holiest rivers. If water is diverted from this river, it will put these devotees to greater hardships.

Therefore, I would request the Minister for Water Resources to intervene in the matter immediately and direct the Tamil Nadu Government to stop construction of this dam at Mekkarai.

Also, I demand the Government, to reject National Water Development Agency's recommendation and thereby do not allow another water dispute to occur between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would request the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Adhi Sankar will speak. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, you have already requested the Government of India.

*... (Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here. He can reply. That is a very important matter of my area and the situation is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you want to respond?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI

ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): No proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu is pending with us. Hon. Member should not be so apprehensive of the fact because no proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu has come to us. So, there is nothing to be worried. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that there is no proposal from that State.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, there have been repeated communal riots in various part of our country due to various reasons. The Government of Maharashtra has appointed a team to study the root causes of communal riots in various parts of Maharashtra. The study team - under the eminent police officer, Shri R.T. Rathod who is Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai - after study had arrived at the conclusion that the religious processions taken out at the time of religious festivals were the origin and root causes of communal riots. Many times, religious festivals like Ganapati Puja, Moharram, Shiv Jayanti and Ramzan are coincided and celebrated at the same time. These festivals are celebrated with traditional rites such as idol processions, routine daily worship, reading of religious holy books, sandal procession and Urs etc.

Due to these festivals and the religious procession, tensions between the two communities arise which exist throughout the year and some fundamentalists try to find out miscellaneous reasons to cause serious communal riots. Majority of the people from both the religions do not like riots to occur. However, specific few communal-minded people, through their provocative speeches and due to one reason or the other, try to create communal tensions.

In order to prevent communal riots and to develop communal harmony and friendly atmosphere among the people of all religions, a Communal Harmony Scheme had been implemented in some parts of Maharashtra. There was a tremendous response from the public and excellent results came in preventing communal riots and to develop communal harmony.

Sir, the Government of Maharashtra had passed a resolution to implement the Communal Harmony Scheme under the leadership of Shri R.T. Rathod, who is Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai. It was successfully implemented throughout the State of Maharashtra. The National Police Academy, Hyderabad also adopted this scheme. So, I would request the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to implement this Scheme throughout the country.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (DOMARIAGANJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that a railway line be laid from Nangarh in my Constituency Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh to Lumbini, the birth place of Gautam Budha. Lumbini is 10 kms away from the Nangarh Railway Station in Nepal. I have given a memorandum to hon'ble Minister of Railways demanding the construction of railway line between Nangarh to Lumbini.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, power is short by 1200 Megawatt in Maharashtra therefore, industries, farmers and consumers are getting perturbed. Two years back Maharashtra set up a power plant with the capacity of 500 MW in Uran. The Government of Maharashtra has been requesting Ministry of Petroleum for the last two years to provide gas for the plant from Hazira. But as the gas has not been provided to the plant, it has been lying closed. Sir, through you, I urge upon the Union Government to provide gas for the said plant.

*[English]*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA, NORTH EAST): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this House a matter of urgent public importance. The entire population of North Bengal is denied the effective use of enforcement of Fundamental Rights. Two years ago, the full Bench of the High Court decided that there should be a Circuit Bench in Jalpaiguri so that the litigant public in entire North Bengal could get the benefit. For this, one small amendment is required in the States Reorganisation Act, which is the responsibility of the Central Government.

The House will be adjourned around 20th of this month, we will not be meeting till the Budget Session in March, and as a result, this will be delayed. Therefore, through you, Sir, I impress upon the Central Government to bring that one small amendment so that a Circuit Bench could be set up in Jalpaiguri.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Sir, we associate ourselves with the hon. Member on this issue.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Banaras Hindu University is known as Oxford of Poorvanchal and is a reputed central university of our country. This university has provided new dimension to several outstanding persons at national and international level. The elections of students unions have been banned in BHU since 1997 which is violating rights of students. The ban was imposed because

of corruption rampant in a BHU Hospital. When students raised their voice against corruption rampant in Sir Sundarlal Hospital, the management of University imposed a ban on Students Unions to suppress their voice. The university which have produced many outstanding persons the same university has banned the Students' Union and expelled hundreds of students.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask what the Government of India has to do in this regard.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: First let me project the problem then I will put my demand. I would like to tell him that many students, out of over hundred expelled students are gold medallist. Therefore, my submission is that their expulsion be immediately withdrawn and students union at BHU be restored immediately otherwise agony of young students will reduce the Government to ash.

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I would like to raise an important matter regarding the upgradation of Dhanuvachapuram railway halt in Thiruvananthapuram into Departmental Railway Station.

Sir, at present, Dhanuvachapuram railway halt is functioning on contract basis and is situated beyond 24 kilometres from the Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station, which comes under Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari Sector.

This halt was inaugurated on 18th August, 1980 and thereby fulfilled the long-cherished dreams of railway commuters of this area.

Even after completion of 22 years, no steps are being taken by the railway authorities to upgrade this halt into a departmental station. This halt is now functioning in a temporary asbestos shed without any basic amenities. So far as number of passengers and earnings are concerned, this halt stands first compared to that of any other station under Thiruvananthapuram-Nagercoil sector. So many esteemed educational institutions, including newly approved medical college, and Government offices are functioning around this station.

In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to upgrade the Dhanuvachapuram halt into a full-fledged departmental station, and also necessary budgetary provision on account of this proposal may kindly be included in the next year's Railway Budget.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would rise to

mention about the deadly menace of rabies. Sir, I may be allowed to speak in my mother tongue, Malayalam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, yes, why not. You can Speak in Malayalam.

[Translation]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: \* Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government into two aspects of this problem. First of all, we don't have a preventive vaccine for rabies and the curative vaccines that are available are extremely expensive, amounting to thousand to twelve thousand rupees. In normal circumstances, people fall prey to rabies. So the anti rabies vaccines should be made available at affordable prices and easy availability of the needed quantity of the medicine should be ensured.

Sir, of late, those who are employed by the local administration are not willing to catch and kill the stray dogs. According to them, a court order prevents them from doing so. Hence I request the Government, the animal welfare organisations and the courts, to show more concern to their fellow-men first who die of rabies rather than to those stray dogs which spread this menace. I once again request them not to complicate the existing problems by their so-called concern for animals. Let the serum to kill stray dogs be allowed to be manufactured by companies and let the local administration employees be entrusted with the job of catching these dogs. Moreover, the Government, the animal welfare groups and the courts may be informed thoroughly about the various aspects of this danger to human beings who are becoming endangered species.

SHRI BIKAS CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL): Some women have sought their reinstatement in Coal India Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd., public sector undertakings on compassionate grounds. But they are not being reinstated. They are neither reinstated nor provided any work. This type of Retrenchment of women is against the spirit of constitution of India. Therefore, my submission is that the Government of India should direct Coal India Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. both public sector undertakings to reinstate these women.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had announced, way back in 1974, that monopoly of book stalls in the Railway stations would be removed and new stalls would be allotted to the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society and to the educated unemployed youth. The Government has

\* Original in Malayalam.

not strictly followed that policy and has not implemented it. Till today the Ministry of Railways has been allotting book stalls at the Railway stations to big monopoly book houses like M/s. Wheelers and Company.

I would like to urge upon the Government to give allotment of these book stalls at the Railway stations to the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society, to the people from the minority community and to the unemployed educated youngmen instead of giving them to the big book houses like M/s. Wheelers and Company in keeping with its policy as was announced in 1974.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Railways to the fact that on 26th of September this year, the Ministry has suspended an important railway line in the Asansol Division, namely the Pandeveswar-Palashthali. One passenger train was plying on this route. This was an important railway service connecting the State of West Bengal with the adjoining State of Jharkhand. The people belonging to the backward classes were enjoying this facility not only for transportation but also for their livelihood. About 50,000 people have been affected by this order. We are not aware of the exact reason for the suspension of this railway line. It has caused immense sufferings to the people of that area. I would like to urge upon the Government to restore this train service in this section of Pandaveshwar and Palashthali without further delay.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the fact that the Trivandrum airport is an international airport and the airports at Cochin and Calicut are of international standards. Unfortunately, the issue of optimum utilisation of these airports has not been taken up seriously. We have a dearth of international flights operating from these airports. We have all the requisite facilities. Cochin airport is an airport which was constructed with the contribution made by the NRIs. However, optimum utilisation of this airport has not been a matter of serious concern to the Ministry.

I would request the Government to operate more international flights from these airports so that people will be facilitated and the airport can be utilised to an optimum extent. Air India has started the New Jersey-Cochin direct international flight recently. The flight is going full and it is remunerative. If such flights can be operated from here to Frankfurt, London and other farther destinations in Europe, more passengers will avail the facilities at this airport. Even now our people come to Mumbai airport and other airports before getting back to Kerala. So, it is highly necessary that international flights not only from the Middle East but other European countries also are operated from these airports.

The Government should look into this. While the facilities and passengers are available at these airports, why cannot more international flights be operated in this sector?

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the Government of India that though entire nation, its people and the House take pride of India's Defence Forces but sometimes, our soldiers behave so inhumanly that shakes entire mankind. Recently, Jammu bound 'Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Express' halted at Gaya Railway Stations when two passengers from Saharanpur got down to eat something but meanwhile the train started. Seeing it, they tried to enter some compartment which was found to be Military compartment and incidentally they entered same bogie. They were humbly telling the Jawans that they would change the bogie at next station but these Jawans threw both of them from running train. One of them died and the other got injured.

My submission is that soldiers of Indian Army be taught discipline and humanity also. Atleast they should behave well with a person who is under some compulsions. It has been heard that Jawans often beat up and cause harm to anyone. It has become a normal practice for them that whatever they want they can do. Therefore, my submission is that this should be checked and they should be directed to behave properly. Also, I demand that action should be taken against the guilty Jawans travelling in that bogie.

13.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the clock.*

14.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seventeen minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI P. H. PANDIAN in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to accord approval to gauge conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur-Hissar and Ratangarh-Degana metre gauge lines in Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (CHURU): Mr. Chairman,

Sir, there has been a long standing demand for conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur-Hissar and Ratangarh-Degana meter-gauge railway line into broad gauge line. I have raised this demand many times in the House but so far this important demand has not been fulfilled. Approval for gauge conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur-Hissar route has already been given. Survey work has also been completed but till date gauge conversion work has not been started. Rs. 14 crore have been allotted for this purpose during the current financial year even then the Ministry have not utilized those funds. In my Parliamentary constituency Churu, Jodhpur Mail used to run from Jodhpur to Delhi, this train was considered very important for this area. Due to gauge conversion of some part of this track this train has been terminated due to which the local people are facing lot of hardship. The businessmen and common man of this area commute to various parts of the country. This is an important area from the strategic as well as commercial point of view.

I would like to urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to take up the gauge conversion work of the said railway lines so as to provide relief to the local people.

**(ii) Need to develop indigenous vaccine to check the menace of Hepatitis-B disease in the country**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that there has been steep increase in the cases of Hepatitis-B disease in our country which is a matter of great concern for the nation. The main reason behind this is the contaminated water and eatables.

According to a study conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, 5000 people fall pray to this disease every year in our country. In order to check the menace of this disease, the multi-national companies are indirectly putting pressure on the Government for making use of the costly vaccines produced by them to cure this disease. This vaccine is not eco-friendly to our country. Initially these vaccines will be provided by these foreign countries free of cost, but later on when country will become dependent on them they will start selling us these vaccines on higher and arbitrary price and we will be compelled to purchase them.

14.19 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I urge upon the Government that it should not get influenced by the indirect pressure of multi-national companies, and should encourage the serum institute of India

to carry out research for indigenously producing cheaper version of Hepatitis-B vaccine to suit the local climatic conditions of our country.

**(iii) Need to provide relief to the people affected by drought in Singhbhum district, Jharkhand**

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the drought occurring every year in my parliamentary constituency Singhbhum. Due to the shortage of electricity supply, my area is totally dependent on rainfall for irrigation purposes. Due to scarce economic resources and in the absence of rainfall the local farmers are unable to irrigate their land. Cattle do not get water because the ponds get dry. The condition is no way better this year as well. Hence, in order to give relief to the drought affected people, a relief package should be provided in my parliamentary constituency Singhbhum.

Through this August House, I urge upon the Union Government to declare Singhbhum area of Jharkhand as a drought prone area and take steps to protect the interests of poor and tribal people suffering from drought.

**(iv) Need to provide stoppage of Important Express Trains at Jalgaon Railway Station, Maharashtra**

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Jalgaon is a district headquarter and the area having population of approximately 5 lakhs. Jalgaon is considered as one of the major industrial city of Maharashtra. Where some important units of Raymonds, Jain irrigation, K.B.X., Supreme pipe etc. are established. World famous Ajanta caves are situated just 50 K.M. away from Jalgaon. Many national and international tourists visit these caves. Jalgaon is the only station suitable to the tourists. From educational point of view also its importance is increasing because north Maharashtra University is situated here. Jalgaon is an important railway station under the Bhusawal division of Central Railway from where trains run for Mumbai, Surat, Nagpur and Delhi. But the tourists are facing lot of difficulties due to non-stoppage of many important express trains on this railway station. This area is one of the Prime destination of banana growers in the country and businessmen from all the parts of the country come here for business purpose but due to non-stoppage of express trains in Jalgaon they are also facing problems. Since long I have been repeatedly requesting the Department of railways for providing a stoppage of express trains in Jalgaon but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon'ble Railway Minister for

issuing an order for providing stoppage of below stated trains at Jalgaon railway station in view of its importance in my Parliamentary constituency. These trains are:

Train no. 2165/2166, 1069/1070, 1093/1094, 2617/2618, 1067/1068, 2779/2780, 1031/1032, 1029/1030.

**(v) Need to review the decision to close Government Text Book Printing Press at Bhubaneswar, Orissa**

*[English]*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): The People of Orissa are very much agitated when they came to know about the decision of the Government of India to close down the Government Text Book Printing Press at Bhubaneswar. Out of the 21 Government Presses under the administrative control of the Directorate of Printing, three Government Presses located at Bhubaneswar, Mysore and Chandigarh are performing very well. The text book press at Bhubaneswar has been upgraded from time to time. With the installation of colour high speed web offset printing machines in 1985 the form printing capacity of this press has further augmented. The press which is having modern and sophisticated machinery has been able to cater to the need of the printing of text books and various forms required for Orissa and Andhra Pradesh as well as the entire eastern region, that is, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Once the press is closed the requirement of printing materials of these States will suffer a great setback. Besides, hundreds of employees working in that Press will be thrown out of employment.

As such, I urge upon the Government to revise its decision on the closure of the press and allow it to run at Bhubaneswar with the direct control of Government of India.

**(vi) Need to sanction the estimate for re-construction of a bridge at Palolipalam on National Highway No. 17 in Kerala**

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): The existing old and narrow slab bridge at Palolipalam on NH-17, having carriage way of 6.70 metres was constructed during 1948-50. Owing to heavy and continuous traffic and salinity intrusion through the water of Palolithodu, the bridge is in a very deteriorated condition. Land acquisition estimate amounting to Rs.225.50 lakh for the reconstruction of this bridge had been submitted to the Ministry on 22.8.2001. There is provision of Rs.3 crore in Annual Plan for 2001-2002. But sanction has not yet been received.

I would request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport

to examine the matter and give necessary direction to sanction the estimated cost for the work.

**(vii) Need to ensure that National Highway-214 passes through from Kattipudy to Ongole via Machilipatnam and Penumudi, Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM): For the last 50 years, the people of coastal Andhra Pradesh have dreamt of a Coastal National Highway. The National Highways Authority of India has planned such a coastal highway called National Highway-214 which starts at Kattipudy and touches Narasapuram and terminates at Ongole - NH-5 via Machilipatnam. But it is surprising to note that the original route of NH-214 was diverted which is detrimental to the interests of coastal area people. The diverted new route has 178 kilometres excess distance than the original route via Machilipatnam.

For the last three months people from various sections are agitating and hunger strikes are going on with people demanding that the original route via Machilipatnam and construction of bridge on Krishna River between Puligadda and Penumudi may be provided.

Hence I request that the Central Government should intervene and see that NH-214 should go through the original route, i.e., from Kattipudy to Ongole NH-5 via Machilipatnam and Penumudi.

**(viii) Need to open a post office at Vrindavan in District Ghajipur of Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (SAIDPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a Gram Sabha at Vrindavan under Sadat Development Block in my Parliamentary Constituency Saidpur in Ghajipur district (Uttar Pradesh) which has a population of more than 5000. There is no post office in this Gram Sabha due to which people are facing great difficulties as they have to travel daily 5 Kms. upto Hurmujpur-halt for their post office related activities. During summer and rainy seasons their problem aggravate further. The demand of setting up a post office there has been raised since long by the local people. Several people of the Gram Sabha have given applications for this purpose but so far no action has been taken by the Department in this regard. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that in view of the difficulties being faced by local people, instructions should be issued for the Department to take immediate steps for setting up a post office at Gram-Sabha Vrindavan under Sadat Development Block.

**(ix) Need for early construction of a road over-bridge on National Highway No.31 at Chukti Dhala between Mansi and Maheshkhunt Railway Stations in Khagaria District, Bihar**

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about two and a half years ago, the then Minister of Railways laid foundation stone of a road over-bridge at Chukti Dhala (NH-31) between Mansi and Maheshkhunt railway stations in Khagaria district but so far work on this project could not be started due to hurdles created by officers as well as their inaction, though concurrence of Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Railways was sought. National Highway-31 passes through Chukti Dhala which is an important and busy national highway of Bihar State. It is the main road for trucks, buses and private vehicles of Bihar, Assam and other States. Every day dozens of trains pass through Chukti Dhala due to which traffic is obstructed for hours on NH-31 and due to presence of unsocial elements at that place incidents of lootings are reported every now and then. Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Government that construction work of road over-bridge at Chukti Dhala (NH-31) between Mansi and Maheshkhunt railway stations in Khagaria district should be taken up without any delay.

**(x) Need to protect the interests of farming community particularly sugar-cane growers in Western Uttar Pradesh.**

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (MORADABAD): Sir, we hear of farmers dying by committing suicide and other survivors living in dire straits in Southern India. This trend is going to hit the Northern belt if the Government does not formulate a viable agricultural policy soon. In Western Uttar Pradesh, farmers will soon be burning sugarcane - their main cash crop. The Government should ensure all mills pay their dues and arrears to farmers as soon as possible. Price of produce should be increased and measures taken on a war footing to propagate production of new cash crops to ensure survival of the agricultural community in Western Uttar Pradesh.

**(xi) Need to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity in Nasik district, Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Nasik district of Maharashtra is facing power shortage. Electricity is supplied in a gap of two-three days and that also for a very short period. At some places water for irrigation is available but due to shortage of power, farmers are facing great difficulties in irrigating their fields.

Industries are also facing lot of problems. Regulatory tariff has been imposed on electricity and transformers have not been installed at various places for last two-three months. Now-a-days electricity is not used only for providing light but it has become an essential instrument for development. Sir, through you I request the Minister of Power that Centre as well as State Government should take immediate steps to remove the problem of power shortage in this area.

14.32 hrs.

**NORTH-EASTERN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I rise to request the House to consider and approve the North-Eastern Council Bill which has been passed unanimously by the Rajya Sabha with strong support from all sections of the House. Sir, with your permission, I would like to briefly touch upon the salient features of the Bill in three or four minutes.

The Council, as hon. Members know, was set up in 1972. I would read what Mrs. Indira Gandhi said so eloquently as to what was the concept behind setting up the Council. In her inaugural address to the Council, she said:

"The primary purpose of this Council is the development of this region for greater human welfare. The first principle of development is coordinated activity."

This is why the Council was set up because the north-east is now coming under different States and for better coordination this has been set up. She further said:

"This is an organisation of the various political units of this region set up under an Act of Parliament to formulate a coordinated plan for development and welfare. I share the hope expressed by the Governor Shri B.K. Nehru that the Council will gradually grow into an effective coordinating agency for solving the regional problems in an atmosphere of goodwill, responsibility and mutual respect."

I should like the Council to draw up projects which will benefit more than one unit and which can be implemented in this coordinated manner. There are



[Shri Arun Shourie]

sectors such as transport and communications, power, marketing, institutional financing, training, preparation of feasibility studies for industries, etc. in which a regional approach would be most welcome."

After inaugurating the Council and its establishment, she wrote to all members of the Council of Ministers, her colleagues in the Cabinet. In that she said:

"I inaugurated the North-East Council in November 1972 for a variety of reasons - political, economic and strategic. It is important that the Council should take quick route and function effectively. The object of the Council is to ensure that the existence of a number of political units in the north-east of India does not affect its economic development, that their rapid economic integration is facilitated and that the problems of the region are dealt with as an integrated whole."

That was her idea in setting it up. As the hon. Members from the North-East know, in many ways, the Council fell into disuse over the last some years. In fact, the Secretary of the Council had to be proceeded against in CBI cases and meetings were held irregularly and so on. Now, a great effort has been made in the last four years to revive this Council and make it an effective body. Gen. Sinha, the Secretary of the Council, who just retired, and others worked very hard and it has now become a functioning Council.

This particular Bill that I am requesting you to consider and pass has been going around for almost six to seven years. It was introduced in November-December, 1998. It was reconsidered in March, 2001 by the Government and it was referred to the Departmental Standing Committee in August, 2001 and so on.

The two purposes of this amendment are just simple but significant. One is to include Sikkim in the North-Eastern Council. This has been the aspiration of the people of Sikkim and the Government. The second is in respect of merely being an advisory body. The North-Eastern Council should be made into a regional planning body so that the aims and objectives which Shrimati Indira Gandhi and others had at the time of setting up of the Council can be realised in a more effective manner.

One point is, the Government has reconsidered its own views and also the views that were expressed by the Standing Committee. The point of disagreement has been on the question of inclusion of Governors in the North-Eastern Council. Today, the Council consists of Governors of seven States. Now there will be eight Governors and Chief Ministers. The Government, at one stage, had been told that the

Governors should not be there and, in the original amendment that Shri Advani had proposed, the Governors were excluded. But, as you know, in the North-East, the Governor occupies a special position. That is why, that amendment has been taken back and we want the original Act to continue in this regard.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): We have to accept whatever you have brought. In our Parliament, we cannot change it. But you have made a particular remark just now that the Governor occupies a special position in the North-East, except in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Please explain that point. That will be helpful to us. Otherwise, we accept what you are saying.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are going to participate in the debate.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I have got a meeting elsewhere.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will explain that point and then sit down.

The point is, the position of the Governor is indeed different. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, having held very important charges on these matters, knows it. In the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, there are Autonomous Councils in the Constitution. These are all to be looked after by the Governors of the States. Such a case is not there in any other part of the country. It is not only that. There are nine Autonomous Councils in these States.

Secondly, there are ten other Autonomous Councils under the State Acts. In those also, the Governor of the State has a special responsibility.

As Shri Dev just now mentioned, under articles 371 (a) and 371 (h), in regard to Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, Governors have a special responsibility in regard to law and order.

The third point is, you all know that the security situation in the North-East remains tense. It has been the effort of successive Governments that the persons who are selected and appointed as Governors of the North-Eastern States are not just anybody but persons who have a special background in regard to security affairs. This has been most helpful to us. For instance, in the case of Assam, when a unified command has been made, the person selected as the Governor of Assam had been the Deputy Chief of Army Staff. He has been able to play a very important part there.

The final point is that in some States of North-East there is great stability, as there is stability in some other parts of the

country. In Nagaland we have had distinguished Chief Minister for almost eighteen years. But in other parts of North-East, Governments change frequently and party labels change frequently which leads to a situation in which the continuity of the administration which is required for dealing with both development and security problems is affected.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: We are not including MPs also.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will come to that.

These are the two main changes. One is the inclusion of Sikkim, on which I am sure, all parts of the House will support. Second, the aim is to make it more effective. The original concept was that instead of being an advisory body, it should become a regional planning body.

I commend that the House consider and pass this Bill which has been passed unanimously by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the North-East Council which was formed in 1972 consists of the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. However, Nagaland at that juncture, was under the administration of the Ministry of External Affairs. It was subsequently brought under the North-East Council, under the direct administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Most of the States mentioned above, being of diverse ethnic groups, were taken out of the State of Assam. These States had come into being after the lapse of several Five Year Plans, when most of the bigger States had been developed and had the benefits in terms of resources. Therefore, the basic infrastructure comprising *Raj Bhawan*, Civil Secretariat, housing for the officers, district headquarters, sub-divisional headquarters and the staff quarters had to be constructed with whatever resources that were made available by the Central Government. Therefore, most of the funds being grants given by the Centre had to be utilised for the development of basic infrastructure and consequently there was a paucity of funds for economic development, which has consequently resulted in severe under-development of the economy of all the above-mentioned States.

Before I go to the rest of the speech, I would like to make a special mention about the funding pattern of the North-East. I feel pained to state that there is unprecedented rise in the resource gap during the last few years. Of course, that is an all-India phenomenon. But the situation is far worse in the case of North-Eastern States. Their resource base is not only small but also remained almost static. The most important

cause for widespread unrest in the North-Eastern region is the stagnant economy. The Central Government should recognise the resource constraints of the States of the region and adopt a realistic approach to overcome the problem. Regional imbalance cannot be overlooked in the name of liberalisation. The present pattern of financing to special category States, which was introduced in the year 1998-99, has completely crippled the finances of the State Governments. It is impracticable and unrealistic to expect the small States with the problems of insurgency, low levels of industrialisation, inadequate infrastructure, inhospitable terrain and negligible investment opportunities to raise resources to meet all the plan and non-plan requirements. A special financial pattern based on ground realities should be adopted for these States so that they are able to stand on their own legs in the foreseeable future. It is neither in the interest of the Centre nor in the interest of the State that the later should be existing at the mercy of the Central Government almost on a day-to-day basis. The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States on 8th May, 1998.

He had spelt out a Special Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the North East. He categorically stated that 10 per cent of the budgeted amount from every Ministry and Department should be taken out and kept in the Central Pool for the infrastructural development of the North East.

In this regard, I would like to refer to Clause 5 (iv) relating to Special Development of Hilly and Inaccessible Areas. It is often seen that the North-Eastern States which had been created in 1972 have not been properly developed. Till today, most of the villages and blocks and even some district headquarters are not properly accessible by transport. Keeping in view all these problems, we have certain roads which have been connected from Delhi to other parts of the North-East. Besides that, the hon. Prime Minister has also made a special pronouncement for linking up the entire North and South, and East and West.

The construction of a proposed super highway announced by the Prime Minister to be constructed, at the start, right from Saurashtra in Gujarat to terminate at in Silchar in Assam, is a good thing. The Government of India should extend this super highway right from Guwahati to Morey. Also a branch line of that main national highway to Morey should pass through Nagaland. The roads should connect Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. So, these are the things which need to be addressed at the time of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Then, I come to Clause 5 (v) which talks of providing adequate rail transport facilities. Today, we have the main trunk roads, trunk rail linking Guwahati to Tinsukia, which was

[Shri K.A. Sangtam]

actually built by the British Government. It has been converted into broad-gauge. But today we find that in other States there are two or three rail links which connect the different parts of the cities and towns. But, for the whole North-East, where there are eight States, we have got only one trunk rail link. Therefore, I would like to propose that there should be one more rail link which will be useful to the two-way traffic.

Another proposal I would like to make here is about the Trans-Asian Highway and Railway. For some time past, serious consideration for having a Trans-Asian Highway and Railway has been going on. The project is being considered by the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific under the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development Project. It is imperative that the NER becomes part of globalisation perspectives and as such the idea of construction of a Trans-Asian Highway/Railway is a welcome step. Once the proposed Trans Asian Highway/Railway is materialized, it will open up great opportunities for having a flourishing trade and commercial relations with the South East Asian Countries. Particularly, the economy of the North-East will be poised for a big leap.

Then, I come to clause 5 (vi) which is about generation of hydel electricity. It is a fact that the North-East has a tremendous potential for viable generation of power in the region, primarily because it has a mountainous terrain. It can also produce an extremely low-cost power. Technical surveys have established that the North-East Region could be a power house for the country. It has also got the capacity to produce one lakh KW of power.

The source of power in the North-East will also be eco-friendly. I would also like to add here that since the terrain in the North-East is mountainous, the cost of constructing the power projects will be much less than that would be incurred in any other part of the country.

Sir, clause 5 (vi) of the Bill refers to promotion of tourism. The North-Eastern Region has a tremendous potential for eco-friendly tourist destinations which have varied ethnic cultures which attract tourists from abroad who prefer such eco-friendly tourist destinations. Then, the people from our friendly countries like Thailand and Myanmar can visit the tourist destinations in the North-Eastern Region at a lesser cost.

The logical procedure of implementing the projects in the North-Eastern Region should ensure that the sanction for all the projects are given well ahead and money is distributed before the Monsoon season starts because the North-East is a monsoon prone area and it receives rain for six months during a year. It is said that the amount of rain that Delhi receives during the whole year is equivalent to one day's rain ;

in the North-East. So, there is a lot of land erosion, flooding and also silting. Besides that, the roads do not last long in the North-East due to heavy rain. Therefore, the North-Eastern Council should work out projects and schemes well ahead of the Monsoon season and the section for the projects should be accorded well in time so that tenders can be called and work on infrastructural projects like construction of roads, bridges and power projects can be carried out smoothly. By doing this, we can avoid cost escalation.

Sir, I would like to mention here few points on which the Members of Parliament from the North-East have recently passed a Resolution. I would like to quote the Resolution. It says:

1. "We welcome the inclusion of Sikkim as one of the members of the North-Eastern Council.
2. We agree that the Council shall function as a regional planning body.
3. The function of the NEC should not be merely advisory, but effective and functional.
4. The NEC should shed its role of reviewing security-related matters and public order in the member States.
5. The Governors, who are constitutional heads, shall cease to be the members of the Council.
6. The Chairman of the NEC shall be the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission."

Since most of the Plan money is given from the Central Pool, it is essential that the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission actively participates in the functioning of the North-Eastern Council. Moreover, all the projects that are envisaged for the development of the North-Eastern Region are brought to Delhi for approval and a lot of time is wasted in that process. So, in order to expedite the process, I feel that the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission should be made the Chairman of the North-Eastern Council.

The Resolution further says:

- "7. There shall be a Working Vice-Chairman as member of the North-Eastern Council to be appointed by the President of India.
8. The President of India shall nominate eight Members of Parliament, one from each State of the North-East area to be a member of the NEC."

This is the Resolution passed by the MPs from the North-East.

Since most of the States of the North-East region are dependent on Plan money from the Centre, it would be appropriate that the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission should be the Chairman of the North-Eastern Council.

I vehemently object that the inclusion of the Governors of each North-Eastern State should be the Chairman of the NEC because they are only representatives of the Government of India. In the normal practice, it is impossible for a common man to approach the Governor of a State for any important matter which is concerning that particular State. The procedure to meet a Governor is so cumbersome that it is virtually impossible for the common man to request and put forward his position before the Governor.

Very often, it becomes imperative for the Governor, who is chairing the NEC, to give higher priority to petitions from the public of the State. He is governing in the face of such petitions from people of other States.

To top it, there is hardly any accountability on the part of the Governor. Since all elected Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States are represented in the Council, they are competent to table the projects, schemes and issues for the expenditure from the NEC to their respective States.

Sikkim is an integral part of the North-East. Although it has come into the North-Eastern fold, unfortunately, it has not yet been included in the NEC. I strongly support that the State of Sikkim be included as the eighth Member-State of the NEC.

Lastly, all the departments, namely, Telecom, Postal Services and other departments and Central Ministries, which are under the control of the State of West Bengal, should also be transferred to the NEC. With these words, I would like to support this Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, though late, I congratulate the Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Arun Shourie, that he has brought this Bill after getting it passed from the Rajya Sabha.

The Minister also for Disinvestment has disinvested the Chief Ministers and the MPs in this Bill. We are nowhere. But his idea is a novel one. He is giving the argument that for such-and-such reason it is there. I support the argument. But I think, it should be for, say, five or ten years. After that, you do not expect the North-Eastern region to continue with instability and security. You might have to review the situation. That is only my humble view. It should be on record.

Since your thrust is on regional planning and you have brought forward the amendment with a heavy heart, I would like to say that during my term of four years, I have not been able to get for my valley, which is known as Barak Valley, many of the schemes which are lying pending. You are also trying. I do not say that you are not trying. The reason is that when any Minister, whether belonging to the Congress Party or to the present Government, goes, he pays only lip service to the North-Eastern region. In reality, nothing happens.

Now, I will give two burning examples. You are starting a small aircraft service from 25th. I congratulate you for this. It has been our desire. It has been done, very good. But our demand has been that the headquarters of that small aircraft should be Guwahati and not Kolkata. Now, you are operating it from Kolkata. It should be headquartered at Guwahati and not at Kolkata.

Secondly, the basic idea is to inter-connect different State capitals as well as some of the major cities or towns of the North-Eastern region. My constituency is one of them. You have allowed one Boeing service. The air fare is Rs. 3660 from Guwahati to Silchar and back. It is exorbitant.

15.00 hrs.

That is exorbitant. So, when you extend this service, Silchar-Guwahati must be covered. The Boeing service which is there, should not be there. Now, you will be surprised to know that 82 night service buses are going from Silchar, Karimganj and Agartala to Guwahati. So, this will quicken the movement of the people and the people will bless you for that.

Secondly, about Tipaimukh Dam - you are well aware of it - it has been decided by the Prime Minister to give it to the NEEPCO. Now, the problem is, the expenses on road conversion and flood become uneconomic. If you load the security cost, the power per unit is quite exorbitant. It is more than Rs.8. So, some special funds should be given. The Power Ministry recently, on 2nd, had decided to go to the Cabinet with an appeal that these funds should be given. I know it is at your direction. Since you are the Minister for the North-East, you forget about disinvestment. When that item goes to the Cabinet, you please support us. This is my humble appeal to you. It is because this will not only serve the hydel power but also it will serve the flood reservoir of the Barak Valley, which is already a granary for good crops. Further, it will be improved.

Now, let me come to the Lumding-Silchar broad-gauge conversion. The way you are giving money, even my grand children will not be able to travel on this broad-gauge. Every

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

year you are giving Rs.60 crore. Today the cost of the project is Rs. 1,400 crore. If every year Rs.60 crore is given, by the time the project is completed, it becomes more expensive. So, this should be considered as a national project. As the Prime Minister very rightly said, from Saurashtra to Silchar, there would be a super highway. I fully support what Shri Sangtam has said that some bifurcation should be made in between different States. Our main communication is through the road.

Thirdly, I come to the Silchar Airport Extension. Rs.20 crore has been sanctioned, but there is a tussle going on among the Defence Ministry and the Airport Authority of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. I met Shri George Fernandes. In front of me, he told the officials to get it cleared. I met the Civil Aviation Minister. He called the officials of the Airport Authority and told them. But even after nine months, it has not been cleared. It is the time when the work can start. If the Boeing service is withdrawn and airbus is there, it will be very good because we are connected with Assam via the Chicken Leg, which will take more time.

Last but not least, you yourself had said in your first presentation that the Assam Government or the Government of North-Eastern Region is for the employees, by the employees and of the employees. That was because our entire overhead revenue income goes to the salaries of the employees. Even then they cut into these expenses. To overcome this problem, as Shri Sangtam said, let this NEC play the role to have a systematic planning whereby the money that is going to the North-Eastern region is properly utilised and it should be making more assets than creating liabilities. Asset-oriented schemes should be taken up. Now, various schemes are taken up by the respective Governments, but not asset-oriented schemes. They give just short-term benefits. There should be long-term benefits. The Central Government should try it.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me a patient hearing. I would not be here to listen to the Minister's reply, but I will get the copy tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I most humbly say that you be good like this every time when I stand up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot assure you that always.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Sir, when I stand here in support of the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, I feel that it would usher in a welcome change in the administrative pattern and working of the North-

Eastern States, including Sikkim. This Bill mostly hinges around two points, one, that the North-Eastern Council should be re-formed and the other, that Sikkim should be a part of the North-Eastern Council.

15.05 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

As you know, it was an Advisory Council as it was enjoined under 1971 Act itself. But advisory matters do not cut ice. It should have proper implementing authority.

Firstly, this Council, after its amendment, will have formulating and implementing work to do. I have been associated with Assam for the last 30 years. I had a stint of deputation in Assam as a policeman and later on I have been visiting those areas because I have lots of liking for the culture and the manner in which the people have been living. But it is rather unfortunate that things have not gone in a proper manner to ameliorate the difficult conditions of the people living there.

In 1998 the hon. Prime Minister had visited that area. New things have come up. I will first come to the non-lapsable funds. I am not talking of the funds in different allocations itself. The non-lapsable fund that has been created has been going a long way in bringing about lots of work for these people. But the bane of those areas have been - I would only point out a few things - that the Advisory Council, which was formed earlier, had Governors. The Governors have constitutional powers under Article 371, as the hon. Minister had indicated. They were not paying proper attention and one of the Governors was even the Chairman. They would not like to sit because other Governors would not like to come. There was a lot of confusion also. So, the working pattern of the North-Eastern Council was not properly taken up.

Secondly, the Secretariat of the NEC did not seriously undertake the main task of preparing Regional Plans and that was the difficulty in which the North-Eastern areas had been suffering. I give an instance of the Brahmaputra River Board. A very good Board had been constituted with activities relating to centring on Brahmaputra River and numerous tributaries. The meandering of the Brahmaputra is known to everybody. It creates havoc for the people of these areas. But the Brahmaputra Board was not able to formulate its policies because of lack of supervisory control and adequate assistance from the Planning Commission.

Thirdly, it did not develop a high-level of expertise and competence. The North-Eastern Council did not develop the required expertise. The NEC did not get adequate support of

the Central Ministry and the Central Ministry also includes the Planning Commission. A set of remote control devices does not help in formulating plans and implementing them. Now, the Planning Commission also did not develop NEC Secretariat as a mini-Planning Commission. Then the schemes and projects of two or more States were not clubbed together. The North-Eastern States have to be clubbed together for, different types of works.

The hon. Minister was telling about communication, water supply, electricity. You see, the cascading streams and rivers from the Himalayas down below have the potential for generating hydro-electricity. Unless they are clubbed together, it would not be possible to get the desired result in any way. The schemes and projects of two or more States should have been clubbed together from the earlier stages, right from 1971 onward.

Last but not least, the difficulties of the North-East have been that their economic viability has been very weak, particularly the agriculture and industrial activity, and this has resulted in rural poverty. As you would see, whether it is the cane growers of the Brahmaputra swamps or the Bamboo basket makers of Meghalaya or the cottage industries in Nagaland, all these have suffered because of lack of initiative so far as the cottage industries and small-scale industries are concerned. Taking all these aspects into consideration, this amending Bill has been brought forward where the elected popular Chief Ministers of that particular part, in that particular region, will be the members of this Council. Of course, I beg to differ with my friend from Nagaland that if there is no Ministry, naturally the Governor has to take part in this activity himself.

That is why it has been a re-formed Council with a view to take up the popular sentiments. But while taking up the popular sentiments, one thing has been lost sight of. The facts which have been lost sight of are the autonomous regions and the State Autonomous Councils. The autonomous regions or the Autonomous Councils which have been formed under the Constitution of India have some more power, some more privileges; whereas the State Councils are just not being taken into account. Take the case of Karbi Anglong. It does not get adequate attention. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to pay adequate attention to Karbi Ang Long and North Cachar Hills district. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR): What about Bodoland?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Yes, Bodoland is there. Here is my good friend from Bodoland. He would speak on Bodoland. That, is why, if I speak on Bodoland, it would be a redundant addition to that thing. You would be speaking on that.

So, I want to tell you here that particular attention has to be paid to the Autonomous Councils which have been founded by the States themselves - about ten of them - as they do not get adequate attention.

Take for example the issues of roads and communications. My friend from Nagaland was mentioning about transport and communications. The old Burma Road and the Still-Well Road should be opened up to traffic and commerce. The friend from Arunachal Pradesh had taken us to Tawang Monastery and we saw the Still-Well Road. It is a very beautiful road. Till 1961 it was quite active. After that, it has gone into dis-use because of very many historical factors. Now, it is time to open that road for commerce with Tibet on this side and from Zero-and. Along with all those places to this side towards Myanmar and even from Nagaland towards Myanmar and all those places.

I had been to Meghalaya also. From Meghalaya you go down South and come to the Bangladesh border and you will be surprised to find that it is like 'water', water everywhere but at times not a drop to drink, in some parts of Meghalaya, although the Cherapunji and the nearby areas have about 300 inches of rainfall a year because all the water gets drained into Bangladesh. I went up to the border to see as to how it is happening. I went during the rainy season just to see it. I went about a year back just for the heck of seeing as to how the water is being harvested in those areas. I found that Bangladesh is completely a sheet of water and the people are living in the boats and they eat rice and fish and nothing else; whereas the people living in Cherapunji area had no water to drink because of the drought situation in this particular year itself.

So, we have not harvested the water potential of those areas which require it. As I said, the cascading of the rivers have created more problems than solving those problems for the North-Eastern people themselves. So, here itself, I find that the North-Eastern Council is being given teeth; but the teeth are not very sharp because, in my humble opinion, the Department itself should have functioned from Shillong instead of functioning from Delhi. We have a North-Eastern Council, no doubt about it. But it should have had sharpened teeth, to bite and to act and the Department should have been stationed in Shillong itself. While looking into these things, this screening committee which is being formed to look into the aspects of development should consider this. I do not know whether it will be a bureaucratic tangle or a bureaucratic obstacle or a real popular support for the work of the people of that area.

When I say these things, I say it with due humility. The hon. Minister who has been very active on the activities concerning the North-East, would kindly look into the fact that

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

this screening committee sits not only twice a year but as many times as may be possible and then give a thrust to the work that is required in those areas. Otherwise, like the Brahmaputra River Board, it will be lying idle for years together.

I do not want to take much of the time of this House. With these words I conclude and I say that this is a welcome amendment and it would definitely bring about the overall development of the North-Eastern areas which includes Sikkim.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (BURDWAN): Mr. Chairman Sir, while taking part in this discussion regarding this North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, it is needless to say that the importance of Council is immense because the topography of that area - nine States are there - is almost same. From 1970s, we have said so much but have done almost nothing. We have miserably failed to develop that area up to the national standard. For that reason, this type of amendment Bill has been brought here by hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie.

As you know, this region has become a paradise for terrorist activities, anti-national activities. Even our Central Government has failed to provide adequate number of security forces to guard our international borders. Now, we hear so much about the ISI people taking shelter in Bangladesh and in other areas. Killing of innocent people has become very common in Assam and also in Tripura. Then, about Nagaland, we do not know whether that area belongs to our country or not because without the help of para-military forces, one cannot travel throughout that State. We went there, but the security forces did not allow us to move elsewhere. We sat only in the hotel and enjoyed. That is the position in the North-Eastern area.

There is stagnation of economy in that entire area. It requires immediate help from the Centre because that area is full of natural resources. People are very simple and hardy, but no development has taken place in those areas. For that reason, the need of communication should be given priority. We do not know when the railway link between Dharamnagar to Agartala will be completed. No one knows in which year it will be completed. We hear so much about gauge conversion. It requires immediate attention. The number of flights has to be increased and the number of air-links has also to be increased in that area so that these areas have a good connection with the mainstream of our country.

There are different State Governments, I mean, political units and already, probably, nine Autonomous Councils are there, but the co-ordination in the North-Eastern Region Council is a total failure. That should be developed. From 1971-72 onwards, it has miserably failed to do so in co-ordinating

the developmental activities. Out of all the failures, the biggest failure is regarding lack of emotional integration of these regions with other parts of the country.

That is the biggest failure in that area. We should take more care of it and try to remove the communication gap existing for nearly 30 years.

Outside separatist forces and imperialists with bad motives are carrying out activities to destabilise our nation. That area is very, very sensitive, and anti-national activities are continuously taking place there, which pose a danger to our national integration. I do not know whether the Central Government is surely alert. Otherwise, it would have taken steps much earlier to curb these separatist forces and to bring the North-East into the national mainstream.

It is strange that though huge allocations have been made, the expenditure is not done in a transparent manner. So far as the North-Eastern Council is concerned, there is failure in coordination and transparency. Even the Chief Executive Officer or the Secretary of the North-Eastern Council has been relieved on corruption charges. That is the present position, and there is no one to look after that region. If the Central Government is eager to remove the backwardness of that entire area, the loopholes must be plugged in.

We learnt that one website has been set up to view what is going on there, and to coordinate the developmental projects and activities. Sikkim is ahead in many respects, but still, it is underdeveloped. Inclusion of Sikkim in the North-Eastern Council is, no doubt, a good step. This Amendment is nothing but a reconstitution of the North-Eastern Council and to give some powers for developmental planning and for carrying out other activities.

We urge the Central Government to connect the entire area with the national development programmes in various forms. With these words, I support this Amendment Bill.

SHRI BHIM DAHAL (SIKKIM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Sikkim are very eagerly waiting for this Amendment Bill to be passed to join the North-Eastern Council formally. In fact, it is a red-letter day for Sikkim. Sikkim shares a number of things with the North-East. We have almost common type of ethnicity and our geographical feature is almost the same. This is a very long-standing demand of the people of Sikkim. I am really grateful to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and, specially, the Minister for the North-East, Shri Arun Shourie, for bringing forward this Bill. On behalf of our beloved leader, Shri Pawan Chamling, and the people of Sikkim, I thank the Central Government and my friends from the North-East, all the Chief Ministers, and the Members of the North-East MPs' Forum.

Inclusion of Sikkim into the North-Eastern Council will go a very long way in integrating Sikkim emotionally into the Union of India. Though Sikkim is a part of India, yet this inclusion will result in its emotional integration with the Union of India. We, specially the Members of Parliament from far-flung areas of the country, speak sparingly or we do not even get an opportunity to speak here in this House. But with the establishment of this Ministry of Disinvestment, a majority of the works of our areas are being done now. I must commend Shri Arun Shourie for this. Whenever I have met him with problems of my State that are unique in nature, may be political or may be relating to old laws that are in existence in the State or may be in regard to developmental activities of the State, he has always been kind to consider them sympathetically. He has become some sort of a guardian of Sikkim. He is the only Minister in the Union Cabinet that I have seen who comes over to the door to say 'bye' when we part. So, establishment of this Ministry and inclusion of Sikkim in the North-Eastern Council will greatly benefit the people of Sikkim.

Sir, our Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling is trying to develop the tourism sector, the power sector and the horticulture sector in the State. Apart from that, he is also trying to improve the roads and bridges in all parts of Sikkim. This Ministry has really helped us in our cause of improvement of these sectors. Shri Shourie has played a liaising role in our effort. I am also grateful and thankful to all my friends from the North-Eastern region. The problems about the development of these areas have been well explained by my friend from Nagaland. We have similar problems in our State as well. The overall national planning might not suit the needs of these areas and therefore, this Ministry would not only be an ideal and model Ministry but would also be a nodal Ministry for looking after the overall development of the North-Eastern region. If development takes place in a good way and in a proper way, then other problems would automatically be taken care of.

Sir, I support this Bill.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (ARUNACHAL EAST):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I welcome the inclusion of Sikkim in the North-Eastern Council. The Bill has been placed before the House for consideration today. This Bill was long overdue. There was a lot of deliberations on this Bill to make this North-Eastern Council more effective and transparent in order that it could play a more positive role in all round development of the North-Eastern States. As a Member of the Standing Committee that

went into the various provisions of the Bill, we have expressed our concerns on certain matters. I would like to highlight some of those issues here.

One of the areas of concern was the security role of the North-Eastern Council. Shri Arun Shourie has mentioned about the special provisions that have been given to the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

There, I would like to differ. Those special powers have been given to the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and that of Nagaland on the security matters.

Regarding the North-Eastern Council, since its inception it has never played a role in the security matters. Therefore, we have suggested that more focus should be given, more concentration should be given to the developmental activities. This Council has been there since 1971. We had faced a lot of problems in the North-East. In the State of Nagaland, for the last forty-fifty years we have been facing a lot of law and order problems. In Assam also we have been facing the insurgency problem for the last two decades. In Tripura and Manipur also we have had a lot of law and order problems. However, we have never used the North-Eastern Council to counter the insurgency activities or to tackle the law and order problems. Therefore, we felt that the relevant provision in the principal Act has remained dormant for the last thirty years. That is the reason why we have suggested that the Council should be divested of its security role. That is the explanation which we have given, and I still stand by it though I support the Bill.

The second issue is about the executive power. In various meetings I have given certain examples to the hon. Minister about the projects and schemes which have not been carried out properly, implementation part has not been looked after properly. The reason for that is like this. Executive power is not conferred on the North-Eastern Council. The moment the schemes and projects are sanctioned and approved by the NEC, they are totally in the hands of the State Government. For instance, we have taken up a road, linking the States in the region. It is in a very pathetic condition. It is taking years to complete one small bridge. On many occasions I have given those instances. So, I would strongly feel that we should confer executive powers on the NEC so that proper implementation of projects and schemes takes place. Otherwise, there is no point in only approving the schemes and projects.

We all are aware of the potential which lies in the North-Eastern States. I do not want to confine myself to one particular State or to one particular Parliamentary Constituency. I would like to see all the North-Eastern States as a whole to develop. We should try and explore possibilities in the field of power.



[Shri Rajkumar Wangcha]

We have great potential, but how much power have we been able to tap? Many of the North-Eastern States are still suffering because of lack of power in spite of having huge power potential. It is not necessary that the North-Eastern Council should spend money in all the States equally. We should talk about the North-Eastern region as a whole. We should speak about the North-East in totality. When we talk about power potential, we cannot expect all the States to have rivers. There are many States in the North-East which do not have rivers flowing in them. How can we expect hydel projects to be established in those States? To tap power, you require huge amounts of money. It may come out in the State-wise data and figures that a particular State gets a particular amount of money from the NEC. However, we must see the purpose for which that money has been allocated to that particular State.

So, there should be a proper coordinating among the various heads of the States to see that those areas are being properly explored.

Let us talk about tourism. We do have the tourism potential. But how many tourists visit the North-East? Have we been able to do justice to the Tourism Department in the north-East? How many Infrastructures have come up in the last 50 years? Therefore, I feel that the North-Eastern Council has a greater role to play. But I do not know the reason why the Members of Parliament have been excluded here. Whenever we have a meeting with the hon. Minister, he always wants our cooperation; and he always talks about North-Eastern MPs to see that the non-lapsable money should be properly utilised; to see that all the North-Eastern Council projects and schemes should be seen that they are timely executed. But when we talk about sharing the responsibility, he is a little bit different from that opinion.

Though it may not be possible at this juncture, I still feel that the North-Eastern MPs' inclusion would play a more positive role to bring the North-Eastern States together in the mainstream.

So, these are the few areas, which, I feel, are missing in this particular Bill. But at the end of my speech, I support this Bill.

**SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on this very important and serious Bill which pertains to North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

First of all, I would like to thank Shri Arun Shourie and the Government of India for bringing forward this Bill to get it

passed in this august House. Here again, I would like to congratulate all the Sikkimese brethren for having given the scope to be included within the purview of the North-Eastern Council.

Sir, here, I have seen some weaknesses, lacunae and shortcomings in this Bill. Since the very beginning, we have been keeping on trying to persuade the Government of India to include all the North-Eastern MPs as the Members of this North-Eastern Council but very unfortunately, MPs have been left out in this Bill. This is a very serious lacuna and shortcoming in the Bill.

Then, there is another serious lacuna which pertains to discrimination being done against the most backward sub-region like Bodoland territory, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council area.

Until and unless the Members from the Bodoland Territory, North Cachar Hills Autonomous District, and Karbi Anglong Autonomous District are included in the North-Eastern Council, the problems of those regions can never be dealt with in a proper way. We have been observing over the last more than five decades since Independence that the Bodoland region, particularly, the entire Northern Brahmaputra valley and some other tribal dominated areas of Assam have been very badly discriminated against in all the spheres of development activities. Because of that reason, the demand for a separate State of Bodoland has come up and vigorous movement is still going on.

Because of the lack of a clear-cut policy decision and pragmatic approach on the part of the Government of India as well as on the part of the State Government of Assam in regard to the burning ethnic-political and underdevelopment related problem and issues, unwanted militancy and terrorism have emerged in those areas. That is why, I would like to humbly request the Government of India to include members in the north-Eastern Council from the Bodoland Autonomous Territory, North Cachar Autonomous District Hill and Karbi Anglong Autonomous District also.

Coming to my Bodoland Territory, there is no good road communication, no irrigation, infrastructure, no power connectivity, no good health and medical service facilities and no good educational institutions within Bodoland Territory. Some twenty years before, two major irrigation schemes namely Champawati and Dhanshri were undertaken by the Government of India. These schemes have not been completed as yet, even after elapse of more than 25 years. It is a matter of shame on the part of the Government of India. Why nothing tangible has been done in Bodoland Region even the past five decades? Likewise, in agricultural sector our area

has been very badly discriminated against. In our Bodoland area, there is one Central State Farm at Kokilabari and the present Government has taken a decision to disinvest this farm too which happens to be largest mechanised agricultural seeds farm in North-Eastern Region.

I would appeal to the Government of India to revoke the earlier decision which was adopted in regard to Kokilabari Central State Farm and to restore it without further delay.

I would like to request the Government of India to sanction a Central university for the Bodoland territory. Over the last more than five decades since Independence, we have been observing that all the Central Universities in Assam are located in the non-tribal areas. For example, Assam Central University is located at Silchar and Tezpur Central University is also located at Tezpur which is far away from the Bodoland Territory. Likewise all other Central Universities too are located in the hills states which are beyond the reach for the Bodoland people. NEHU is located at Shillong (Meghalaya), Nagaland Central University is located at Kohiam, Central Agricultural University is located at Imphal (Manipur), Mizoram Central University is located at Aizwal. This sort of collusion should never be repeated by the Government of India.

The Bodoland territory has been deprived of getting even a single airport, which is very essential for the development of the concerned Region in all spheres. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take up certain necessary projects for the overall development of Bodoland and other downtrodden and backward tribal areas like Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hill Autonomous District and so on and so forth.

I would appeal to the Government of India to take a concrete policy decision to bring about a lasting and honourable political solution to the burning 'Bodoland issue'. Until and unless the Government could resolve this burning issue through peaceful negotiation, the possibility of catching the train to reach the goal of achieving any tangible success is remote. You will miss the train and you will not be in a position to bring an end to terrorism and unrest situation. That is why, my humble and strong request to the Government of India is to take a concrete policy decision to bring about a lasting and honourable political solution to the burning Bodoland imbroglio without further delay.

Government of India should do the needful in this regard in the best interest of providing a chance to indigenous the Bodo people of the country, who happen to be one of the most nationalist Indian Sub-nationality. Government of India

should give them a chance to live as dignified Indian citizens within the Indian Union along with their own distinct language, culture, and ethnic self-identity with equal status and dignity at par with the rest of the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002 presented in the House and North-Eastern States are very important from strategic and natural point of view for the country. These 7-8 States are strategically important, because they share border with China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Thus the whole area is quite sensitive and important for the country. Earlier Governor was made Member of the North-Eastern Council. There was a proposal in primary Bill that Governor will not be Member and that was the basic aim of this Bill. Later on amendment was moved that Governor will be Member and again amendment was moved that Governor will not be Member to this Council. Sir, in this manner the issue is being mishandled. I do not know what is the idea of the Government behind that and why it is being mishandled.

Sir, the Minister who has prepared the Bill is considered to be an expert of English language. I would like to draw his attention towards sub-section-1 of section 1 of clause 3 wherein it has been written that -

[English]

"The person or persons for the time being holding the office of the Governor of the States."

[Translation]

Now why 'Person' and 'Persons' both have been written here. The Minister well versed in English should reply to it and tell reasons for that. There is only one Governor in a state or there will be two Governors in one State then what is reason for mentioning 'Persons' here.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, as there are eight states and eight Governors, 'person' or 'persons' has been written.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There are eight Governors in eight states which means that one Governor in one state then what is the need of writing persons. Those well versed in English should tell me about it that is its translation in Hindi correct-

"Tatsambandhi rajyon ke rajyapal ke rup mein Padaseen vyakti"

Why 'persons' is written. It means that in sub clause 1 of draft bill, which states:

[Dr. Raghuvarsh Prasad Singh]

[English]

"The person or persons for the time being holding the office of the Governor of the States."

[Translation]

The persons holding the office of the Governor, would be the Members in all states, if it is so, then why 'persons' has been written, I fail to understand this. If there can be two Governors, then it is essential to write persons, otherwise not. Therefore, to me, the word 'persons' appears unnecessary. The hon'ble Minister may kindly clear, why this word has been used. My submission is that amendments are made in the bills, but this bill has been reversely amended, initially amendment was carried out that, the Governors will not be the members, and now the amendment is being carried out that the Governors would be the Members. What is this? Not only this, earlier Chief Ministers were also not the Members but now provision has been made to provide Membership to them also. I would like to ask, what enmity do they have with MPs, what is the problem? There are 25 Lok Sabha Members, and 11 Rajya Sabha Members making the total 36. These 36 Members reached consensus and suggested not to make Governors its Member, but it was not agreed. They did not request themselves to be included because it would unnecessarily expand the body, they did not demand this. All MPs are unanimous, but they are being ignored. The Government should tell, why they are against the elected representatives, and why the Government have done so? Why they are mishandling the North-East. It is very sensitive area. Representatives are elected only after contesting elections but they have not contested elections, they are not elected Members. Why the persons who have been elected by the people are being ignored? They are demanding the inclusion of eight Members. All of them reached the consensus and have also given a resolution in this regard, that at least one Member from every State should be taken, it means the demand of taking eight Members has been made. As Governor represents Centre, besides him, the President will select and nominate three Members, which means they would be nominated by the centre. In total there would be 11 Members and Chairman would also be nominated by the Centre. In this way, North-East is being mishandled, leave aside the issue of development. Though the rays of sun reach North-East first, but rays of development reached there last.

This is one of the reasons for terrorism and separate forces over there. This has been the cause of law and order problem in many states. Extortion and violence is prevailing over there. Due to continuous violence over there, our CRPF and BSF men are being killed. I would like to say that the Union Government is mishandling the issue. It is very

dangerous. I would like to ask why you have ignored elected representatives. They have also passed a resolution in this regard.

Sikkim is the eighth state. Sister states have welcomed the decision of creating Sikkim as the eighth State. Though, earlier also it was given recognition, but now it has been legally made eighth state. They said, it should not be in form of advisory body, but in the form of planning body. It is right. Besides, it has also been rightly suggested to make it effective functional. Then they said.

[English]

NEC should set its role of reviewing security related matters and public order in the member States.

[Translation]

It has been further stated

[English]

Governors who are constitutional heads shall cease to be the members of the Council.

[Translation]

None of the MPs agree that Governor should be its Member. Earlier, Government was also of the same opinion and a bill was also brought in this regard, but how it has changed now? I would like to know who has influenced the decision of the Government? I do not know anything in this regard, but it has happened and contrast amendments have been made. The previous amendment was that the Governors would not be the Members, and thereafter the amendment was that Governors would be the Members.

[English]

The Chairman of the NEC shall be the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

What objection do you have if Deputy Chairman is of the Planning Commission.

[English]

There shall be a working Vice-Chairman as a member of the NEC to be appointed by the President of India. The President of India shall nominate eight Members of Parliament, one from each State of the North-East area to be members of the NEC.

[Translation]

They have ignored elected representatives. It is dangerous. Therefore, I would like to say that if anything goes wrong, the Centre would be responsible because in democracy it is wrong to ignore elected representatives. What problem they have if they take eight Members in the body. What difference will it make if the number of Members will increase from 17 to 25. You have decided to convene their meeting twice a year. There is a great problem over here. I have seen the programmes of Council, I have visited Bodo areas and many other places. It is non-functional. If there are no elected representatives then what function would committee hold. Sikkim is number one from the point of view of law and order. There is no unrest over there. Gangtok is connected by N.H., but at the time of landslide it gets disconnected from the other parts of the country. Why do you not move a motion to construct an alternative highway. You are the Minister of that Department. Centre has set up a separate department for it, and it has been given to you. He has been given the responsibility of all problems and he is busy in solving them. The demand for alternative of highway over there is long standing. In absence of it, travellers face heavy inconvenience. There is also demand of an airport over there since there is no facility to this effect.

Sikkim and Arunachal are very beautiful states from tourism point of view. Earlier North-East was called NEFA. Dr. Lohia gave it the name of Urvanshiam. The tradition of 'Gaon Boodha' is, still prevailing over there. Elected Head of the village is called 'Gaon Boodha'. You are aware that India is going through power crisis. India should have additional capacity of one thousand Megawatt of power by 2012. The Minister of Power is present here. Hydro-Power is the actual power. The power is generated with coal, and oil, but water is going waste. Hydro-power can be generated at very low cost, only some capital investment is required. Hydro-power has no comparison with thermal power. Nature has given Hydro-power potentiality to India. I think, something is wrong in planning. If the Government do not explore the 100 percent Hydro-Power potentiality, it ditches the country, because no development can take place without electricity. Eight North Eastern states have potentiality of 1.5 lakh megawatt of Hydro-power. Brahmaputra and many other rivers are in Manipur. Why the Hydro-power projects having capacity of 2.5 thousand Megawatt are not given top priority. This would lead to development of North-Eastern states. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): It will be good, if you pay so much attention towards Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You need not worry about Bihar. Bihar is capable and self-sufficient. The

question is that the North-Eastern States which has 25 hon. Members in the Lok Sabha and has 36 Members in Rajya Sabha even their views have been ignored by him.

16.00 hrs.

Hence all the Members in the House should consider as to how that Government, which ignores the elected representatives at even very small issues can run the country smoothly. Our's is a vast country whose governance require a sharp brain, great courage and sublime thinking and only a person possessing such virtue can govern this country. This country can not be run with such narrow minded attitude, hence these problems would exist. The Government have been ignoring and insulting the elected representatives and is expecting them not to speak and keep a mum, and only the Members belonging to North-East should speak on North-East alone and the Members of Bihar be allowed to speak on Bihar alone.

Hence, we would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the hydroelectricity generation and tourism potential of the state. The World Tourism Council has mentioned in one of its recent reports that the tourism in our country has the potential of generating employment opportunities for 67 lakh persons and this includes Bihar also. However North-East has a major role to play in it due to its natural beauty which is of a great attraction for the tourists. Hence there is a need to develop both the hydroelectricity and tourism related projects, else it would not result in desired development. As has been pointed out by an hon. Member that if proper attention towards its development is not paid then region can become a paradise for the militants and extremists. So top priority should be given to the

[English]

full utility of the facility of hydro-electric power.

[Translation]

Hence lying stress on it I would like to say that we should keep constant vigil on the North-East council so as to ensure proper functioning especially when the Government has set up a department in this regard. Formulating right plan, which could strike a balance among 2-3 States can bring peace to this North-Eastern region.

16.02 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair)

All of our epics mention about the Bhim's connection with North-East. All our scriptures including Puranas mention

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur. The lackadaisical attitude of your Government won't do. The development of the country could only be ensured through the development of North-East. The total number of villages in North East is approximately 45 thousand. The purpose of this Bill you have brought could only be fulfilled if the development of the villages and its heritage is ensured. The way our Members are being ignored is a pointer in the direction that the intention of the Government is not fair and also that something wrong might happen. Hence I conclude with a note of caution.

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (MIZORAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak on behalf of my State and my constituency Mizoram. First of all I would like to thank our Minister, Shri Arun Shourie, who is looking after the North-Eastern affairs for having brought this Bill before the House for consideration.

While supporting this Bill, I would like to point out only two or three aspects. The first point is, which was mentioned by the Members who spoke before me, that no MPs are included in this Council. All MPs have been excluded. In support of the Members who spoke before me, I would like to request the hon. Minister to include one MP from each State of that region. That would solve the problem. As we all know, the final decision is taken in Delhi. All the important issues are discussed in Delhi. In order to represent the North-Eastern States, including MPs in this Council is very important. That is why, in this Council at least one MP from each State of the region should be included.

While supporting the Bill, I would like to make some important points in respect of my State of Mizoram. Some of you may also know that Mizoram is a small State in the North-Eastern Region. It is having three or four of its boundaries as international borders. In the West and South, Bangladesh is there. In the East and South, Myanmar is there. Only the northern portion of Mizoram is connected with the other States of India like Assam, Manipur and Tripura. So, what I would like to say is that in order to develop the North-East, especially Mizoram, three things are very important. The first important thing is road communication. It is a hilly area. It is difficult to lay rail-lines. So, the road communication is very important. Under the Rural Development Ministry, the work relating to rural connectivity is going on. That will solve some of our problems.

My other point is about the electric power. Without electric power, nothing can be done in this modern age. We

have enough rivers and enough potential to generate electricity. So, steps should be taken to see that electricity is generated in this area.

Another point on which I would like to lay stress is that we have a market in order to sell our products, especially the agricultural products. Before Independence, before 1947, my State of Mizoram was self-sufficient. The reason was that we could sell our products to some of our neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar. At the same time, we could buy meat from those countries. But after Independence, in order to sell all our products to other parts of India and other markets, we have to carry to the northern corner of our State. There is only road communication. Further, we have to pay a lot of money towards carrying charges. So, our economy has slowed down. At present, we have to depend on the other States.

Sir, you also know that in the North-Eastern States, there are so many underground outfits. All the underground outfits, extremist organisations get their things from the neighbouring countries. But a good citizen cannot make use of the neighbouring countries. We are bound by the international boundaries. Even to sell our horticultural products, we have to carry them to the northern corner of our State. Sometimes, we sell some of the things to Bangladesh. I came to know that for our horticultural products, there is a great demand from Bangladesh. But we cannot sell them at our borders. So, opening up our border for trade is very important in order to develop Mizoram. Simply pouring in money is not the right way of doing things. We have to create the infrastructure for the development of the people and the State.

Today, fortunately, our Finance Minister is with us. I would like to request him to look into these matters carefully. In order to develop the North-Eastern States, especially my constituency and my State, we have to open up our door to sell our products. In turn, we have to buy things for our needs. For example, we are buying some items from Calcutta. We have to carry our things to Siliguri, Bongaigaon, Guwahati, Shillong, Silchar and Aizawl. We have to pay a lot of money as carrying charges. At the same time, we are going to sell some of our products to some foreign countries. Further, the demand for our charcoal is very much there. But we have to carry it to Calcutta via Guwahati, Siliguri etc. That is the problem that we are facing now. We are a land-locked State. In order to develop Mizoram, we have to open up our border trade with our neighbouring countries.

At the same time, I would like to say that in order to develop the small States in the North-East, we have to construct good roads and also generate power from our own sources.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

Sir, the Government has ignored the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which consists of 49 Members of Parliament, by not accepting to nominate Members of Parliament from each of the North-Eastern States to be members of the North-Eastern Council. The Standing Committee took a unanimous view in this regard. I would like to quote the relevant paragraph here. It says:

"While the Committee overwhelmingly opposed the proposal to retain Governors as members of the Council, it, however, strongly felt that there was need for inclusion of MPs of North-Eastern States and Sikkim in the Council so as to broad-base its representative character. It opined that every State should be represented at least by one of its MPs in addition to its Chief Minister. The Committee was of the view that by including MPs in the Council people's aspirations vis-a-vis the development of that region could be aired in a more articulate manner. Accordingly, it unanimously endorsed the view that the seven North-Eastern States and Sikkim should have adequate and equitable representation of their MPs in the Council."

The Minister has not made any provision for this purpose in the Bill. I am also a Member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. We endorsed this view. We wanted that at least one Member of Parliament from each of the North-Eastern State should be nominated to the North-Eastern Council. So, how can the Minister ignore this Report? We, 49 Members of the Standing Committee, discussed this issue and took a unanimous view on this aspect. So, I would request that the Standing Committee's recommendation should be incorporated in the Bill at least in a future amendment, if not today. After all, this is the Report of a Parliamentary Committee. Our senior Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows that when a Standing Committee recommends something, it has to be accepted by the Government as it is.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): They do not even read the Report. The Ministers do not read the Reports of Standing Committees.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The Standing Committee is a Mini Parliament. We work through Committee System here because Parliament cannot always sit in Session. Therefore, I would urge that this unanimous view of the Members of the Standing Committee, which includes myself, should be accepted.

Then, I would try to elaborate the point raised by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. He has stated that clause 1 (3) says: "a person or persons for the time being holding the office of Governor of a State..." According to the Constitution, there shall be a Governor for each State or one Governor can also look after another State, but there cannot be two Governors in one State. I think it is a clerical mistake. I would like the Minister to clarify this point. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this Bill is meant for the development of the North-Eastern Region. So, why should the Governor be included as a member of the North-Eastern Council? The Governor is the overall constitutional head of a State. I would again like to quote from the Report of the Standing Committee. It says:

"In relation to the Chairmanship of the Council, the Committee endorsed the official amendment given notice by the Home Minister which provided that the Chairman of the Council has to be nominated by the President. In this regard, the Committee considered the suggestion that the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission or Union Home Minister or Minister for Development of the North-Eastern Region should be nominated as ex-officio Chairman of the Council."

It is not there. So, kindly explain that.

Since you have brought forward the Bill for development, I am constrained to support it. You have not endorsed the views of the Standing Committee. I would say that it is not too late. You can still announce it. You Can bring forward an amendment saying that MPs should also be included in the Council.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, much to Shri Somnath Chatterjee's disappointment, all Members, even as they have drawn attention to what they regard as things we should have done, they have supported the Bill. I am grateful, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not disappointed. I have no hope from you. Therefore, why should I support it?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: All Members have supported the Bill. For that reason, I am very grateful. I am also very grateful especially to the Members from the North-East for the kind words that they have said for the working of our Department and certainly for my own work in this regard.

Five or six points have been made. I will quickly reply to them. Then, I will - because all Members have supported it - get the Bill passed unanimously as was the case in the Rajya Sabha where Members of the Standing Committee were also present. The Chairman of the Standing Committee, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, also supported the Bill warmly in spite of the recommendations that you kindly read out.

[Shri Arun Shourie]

Now, I will come to the general points. ...*(Interruptions)* When the matter comes up, towards the end, I will just say two or three words on development. Many Members, like Shri Sangtam, have intimate knowledge of the area with their itinerary experience in the field. They have made very important points. I will come to them in the end.

The first point that has been made is that security should be deleted. Shri Sangtam said this. Governors should not be included. I have already explained why we had led to the conclusion that the Governors should continue as they have done since Shrimati Gandhi set up the Council.

On the Chairmanship of the Council, it should be the Deputy Chairman or the Minister concerned.

Then, Shri Rajkumar Wangcha and others suggested that the authority for implementation and the executive power should be given to the Council. The Standing Committee had also said this for implementation of the project.

Finally, the MPs and Members and Chairmen of the Autonomous Councils should be included.

I shall deal with each point in just a minute or so. I shall give you the reasons which led us to contrary conclusions. I hope you would all agree on this. In many ways, it is correct that the North-Eastern Council has, thus far, not paid attention to its mandate on security. That is true. But the fact is that it should be paid attention. That was not dealt with at all from its focus on development. We are all agreed that its primary focus should be development. But in many ways, the security situation in the North-East today is much worse than it was in 1971. The reason is that, in many ways, the terrorists are better armed. As my distinguished and senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, with his knowledge of Defence and External Affairs, knows, today, the external agencies are much more active in the North-East than they were in 1971.

The third reason is that inter-State coordination is very necessary in security matters. I will give you an instance. There are peace talks, as you know, with one faction of the NSCN. A cease-fire has been announced. It has been in effect through one-and-a-half years. What is the result? Two districts in Arunachal Pradesh have got affected because many of the persons, who were armed, have moved over to those two States. Therefore, the Chief Ministers themselves have been saying that we must pay more attention in the working of the North-Eastern Council to the security aspect. In the last meeting that was held on 14th of November, the distinguished Chief Minister of Tripura and other Chief Ministers said very emphatically: "We must now start discussing security in a coordinated way in this forum." For that reason, while the

Standing Committee was completely right, I am sure that different considerations were from those who are on-the-spot and in charge of maintaining the law and order. When they are saying that there is no other forum for regional cooperation on this aspect of security, they have been pleading for this.

The President himself - I do not want to invoke his name but he has given a very good concept to the North-East - said that one economic zone, one security zone should be there. It is for that reason that we have requested that the word of security also continue in this regard.

The second point which was made very effectively and strongly was on the Chairmanship of the Council that the Chairmanship should be with the Deputy- Chairman of the Planning Commission or with the Minister concerned and so on. But actually, a person who is there on the spot is very necessary. I have seen that one of the most effective ingredients in reviving the Council has been that Gen. Sinha, posted there, has been able to devote his time frequently to the affairs of the North-East Council and thereby we have been able to resurrect him.

As you know, as many of you have been already in the Planning Commission, the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission is so involved in all the States that the attention that the North-East deserves would become less if we were to burden him with yet another responsibility which is to be exercised actually from Shillong. The Headquarters of the North-East Council being in Shillong and the Deputy-Chairman being in Delhi, files travelling here even for postings and so on will become a great problem. In this matter, the Bill provided the original thing that the President shall nominate the Chairman and as you see from the Standing Committee's Report, it considered the matter and said that it comes to the view that this discretion should be left to the President, even though certain Members and others have said that it should be the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission or somebody else.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): May I just put it to you? We do not contest the competency of Gen. Sinha or any Governor in this matter. What we are trying to say is, by having the Chairmanship with the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, it makes things easier and faster because the time factor is very important for any development in the North-East. That is why we said that the Governor or anybody else should be there. I am not challenging the competency of the Governor. He is very efficient in the best of his ability. So, I think, we should not make a mistake. To make the process smoother and faster, the name of the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission has been requested for.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. Our common objective is to expedite implementation and decision making. But the remedy for that probably lies in our expediting the procedure than in one person being the chairman of the North-East Council rather than another.

I will give you an instance. In the work, since this Department is created, I can assure you that we have cut down the time taken for approvals. As all the Chief Ministers will report to you, we just go from Ministry to Ministry as the advocates of the North-East and get clearances. I can say this with great pride that your Chief Ministers today appreciate this work that there is not a project which is loitering around among different Ministries in Delhi. Our benefactor, the Finance Minister, in the First Supplementary Grants, gave us Rs.200 crore for the non-lapsable pool and within one week of the money being available, it was all not just sanctioned but disbursed to the North-Eastern States because we have already obtained all the approvals and got the clearances from the Planning Commission and from different Ministries.

I, therefore, share with you the anxiety that we must get clearances made more expeditiously, but the remedy, as I suggested, was not in appointing one person rather than the other as the chairperson. That is why, the Standing Committee said, "in relation to the Chairmanship of the Council, the Committee endorsed the official amendment given notice of by the hon. Home Minister, which provided that the Chairman of the Council was to be nominated by the President. In this regard, the Committee considered the suggestion that Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission or Union Finance Minister or Union Home Minister or Union Minister for North-Eastern Region should be nominated as the ex-officio Chairman of the Council. The Committee was of the considered view that the nomination of the Chairman of the Council should also be left to the wisdom and discretion of the President."

So, that flexibility has been given. If the President so feels that at a particular time the Planning Commission should be given that responsibility, that would certainly be an important point.

The third point that was made by distinguished Members from that region and also others was that the executive powers should be given to the North-East Council for implementation. As I read out to you the passage from Shrimati Gandhi's inaugural address to the Council, I would say that the kinds of projects that are being taken up are diverse.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was very correctly saying that it has unlimited potential for hydro electric power. In Mizoram alone, probably 25,000 MW potential is there. It is a regret that only 1.5 per cent of that potential is being utilised. I completely agree with him. I will come to that in the end.

Now, we are giving loans for civil aviation from the North-East Council. ...*(Interruptions)* I am only on the North-East Council as yet. There is allocation for power, roads, railways and various such things.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You should give allocation for telecommunication also.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes, that is important. For all these things that are being given allocation, you cannot build up the requisite implementation capacity and expertise in one body called the North-East Council. You will then be duplicating the work. Power project has to be taken if the executive or the implementation responsibility is to be given to the North-East Council. The North-Eastern Power Corporation is then set up for this purpose. The National Hydel Corporation is better equipped. It has the specialisation for executing those projects. All that expertise would have to be transferred into this Council. For that reason, it should remain as it is, and it should work through the best possible implementation agencies.

Many Members today mentioned about roads and telecommunications. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was also saying this. The Member from Mizoram was just telling us about the importance of roads and linking the district headquarters with the State capital and the difficult terrain. That work is being done under very difficult circumstances today by the Border Roads Organisation. Now, that means that expertise should also be brought into the North-East Council. It will become very difficult indeed.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: There is one problem. There is the dream project of the Prime Minister for giving road connectivity to North, South, East and West. It is called the Golden Quadrilateral. Why is this going only up to Silchar and not to all the other States? This should reach all the North-East States. You are only reaching Silchar, and the matter ends there. But they have recognised eight States now. Even Sikkim needs this. Arunachal Pradesh also needs this. Nagaland also needs this. Mizoram also needs this. All these States need this. Manipur also needs this. So, you have not been able to reach all the States. I think you should work out a package.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I give you my words that even if it is not a part of that single project, we will do something else. A very good proposal had come from one of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* Can I just finish in two minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.



SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Why not a single member is included in that Council? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude your speech.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: The North-Eastern Council had never done anything for the backward and other tribal areas. What is the mechanism?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He has not completed.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will come to that. There are many important points made, for instance, on linking the region. I had requested my colleagues and I will personally be working with the Department of Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri. This road is one part. It is one great artery, the East-West Highway on the Golden Quadrilateral. But there are many other things that need to be done, for instance, linking the State's capitals with the North-East region and then linking district headquarters with each State's capital. That network of roads needs to be developed. We will be having a Master Plan, I assure you, through the North-East Councilor through the Planning Commission.

I am sure you would welcome the fact that we have now got a facility with the Planning Commission that for any North-Eastern State when they do not have the capacity to prepare their project, they only have to send a two-paragraph letter to the Planning Commission for preparing their project. We want this to be cleared. Please prepare a project. The Planning Commission, at its own cost, will prepare the project and then having prepared this project, they would take little time in clearing the same project itself.

In this way, similarly, on forests, I was told, when I took over this Department, that the Supreme Court judgement on use of forest-based industries had led to the stoppage of all development works in many of the North-Eastern States.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): That was because of the murder in Bihar.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is also because of what had been found in Arunachal Pradesh where they had set up a sawmill. I myself studied the judgement. What happened was that the Supreme Court had actually not banned these wood-based industries. What they had done was this. They said, 'if you have a working plan for re-forestation, then you can go ahead.'

We did work with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and got an allocation made especially for the North-East that the Centre would pay. Nagaland took the lead. They,

designated the areas in which they wanted work plans. The Centre prepared the work plans at its own cost and the whole work has now re-started in the States in which these initiatives were taken.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev spoke about air links. It has been a crying need there. I have found that there are more airstrips and aerodromes than airplanes in the North-East. For that reason, from the North-Eastern Council, we have given a subsidy of Rs.35 crore every year to the Indian Airlines so that four 50-seater planes could be hired as a taxi service, which would operate only in the North-East, going throughout the day between the capitals and other smaller towns like Silchar, within the North-East itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Vayudoot was supposed to be there. It was proposed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But the North-East people used to call it yamdoot.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Actually, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had proposed that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please do not give answers to all the interruptions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This service would start from the 25th December, 2002.

There are several other points that have been made but I have been directed to conclude. I do feel, we would continue this discussion some other day. I hope that all of us would raise our voice strongly for honest and strong implementation there. Secondly, I hope, all of us would raise our voice against violence. You would see that the kind of attention being paid to the North-East now has never been paid. This particular service that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had conceived of would start on Christmas Day, the 25th December, this year.

With these words, I commend that this Bill be passed.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What about the inclusion of MPs in the North-Eastern Council, as recommended by the Committee on Home Affairs? There are hon. Members of Parliament even in District Development Councils.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: What about my query?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I would answer that also. I did not answer that earlier just because the time was short. I can answer it in two minutes.

The question of inclusion of MPs is an important one. We had deliberated over it for a long time. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh asked if there were sixteen members what was the difficulty in there being more members. If we have sixteen members as at present, plus eight MPs and three members nominated by the President, it would become a 27-member Council. As an executive body, it becomes very difficult for the body to function. We are trying to make it function more efficiently.

The second point is that the Chief Ministers themselves are also equally representative of the people. In many cases, because of the different parties to which MPs belong and to which the Chief Ministers belong, we would have other voices in the deliberations of the Council. This would become even more so, if we take up the point about the Chairman of the Autonomous Councils being included. Then it would become a 36-member Council and it would become impossible and unruly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Are you not accommodating due to bulging size of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Tell us what is the rationale behind Governor's inclusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you need not answer that. I have not permitted him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I beg to move:

*"That the Bill be passed."*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

*"That the Bill be passed."*

*The motion was adopted.*

16.35 hrs.

### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS - GENERAL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item number 16 Supplementary Demands for Grants (General).

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Statement annexed 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, 2003 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos.

5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 37, 39, 40, 43, 50, 51, 52, 54, 61, 65, 66, 67, 70, 72, 76, 78, 79, 82, 83, 87, 89, and 95."

### Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-2003 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

| No. & Title of Demand                 |  | Amount of Demand for Grants<br>submitted to the Vote of the House |               |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 1                                     | 2  | 3   |               |
|                                       |  | Revenue Rs.   | Capital Rs.   |
| MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS |  |   |               |
| 5.                                    | Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals | 4,87,00,000   | 150,00,00,000 |

| 1   | 2  | 3              |               |
|-----|--|----------------|---------------|
|     |  | Revenue Rs.    | Capital Rs.   |
| 6.  | Department of Fertilisers                                  | 442,36,00,000  | 394,00,00,000 |
|     | MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES                                 |                |               |
| 9.  | Department of Mines  | 472,47,00,000  | 30,02,00,000  |
|     | MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY                          |                |               |
| 10. | Department of Commerce                                     | 1,00,000       | 298,47,00,000 |
|     | MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY      |                |               |
| 12. | Department of Posts  | 1,00,000       | 1,00,000      |
|     | MINISTRY OF DISINVESTMENT                                  |                |               |
| 22. | Ministry of Disinvestment                                  | 8,00,00,000    | -             |
|     | DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION          |                |               |
| 23. | Department of Development of North Eastern Region          | 315,00,00,000  | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS                        |                |               |
| 24. | Ministry of Environment and Forests                        | 4,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS                               |                |               |
| 25. | Ministry of External Affairs                               | 28,98,00,000   | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF FINANCE  |                |               |
| 26. | Department of Economic Affairs                             | 130,70,00,000  |               |
| 27. | Currency, Coinage and Stamps                               |                | 2,00,000      |
| 28. | Payments to Financial Institutions                         | 1949,00,00,000 | -             |
| 37. | Direct Taxes   | 73,19,00,000   | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION |                |               |
| 39. | Department of Consumer Affairs                             | 5,00,000       | 17,98,00,000  |
| 40. | Department of Food and Public Distribution                 | 2,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE                      |                |               |
| 43. | Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy   | 1,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT                     |                |               |
| 50. | Department of Elementary Education and Literacy            | 1,00,000       | -             |
| 51. | Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education     | 18,34,00,000   | -             |

| 1   | 2   | 3              |               |
|-----|---|----------------|---------------|
|     |   | Revenue Rs.    | Capital Rs.   |
| 52. | Department of Women and Child Development   | 1,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES   |                |               |
| 54. | Department of Heavy Industry  | 197,45,00,000  | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES   |                |               |
| 61. | Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources   | 1,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF PLANNING  |                |               |
| 65. | Ministry of Planning  | 2,51,00,000    | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF POWER   |                |               |
| 66. | Ministry of Power   | 51,45,00,000   | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT   |                |               |
| 67. | Department of Rural Development   | 3806,00,00,000 | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  |                |               |
| 70. | Department of Science and Technology  | 1,00,000       | -             |
| 72. | Department of Biotechnology   | 1,00,000       | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS   |                |               |
| 76. | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways   |                | 1,00,000      |
|     | MINISTRY OF TEXTILES  |                |               |
| 78. | Ministry of Textiles  | 1,00,000       |               |
|     | MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE   |                |               |
| 79. | Department of Tourism   | 31,43,00,000   | -             |
|     | MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION   |                |               |
| 82. | Department of Urban Development   | 15,00,00,000   | 1,00,000      |
| 83. | Public Works  | -              | 2,00,000      |
|     | MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  |                |               |
| 87. | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  | 1,00,000       | -             |
|     | DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY   |                |               |
| 89. | Atomic Energy   | 1,00,000       | 3,00,000      |
|     | THE PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENT, UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION<br>AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT |                |               |
| 95. | Lok Sabha   | 70,00,00,000   | -             |
|     | Grand Total   | 7616,97,00,000 | 890,57,00,000 |

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. Please tell me as to how much time do I have because there are a number of speakers from my party. Is it ten minutes or less than ten minutes? That day, I was told to speak for only five minutes. I would like to know about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted is only two hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Thank you, Sir. I will be mindful of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You can speak for ten minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I shall try to finish by then.

This is the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-03, which includes 37 Grants, an amount of expenditure where the approval of the Parliament is sought for Rs. 9,045.05 crore.

Now, we are very thankful to the hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Jaswant Singh, for his Mid-year Review. I am not an economist, but whatever I have gathered from the opinions expressed in the print media, I would like to reflect on that. I am subject to correction and I hope the hon. Minister of Finance would correct me.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Finance has said that the Mid-term Review defines the "universe of discourse". I do not know what it means. I would like to be educated on that. Then he says, "the economy has been tested by fire in 2002 and hence come out tops". I do not know which fire he was talking about - whether the Gujarat fire or if he had in mind the train burning, bus burning, aeroplane burning or house burning. I do not know about it. I would like to be educated about it. I come from the *jungles* of Orissa. I am not a sophisticated urbanite. I am a soldier. I am not an economist. I would like to be educated.

Trials by fire have been slightly clarified - failed monsoon and drought, global slow - downing, decline in world trade and capital flows, the Argentinean default, terrorism and war threat.

Sir, in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony had said to the assassins of Julius Caesar that Brutus was an honourable man. So, were they all honourable men? I am not referring to the hon. Minister of Finance. He has not said these things. I am coming to that. Why I am saying it is because men may come and men may go. Today, there is a NDA

Government with BJP and 24 parties leading it. Yesterday, there was a Congress's Government and the United Front Government. We keep on going, but the bureaucracy remains. 'Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever', said Lord Tennyson in the Brook. Therefore, I said, these are honourable men. We call ourselves honourable, but the Press calls us something else. That is the community of parliamentarians and legislators.

Now, terrorism and war threat have also been mentioned. We are very happy that Mr. Putin has come. Today, our hon. Prime Minister appreciated that our enduring friend has stood by us. Why is there a war threat? Is it because of the simple reason that we do not have a credible deterrent Defence capability? Bangladesh sent back 17 dead BSF personnel like carcasses, like when you go for a shikar.

Pakistan comes right up to Kargil. We cannot say anything. Sir, we do not have a credible, a deterrent defence. The atmosphere is such at the moment that whatever we are passing in the Parliament is not fully spent. Last year we passed Rs. 72,000 crore and we approved it. An amount of Rs. 8,000 crore out of it could not be spent by the Ministry of Defence. This year we passed Rs. 65,000 crore. Sir, I am a member of the Standing Committee. That is why I am telling this to you. It has all been placed before Parliament. I am not saying any Defence secrets. I do not know whether we will be able to spend this amount of Rs. 65,000 crore because no one wants to sign a file - with Bofors hanging in balance and with Tehelka.com with so many Commissions etc.

So, what is going to happen to our defence? If our national security is at stake, I do not know how we are going to have national development or economic development. I think for development, you require a strong defence, a strong political stability, economic stability. These are the things which I would like to be educated about.

Only recently, the Public Accounts Committee has brought out a report on the accidents of IAF aircraft. Only day before yesterday we were debating it in the Standing Committee. The Ministry of Defence tells us that in the last ten years, 109 MiG aircraft have crashed and 39 pilots died. They were all young chaps. No Air Marshal flies them; it is only the Flight Lieutenants and the Squadron Leaders who fly them - all below 30 years. The figures with the Public Accounts Committee are much higher than what has been given to us in the meeting. I would not like to go into it because as a former Prime Minister of England had said, it is "lies, damn lies and statistics".

The fact is that people are dying, Jaguars are crashing, MiGs are crashing and Committees are being appointed. First the La Fontain Committee and then the Air Marshal Rathod Committee were appointed. The La Fontain Committee was appointed when hon. Shri Shivraj Patil and thereafter I was in the Defence Ministry, which was 20 years back. But the accidents have not stopped. There were either bird hits or other things; but the poor pilot is blamed and it is said that it is due to human error. We are yet to induct the state-of-the-art advanced jet trainers for our pilots and we keep on losing both aeroplanes, machine, at considerable cost to the exchequer as well as human life and human training.

The same is the question with the civilian aspect. Take the number of accidents of the Alliance Air or the Indian Airlines. Just now we heard the hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie discussing about the North-East. He is the Minister in charge of the North-East. We are going to the medieval age of inducting ATR-51 aircraft, a turbo prop one to go to the North-East. Now, when Boeing aircraft are going with 120 and 128 people and are full and over-subscribed, we are trying to induct ATR-51 only for the North-East, knowing fully well that after 11 in the day there are air pockets and it is hazardous.

Today the Alliance Air is flying those moth-eaten Boeing-737 aircraft which are 22 years old. In the last one month there have been six incidents/accidents. Now we are playing with the lives of the passengers as well as the youngsters who are flying them and because of these old planes, if a single plane malfunctions, then two other planes are sent to salvage the passengers as well as to bring it back. That means, for one plane you are using three planes, in effect. The Kelkar Committee had given Rs. 325 crore. I do not know why the Government is not inducting the modern fleet. If they are going to compete with Sahara and Jet Airways and other private airlines which have state-of-the-art aircraft, why are we deliberately keeping the Indian Airlines and its subsidiary the Alliance Air in having medieval, 15th century equipment? This is something which I would like to be educated about.

Sir, even in the airlines sector, this time when the troop mobilisation was effected by the Government consequent to the attack on Parliament, it was these moth-eaten aircraft which took bulk of our forces to the borders. Are we being fair to them? Are we being fair to the people? Just because they are under the Army Act, Navy Act or Air Force Act, do we put them into a veritable coffin? In Vayudoot and in Pawan Hans, we know how engines used to fall out and doors used to fallout. Thank God, no passenger fell out or Air Hostess did not fall out, but the equipment fell out. Are we going to repeat that? So, I require some clarification on that.

If I remember correctly, the distinguished predecessor

of hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, in one of his Budget Speeches, had spoken about bringing a Fiscal Responsibility Bill so that the States which are being recalcitrant and not listening to the Finance Ministry's directives, maybe because of political compulsions, can be made to comply. Now, because of fiscal irresponsibility, fiscal deficit has gone up to more than 10 per cent. I do not know whether it is containable or not, as I have said that I am not an economist. I would like to be clarified on this point.

These are being confirmed by the RBI's forecasts. I am glad that the hon. Minister has in his Mid-Term Review agreed with the RBI that the growth also will be somewhere around 5 per cent or 5.5 per cent and not 8 per cent or 9 per cent, as we were having in the late eighties or late nineties. One of the reasons is that the impact of drought still casts its shadow on us. It is affecting credit use and subsidies have gone up to 63 per cent.

As regard prices and demand, we were having discussions on the plight of farmers here. I would not like to repeat. I come from a State which is surplus as far as rice is concerned, but for the last three years, our constant companions have been drought, flood and cyclone. In 1999, there was a super-cyclone which was taken note of by the United Nations which called it International Year of Disaster, but because our Relief Code does not have that word 'national', we could not declare it a national calamity. It was a natural calamity. Therefore, Orissa lost out what it would have got. Had it been declared a national calamity, we would have got 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan.

Now, on this vexatious problem of declaring Orissa a special category State, which for the last 25 years every Government of Orissa has been raising irrespective of which party has been in power, I would say that irrespective of whether it has been a Congress Government, BJD Government, Janata Dal Government or BJP-BJD alliance, every Government has been demanding of the Centre that because of our historically chronic condition, with 47 per cent people living below the poverty line and successive weather-related disasters, please consider Orissa to be declared as a special category State. But the definition cannot be changed by this great Parliament because the definition has been done by somebody and we cannot change or amend it. Therefore, Orissa cannot be declared a special category State like Schedule VI States or Hill States, although the problems are as chronic and as endemic, because Orissa does not come in the international boundary. That means we have to have a hostile country or a foreign country next to Orissa for Orissa to be granted special category. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether this Government can find

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

ways and means to, if not declare Orissa as a special category State, have some financial package or investment for Orissa so that we can come out from the bottom of the economic ladder to that of the all-India level.

We have heard about KBK districts, that is, Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts. It was first announced by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, it was reiterated by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, and now it has been re-reiterated by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The booklet was produced by the Planning Commission. I will request the hon. Finance Minister to take a look or his officers can make a study. The concept of KBK came into existence as a result of the recommendation of the Petitions Committee of Rajya Sabha. The core of this KBK concept is monitoring of the implementation as well as investment. In the last one year, we seven MPs, who belong to the erstwhile KBK districts, received notices seven times from the Government of Orissa. Those meetings were cancelled. It means that in the last one year, there is no monitoring of the KBK by anyone excepting the departmental bureaucrats.

Today, in Kashipur, in Koraput, Kalahandi and Keonjhar districts, there are piles of foodgrains, but yet, there are piles of dead bodies a few hundred metres away. I myself went to Kashipur on the instructions of my leader and the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. We were a three-member team; we had gone there and this was what we saw.

Then, Sir, we have been discussing the question of this drought resulting in migration of population, starvation, destitution and, of course, the merciful deaths, which save them from this. We keep on denying it. Some say, the deaths occurred because of eating mango powder or due to gastro-enteritis, but we are not admitting the starvation deaths. All these plans and programmes which we enunciate here and which we hear in the television or read in the newspapers are just remaining on paper and they are not being implemented.

One of the newspapers, the Pioneer - it is not an anti-Government paper; it is a pro-Government paper because the Editor happens to be from my school - in its media review refers to what Comrade Mao Tse Tung said: "Two steps forward, one step backward", and says that the NDA's philosophy is just the opposite, that is, "Two steps backward, one Step forward".

I would like to complement Shri Shanta Kumar for his new innovative scheme 'Swajaldhara' where the community pays ten per cent, and the rest of the money is given by the State and Central Government. I hope, it becomes a success.

There is one more thing and this is about the Armed

Forces. Sir, economic development can take place only in an atmosphere of safety. Now, the people who give us safety are the Service people and the Ex-Servicemen. So far as the Ex-Servicemen are concerned, in fact, the hon. Finance Minister and myself happened to be in a Committee. In 1984, we submitted a unanimous report, which was accepted by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. One was about 'One Rank, One Pension'.

The Ex-Servicemen, like in the Kohima Cemetery, always claim: "When you go back, tell them of us that for your tomorrow, we have given our today." We give lip sympathy in the House and everywhere. Yesterday, they sat at Jantar Mantar, where Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav was attacked by the Police. Why? We, the Members of Parliament and the Judges, whenever there is a pension enhancement, get it from a prospective date, but we are not giving it to our Ex-Servicemen who have safeguarded our national integrity, Independence, security and unity. It will cost the exchequer only Rs. 531 crore. It is also being deliberated in the Standing Committee on Defence. We have not agreed with the Ministry officials, who said that it would cost too much.

The other thing is about the medi-care, and the third is about the Ex-Servicemen Commission. I was informing the hon. Minister that today an Ex-Serviceman has to pawn his pension papers to get a loan. There is no Ex-Servicemen Financial Development Corporation. The high-level Committee constituted in 1984, in its report, recommended that Rs. 75 crore was to be given by the Central Government and Rs. 75 crore was to be given by 29 States, whose number has gone up to 33 now. In five years, I think, this is a chicken-feed. We have Financial Development Corporations for minorities, for women, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but for 50 lakh Ex-Servicemen, we do not have anything.

Sir, the last time when the hon. Minister presented the Demands for Supplementary Grants, I had intervened in the debate and he was kind enough to say that the custom tariff that was applicable to sports organisations, that had been withdrawn by his Ministry last year, would be restored for water sports like rowing, yachting and other such games and shall also be extended to the Services Sports Control Board and the Railway Sports Control Board. But I am sorry to say that the orders for this have not yet reached these organisations. Probably, there is some communication gap somewhere.

Sir, my last point is that domestic bad governance cannot be controlled by giving a free hand to market forces and selling off the public sector undertakings. This is known as the Washington Consensus or the Bolivian Experiment particularly relating to the Latin American countries and they are paying for it.

Sir, if you kindly bear with me, I would like to submit that this is what the wonderful Government of my State has done. This news has appeared in 'The Indian Express'. It says that only 34 per cent of the cyclone relief fund has been utilised by the Government of Orissa. A sum of Rs. 645 crore was given to the State. Some people say Rs. 10,000 crore, some people say Rs. 15,000 crore was given to the State for this purpose. But only a sum of Rs. 645 crore was given to the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The total time allotted for this is two hours. You have already taken 20 minutes. There are other speakers also from your party. Please co-operate.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, it is very important. It concerns my State. The money is being looted there.

Sir, therefore, while making reforms, we should not know only the prices of goods but we must know the value of human lives, whether they are of civilians, soldiers or cyclone-affected or drought-affected people.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Gehlotji, you wait for a minute.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that it was told by the Chair that a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee is going to be held in the evening and once, the Committee submits its report, House would be apprised of the facts. Sir, we have come to know that the meeting has concluded by now after having been started at 4.00 o'clock. If the Committee has submitted any report to the hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to know as to what action has been taken thereon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am conveying your query to the hon. Speaker and would let you know once I get the information because the report is certainly going to be submitted to him.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have come to know that the Mr. Speaker was to leave for Mumbai, hence he has left for Mumbai.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the supplementary demand for Grants and would like to make a submission in this regard. This Government has taken several steps to improve the economy of the country and not only that it has taken steps but have also achieved

success in this regard and have also accelerated the process of capital investment in the infrastructure sector. The supplementary budget which has been introduced today has a provision for gross additional expenditure of Rs. 9045.05 crores under 37 heads and the permission of the House has been sought in this regard. Out of rupees 5035.11 crore would be spent additionally.

17.00 hrs.

Other expenditures would be met from the 'heads' of cash rich departments. On this occasion I would like to say that the Government have made some budgetary allocation to compensate those investors who had to bear financial losses due to UTI scam. This is a good step. Had the hon. Minister not taken this step, thousands of people who had invested their money under UTI scheme 64, would have suffered heavy losses. This shows that the Government is willing to provide relief to the persons and is also capable of doing so. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The scammers will keep on doing scams and you would keep on providing funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: A committee has already been constituted for it and as soon as it will submit, its report and the facts regarding scam would emerge, we would try to extend our co-operation for follow up action. Provision for seeking funds has also been made for the development of North-Eastern states. The entire House has been realizing for the last many years that a systematic development of the North-Eastern states is absolutely essential. Councils have been setup there which are funded by the Centre. However the money is not spent systematically and the Government have taken several steps keeping this in view. The issue of the development of North-Eastern states has been discussed in the House several times. The funds have been allocated keeping this thing in view.

Next comes several central projects being funded by the Government of India.

Presently, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Prime Minister's Rural Employment Scheme and food for works Scheme etc. are being implemented in rural areas all over the country. Additional fund is required for the proper implementation of those schemes. That is why nearly Rs. 3,546 crore have been demanded for the implementation of rural employment Schemes. Along with this provision of Rs. 260 crore have also been made for food for work scheme. For this approval has been sought.

Besides, the security of the premises of Lok Sabha,



[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

which is the supreme institution of the country is, also extremely necessary. We all have witnessed last year's terrorist attack on Parliament on 13th December. Keeping this in view provision of funds has been made for strengthening the security system of Lok Sabha. I also support it.

This year is the year of women employment. Funds have been sought for empowering women and solving out their problems. I would also like to congratulate the Government for this. Besides this a provision has been made for the funds for the promotion and expansion of secondary, higher and informal education. We all agree that if there were cent percent literacy in the country it would have been included in five or seven developed nations of the world and would have progressed on the line of developed nations. However, even today the percentage of literacy in our country is low. Though the authenticated figures for 2001 are not available with us however as per the figures of the year 1991-92 the percentage of literacy is 52 percent. Out of which female literacy is 16 percent. There is need for the promotion of education in the country keeping this in view budgetary provision has been made in the supplementary Demands for Grants and the consent in this regard has also been sought. I would also like to submit that in Articles 45 of the constitution of India it has been clearly mentioned that free compulsory education should be provided by the Government to all the Children upto 14 years of age. However, no Government prior to it made any effort to implement it and I would congratulate this Government for making amendment in the Constitution. The present Government made arrangement for free compulsory education to the Children upto 14 years of age. I am pleased that the House have passed this Bill and this Scheme is to be implemented from the next academic session. Though a provision of meagre amount of Rs. 14.33 and four crore have been made for the promotion of education yet it was essential for this and therefore I also support it.

There is shortage of electricity all over the country. Even today there is vast gap between the demand and supply of power. In order to fill this gap, provision has been made by the Central Government to provide financial assistance to thermal power stations for additional generation of power. That provision was certainly essential. So I also support it.

The Urban development Schemes are being implemented all over the country. The Schemes for water conservation and other schemes are being implemented by the Department of Urban Development in those areas where there is shortage of drinking water. In this item a provision of nearly Rs. 9 crore has been made. I also support it.

On this occasion I would like to support the

Supplementary Budget and would also request the House that they should also support the Supplementary Budget that has been prepared with good intention for the noble cause.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister has presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

There are 37 Grants belonging to different Ministries amounting to Rs. 9,045 crore. I would straightaway go to Demand No. 67 pertaining to the Department of Rural Development. I suppose that it is more than 30 per cent of the total demands, comprising a large component of the requirements. It is Rs. 3,806 crore. It is for the food grain component under SGRY and Food For Work. I suppose that it would go to the drought-hit areas of the country. But it should be specific.

So far as the Demand No. 67 is concerned on drought, I suppose that we have already discussed at length in this very House. Everybody knows that there are mainly 14 States which have been very badly affected by droughts. In West Bengal also, there are three districts, namely, Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore which have been affected by droughts.

Requirement of sufficient food grain is very necessary. But there is another very important thing which is also very much required throughout the country. It is potable drinking water for the common people. It is very much required today.

There is very insufficient potable drinking water in the country. Arsenic-free and manganese-free water is required. So, sufficient funds should be allocated to the State Governments by way of different projects to enable them to provide water to the common people.

Sir, my next point is on Demand No. 30. It is written there that the 'Supplementary appropriation is required for providing additional ways and means advances to State Governments recoverable in the same financial year. There will be no cash outgo.'

Sir, we are very much aware about the fiscal positions of different States of our country. We are very much concerned about the dismal performance of the State Governments throughout the country. The hon. Minister knows as to what the actual situation is. There is no fund to meet the salary bill of the employees of various State Governments. There is no fund to meet even the normal developmental work in various States.

They are not in a position to face the natural calamity.

Why has this dismal situation arisen? The Government of India cannot avoid its duty. I would like to mention two or three reasons due to which this dismal situation of the State finance has arisen.

One of the biggest burdens on the States is the Government of India's decision on pay revision, that is, the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. Following the same decision, salaries and pensions were doubled in the States. Salary and pension are doubled. This perhaps is the biggest burden on the State Governments.

The second biggest burden is the interest on various Central assistance schemes. Out of the total Central assistance, 60 per cent accounts for loans which are given at high interest rates. The average borrowing rate of the Government of India at present is about seven per cent but from the State Governments they charge 12 per cent. I demand that it should be reduced before it is too late. If the Government is not doing it, the situation would further worsen. In a number of Central assistance schemes like CPA, RIDF, the interest component of loan is very high.

The State Governments are not in a position to face the natural calamity on their own. Every year they have to bear with either drought or flood. Adequate funds are not being provided to the States out of the National Calamity Fund. I would like to give one example. In the year 2000, there was flood in West Bengal, which was considered as a national disaster. These are not my words. The then Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar had said that this was a national disaster. We demanded from the Centre Rs.1487 crore for relief and restoration work and we were provided with only Rs.103 crore. The State Government was forced to take loan of Rs.1,173 crore from HUDCO at high rate of interest. So, the requirement of Rs.500 Crore, as mentioned in the Supplementary, is not enough. I am very much spell-bound to see the requirement.

We have been regularly raised in this House the erosion problem being faced by the State of West Bengal, particularly in three districts of Murshidabad, Malda and Nadia and other seven to eight districts, no additional provision has been made to face this problem. I demand additional Central Assistance to face the riverbank erosion problem caused due to rivers Ganga and Padma. The Government of West Bengal will do its best to solve the problem but without the help of the Government of India, we will not be in a position to solve this problem.

I would like to say something about the financial position of our country. A reference has already been made by my esteemed colleague about the mid-year review. I thank the

Finance Minister for this mid-year review. Before going into the details of it, so far as the review is concerned, the main thrust of this review is that the Government is coming out from recession. Without going into the details I would seek your permission to quote one or two sentences from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, CMIE:

"The prolonged slow down in private investments, a constrained financial sector due to the fear of rising non performing assets in banks, a lacklustre capital market and a near bankrupt Government, limit the chances of an escape for slow down in 2002-03."

Sir, there is a slow down and there is still recession. Two things have been glorified in this Mid-Year Review. I suppose it is very good. One thing is that there is sufficient food stock. Second thing is that foreign exchange reserve is 66 billion dollars. But what is the bad news before us? What about the GDP growth rate? This year, it will be 5.5 per cent. What will be the fate of the Tenth Plan? The Tenth Plan has projected the GDP growth rate to be eight per cent with the inspiration of the hon. Prime Minister. Reality, economics, and the inspiration are all different things. There is no sign of improvement in the investment. The same recession is going on in the domestic capital market. The Foreign Direct Investment is not good as compared to the previous year. The revenue collection is on the lower side. The expenditure is growing. Down-sizing is going on in every sector except the Ministries of the Government of India. My simple question is that why there is no speedy development. Why are the farmers committing suicide? Why is unemployment growing? This is not a sign of good governance. I suppose that there is some jugglery in the statistics also. I am saying this because for achieving eight per cent growth rate, there should be two per cent growth in agriculture, 10 per cent in service sector, and 11 per cent in the industry. (Present year which is 4.5%) Only then, it is possible to achieve eight per cent growth rate. Otherwise, it is not possible. I do not know how this growth rate would be achieved.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me time to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the General Budget. The amount allocated in the Budget is the tax money of the people right from peasants, labourers to the upper section of society. Even after so many years of independence the condition of the villages is deteriorating day by day. It is due to the accumulation of wealth and resources in urban areas that such situation is emerging in the villages. The Schemes

[Shri Arun Kumar]

which are being prepared for rural areas for the peasants and workers are not being properly implemented. As for example I would like to submit that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been prepared. It is a golden scheme. It can change the fate of the villages. There are no roads for those people who work in the fields in villages. It is on account of this that even today agricultural produces are sold at cheaper rates. Thus there is sky difference in the prices of agricultural products and industrial products. It is also one of the biggest causes of exploitation of the rural people. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been prepared under the able leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like to extend my thanks to the Government for this.

However I would like to submit that the scheme such as education for all and other Central Schemes are not being properly implemented and are lying on the papers. I do not know the situation in other states however in Bihar even the first phase of tender regarding the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has not been floated and three years are going to be elapsed since then. In this situation the Central Government cannot escape from its responsibility on the plea that the state Government is inactive and is not able to do this. The Central Government has its responsibility. Presently the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a subject matter of discussions only. The state Government is not paying need to it and the Central Government is inactive and idle in this regard.

17.21 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

So I would like that the Central Government should evolve some mechanism to implement this scheme so that the people waiting since long may get the facility. It is an important scheme so it should be implemented. I would also like to submit that the amount allocated by the Central Government to the State must not become the means of earning interest for the State Government. Today, hon'ble Prime Minister has also participated in discussion regarding the proposal of building of dams over rivers and inter-connecting rivers. However North Bihar is devastated due to floods and every year the same issue is discussed.

The incident that occurred with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and farmers in thousands of numbers who came here to raise their voice and that too under hard conditions, but the treatment meted out to these farmers as also to our hon. Member, is really shameful. There are very few people who raise the voice of farmers and their agony and the treatment which was meted out to the people of Bihar and the incident happened was shameful as they had come here to raise their voice in a peaceful manner regarding floods and drought and

with a resolve to find out a permanent solution to these problems. Through you, I would like to say to the Government that no concrete steps have been taken in the field of education, which is actually the backbone of any democratic set up. Our predecessors had opened at least two High schools, some primary schools in one block, but today even after fifty years of independence when our population has increased three times, the number of schools has rather decreased instead of increasing. It is sure that a building which is in a dilapidated condition would definitely be a Government school building. Unless educational facilities are provided to poor people and farmers, a situation of chaos would prevail in the country and some people are really trying to drag the country into such a situation. And therefore, I would request the Government that it would be in the interest of the country as also its people, if the Government takes some concrete measures for education, health and roads. We have been listening to the fact since our childhood that 80-85 percent of the population of our country lives in villages but our state is given such a meagre amount of budget that it is equivalent only to the cost of construction of a high way and a bridge in Delhi. Even the schemes are not implemented. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that funds are spent under schemes, but the common man does not get full benefit of these schemes and the reason behind all this is that there is no proper monitoring. Today elections to Panchayats and district councils have been held. Utilization certificate is obtained but it is not monitored whether the funds have been spent appropriate or not.

Sir, there is paucity of time but I would like to make some request with regard to the Indira Awas Yojana. Even after fifty years of independence a poor man has not been able to have a roof over his head. Definitely there are Central schemes for the dalits, backward people and the oppressed ones, but funds of these schemes are being divided amongst persons committing irregularities. Sir, same situation is in your area also. There should be proper management of these schemes and the Government should consider these schemes seriously. During my childhood, I observed that handloom products were encouraged through small scale industries and even hundreds of trucks full of such produces were taken for trade purposes. But today, we find that these industries are lying closed. The carpet industry of Aurangabad, once famous in the entire world, is today lying closed in the absence of funds. Facilities are extended under the PMRY schemes, but banks have their own system and a substantial amount is wasted in bribery. All co-operatives have been closed. But a scheme should be made for revival of these schemes.

Sir, through you, I would also like to make some request with regard to Health. As an example, I would say something

about All India Institute of Medical Sciences. All the poor people of the country go for their treatment in this hospital. I would like to tell the miserable condition prevailing there. Poor people are being exploited in the name of Pathology tax. Poor people bring 'Sattu' from their respective villages and live on that and here, they are harassed and not treated properly. They do not get the benefit of Endoscopy, X-ray or other costly equipments. If a survey is conducted, it would be found that private agencies are working in AIIMS. Sometimes, a heart patient is brought to the hospital in emergency conditions, but he dies in the Verandah of the hospital itself. Many of the Patients are asked to come after three months for treatment. Even a time of six months is given for Eco and Cardiology tests. Therefore, I, through you, would request that the Government should give serious consideration to the issue of health, education and basic facilities to the farmers viz. Power, water etc. the schemes run by the Union Government should also be properly monitored. We shall have to strengthen the farmers in order to realise our dreams of a self-reliant village, good crops etc. People from villages, are migrating to towns. Poor labourers are also being oppressed by the policy of liberalisation. This process of oppression would stop only when every hand, every field and people in the fields would get work to do.

Sir, I have been listening to a lot of debate and I would like to express my inner feelings in just one minute. I wish to support this Budget, but I am sorry to say that the Government should definitely re-consider the matter of disinvestment, and the manner in which it is disinvesting the things as also other aspects and should tell as to which policy do they want to implement by selling industries in the strategic sector. What capital do they wish to earn by selling their own paddy and the Government should re-consider this aspect as it is sending a wrong message to the people. Farmers are not getting fertiliser, power and water. Hon. Minister of Finance has now, started thinking something for the middle class people and the farmers, but nothing concrete is seen till date. Therefore, through you, I would like to say to the Government that the manner in which dis-investment is taking place, is sending a wrong message to the people. Farmers are highly neglected, and some consideration should be paid in this direction.

Sir, the sugarcane growers are compelled to burn their sugarcane products. Last year, the rate was rupees hundred per quintal, but this year no one is ready to purchase it at even rupees fifty per quintal. All these conditions have led to discontentment among the farmers and Delhi will also not remain untouched with it. With these words, I support this Budget and conclude my speech and request the Government to re-consider this matter.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one can very well see as to how much are the Government serious over demands for grants. On'y 16 Members of the BJP are sitting here and we are discussing on demands for grants. They wish that we should support these demands for grants. They wish to get their demands for grants passed through the opposition members. The present Government are not at all serious in the matter, all of their hon. Members are absent and all benches are unoccupied. Only seven eight Members are sitting. Sir, it is a matter of great concern, it is being taken on casually. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister of finance is sitting here since beginning.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Please look to the benches behind him.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the things are good in this and that is why we believe that you would support it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Finance has come before the House for the second time seeking Rs. 9045 crore for 37 demands for grants. He has sought Rs.442.36 crore and Rs.394 crore for the fertilizer Ministry under Head No.5. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Finance that Uttar Pradesh is the largest State and Purvanchal is its very heart. The fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur is lying closed for several years but no provision has been made in the budget to revive it; whereas the Prime Minister had given assurance during election meetings that the closed factory of Gorakhpur would be revived. People believed him and elected your party candidate. Similarly, the factories of Barauni and Sindari are lying closed. The factories were the temples of modern India. No efforts were made by them to revive these factories. Not only that, he has sought Rs.438 crore to make up the losses suffered by UTI due to US-64 scam. On the basis of my own information, I would like to inform you that Rs.1400 crore were provided for the entire UTI scam. Today the farmers of the country are on the brink of devastation. They have not made any provisions for the hard working farmers who produce paddy and sugarcane but to protect the scamsters they are seeking to make the provision of Rs.1400 crore and Rs.438 crore.

This House had constituted Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe share scam. But, I would like to inform the hon'ble Finance Minister that it was in the presence of SEBI, to which he had given more powers, that the Home

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

Trade Scam took place wherein money worth crores of rupees of the people were looted. What does he have to say in that regard? Hon'ble Minister should take care of this aspect when he replies to the debate. Because Home Trade scam has not been included in the terms of reference of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. On the one hand the industrial houses are indulging in scams after scams and he has sought funds to protect them. It is nothing but a joke on the people. Rs.73.19 crore has been sought for computerisation of the Income Tax Department. He will not be needing to seek additional funds if only the income tax evasion being committed by these houses are taken care of. His income tax department can recover thousands of crores of rupees from them. I would like to know the reasons as to why he is not taking action against them. The industrial houses are in nexus with corrupt income tax officials and the latter are using corrupt means to protect them. The economic condition of the country can not be improved in this manner. Hon'ble Finance Minister should give rapt attention to what I am saying.

He has sought Rs.3546 crore for Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and Rs.260 crore for 'food for work' programme. It is a welcome step. But if you go to either Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, you will find that not even 50 percent of the funds are not being spent on these schemes. If I am proved wrong, I am ready to resign. I am not levelling allegations against Shri Shanta Kumar. But before him funds were provided only after receiving commission. I request that the matter be investigated.

The Member speaking prior to me mentioned Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Tenders are not yet invited and I would like to quote an example from Uttar Pradesh with reference to the estimates sent by State Governments. Estimates of Rs.20-22 lakh for the construction per km of road has been submitted. I would like to challenge that I can construct one km of very high quality road in just Rs.16 lakh, otherwise I will resign. If only the loot in construction works is stopped, the pace of development works can be increased upto 25 percent. It is their responsibility to supervise that the funds provided by them are used properly. The guidelines issued by the Government of India for Pradhan Mantri Grama Sadak Yojana are not being followed by the states. I request you to keep them in rein.

Sir, day before yesterday, there was a demonstration organised, under the leadership of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav to highlight the problem of flood and drought but the farmers were cruelly beaten. Had the Government been sensitive, it would have included in its supplementary demands an effective proposal to solve the problem of floods permanently in UP and Bihar caused by rivers originating in Nepal. I am sorry to say that farmers and workers had shed

their blood for the freedom of country and they had not suspected that they would be exploited in free India. That they would be left on the brink of ruin. If their sacrifices had been respected by the powers that be, proposal for solution to their problems of flood would have been moved and a permanent solution to their problems would have been found.

I would like to remind you that in 1998, when eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were facing the havoc of flood, then hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee had gone to Gorakhpur and had said that a permanent solution would be found of the flood problem of eastern UP and Bihar. More than four years have elapsed since then but that promise of the hon'ble Prime Minister has remained unfulfilled. I would like to quote a few lines from the speech delivered by the hon'ble Prime Minister before rural development agencies on 4th October, 2002 "sometimes it seems that the waves of change have stopped in their tracks in our villages. It is as if life does not get on. With the sunset, there is darkness everywhere and with that we are enveloped by the slumber, especially where there is no electricity. There it seems that no one is awake after dark. We, have to change this situation." Such fascinating speeches are delivered at public fora. You can see the records from Bihar and UP. Even today, half of the population of these states are deprived of electricity. There is not even one electric bulb. I do not want to go into the quantum of power supplied to the states, but half of the population of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are deprived of electric bulbs, wires and poles. I do not know when the situation will improve. The Minister of Power is present here. I urge upon him to come out of the air conditioned buildings and survey what is happening down there, only then he would realise the ground reality.

We have to take effective steps to remove regional imbalance. If that is not done, then the youth of other parts of the country are also likely to be strayed as is happening among the youth in North eastern India and Kashmir. They had promised to give jobs to the youth and root out unemployment. Following the disinvestment, they are selling valuable properties at throwaway prices. They say that country will be reconstructed. I would like to tell hon'ble Minister of Finance, that not one but dozens of sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are lying closed. Today most of the unemployed youth are from the families of farmers who are 80 percent of the population. None of their system is able to provide jobs for them. There is only one way to arrange jobs for them - agriculture should be promoted. To meet the challenges being faced in the international market, we have to reduce costs of agriculture, increase productivity and enhance quality. Only then our farmers will be able to meet international challenge and employment can be provided to rural youth. If we want to face the adverse effects of economic liberalisation and WTO

then we will have to strengthen the sector associated with agriculture. If the capital is invested in sugar mills then one sugar mill will provide employment to 10 lakh people. One sugar mill requires an investment of Rs. 50 to 55 crore. If Rs. 50 to 55 crore out of the amount collected so far is made available to the agricultural sector then the employment can be provided to crores of people and can also protect farmers from committing suicide.

In your election manifesto you had promised to provide employment to one crore people every year. I have been seeing your budget for the last three consecutive years but your commitment does not appear to be fulfilled. I would like to submit politely that if you want to take the country to the path of prosperity and want to remove regional imbalance then you will have to devise concrete policy to tackle long term challenges. For that you will have to give top priority to the farmers and the villages. If you give priority to them then it will certainly lead the country to the path of economic prosperity. If they are ignored then I would like to submit in clear terms that nobody can protect this country from devastation. Since you have not made any provision for farmers and the interests of the farmers have been grossly ignored in this budget so I strongly oppose the Supplementary Demand for Grant.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion. I would like to suggest some points only. I do not want to discuss the issues elaborately.

The Minister of Finance knows well that the rural banks were started by Shrimati Indira Gandhi to protect the interests of farmers and agricultural labourers who form 70 to 80 per cent of our population, especially, the farming community of our country. Now, these have been converted into commercial banks and shifted to the towns. These banks also do not have the lending business to help the farmers.

Shrimati Gandhi had made it clear that the rate of interest should not be more than 10 per cent. Now the prevailing lending rate of the rural banks is between 15 to 18 per cent. In such a situation, how can you expect these banks to protect the interests of farmers and the agricultural labourers. On this issue, I urge upon the Government to see that the rural banks remained at places where they had been stated and also to see that the farmers should get money at a rate of interest that is below 10 per cent. It would help in the upliftment of the agriculturists.

17.47 hrs.

(Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA in the Chair)

Now, I come to marketing facilities for products that are produced by the farmers in the rural areas and also by other people engaged in cottage industries. The dream of Mahatma Gandhi was to make the villages of our country self-sufficient. That had also been the thought prior to Independence. Mahatma Gandhi had clearly said that until and unless you give freedom in a real sense to the villages, getting the freedom by us would have no meaning in this country. On those lines, the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, took care especially of the farming community, that is, those who lived in the villages. They were 70-80 per cent of our population. Pandit Nehru had introduced Five-Year Plans for upliftment of people in the rural areas.

Today, because of the liberalisation policy, the farmers in the villages and the people working in the cottage industries have not been able to get remunerative prices. They have not been able to get even what they have invested in such industries. The reason is that other countries, like China, are dumping goods at much cheaper rates. Our producers are not able to sell their products. They are not able even to recover the input costs. What has the Government been doing about all these issues?

Unfortunately, this Government has created its Ministry of Disinvestment. I have read the *Mahabharat*. In the kingdom of the Kauravas, Shakuni had been there to finish the Kauravas. Now, under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Pandavas would come to protect the country.

They have created this situation. My friends in the BJP and other allies in the NDA Government have been saying that this is not the way. The disinvestment would ruin the country. You take the case of Centaur Hotel. What would be the fate of monuments like the Lakshmi Palace Hotel and the Ashok Hotel in Bangalore? You take the case of Gaya and Khajuraho. There are so many other places. What have they been doing? They are selling away the whole property built after the sacrifices made by the people in this country.

These have been maintained well during the Congress regime. What had been built up during the last 40 years, they are now selling the whole country within four years. Thereafter these would go to the multinational corporations and then they would earn American dollars. Then, an 'East India Company' would start coming to India. And we would go back to the pre-independence period. This type of situation has been created by the NDA Government. Please realise the consequences. Now, they should stop this 'Shakuni' in their activities to save the country.

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

As far as our products are concerned, we are producing silk in Karnataka and other parts of the country. There is a requirement of 16,000 metric tonnes of silk in this country. We are producing 10,000 metric tonnes. So, we badly need 6,000 metric tonnes more, I agree with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The first speaker from your Party has taken too much time.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I am raising very important points.

Sir, more than 15,000 metric tonnes of silk is being smuggled into our country. If this much of silk is smuggled into our country, what will happen to our silk products and what will happen to our silk farmers? There are more than one crore people involved in producing silk in various parts of the country, like Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, and because of this smuggling they are suffering.

The rate of Cocoon silk today is around Rs.50 to Rs.60. But when our Government was there, the rate was Rs.150. I would, therefore, request the Government to stop this dumping and smuggling of silk into our country which is coming through Tibetan border. Otherwise, the silk farming community will be ruined. This is a very bad situation in the country. Silk is a very good commercial crop and we are producing very good silk. In the international market, our silk has got a very good value. I would request the Government to take immediate steps to improve the situation of the silk producing farmers.

Another point is regarding linking of Ganga and Cauvery rivers. The hon. Prime Minister has announced about this and our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also welcomed it. This will be a boon for the country. It is like Nile for Egypt, Panama for Panama and Russian Canal for the Russian farmers. This is the way we have to tackle this situation.

With regard to the drought situation in the country, I would like to state that linking of Cauvery and Ganga will solve the drought and flood situation in the country. Today, we have to very seriously think about this. There are more than 20 States, which have been affected by drought. I would like to know from the Government what is its programme for controlling the drought situation. The Government has to come out with a programme to solve this problem. We will again meet in February for the Budget Session. If we do not think about this seriously, we will have a serious drinking water problem all over the country by that time.

We have also to think of providing food to the poor people. I would like to know what measures this Government

proposes to take to solve this problem. The way this Government is taking things is not the way to maintain the whole country. We would like to know what proposal does this Government have. We would like to caution this government that unless corrective measures are taken, there will be serious problems in the future. We are all concerned about this, whether we are on this side or that side. What measure this Government is going to take to protect the farmers and the poor people of this country? The drinking water problem is the most important problem and we have to think about it seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude. We are not discussing General Budget. This is only Supplementary Grants.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the State of Karnataka has asked for 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, but only 2 lakh tonnes have been given to us. What will be the fate of poor people of Karnataka? I do not mind or blame anybody for giving more 20 to 40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh, but there should be no discrimination between the States. I would request the hon. Minister not to discriminate between the States.

I would also request the hon. Minister to make a comprehensive programme to face the drought situation in the country before the next rainy season so that we do not have to face that problem again.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Finance has moved Supplementary Demands for Grants for around Rs.8500 crore. Three four months back he took charge of the Ministry of Finance. Financial condition during this period has further deteriorated to the extent that these supplementary Demand for Grant will not be sufficient.

Sir, just now Akhileshji was telling in his speech that two years back the hon'ble Prime Minister had announced from the rampart of the Red Fort that employment will be provided to one crore people every years. However, instead of providing employment to the people, unemployment is increasing and the people who were employed earlier and were doing jobs are being retrenched. All these problems have cropped up before the country. Presently the financial condition of the States has deteriorated. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Government to improve the financial condition of the states.

The states have their own problems as they have scarce resources however it is also due to the attitude of the Central Government that financial condition of the States is very poor. For example it was decided to implement Fifth Pay Commission. In this regard the movements were launched in every states. Consequently Fifth Pay Commission was reviewed and then it was implemented in the States. On account of that financial condition of the states further deteriorated. On account of this the financial condition of those states having sound financial condition prior to this also worsen and the financial condition of those states which was already in bad shape further deteriorated. There is paucity of time. So point-wise I would like to ask as to what measures have been taken by the hon'ble Minister for improving financial condition of the states? If any measures have been taken in this regard then the details thereof?

Secondly, the financial condition of those states which was already bad shaped has further deteriorated. For example the financial condition of Bihar was already in bad shape. After the reorganisation of Bihar its condition has further deteriorated. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should seriously think over it. I would like to submit that the former Minister of Finance had unjustly blocked Rs.108 crore which were allocated to Bihar by the Eleventh Finance Commission. I would like to thank you that you have corrected the mistake committed in the matter of Bihar and have released the amount for the first year that is, 2000-2001 of the Eleventh Finance Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, does the Government realise this? What is the position in the House today? Supposing we say 'no' to it, what will happen to the Government? They do not have enough Members sitting here to support their own Supplementary Demands for Grants. Now, what is it you are expecting us to do? Should you not stand on your own legs? This is very, very serious. If we decide to vote against these Supplementary Demands for Grants, you know the consequences of it. You call your Members.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): They want us to support. It is a very hapless situation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a simple thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when they are in support then there is no need of others. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You do not depend on our samarthan. You stand on your legs. ...*(Interruptions)* We are free to make our own decision.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They are confident that presently their Government is not going to topple.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, everyone should attentively listen to me what I am telling. It was recommended in the Tenth Finance Commission that the funds would be provided to every State for the local bodies, Panchayat and Municipality. ...*(Interruptions)* The report of the Tenth Finance Commission was accepted by the Government in toto, after adoption, action taken report was submitted in the House to this effect that the report of the Commission has been accepted by the Government completely. Accordingly, the Finance Commission said that funds for the year 1995-96 should not be released, this is all right, but funds for the year 1996-97 was released to the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were speaking in brief.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am speaking in short. My submission is that the step motherly treatment is being given to the people of Bihar. Election was held in Bihar in 1978. Thereafter no elections were held for 20-22 years. After that the recommendations were made by the Tenth Finance Commission and the action taken report regarding this was submitted in the House. Later on due to bias attitude towards the state and funds amounting to Rs. 6.25 hundred crore for the year 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 i.e. for four years was stopped. When the issue was strongly raised here then the first year amount of the Eleventh Finance Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you wait for a while? Since it is 6 O' clock, I want the consent of the House for extending the time till Supplementary Demands and two Disinvestment Bills on which we are having discussion, are passed.

*[English]*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the Treasury Benches are not interested. Why should we sit here? It is better to stop it here now. There are hardly 20 hon. Members on the Treasury Benches. We can continue tomorrow. That would be convenient to all of us. ...*(Interruptions)*



MR. CHAIRMAN: Some hon. Members are here and some hon. Ministers are also here. Other will be coming here shortly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: We are ready to conclude this item today itself but they are not interested. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that the time of the House may be extended till these demands and appropriation bill are passed. We are working giving consideration to what the hon'ble deputy leader of opposition has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the House agree with this therefore the time is extended till Supplementary Demands and appropriation Bill are passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have provided funds to the state only for one year and the funds for 3 years are yet to be released. We have not been provided that fund. Though elections were not held in Jharkhand even then the State has received funds from the Government. We have not received the funds of three years as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. It is true that the Government have provided funds for one year as recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission. New Finance Minister has done some justice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE): Is it a session of Bihar Legislative Assembly or the Parliament.

[English]

The Supplementary Demands are not meant only for Bihar; they are meant for the entire country.

[Translation]

Only Bihar is being focused. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Without Bihar, even Mumbai is incomplete.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The country would not run without Bihar.

[English]

Bihar is the heart of India.

[Translation]

Bihar is the heart of India.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The progress of entire country depends on Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The outstanding funds recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission should be released. We thank you for releasing the funds recommended by Eleventh Finance Commission.

The Power Grid Corporation has formulated a scheme. The condition of transmission line is very bad. In Purvanchal power is surplus. The country is facing power crisis whereas in Purvanchal there is surplus power. Due to absence of transmission line, electricity can not be transmitted from one place to another. A project involving 335 crore rupees has been prepared, 47 crore rupees are an outstanding amount of the Power Grid and thus we need an amount of Rs.375 crore rupees. The Planning Commission has passed that project. In principle, the consent has been given to that project. I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister as to how long will it take to start the work. It is injustice to make an inordinate delay in starting that work. Since it has been approved, the power Grid should implement that project. In Bihar, the transmission line is in disarray. It is only when the Government of India will provide funds to them, the transmission line in Bihar could be improved.

There was a scheme to set up thermal power in Nabi Nagar, which had even been approved, but the Government of India have made discrimination in implementing it due to political reasons. It is injustice that they are not implementing thermal power project in Nabi Nagar. It would be gross injustice if this scheme, which has already been approved, is not implemented and instead some other project is implemented in its place. Large scale Manipulations have taken place in this regard.

They have made supplementary demands for urban development. I have gone through all the figures and found that approximately 15 crore rupees have been increased, whereas our funds meant for improving the condition of slum dwellers is not being provided. We have not received the funds of three years as the funds have been misappropriated. It has been heard that 3000 crore rupees have been allocated for the development of Lucknow which is the constituency of hon'ble Prime Minister and the project for Patna involving Rs.1600 crore is missing. Such a great discrimination is being done as if we have won our seat on bonus while hon'ble Prime

Minister has won it through contest. Rs. 3000 crores have been allocated for Lucknow, which is the capital of Uttar Pradesh whereas for Patna not even one crore has been allocated. A project amounting to Rs. 1600 crore has been submitted. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to go through it. The Minister of Urban Development is sitting here. A project for Patna amounting to Rs. 1600 crore has been submitted by the Bihar Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The project covers sewage, drinking water and construction of drains. The project amounting to Rs. 1600 crore has been submitted for the development of Patna. The Government should approve it. Secondly, the funds allocated for the development in slum should be released immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. I am inviting the hon'ble Minister.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, there is Katujah bridge on river Bagmati through which Patna, Hazipur, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarahi National Highway cross. It is due to this that this Highway remains blocked for five months as it is National Highway. People are sitting on 'Dharna' for this. I have written to the Government regarding the Katujah bridge on N.H. 77 and Dubba bridge on N.H. 104 both on Bagmati river. It is due to both these bridges that there is obstruction in traffic. There people have restored to streets and fast to death and Dharna movement are on. Today too it has been reported in T.V. when I enquired the Government it was said that this matter is under consideration of the Government. It is due to the poor condition of Katujah bridge on N.H. 77 and Dubba bridge on N.H. 104 that both the districts are cut off from rest of the country. It has been shown for five months on television. The broken bridge on NH 77 should be constructed and special efforts should be made for the construction of the roads.

Lastly there are five factors for awarding special status to the state.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghunvansh Babu now you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding soon. The poor economic condition, border area, adverse geographical location, hilly areas and majority of Scheduled Tribes, these are five factors. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that Bihar meets all the conditions like other states for being given special status. Recently Uttranchal has been given special status of State. The condition of Bihar is worse than this. This proposal should be discussed in the

next proposed sitting of the National Development Council and it should be approved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat. You are also the Chairman of the House. The proceedings of the House may not run like this.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is the question of Bihar that is twelfth part of the country. I have gone through Eighth and Ninth Plan. The funds allocated for the implementation of the plan have not been spent. Out of the Rs. 16 thousand crore, only Rs. 8 thousand crore have been spent. Similarly where Rs. 12 thousand crore was to be spent only Rs. 5 thousand crore have been spent. It means that the size of the plan was small and the expenditure in it was also less. It is due to the technical reasons that Bihar is deprived of Rs. 1500 crore every year of the centrally sponsored schemes and central schemes. Rs. 500 crores out of the total 5000 crore earmarked for agriculture scheme should have been allocated to Bihar however only Rs. 40 crore were given. ...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the hon'ble Minister. Now your speech will not go on record.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am grateful to the hon. Members for their contributions. I must, at the very initial stage make it very clear that these are Supplementary Demands and this is not a Supplementary Budget, and these Demands for Grants, as the hon. Members have said, are for just over Rs. 9,000 crore. But of this amount of Rs. 9,000 crore, the cash outgo aggregate, in effect, really would be just about Rs. 5,000 crore because the balance has been met from savings within the already approved Demands and through the recoveries and receipts.

A number of hon. Members have also observed that of this total cash outgo of just over Rs. 5,000 crore, a sum of really Rs. 3,800 crore plus is provided for meeting additional requirements on foodgrains component under the *Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana* and for meeting the commitment under the 'Food-for-Work' programme which is Rs. 438 crore and sums to that effect, for which details are here.

Now, the Supplementary Demands for Grants is not an unusual methodology being adopted by this Ministry or by this Government. It is a methodology that is adopted by every Government. Every Government has to take recourse to this

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

measure so as to meet the Budgetary requirements as we proceed down the budgetary year. There are normally three, if not four, Supplementary Demands to meet the budgetary cycle. In this sense this is not any extraordinary step that this Government or the Ministry has taken.

18.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will endeavour to respond as well as I can to all the hon. speakers who have so kindly contributed to the discussion. The first speaker, the opening speaker from the Congress Party, the hon. Brig. K.P. Singh Deo used a number of relevant and irrelevant, in fact, quotations from various myriad sources. Now, I will really stay away from the quotations or responding to them because a weak argument cannot really be sustained through borrowed quotations. He spent a lot of time on Defence and national security and the Defence budget. We will have enough opportunity to discuss the Defence budget at the appropriate time. But it is well in the know that in the matter of managing the Defence budget effectively and particularly in capital equipment procurement, though the Budget is on an annual basis, the cycle of procurement is much longer and it is only now that we have actually introduced a procurement system which attempts to cover a number of the obstacles in between.

The hon. Brigadier also spoke of air accidents and he spoke of the civilian component of the Indian Airlines and the Alliance Air. Yes, the aircraft are old; they do have occasional malfunctioning. But I would request if the hon. and the gallant Brigadier would not refer to them as of 15th century and moth-eaten because they are really not that.

On the question of advanced jet trainer, if we ourselves here refer to air accidents and air accident rate - I do not wish to go into the analysis of air accident rate - it is not good. In fact, the Indian Air Force, in technical terms, is one of the most competent Air Forces and if we ourselves reflect on them or respond to them in that sense, it is not good. But I leave at that. I leave it to his good judgement and I have no doubt that he would exercise it fully.

On the question of Fiscal Responsibility Bill, I would say that there is a Fiscal Responsibility Bill that is pending and has not come back. Really having made its way through the Standing Committee etc., it is now with the Ministry of Law and the Government will, at the earliest, bring it forward. I do not wish to cite the great co-operation that the Ministry of Finance has received. We have, in this particular Session of Parliament, been able to enact a number of pending legislations which really nobody can do alone. Therefore, as

soon as we have the Fiscal Responsibility Bill fully commented on by the Ministry of Finance, this too shall come here.

Quite rightly, he spent considerable time on KBK and also on his advocacy that Orissa be considered as a special category State. He has been just as effective in his advocacy as Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in saying that Bihar should be a special category State. This is an understandable tendency, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, because hon. Members of Parliament representing their States do give voice to the problems of those States and do quite necessarily attempt to secure for their States the best that they can.

There were a number of specific things the gallant Brigadier spoke of. He charged me that though I had given my assurance in the last Session about customs duty exemptions to sports goods, perhaps on account of lack of communication, this has not got done. I, normally, do not like to correct hon. Members in this regard. On the Customs Duty exemption, we had a discussion - I cannot quite exactly remember - either at the end of July or in the first week of August this year. It is a matter of some regret for me that the honourable and the gallant Brigadier has not recognised that the customs duty exemption to water sports equipment has already been provided for the following water sports - canoeing, kayaking, roving, yatching and water polo. I do not wish to trouble you with the notification number, but it is actually dated 28th of August. I was not remiss in this matter. I did give an assurance and the assurance was fulfilled.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I had the privilege of serving with the honourable and gallant Brigadier in a high-level commission that was appointed by the then Prime Minister on the total question of Ex-Servicemen. I have also had the honour of wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces. So, one rank one pension is not parochial, is not simply a theoretical question with me. He knows that to a very large extent, the entire one-rank-one-pension scheme has travelled a very long distance from 1984 through various Governments and this whole concept has had rather a troubled passage, and despite that, he knows very well and we know that to a large extent, the Government has already accepted and implemented the principle of one-rank-one-pension because it was also, thereafter, taken up by the Fifth Pay Commission.

A number of other things intervened; the Fifth Pay Commission intervened, and the Fifth Pay Commission also adopted the whole principle. It has got accepted.

The honourable and gallant Brigadier spoke of medical care for Ex-Servicemen, which is one of the recommendations.

He is a serving officer of the Territorial Army - a distinction that I no longer have because I am not a Territorial Army officer. But it is a matter of some regret to me that it has not come to his attention that, in fact, just recently, a very broad-based scheme has been announced, which I had the honour of piloting through the Cabinet for extending medical care to Ex-Servicemen to cover almost all districts of the country. In each district, there shall be a facility which will be for the veterans, and the total number of such facilities already sanctioned are actually in excess of 260. In about 260 districts of the country, we will be having facilities for medical treatment of all Ex-Servicemen.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I stand corrected, I was not aware of it. Thank you very much.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On the Services Sports Control Board tax exemption in addition to what has already been given to Sports, for about nine months or so, when I had the distinction and honour of being the Defence Minister as well, I had sanctioned a special sum of money for the Armed Forces with a specific target that when we have a situation coming up, the Armed Forces, the Services must be in the forefront of athletic and sporting excellence and money will not be, in a sense, a shortage for them. So far as providing tax exemption to the Services Sports Control Board is concerned, I see no difficulty at all, if any such request comes to me from the Services Sports Control Board.

Sir, I will go on to what some other hon. Members have spoken. Hon. Moinul Hassan is here. He spoke about the SGRY Demand No. 67, and the Rs. 3,000 plus figure. It is not my intention to score a small debating point. Actually, the additional 40 per cent of what the Fifth Pay Commission recommended was done by a Government that you were supporting. We are now facing the ills or the problems on account of the recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission. Normally, the Parliament does not discuss the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. That has been the convention because the Pay Commission goes into this whole thing at great length. The convention has been that after the Pay Commission has gone into this whole thing, it would be unwise of the Parliament to reopen the whole box. Therefore, the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations were not really discussed. When the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations came, there was a threat of an agitation, and the Government of the day not only accepted all the pluses of the Pay Commission - a number of other recommendations that the Pay Commission had simultaneously made were not accepted - and in addition, a forty per cent plus was hiked on the Pay Commission's recommendation. We did not advise the State Governments, but it was inevitable. Earlier, on the

Pay Commission's recommendations, the State Governments did not follow suit with what the Central Government did.

But over time this has altered. When the Centre accepts certain pay scales it is not vital that the States also accept the same conditionalities and pay scales. But in the case of the Fifth Pay Commission, this is what has happened. Therefore, the consequences of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, much more than the Centre, the States are having to face. So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Member, Shri Moinul Hassan not to charge dereliction of duty on the part of the Central Government for the financial difficulties that the States are currently facing on account of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission.

Sir, it was not my intention to take much time of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, my intention was not that. I know we cannot re-open and discuss the recommendations of the Pay Commission and discuss it in this august House. It is not the convention. But there is a financial burden on the State Governments. This is the reality. That is what I wanted to say.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will touch upon this.

[Translation]

Some hon. Members said here that what has been done for the States, it should be mentioned. I would try to tell it.

[English]

But for now, I would leave this subject of Fifth Pay Commission.

You also spoke about need for water. I would like to remind you that after I got this job, the Government just announced a scheme in this regard, though it would take some time to get implemented. We have announced a scheme for purification of water, for water de-fluorisation, for treatment of water and for de-salination. Anybody setting up a plant shall have cent per cent tax exemption and he will also have cent per cent depreciation on machinery. There will be no customs duty on whatever machinery is required to be imported and there shall also be no excise duty. More than this, nothing could be given because there is nothing more to give. Hereafter, it is really the question of people endeavouring to set up water treatment plants because it is a very serious issue. It is not anyone person who can resolve the water issue.

Then you raised the question of differential interest

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saying that the Centre obtains money at a certain rate and then it lends money. You said that the differential is five per cent, which is actually inaccurate. But there is a differential varying from 1.5 per cent to three per cent. This differential is because, firstly, it is the Central Government that meets the currency fluctuation liability, particularly in foreign loans that are obtained. Currency fluctuation liability is not transferred to States. Therefore, a certain percentage is maintained on that account. Secondly, the Central Government, out of this differential also meets the requirements of the special category States where 90 per cent is grant and only ten per cent is loan. The differential rate is never more than three per cent on loan. It is not that the Government is engaging in any kind of arbitrage or is engaging in any kind of a *sood khori* at the cost of the States. It cannot do it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): What is the actual figure of the interest that is charged?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There are various kinds of loans. I have just said that it varies. The maximum is never above three per cent and it varies from 1.5 per cent to three per cent. It is because the foreign loans that are received are actually pooled together so that the distribution of the loan amongst the States of the country is as uniform as possible. It is not that this scheme has been invented by this Government but it is a scheme that has been in operation for a very long time. By and large, this scheme has worked satisfactorily.

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): But you have not explained how you are going to help the States.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will just explain this. Actually, you should ask my good friend, your Finance Minister Asim Dasgupta. He will be better able to explain it to you than I can.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I am asking you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will tell you that.

About calamity, there is, after all, the CRF and the NCCF which are really for calamity. These are again not devices that we have employed. It is Shri Moinul Hassan's view that there is a slow down. He said that I was engaging in jugglery. That is a very serious charge to make against a Finance Minister. I am not engaging in any jugglery.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Please do not take it otherwise.

SHRI ANIL BASU: He wants to know how we can turn a depressed economy into a vibrant economy.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: That particular word was not meant to score any point. If necessary, I can withdraw that particular word.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It does not really matter.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sometimes, the difference in age should be considered.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Member said that there was a slow down. How can any political party say that it is not for economic development or growth? It is a difference of nuances and approach. There is a difference, of course, in how the Communist Party approaches the whole question of growth, how the BJP approaches it, and how the Congress approaches it. I am not making a value judgement. This is how it is. The hon. Member suggested that that method alone was the correct method. I do not think any such assertion can be made when it comes to Finance Ministry. In this federal structure, it is not possible for the Finance Ministry to function as if the interests of the States of the Union are not of very much concern to the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

Arun Kumar ji is not in the House. He has said many things with regard to villages, education and health. I fully agree to his views and respect his sentiments. Hon. Akhilesh Singh ji has expressed his views regarding the factory in district Gorakhpur, which is lying closed, and especially about regional imbalance. I would come to that whatever hon. Raghuvansh Prasad ji has mentioned.

[English]

In between, I wish to address myself to the question that is raised by hon. Muniyappa. I do not think he is here now. But the point that he raised was. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I had also talked about the Home trade scam. We are discussing about share scam, in between Home trade scam occurred during your tenure. Information in regard to that should also be given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If any of your point has been left, you should also be given a chance after the reply of hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Right now, I am not in a position to make comments on it. As wish you, I would definitely send information after conducting inquiry in this matter. But at this time I cannot make any comment on it.

[English]

On the question of silk, it is not as if the Ministry of Finance did not address this question. As the hon. Member comes from Karnataka, I meant particularly Karnataka because I took very seriously the plight of the plantation industry in the South. I think the whole question of plantation industry, including the tea industry in Assam and in Cachar, is a matter of concern at the moment. So, in the plantation industry - which is amongst the largest industries in the country, which covers coffee, which covers rubber, which covers tea, which covers arecanut - we took various steps in that regard including on silk. I am happy to inform the hon. Member that silk already attracts a peak rate of basic customs duty at 30 per cent.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (CHIKABALLAPUR): You should enhance it to 40 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

Last time, there was a discussion about silk in this very House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let me finish first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish. Then, you can ask the clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Last time, when there was a discussion on silk, it was assured on the floor of the House that it would be enhanced to 43 per cent. But unfortunately, it was not done. Then, I had the intention of moving a Privilege Motion. But because the Minister is new, I kept quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have just begun to explain.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish. Then, if you have any clarification, I will allow you. Otherwise, there will be no ending.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The cumulative duty, at the moment, in fact, is between 35 per cent to 36 per cent. I have discussed this personally with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I will be addressing this matter because the interest of silk farmers is very much at our heart, including the interests of silk weavers. It should not be as if we kill one in the process. So, we are balancing both. We will be addressing both the issues. I have discussed it with your Chief Minister at length.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, I am supporting our hon. former Union Minister. That is the ground

reality. We have to enhance the customs duty to more than 40 per cent. By this, we are not killing the other people. But we are importing silk from China which is very cheap. That is why our farmers are suffering a lot.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Silk is not being imported. I cannot say that no silk is being smuggled in. Perhaps over the open borders, some silk is being getting smuggled in. But the whole question of silk, silk industry and silk farmers is a very important matter of our concern.

About tea, particularly in the five Southern States, Rs. 500 crore Plantation Modernisation Fund has already been announced. So, we want to replicate it for the North-East, including the State of Assam also. So, tea, coffee, etc., will be taken care of. To that, without modernisation, there is no answer.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): Sir, what about modernisation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him answer. If you have any query, you can ask later on.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Akhilesh Babu, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji and Arun Kumar ji have put their views here. I think that Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji has set a paper and it would be better if I reply it in the form of 1-2-3-4-5. His first question is that what efforts have been made by me to improve the financial condition of the States. Many other hon. Members have also asked this question. I have been holding meetings with the Finance Minister of States since I have taken over the charge of this Ministry. A five points programme was formulated with the consensus of Finance Ministers of States. Thereafter, meeting of Chief Ministers of States and Finance Ministers was held. Broadly speaking, outline regarding that programme was prepared and wage and means loan to States, more tax like service tax etc. facilities to states were included therein. VAG is also involved in it. There are 5-6 such cases. I feel that it would be implemented in the coming months. I do not say that the financial condition of States would get improved as debt swap is also involved in it. As I have said that debt swap is about Rs. 30 thousand crore. I believe that the States would be benefited by this single step but the States shall have to extend their cooperation also. It has been a good experiment. Raghuvansh Babu has said that we have not paid outstanding amount of Bihar. Saying so he is doing injustice to us. As soon as we got this work, we immediately paid, the outstanding amount of Bihar.

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:** Three years' amount is still left.

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** Whatever amount is left. We will clear it. What shall we do retaining it?

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:** We were thinking that where has that amount gone?

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** Your amount would not be retained at all. So far as your question related to Power grid is concerned, I feel it is right that the power grids should be effective. I agree to you in this regard.

You have mentioned about project in Patna which you have submitted and also said that I am favouring Lucknow. It is true as Lucknow is the constituency of hon. Prime Minister. Today, if I am Finance Minister, it is only because of his choice. So I cannot annoy him. If I cannot annoy him, how can I do so with you. In fact I cannot afford to annoy you also. If there is any such project, you may rest assured that there would be no discrimination. You have said that special status should be given to Bihar. Even you claim that Bihar is a special state, it is an integral part of India and there is no existence of India without Bihar, now what else special feature is required.

*[English]*

I think, I have answered all the queries and, therefore, I can now only request that the House will kindly give its consent to the Supplementary Demands and then we shall also take up the Appropriation Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He has replied to your question.

**SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:** The entire country is facing drought situation. What is the Government's programme for the next six months? Through you, Sir, may I request the hon. Minister to call a meeting of all the States because more than 20 States are facing the drought situation? Let the Government know the requirement of each State and how much the State can bear on its own. This is very-very important and should be done on a war footing. In Karnataka we could have only 20 per cent of sowing and that too had failed because there was no rain. There is also the drinking water problem. Six months from now, how the Government will solve this problem, I would like to know from the Minister.

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** May I answer this? I personally went to Karnataka. There is a special scheme that was announced by me when I was in Karnataka. It covered the entire plantation industry. I sat with the Chief Minister of Karnataka. I sat with the Ministers of the State Government of

Karnataka and it was in consultation with them that this announcement was made particularly for Karnataka. I do not wish to take time of the House and read it. I have three-page long list of all the assistance that has been provided. Fourteen States have been declared as drought-affected States. Of those 14 States, Karnataka has last received foodgrains assistance, money assistance, a Rs.500 crore project for plantation modernisation. All these steps have been taken. Further steps would be taken. I know that the hon. Prime Minister has under consideration a variety of other steps which he will share with the Parliament and the people whenever he chooses so.

**DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD):** I would like to associate myself with what the hon. Member has just now said. The hon. Prime Minister should convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the drought-affected States. The drought situation is there in almost throughout the country. The hon. Minister has talked about the foodgrains. I would like to suggest one thing for consideration of the House.

Each hon. Member is being provided with Rs.2 crore under MPLAD Scheme. I request both, the Finance Minister and Shri Shanta Kumar, to tie up the food programme with the MPLAD Scheme. By doing so, nearly Rs.5-6 crore worth of work could be undertaken by each Member in his constituency. So, as per the requirement of a State, Members could spend this money. They could either construct Check dams or undertake other such works required in their areas.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** There is no Supplementary Demand made for providing drinking water and yet the question has been raised by one of the hon. Members. The hon. Minister has replied that he did meet the Chief Minister of Karnataka and he had discussed the issue. It is very good of him and very good of the Government. But the drought situation is prevailing in many States and the scientists like Shri Swaminathan have said that within three years' time, we will have very difficult situation. If we do not take any precautionary measures now, it will be very difficult. So my only request is that when we discuss this issue with your permission and with the permission of the Government and others, the Finance Minister should see that the required sum of money agreed upon by his Cabinet and the Parliament for meeting this demand should be available. This is a very important issue. I just wanted to underline this. So, I sought the indulgence of your goodself and the Minister.

**SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA):** Sir, we are very thankful that the hon. Minister is well aware of the issues concerning the plantation areas. He has rightly made a mention about tea, coffee, coconut, and all other related matters.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He did not mention coconut.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, he also mentioned coconut. The point is that the Ministry of Finance has to take a decision on the excise duty on tea. We agree that he has made a plan or action for redressing the grievances of the coffee plantation areas. But because of the attitude of the banks, it has not been properly implemented. The nationalised banks are not cooperating with the agriculturists and the farmers. So, whatever package he has announced in Bangalore has not been properly implemented. The import duty on oil is also causing concern to the coconut farmers in the State. So, I think that this has to be taken into consideration. The Ministry of Finance has to take an appropriate action to see that the problems of the plantation areas can be solved.

[Translation]

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH (ROHTAK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question raised by Brigadier K.P. Singh Deo regarding pension of ex-servicemen has not been replied by the Minister of Finance. So far the reply given about Fifth Pay Commission is correct but nothing has been stated about pension of ex-servicemen. It is a serious problem. On the one hand is an ex-serviceman, who serves for 15 to 20 years on the rank of sepoy to Subedar and on the other hand is a civilian who serves upto the age of 60 years and get benefit of 33 years. In this manner he gets 50 percent of his basic pay as pension.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Captain Inder Shinghji I have not allowed you to deliver speech here. You can ask clarification.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that these ex-servicemen are agitating on this issue. A rally was held on 9th wherein the issue was raised that a person serving for 15-20 years on the rank of sepoy or Subedar should be given service benefits equivalent to a civilian for calculating pension. On retirement a sepoy is given a pension of Rs.1275 per month whereas a person of lowest cadre in civilian service such as peon or watchman gets pension of Rs.2000 to Rs.2200. Ex-servicemen are demanding removal of this anomaly. I also request to remove this anomaly. It is not going to burden the Ministry of Finance much. This is an important demand of ex-servicemen and that should be accepted.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though Minister of Finance is quite sensitive and doing a lot for the welfare of drought affected areas but I would like to draw his attention towards the big problem of drinking water that has arisen in Rajasthan. Non availability of drinking water

has created chaos in the State. Secondly, Supreme Court has imposed a ban on the mining activity in Aravali mountain range which has rendered millions of people jobless. In such a crucial situation it will be better if some relief is given to Rajasthan by the Minister of Finance for providing drinking water and relief to drought affected people.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Is it a fact that the hon. Finance Minister announced that the Government is going to consider a separate banking interest rate for the senior citizens and pensioners?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to have a clarification about the crop insurance. This year, during the drought, a number of farmers have gone in for policies of crops insurance. As per the insurance laws, the basis for determining whether a farmer has been affected by drought so that he can avail the insurance benefit is the average production in previous three years. Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister to review it and take the year of drought as the determining year for crop insurance.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, lakhs of people would have to shun their forest abode falling under the reserved forest area of the country in pursuance of the Supreme Court's judgement on 7th May, 2002. I would like the Government of India to provide them package. The population of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is approximately 3.50 lakhs out of which 25000 people which is almost 10 percent of the total population would have to come out of forests. They have nothing to eat and no place to live. The hon. Minister should consider giving shelter and food package to such persons.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (SALUMBER): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague has raised a question about Rajasthan. I would like to apprise the House that mining has been stopped in Aravali belt, which has resulted in five thousand and five hundred mines to close down rendering approximately 10 lakh labourers jobless. The area has been facing famine for the last four years. If the Central Government do not resume work in those mines in such a situation, it would lead to a crisis in Rajasthan causing a lot of difficulty to the people. Would the hon. Minister provide them a package?

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): I am speaking for the whole of the State of Bihar after the



[Shrimati Shyama Singh]

formation of Jharkhand. I would like to point out what should have happened to the State of Bihar and what has not happened. I take this opportunity to make this point as I find both the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Minister for Power are both sitting together amidst us today.

Before that, I would say a word about the atrocity on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav which has I think left a traumatising kind of impact on the teeming millions of the people in Bihar. Therefore, the most important focus today is to rise above party lines and take a decision for the sake of millions of people in Bihar.

In 1989 we had visualised a super thermal power station in Nabinagar in the Aurangabad district of Bihar. For some reason, maybe due to party lines or whatever, that very wonderful project, which would have generated employment for the teeming millions in the State of Bihar, has been rent redundant after some other Minister has taken over. That project has not even made a head start. Could I get an assurance from the hon. Finance Minister that this project would take off? I am sure, when he goes through the files he would see it for himself. I request the Minister of Power to see that they could pick up this, super thermal power station in Nabinagar in Aurangabad so that it will alleviate poverty and unemployment in that area.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Before I give my answer, I want to be quite sure that there is no one left to ask questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think there is one more hon. Member.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What do you want me to do?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him also ask his question. Why should he alone be left out?

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister a very important point regarding tea. He mentioned a package of Rs.500 crore for its modernisation. Unfortunately, he has forgotten the small growers and the small and marginal farmers.

I hail from plantation industry. In my area, about 60,000 small farmers are there. Today, they are not in a position to meet their expenses. They are not even able to meet the cost of tea. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly look into the matter. I am not talking of only modernisation. Two years back, he had given about Rs. 2 as subsidy for the small growers for six months. In spite of that, he is not able to fulfil it. I now request the hon. Finance Minister to come to the

rescue of the small farmers and go in for stabilisation of prices in corporate sector also. Last year, they have given an exemption of Re.1. Now, another exemption of Re. 1 should be given to the corporate sector. I am not asking it for Tamil Nadu alone. I mean it for the whole of India including Kerala. In the last meeting, Shri Chennithala was mentioning that nearly 24 estates have been closed down and people are suffering. There had been even deaths there. I request the Finance Minister to look into this matter and do the needful to save the small growers from their bad plight.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will endeavour to address myself briefly to the queries raised.

On the question of drinking water, we are very mindful. It is not simply the current difficulty in regard to drinking water in certain drought-affected States. But the total question of water shortage is due to overdrawal from ground water sources, drying up of resources and inter-State difficulties in regard to sharing of water. They are now in everyone's knowledge. It has to be seen in terms of what can be done in immediate term, medium term and long term. So far as immediate term is concerned, in the context of Rajasthan and Karnataka, some steps have already been taken and are under consideration I know that the Prime Minister is examining the total question. He is shortly going to share it with the country. But I accept that water shortage really gets compounded by the fact that it is not simply a question of potable water for one billion citizens of the country. India is a big country with the largest animal population in the world. This animal population too requires water. We are very mindful of it. Therefore, the Government announced and I announced a scheme for encouraging purification, desalination and de-fluoridisation of water. It will take some time. Some work has already started on that scheme.

So far as the State of Karnataka is concerned and as to what is to be done for drinking water, I cannot separate and treat it as one State project or one State's concern. Indeed, the shortage of water, for example, is acute in Rajasthan. It is very acute in desert districts. I do not wish to be parochial and point out that they are my home districts. But I cannot address the issue only because they are my home districts. This is the difficulty that we currently face throughout the country. We begin to face shortage of even potable water in States like Assam in the North-East. It is, therefore, not an issue that the Central Government or the Finance Ministry can address on its own. The State Governments are also very much part of the totality of the endeavour that shall have to go into it. The Government is very mindful of it. So far as addressing ourselves to this issue is concerned, we have been doing that consistently.

There was a mention here of banks not giving loan or not implementing what has been said. I will look into it. If you have the example of any one particular bank which is not doing it, I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

If there is any slackness from the side of the banking sector to not implement the directions that are given, then it is part of my job to ensure that it is done. But if there is any specific instance that the hon. Member has in mind which he wants me to immediately rectify, if he is good enough to write to me, I shall do it.

There was a mention here about the duty structure. It was said that the duty structure is currently imbalanced and, therefore, we need to address it afresh. I do not wish to take this opportunity to comment on this in one fashion or another because that would be improper.

*[Translation]*

The hon. Member has raised the issue of pension. I have been dealing with the same subject which you mentioned since I have been the Member of the House. Now a lot of time has elapsed and there is no need to get involved in that mess, I understand this problem and would try to resolve it.

Hon. Member wanted to get information from me about the Supreme Court's ban on mining in Aravali belt. The Ministry of Finance can not override the Supreme Court's judgement. The State Government has yet to contact the Ministry of Finance about any scheme in regard to the problems arising out of this decision. If the State Government is facing any problem or propose any scheme in this regard or want the centre to take initiative in view of the mining taking place in Aravali.

*[English]*

I am not on this small point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a minor mineral. Marble and granite is a minor mineral. Being a minor mineral, it is a State subject.

*[Translation]*

The State Government would have to take initiative in this regard and if it does so and ask to file any review petition, the Central Government would certainly do it but initiative has to be taken by the State Government. One more hon. Member from Rajasthan has asked me not to make a comment on it because it may lead to levelling the allegation that I am being biased.

One more hon. Member has said about tea-

*[English]*

On the question of tea, I have already. On the question of bifurcation of Bihar and the consequent difficulties that have arisen in Bihar, it is yet again a subject that has to be initiated by the State Government, and that would be a proper manner in which it has to be raised.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: We have demanded a package.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I cannot announce individual package for either one State or another. I am very sorry. I understand that there are difficulties in regard to the Reserve Forest Concept declared by the Supreme Court. But it is not possible for me, as Finance Minister, to announce any scheme here which is violative of what the Supreme Court has done. I am sorry. I have answered all the questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please. The hon. Minister has attempted to answer all the questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not possible for me to touch MPLAD because if one hon. Member suggests to take away the MPLAD and apply it in one particular fashion, then ten hon. Members will say that they do not want to do it. Now, it is a fixed Scheme. It is not within my competence to do it. If he wishes to do it, then he should address the issue through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The hon. Member is a bit agitated about it. I understand it. I know how to spend insurance. I have heard what you have said. The acoustics are good. Kindly sit down so that I can respond. I will respond. I will do what I can.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has responded well.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): About MPLAD it has been reported on T.V. that its amount has been increased by one crore rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have no information about that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finance Minister does not have information about it.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: It has been reported on T.V. that the hon. Prime Minister has raised the amount by one crore rupees.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It should be raised to five crore rupees.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to inform the hon. Member that I don't have information about it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a misconception. ...*(Interruptions)* You please listen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a gross misconception that the policy is framed on the television. The policy is formulated not on TV but by the Government. Hence you should try to clear the misconception.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Misconceptions should be cleared.

*[English]*

I shall not put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-2003 to vote:

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary 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 to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 5 and 6, 9 and 10, 12, 22 to 28, 37, 39 and 40, 43, 50 to 52, 54, 61, 65 to 67, 70, 72, 76, 78 and 79, 82 and 83, 87, 89 and 95."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.07 hrs.

## APPROPRIATION (NO.6) BILL\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (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 2002-03.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Article 114(b) states:

*[English]*

"the expenditure charges on the Consolidated Fund of India but not exceeding in any case the amount shown in the statement previously laid before Parliament."

*[Translation]*

The supplementary grants which have been passed in the Parliament recently comprise a sum of Rs.8500 crore. They want to draw an amount of Rs.9045 crore from the Consolidated Fund of India. Article 114(1) and 115 state that this legislation is to be read with the Article 115 of the Constitution of India. It is being introduced under the Article 114. Article 114(1) states,

*[English]*

"the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India but not exceeding in any case the amount shown in the statement previously laid before the Parliament."

*[Translation]*

How the amount rose to 90 billion rupees in the Appropriation Bill laid in the House should be looked into.

You have included the supplementary demands in the agenda but I am trying to assess what the law permits in this regard i.e. what the Article 114 states in this regard.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Raghuvansh Babu has made a very crafty move. In fact it does not have any relevance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is very experienced.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: He is very experienced especially in issues involving mathematical calculations. There is no point of order involved. I have a deep regard for him. I would urge upon him to withdraw the point of order after my reply and not to seek ruling from the Deputy Speaker. You have read the article correctly but that does not apply here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Article 114 says that the amount should not, in any case, exceed the grants from the consolidated Fund of India passed in the House. You are demanding for an amount of 9045 crore rupees against the sanctioned amount of 8500 crore rupees.

\* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 11.12.2002.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It does not, in any case, exceed the sanctioned amount.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not exceed. The point of order is out of order.

The question 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 2002-2003."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I introduce\* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

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 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY 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 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY 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. DEPUTY 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.12 hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

## BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2002."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th December, 2002."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 2002.

\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

19.13 hrs.

tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. to further deliberate upon the matter.

OBSERVATION BY CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE TO  
INQUIRE INTO THE INCIDENT OF ASSAULT ON  
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV, M.P.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shall we take up the next  
item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, I  
have to inform that the Committee to inquire into the incident  
of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, M.P. met today  
and after deliberating upon the matter decided to meet again

19.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on  
Thursday, December 12, 2002/Agrahayana 21, 1924 (Saka).*

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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 at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006**

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