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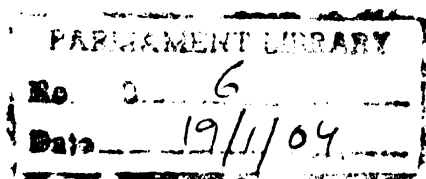
LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXV, Thirteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 8, Wednesday, July 30, 2003/Sravana 8, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 141-160	10-36
Unstarred Question Nos. 1278-1488	36-252
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	252-262
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	263
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	
Minutes	263
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND	
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	271
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2003-04 season	280-281
Shri Rajnath Singh	280
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to take up the matter with Government of Pakistan for release of Indians including fishermen from Gujarat imprisoned in Pakistani Jails	
Shri G.J. Javia	286
(ii) Need to open more post offices in Bulsar district, Gujarat	
Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhri	286
(iii) Need to create an 'Ahir Regiment' in the Army	
Dr. Shrimati Sudha Yadav	286-287
(iv) Need to accord clearance to Sandal, Udanti and Tel Barrage Projects in Kalahandi district of Orissa	
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	287
(v) Need for early construction of Thermal Power Station at Yamuna Nagar district, Haryana	
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	287

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for making Nag Nadi and Peeli Nadi at Nagpur pollution free	
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	287-288
(vii) Need to bring coastline of Karnataka under Coastal Regulation Zone-Category II restricting the CRZ area of enforcement within 200 meters from the shore line	
Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake	288
(viii) Need to grant special status to Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts of Punjab under Border Development Scheme	
Shri J.S. Brar	288-289
(ix) Need to grant necessary approval to Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala for construction of railway over-bridges in Kerala	
Prof. A.K. Premajam	289
(x) Need to allocate adequate funds under Indira Awas Yojana for construction of rural houses at Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh	
Dr. D.V.G. Shankar Rao	289-290
(xi) Need to declare Firozabad in U.P. as a Telecom district	
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	290
(xii) Need to declare Tamil as an official language of the Indian Union	
Shri C. Kuppusami	290-291
(xiii) Need for early completion of Paradeep Oil Refinery project in Orissa	
Shri Trilochan Kanungo	291
(xiv) Need to extend broad gauge rail line between Rajapalayam and Tenkasi upto Sengottah in Tamil Nadu	
Shri S. Murugesan	292
(xv) Need to provide adequate facilities for the passengers including a reservation counter at Canning Railway Station in the South Sealdah Section of West Bengal	
Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	292
ELECTION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL	
Motion to consider	296-348
Shri Arun Jaitley	296-299, 342-348
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	299-303
Shri Anadi Sahu	304-306
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	306-311
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	311-316

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri K. Malaisamy	316-319
Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi	319-320
Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh	320-321
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	321-327
Shri Adhi Shankar	327-329
Shri Arun Kumar	329-331
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	331-336
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	336-339
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	339-341
Clauses 2 to 10 and 1	348
Motion to Pass	348
REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS BILL	
Motion to Consider	349-360
Shri I.D. Swamy	349
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	349-351
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	351-353
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	353-354
Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi	354-356
Shri P.H. Pandian	356-360

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 30, 2003/Sravana 8, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for suspension of Question Hour on a very important matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): A Statement should come from the Government regarding recent bomb blast in Mumbai ... (Interruptions) Bandh today is due to that.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received six notices for Adjournment Motion and five notices for suspension of Question Hour. All these can be taken up during 'Zero Hour'. that is my suggestion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): The problem of unemployment is a very serious problem. This Government is trying to mislead the country on this issue.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you take up the issue during 'Zero Hour', you can have more time; otherwise, what will happen is that we will be reducing the time of the Question Hour. At the same time, if you are daily

reducing the Question Hour by 20 minutes, then we may have to even extend that time beyond 1200 hours.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I will give you a chance during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since yesterday, from the Congress Party, we have been... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Sir, you have called me.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the reason why I told you to raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice for Adjournment Motion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I have received your notice also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you convert the Question Hour into 'Zero Hour', it is up to you, but there must be some sanctity for Question Hour. For ten days we have been collecting information on these Questions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The Government should give a statement on the law and order situation in Maharashtra... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today thousands of youth under the banner of Yuva Lok Janshakti Party of the country are demonstrating against unemployment outside the Parliament. The problem of unemployment is the biggest problem of the country. The Prime Minister had assured that they will provide employment to one crore people every year. But instead of providing employment it is being snatched away. But to this there is no employment opportunity in the country. The people of entire country are restless. We have also requested the Prime Minister to solve the problem of unemployment. We have also given notices for Adjournment Motion as well as for suspension of Question Hour; in the House. Every body is in agreement with that. You are requested to hold a discussion on the problem of unemployment under Adjournment Motion in the House and the Government should come out with the steps being taken by it to solve the problem of unemployment...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We have also given a notice for Adjournment Motion on the issue of unemployment....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the same subject of unemployment, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has also given notice for Adjournment Motion. I will come to you after that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have also given notice...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been giving notice since yesterday. I think, we from the Opposition should not be treated like this. I gave the notice yesterday and I have repeated it today. I spoke to the hon. Speaker yesterday. The matter is not limited to Delhi or Arunachal Pradesh. It is question of sovereignty of the nation. Why are you not hearing me?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are here not to disrupt the Question Hour and we are here not to disrupt the business of the House, but to bring it to your notice and to the notice of

the Leader of the House, our Prime Minister, that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by his untiring effort brought all social forces in the mainstream in the North-East we felt proud of the Indian States...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, what is the going on? The hon. Speaker has given the ruling and the said that the Question hour should not be disrupted, but they are disrupting the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They are trying to destabilise the Parliamentary System in the entire North-East...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Governor has summoned the Assembly on 2nd August, while the Chief Minister sought time till 12th of September...(Interruptions) This is being done at gunpoint. We demand the Government should make a statement on this issue right now...(Interruptions) At gunpoint, the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation is at stake...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question is not related with one state only. It is a question of point of order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given notices for suspension of the Question Hour. I do not think that the Question Hour could be suspended on this issue. You will be getting a chance to speak during 'Zero Hour'. I request you to please allow me to conduct the Question Hour. Let me conduct the Question Hour. I will give you a chance to raise this issue during 'Zero Hour'. Please allow me to conduct the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, we have given a notice for Adjournment Motion on the issue of unemployment...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what had happened to the Prime Minister's assurances of providing employment to one crore people.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They can raise these issues during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what I am suggesting to them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given the notice for suspension of the Question Hour. I will give you a chance to raise it during 'Zero Hour'. You will get more time during 'Zero Hour'. I appeal to you to please allow me to go to the Question Hour. Now, we will take up Q. No. 141.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please allow debate on the issue of unemployment...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of the unemployment is very important...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I will give you the floor during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We also want to speak on this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will permit you during 'Zero Hour'. You raise it during 'Zero Hour'. If you raise it now then I will have to give chance to four other notices of Adjournment Motion also which I have received.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please give chance to all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given chance to Paswanji on the issue of unemployment. All of you will also get chance during 'Zero Hour'. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why are you not allowing us to speak? I said that we do not want to

disrupt the Question Hour. Then, why are the Treasury Benches interrupting us? When the country's unity, integrity and sovereignty is at stake, can such an important issue be not take up in the House? If the Parliament cannot discuss it, then what for Parliament is there?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I gave you permission to raise it and you have already mentioned it. Please allow me to conduct the Question Hour now. I have already given you a chance to speak. You have already raised the issue. During 'Zero Hour', all of you will get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the step taken by the Central Government, will encourage terrorism in the country...(Interruptions) This is not an ordinary issue.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, these people will continue to disturb the House this way...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Union Government, on the one hand, proclaims that it is protecting the unity of the country and, on the other hand, a Naga group is trying to destabilise the parliamentary system in the North-East. We are in the Parliament and should we keep quite on this?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you raise it during 'Zero Hour' and not now, the hon. Minister concerned or the Government will react to it. This is not 'Zero Hour'. Let us have the Question Hour. You can raise this issue during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is happening every time...(Interruptions) You allow us to speak for two minutes...(Interruptions) Every time we make our submission, they disrupt...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To be fair, he did not object to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my contention was limited...(Interruptions)

We are in this Parliament upholding parliamentary democracy...(Interruptions) The Chief Minister of Manipur was attempted to be killed a few days back. The Prime Minister knows it...(Interruptions) The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh was paralysed by the NSCN (IM) Group at the gunpoint in the name of peace talks...(Interruptions) What are we sitting here in Parliament for?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise any matter on the floor of the House but that should be within the Rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Prime Minister is here... He is the Leader of the House and the leader of the country...(Interruptions) I want to know whether this is in his knowledge or not...(Interruptions) We are all for the peace initiative...(Interruptions) But the so-called peacemakers are using their guns and targeting the Indian National Congress, which worked and fought like anything under the regime of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to bring the entire North-East into the mainstream...(Interruptions) Now, NSCN (IM) Group is using guns to destabilise the State...(Interruptions) Should we keep quite?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: People sitting here in Delhi are using NSCN (IM) to destabilise the political situation in the State...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please take up the Question Hour.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is not a case of defections. It is an NSCN operation...(Interruptions) The Government is playing with the gun...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, I have allowed you to say whatever you wanted to say. Now let us go to the Question Hour. Question No. 141-Shri Shivaji Vithalrao Kamble.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE (Osmanabad): Q. No. 141...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If the Government continues to play with the gun, it will not be limited to Arunachal Pradesh...(Interruptions) It will threaten the unity and integrity of the whole country...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, I have allowed you to take up this issue even during the Question Hour. I have asked the other Members to raise their issues during 'Zero Hour' and not now. I will give you time to raise this issue during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, please advise the Government to respond to this issue of the North-Eastern Members of Parliament whose life is at stake under the gunpoint...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take it up during 'Zero Hour'. Now, let us take up Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you speak to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The Home Minister must react to this. This is not a matter which can be taken casually. We cannot compromise on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, I just cannot ask them to give a reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Question No. 141-Shri Kamble.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Question No. 141...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, this is a dangerous issue...(Interruptions) Under the camouflage of peace proposals, the Government is going to destabilise the North-Eastern region...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would you not listen to us?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Our issue is very important. My humble submission is that you please listen to us just for two minutes. The issue of unemployment is very important...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Prime Minister is sitting here. Prime Minister has promised to give employment to one crore people every year...(Interruptions) These datas are false. Two crore people have become unemployed, they have sold billion-trillion capital of the country. The country was expecting that people will get jobs but they have sold the country...(Interruptions)

11.14 hrs.

At this stage Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the reaction of govt., will also be told.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear you, but please go to your seats first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Buta Singhji, please go to your seat. During 'Zero Hour', you can raise your matter. but now, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats. You can raise the matter during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Question Hour is over, I will allow you to raise the issue. Now, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak during 'Zero Hour' and will ask Government to response.

[English]

Now, please go to your seats and let me conduct the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will continue with the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Fees in Private Medical Colleges

*141. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the fees of Private Medical Colleges have been enhanced in the country recently;

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

(c) whether revised guidelines are being followed by the State Governments in the matter of fixing the ceiling on fee structure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered the effects of the enhanced fees on the studies of the students living below poverty line; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the private managements do not charge hefty fees?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The upper limit of the fee chargeable from the students in the Private Unaided Medical Colleges admitted against the "free" and "payment" category of seats was being determined by the Central Government as per the scheme evolved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Unnikrishnan's case. A Constitution Bench of eleven judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgement delivered on 31st October, 2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation & Ors. Vs. State of Karnataka & Ors., has held that its decision in Unni Krishnan's case, in so far as the scheme relating to the grant of admission and the fixing of the fee, was not correct, and to that extent, the said decision and the consequent directions given to the UGC, AICTE and Medical Council of India, Central and State Governments etc. would stand overruled. According to the judgement dated 31.10.2002, the unaided private institutions should adopt a rational fee structure and would not be entitled to charge capitation fee or indulge in profiteering. There can, however, be a reasonable revenue surplus, which may be generated by the educational institution for the purpose of development of education and expansion of the institution.

The judgement dated 31.10.2002 also provides for framing of regulations by the Government that will ensure excellence in education, and for forbidding the charging of capitation fee and profiteering by the institution. Accordingly, the Central Government have issued broad policy guidelines on 14.5.2003 to the State Governments and the Universities in the matter of admission and charging of fee by the private unaided medical and dental institutions in the light of the judgement of the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 31.10.2002. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide for constitution of a Standing Committee at the State level to determine the reasonableness of the fee proposed to be charged by each institution and to approve the same so as to prevent over-charging and profiteering. Further, it has been stipulated that the upper ceiling of fee determined as reasonable in respect of an institution shall

remain valid for at least three years and any future revision of fee shall be only applicable to the new entrants.

In order to address the needs of the poorer and weaker sections of the society, the guidelines issued by the Central Government also provide for filling up of a certain percentage of seats in each private institution, as may be determined by each State Government keeping in view the local conditions and various other factors, by students belonging to poor and other economically backward classes, including the SC/ST and OBCs, who are eligible for reservation in admission as per the State Law/Policy. The State may require admission of these students by the private medical colleges at a concessional fee by granting them freeships or scholarships, if not granted by the State itself.

As per information available with the Government, some of the State Governments have already constituted Committees to regulate/approve the fees fixed by the private medical colleges in the light of the constitution bench judgement dated 31.10.2002 so as to prevent over-charging or charging of capitation fee by the Institutions.

The validity of the guidelines dated 14.5.2003 issued by the Central Government and also the regulations framed by some of the State Governments vis-a-vis the judgement dated 31.10.2002 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court have been challenged by various private medical colleges. All such matters have been clubbed together and are presently being heard by a five judge constitution bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Therefore, at present the matter is sub-judice.

[English]

Number of Mobile Phone Users

*142. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone users in the country both in rural and urban areas;

(b) the expected growth of the users during the current financial year;

(c) whether due to rapid growth of mobile phone users, the demand for land line telephone has declined;

(d) if so, the percentage of decline therefor;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to downsize the department; and

(f) if so, the number of employees likely to be affected as a result of downsizing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 Metro City Service Areas and 19 Telecom Circle Service Areas (total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service area and not to a particular City/Town/Village in the service area. As such the Service Areas can not be categorized into rural and urban areas. The total number of CMTS subscribers in the country as on 30.6.03 are 1,51,48,796.

(b) No target has been fixed on the CMTS Licensees for providing CMTS connections. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has fixed a target for itself of 30 Lakh cellular connections for the current financial year 2003-04. As seen from the growth rate in CMTS subscribers in the country during the last few years a growth of 90-100% is expected during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) World-wide, the number of new wireless phone users being added is higher than the number of new wireline phone users. The same trend is visible in our country also. Since, the services are in the developing phase, it is not possible to estimate the percentage of decline.

(e) No, Sir, it is not contemplated to downsize the Department of Telecommunications.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Procurement of Medicines

*143. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted by the CGHS dispensaries in procuring medicines from different agencies;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the quality of medicines supplied to the CGHS dispensaries by these agencies;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the value of medicines purchased from the drug manufacturers and retailers during the last three years, separately, year-wise; and

(e) the details of arrangements made by the Government for testing the quality of medicines purchased from the local market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The CGHS dispensaries do not directly procure its bulk requirement of medicines. As far as cities other than Delhi are concerned, the medicines are being procured through the MSO under the Directorate General of Health Services. For its requirement of medicines in Delhi, the procurement is being done through the HSCC (I) Ltd. which is a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Health. As far as the generic drugs are concerned, the formulary and the rate contract of the GNCT of Delhi has been adopted. Similarly based on the recommendation of experts under different specialities, a list of 205 drugs have been drawn up and after finalisation of the rates by duly constituted committees, the procurement is being made through HSCC/MSO.

The medicines which are not supplied by the MSO/HSCC to the CGHS or which are not available in the CGHS dispensary, are procured by placing indents against the individual prescription of the CGHS beneficiary through the authorized local chemists appointed by the CGHS. During emergency, the beneficiaries are issued authority slips for obtaining the medicines directly from the authorized local chemists without making any payment. However, if a particular medicine is not available with the authorised local chemist, the beneficiaries can purchase the same from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from the authorised local chemist.

(b) and (c) Though no study has been conducted on the quality of medicines supplied, the medicines supplied by the MSO/HSCC to the CGHS are pre-tested and are of standard quality. However, the Central Drugs Control Organisation on their own also does random testing of medicines.

(d) The information is given in enclosed statement.

(e) The medicines prescribed to the patients by the CGHS doctors/Government specialists and not available in the CGHS dispensaries are procured on retail basis

by placing indents with the authorised local chemists. No pre-testing is done as the authorised local chemists are licensed by State Drug Authorities and are subject to regular inspection to ensure quality of drugs being sold by them.

Statement

From Manufacturers and Retailers

(Value in Rs.)

S. No.	Year	Manufacturers (through MSO, HSCC, Distributors)	Retailers (local Chemists)
1.	2000-2001	13,52,01,000	1,01,55,27,000
2.	2001-2002	23,08,30,816	1,35,67,10,754
3.	2002-2003	31,15,49,696	1,52,27,66,725

[Translation]

Evaluation of Schemes under 10th Plan

*144. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific mechanism has been put in place for monitoring the periodical evaluation of various schemes to achieve the growth rate of 8 per cent during the Tenth Plan period; and

(b) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to ensure that the target is achieved at every stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A three tier monitoring mechanism has been put in place to periodically assess the progress and performance of the plan schemes, projects and programmes to achieve the growth rate of 8 per cent during the Tenth Plan period:

- (1) Regular monitoring by all line Ministries/ Departments of all schemes/projects/programmes implemented by them.

(2) Quarterly Performance Reviews (QPRs) by the Planning Commission to monitor progress of both physical and financial performance of Plan schemes and implementation of policy initiatives of each Ministry/Department.

(3) Periodic monitoring of Priority Agenda for Action by the Prime Minister's Office and Committee of Secretaries.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Spread of Telemedicine facilities

*145. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up telemedicine kiosks across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the spread of telemedicine facilities especially in rural and remote areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government at present does not have any proposal to set up telemedicine Kiosks across the country.

(c) To demonstrate the relevance and the utility of telemedicine facilities, Department of Space has taken up Technology demonstration Project under which 27 locations have been given connectivity. Besides, the Department of Information Technology has taken up telemedicine projects in the following States/UTs:—

1. Chandigarh
2. Kerala
3. Nagaland
4. NCT, Delhi
5. Orissa
6. Uttar Pradesh
7. West Bengal

Scientific Research

*146. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the third largest Scientific Community in the World;

(b) if so, the details of achievements of the scientific research undertaken in the country during 1997-2001; and

(c) the ranking of India in research amongst the World *vis-a-vis* China?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) International comparison of Stock of Scientific and Technical Personnel has limitations as each country adopts its own definitions & coverage of S&T Personnel. These limitations make the international comparison unrealistic.

(b) Some of the significant achievements/initiatives of the Scientific Research during the period 1997-2001 are as follow: (1) Established several major research facilities/centres of excellence in frontline areas of S&T; (2) Deployment of state-of-art seismology and geo-physical instruments in peninsular regions; (3) Launching of technology mission mode project in the areas of sugar, advanced composites, fly ash disposal and utilisation and bamboo applications; (4) launched Swarnajayanti Fellowship to recognise the work of outstanding young scientists and provide support in project mode with more flexibility; (5) Creation of funds for improvement of-S&T infrastructure in academic and related institutions; (6) Established 4 national facilities and supported number of industries as collaborative research programmes under Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; (7) Developed satellites, launch vehicles and application in space research; (8) Developed missiles (Prithvi, Agni-II, etc.), tank (Arjun), pilotless target aircraft (Lakshya), etc., in the area of defence; (9) Self reliance in the areas of nuclear reactor and its entire associated fuel cycle; (10) Application of radiation technology in the areas of health care, agriculture, food preservation, industry and research, has resulted in the release of 22 improved varieties of seeds; (11) Self sufficiency in food production; (12) Identified potential molecules for the development of vaccines and diagnostic for infectious diseases; (13) Developed diagnostic kits for HIV, hepatitis, dengue, assessment of reproductive hormones, Japanese encephalitis, vaccines

for leprosy, drug formulation for septic shock, plant tissue culture protocols, formulation of bio-fertilisers, high protein gene from Amaranthus and bioremediation technology for mine spoiled dumps and crude oil spillage; (14) Rice genome mapping; (15) Ginger processing; (16) Launched 21 Jai Vigyan National S&T Missions in the areas of development, of new generation vaccines, bio-technology for herbal products development, coffee improvement and establishment of mirror sites for genomics etc.; (17) Promote polar science and as a treaty obligation scientific expedition to Antarctica were undertaken on an annual basis; (18) Archaeological discoveries at Cambay with artefacts dated 7000 to 8000 B.C. (19) Under the Drugs from Sea programme, six organisms possessing anti-diabetic, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-hyperlipidaemic, anti-anxiety, anti-cholesterol, anti-bacterial and larvicidal properties were identified and 84 compounds having interesting biological activity and novel chemical structure were isolated; (20) Design fabrication and air worthiness testing of 9-14 seater light transport aircraft and certification of the 2 seater trainer aircraft HANSA-3; (21) Environment friendly electric car; (22) Large number of technologies have been developed and commercialized in the fields of drugs and pharmaceuticals, food processing, leather processing products, construction materials and bio-medical devices, etc.; (23) A new Science and Technology Policy has been formulated.

(c) International comparison of research based on all the input and output parameters collectively is not available. However, as per the latest available official statistics, the expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) as percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) for India is higher than China. India spent 0.81% of GNP on R&D as compared to 0.66% by China for the years 1998 and 1997 respectively. In terms of Research Papers published in the Journals covered under Science Citation Index (SCI) database, India and China ranked 14th and 8th respectively in the year 2002. This comparison has limitations as the number of Journals covered for different countries is not uniform.

Eradication of Diseases

*147. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deaths caused recently by the Viral Fever/Encephalitis (Japanese fever) and Malaria in certain district of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and other parts of the country: "

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the team from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi and the Institute of Virology, Pune, have taken samples from the affected States;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the Government have deputed a team of doctors and experts from RML and Safdarjung Hospitals to visit Andhra Pradesh to give a report on the viral disease;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the States for medical or financial assistance to tackle the diseases; and

(h) if so, the steps taken/being taken for their eradication?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (h) A number of deaths have been caused in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and other parts of the country due to Viral Encephalitis and Dengue fever. District wise deaths due to Viral Encephalitis and Dengue fever as reported by State Health Authorities is given in the statement enclosed. A total of 211 deaths due to malaria have also been reported in 2003 from different parts of the country.

Teams from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), New Delhi and from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune have visited and outbreak affected areas. Laboratory reports from NICD and NIV indicate the outbreaks in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are viral encephalitis and the outbreak in Kerala is Dengue fever. The Government of India had also deputed a team of 10 Pediatricians from Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, Delhi, to visit Andhra Pradesh. Their findings indicate that the clinical picture was compatible with viral encephalitis.

While control of outbreaks is the responsibility of the respective State Governments, Government of India has provided technical support by sending expert teams to the affected states. Support has also been provided for laboratory confirmation for diagnosis of the outbreaks. In addition to the insecticides and larvicides already provided

under the National Anti Malaria Programme, arrangements have been made for additional supply of Malathion (Technical) for fogging and larvicides for use in affected areas of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Rs. 20 lakhs have been provided to Kerala through the Regional Director of Health and Family Welfare for IEC activities.

An amount of Rs. 83.60 lakhs has been released to the State Malaria Control Society, Andhra Pradesh, under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank support during this year.

Statement

District-wise Deaths due to Viral Encephalitis, Dengue and Malaria

Sl. No.	Distt. Andhra Pradesh	2003*		
		Deaths due to Viral Encephalitis	Deaths due to Dengue	Deaths due to Malaria
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	6		
2.	Anantpur	1		
3.	Hyderabad		1	
4.	Karimnagar	48		
5.	Khammam	2		
6.	Krishna	3		
7.	Mahboob Nagar	14		
8.	Medak	6		
9.	Nalgonda	8		
10.	Nellore	5		
11.	Nizambad	10		
12.	Rangareddy	2		
13.	Warangal	44		1
Total		149	1	1
Assam				
1.	Sonitpur			9
2.	Nagaon			9

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Lakhimpur			3
4.	Karbi-Anglong			4
5.	Hailakandi			4
6.	Golaghat			2
7.	Dhemaji			4
8.	Darrang			1
9.	Cachar			1
10.	Dhubri	1		
11.	Dibrugarh	11		
12.	Sibsagar	5		
Total		17		37

Maharashtra

1.	Amravati	3		
2.	Bhandara	14		1
3.	Chandrapur	16		
4.	Gadchiroli	7		
5.	Gondia	1		1
6.	Greater Mumbai			2
7.	Hingoli	5		
8.	Nagpur	20		
9.	Nanded	9		
10.	Parbhani	1		
11.	Ratnagiri			1
12.	Thane			1
13.	Wardha	7		
14.	Washim		2	
15.	Yeotmal	4		
Total		87	2	6

Kerala

1.	Alappuzha		3	
2.	Ernakulam		2	1

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kannur		4	
4.	Kollam		7	
5.	Kottayam		4	
6.	Kozhikode		4	
7.	Malapuram		6	
8.	Palakkad		4	
9.	Pathanamthitta		2	
10.	Thiruvananthapuram		14	
Total			50	

Rajasthan

1.	Jaipur		1	
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Karnataka

1.	Bangalore (R)		1	
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Other States	166
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Grand Total	253	55	221
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*Reported as on 24.07.2003

[Translation]

Linking of Missions

*148. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated an ambitious scheme to link its Missions located abroad with latest communication techniques and had also purchased essential equipment for the purpose;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred therein and the present position of the equipment purchased;

(c) whether this scheme has now been discontinued; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

* ,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The High Frequency Radio Communication (HFRC) Project was initiated in 1987 with a view to providing a reliable and independent standby communications arrangement with selected Indian Missions and Posts abroad for use during emergencies and the shutting down of local telecom networks. A sanction of Rs. 17 crores was issued for the project in 1991 (a revised sanction was subsequently issued for little over Rs. 31.59 crores in 1992). The project faced technical and operational problems after implementation, including high recurring maintenance cost.

2. In 1997 the Public Accounts Committee asked that this project be re-evaluated by an Expert Group. While agreeing that wireless provides the only dependable means of communication that does not require support of a local network, due to continuing operational and technical problems as also availability of alternatives based on more modern technology, the Expert Group recommended in January 2000 that the HFRC network be terminated.

3. In accordance with the directions of the Expert Group the HFRC network was shut down in mid-2001. The equipment is being disposed off to the best advantage of Government.

[English]

Constitution of High Powered Committee

*149. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether in pursuance of the High Court order the Government had constituted a high powered Committee in October last year to go into the state of affairs in certain Government hospitals in the capital;

(b) if so, whether the high powered Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for the implementation of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) No High Powered Committee was constituted by the Government in October last year to go into the state of affairs of certain Government Hospitals in the capital. However, during the proceedings in CWP No. 2187/1996, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its order on 10.10.2002, had appointed a high powered committee of the following persons to check the condition of the Burn Wards of four hospitals, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital:—

1. Shri Mukul Rohtagi, Additional Solicitor General
2. Shri S.K. Naik, Health Secretary, Government of India (Convenor)
3. Director General, Armed Forces, Medical Corps, AHQ, South Block
4. Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health
5. Dr. J.L. Gupta, retired Head of the Department of Burns Ward, Safdarjung Hospital
6. Shri S.P. Aggarwal, Health Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi
7. Smt. Meera Bhatia, Advocate
8. Shri Ashok Aggarwal, Advocate

The Hon'ble Court directed the Committee to submit its report on or before 31.10.2002 specifying the deficiencies existing in present set up and the ways and means to improve the burn wards.

The Committee submitted its report to the Hon'ble Court on 31.10.2002. In the report, the Committee apart from pointing out certain deficiencies in equipment, etc. made certain recommendations/suggestions for further improvement. Some of the main recommendations/suggestions made by the High Powered Committee are given in the Statement.

The Hon'ble High Court, while disposing of the Petition in its judgement 30.4.2003, has directed the Union of India and the Government of NCT of Delhi to comply with the recommendations made by the High Powered Committee by the end of August, 2003 and to send the compliance report to the Counsel for the Petitioner.

In keeping with the above judgement, all concerned have been directed to comply with the Court order within the stipulated time limit positively.

Statement

Some of the main Recommendations/Suggestions of the High Powered Committee regarding General Policy Matters

1. As far as the general maintenance is concerned, there should be better coordination between CPWD and Hospital Administration for better maintenance of electrical and civil works in the hospitals. There is also scope for improvement in the cleanliness in all the hospitals particularly because of heavy rush of patients and visitors.
2. As far as the Burns Wards in the hospitals are concerned, the air curtain and dust catching doormats may be used at the entry points of ICUs and Dressing Stations. The standard air circulation and temperature monitoring should be done regularly and records maintained. The quality of linen, particularly blankets and sheets in all the hospitals needs improvement.
3. In view of the non-availability of Burns & Plastic Specialists, short intensive training could be given to general surgeons who could provide burn care on a rotatory basis under the Surgery Department. The DNB and MCH students, after qualifying the examination, may be utilized in Burns Department for a certain period as far as possible. Special training in burns care for nurses and paramedical staff should be carried out at Safdarjung Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital. The duty roster in respect of junior as well as senior doctors caring for burns patients should be prominently exhibited on a notice board.
4. As the burns are preventable, all out efforts should be directed to emphasize the prevention of burns through well organized information, collection and communication activities.
5. There should be linkages between these four hospitals through ISDN Connection/LAN in these departments of the hospitals. The patients from the Burns Care units requiring specialized treatment in the Burns Departments must

invariably be provided first aid/emergency treatment and thereafter sent by Ambulance.

Cellular Services of BSNL

*150. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cellular services of BSNL are not up to the mark;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the frequency of BSNL is very low and roaming system of it remain out of order frequently;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to provide more reliable cellular services to the users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the Quality of Service (QOS) performance of all Cellular Operators, including that of BSNL, on quarterly basis. From these monitoring reports, it is seen that Cellular Service of BSNL is generally upto the mark, except for a few deficiencies in some of the QOS parameters such as number of faults per hundred subscribers per month, Call Success Rate etc.

(b) Optical Fibre Cable damage due to Road widening works in some cases, prolonged interruption in Power supply, and some Transmitter-Receiver failures have been stated as the causes for the deficiencies in these parameters.

(c) The frequency (bandwidth) of BSNL Cellular services is adequate and roaming system is working satisfactorily.

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

(e) Monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL and in the event of failures efforts are made for the earliest possible restoration of service and to meet the QOS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

[Translation]

Proliferation of Quacks

*151. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing proliferation of quacks in the country particularly in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are contemplating to make any law in order to take some concrete action against these quacks in all the States of the country;

(c) if so, the time by which such law would be enacted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that they are aware of proliferation of quacks in Delhi. They have further informed that they are in the process of making anti-quackery law for Delhi.

Provisions already exist in Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicines Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to take action against unregistered practitioners of medicine. However, to make deterrent provision, Central Government initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal, but no final view has been taken.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector

*152. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to raise foreign investment in the telecom sector by allowing the incremental investment to be routed through foreign institutional investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been reviewed from all its angles particularly with regard to the objections raised by the security agencies;

(d) if so, whether the proposal has been cleared by the security agencies;

(e) if so, the precautions taken in this regard; and

(f) the benefits likely to be derived as a result of foreign investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Investment through Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) is already allowed in the telecom sector within the sectoral caps. A proposal to allow FIIs investment outside the sector cap is presently at the discussion level only, in which various aspects, including those relating to security have been included.

(f) Foreign investment will help in making more resources available for faster development of the telecom sector in the country.

Popularisation of Herbal Medicines

*153. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the popularity of the Indian herbal medicines in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in collaboration with Indian industries to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government funded a market survey for herbal products in the USA. The Government has also implemented a scheme to provide assistance to industry for conducting market survey. Department of Commerce is also funding market survey under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Programme. The Government is, however, aware

of the popularity of Indian herbal medicines in several countries.

(d) The following steps have been taken to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market;

- (i) The Government has established National Medicinal Plants Board for integrated development of medicinal plants sector.
- (ii) Government have sent official delegations comprising trade representatives to various countries to promote ISM&H drugs.
- (iii) Government is also supporting industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. Schemes are also in place for funding market surveys.
- (iv) Labeling provisions have been relaxed to facilitate exports.
- (v) Testing facilities are being expanded.
- (vi) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified.
- (vii) This Department's Research Councils are carrying on research of ISM&H drugs.
- (viii) Department of Biotechnology has also supported research and development projects on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country.
- (ix) A Task force has been set up to make recommendations for increasing exports.

Teledensity In Rural and Urban Areas

*154. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total land-line connections in both rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2002-03;

(b) the number of cellular subscribers in the country separately for rural and urban areas;

(c) the combined teledensity for rural and urban areas;

(d) the targets regarding teledensity in both urban and rural areas set for 2005 and 2010; and

(e) the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the above mentioned targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The total land line connections (inclusive of WLL) provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Private Basic Service Operators in rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2002-03 are given as under:

Urban	419.29 lakhs lines
Rural	114.06 lakhs lines

(b) For providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has divided into 4 metro city service areas and 19 telecom circle service areas (Total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service area and not to a particular city/town/village in the service area. As such the service areas cannot be categorized into rural and urban areas. The total number of cellular subscriber in the country as on 31.3.2003 is 126.9 lakhs.

(c) The combined teledensity as on 31.03.2003 for rural and urban areas are:

Rural	1.49
Urban	14.32

(d) the targets regarding teledensity set for 2005 is 7 and for 2010 is 15 per hundred persons. As per NTP-1999 the overall teledensity set for 2005 is 7 and for 2010 is 15. Based on NTP-1999 the target for rural teledensity has been fixed as 3% by 2007 and 4% by 2010.

(e) The Government has adopted the following strategy for the present to achieve the above-mentioned targets:

- (i) Basic services have been opened for competition.
- (ii) No. of cellular operators have been increased from 2 to 4 in each circle.
- (iii) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) has been introduced for providing telephone connections in urban/semi urban and rural areas.
- (iv) New technologies like WLL (CDMA, Cor DECT) and GSM have been introduced for faster roll out.

Exchange of Enclaves with Bangladesh

*155. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to exchange enclaves with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the time by which these will be exchanged;
- (c) whether there has been any dialogue between the two countries in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to an early exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh in accordance with the terms of the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The Governments of India and Bangladesh had in 2001 constituted two Joint Boundary Working Groups to resolve all pending issues relating to implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974, including exchange of enclaves. Two meetings of the Groups have already been held. A decision has been taken by the two sides to continue bilateral discussions on the subject through the mechanism of the Joint Boundary Working Groups. It is not possible to give a time frame for effecting the exchange of the enclaves because discussions on the matter are ongoing with the Government of Bangladesh.

[Translation]

Heavy Water Reactor Project

*156. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the design of the Heavy Water Reactor Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue from the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed the design of a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR). This reactor will be mainly utilising thorium as nuclear fuel for about two-thirds of its electricity generation. A detailed project report incorporating the major highlights of design, safety and other related aspects for this reactor has been completed and is under peer review.

(c) The Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) with a capacity of 300 MWe when fully developed as a technology demonstration project will facilitate start of utilisation of vast thorium reserves in the country for electricity generation.

[English]

Recession in Global Software Industry

*157. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any recession in the global software industry at present;
- (b) if so, whether Indian I.T. professionals employed in the software industries in US and other countries are being retrenched;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the Union Government propose to tackle the inflow of computer professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There has been a perceptible slowdown in the global software industry.

(b) on account of the current slowdown, software companies world over are cutting down costs and in the process, some of the employees are being persuaded to relocate themselves.

(c) Precise information on the number of Indian IT professionals who have been retrenched for these reasons is not available.

(d) Several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of IT for improving the employment situation in the country. These include setting up of new software technology parks, establishing Media Lab Asia and promoting the spread of internet and IT enabled services.

Concurrently, in order to address the problems which are likely to be faced by the Indian IT professional in the coming years, steps have been taken to promote new markets (other than USA) such as EU, Latin America and Asia, make off-shore developments/services more attractive and increase the confidence level of clients abroad.

Cyber Crimes

*158. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up any Committee to fight cyber crimes;

(b) whether any methodology has been devised for intercepting SMS, e-mails and cyber-related crimes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to have bilateral agreements with foreign countries to deal with cyber crimes committed on foreign lands but affecting India;

(e) if so, the status thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to bring cyber-cafes and SMS messages under the existing laws to tackle the cyber crimes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Appropriate steps have been taken by the Government on an on-going basis to fight cyber crimes in a coordinated multi-agency effort.

(b) and (c) Appropriate technology tools are developed to counter cyber crime as required.

(d) and (e) Need based cooperation of foreign countries is secured in this regard.

(f) and (g) A Working Group has been constituted to suggest appropriate changes in the Information Technology Act, 2000 with a view to tackling the emerging trends in cyber crime.

UNDP Report

*159. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its report on Human Development Index 2003 has put India at 127 position among 175 countries in the world;

(b) if so, whether India's position was 124 in 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons for deterioration in India's position;

(d) whether the Government have examined the specific factors brought out in the UNDP report;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the extent to which the Government agrees with the report; and

(g) the States in the country which have done well in the development of Human Index as per the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Human Development Report, 2003 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the value of India's Human Development Index (HDI) has consistently improved over the years. HDI value of India has increased from 0.416 in 1975 to 1980, 0.519 in 1990, 0.553 in 1995 and 0.590 in 2001. However, as per the relative ranking on the

basis of HDI value, India ranks 127 in HDR 2003 as compared to 124 in HDR 2002. This is due to inclusion of two new countries in the ranking of this year's report and in increase in the value of HDI for Botswana vis-a-vis India. The two new countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina and Occupied Palestinian Territories which have better ranking than India at 66 and 98 respectively. While the value of India's health indicator is better than Botswana, the values of education and GDP Indices have been stated to be better in case of Botswana as compared to India.

(d) to (f) The UNDP's HDR 2003 has commended India for making serious efforts towards achieving economic growth and reduction of poverty in the country which would contribute significantly, in turn, to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in the world by 2015.

There is a wide acceptance of the Human Development Framework adopted by the UNDP in its various reports as well as the ranking of countries for purposes of international comparisons. However, in the Indian context, the focus is to achieve higher levels of human development at the national level and the State level and to reduce inter regional disparities in levels of attainment. The strategy to achieve these goals has been suitably incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(g) The UNDP's HDRs do not rank the various States of India. The only rank the various countries of the world as per the Human Development Index.

Disinvestment Policy

*160. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to adopt the policy of issuing Initial Public Offer (IPO) for the disinvestment of public sector undertakings instead of the old method of strategic sale of equity shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the IPOs proposed to be issued after the Maruti offers?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government approves the disinvestment strategy as appropriate including both

Strategic Sale and Public Offer either independently or jointly depending on the specific requirements of each case. Government has approved the disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) through a Public Offer of 25.2% of the equity through American Depository Receipts and 10% in the Domestic Market. The disinvestment of Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCI) through a Public Offer of 20% of the equity has been approved. Government has also decided to sell its residual shareholding through the Offer for Sale route in five PSUs (CMC Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) and Bharat Aluminium Co. Limited (BALCO) which were earlier disinvested through Strategic Sale.

Closure of Pharmaceutical Companies

1278. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that many pharmaceutical companies closing down their own factories are producing medicines on 'loan licence' through small factories where there are no arrangement for research and development to maintain the quality of the drugs; and

(b) if so, 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 are no specific reports available with the government concerning pharmaceuticals companies closing down their own factories and producing medicines on loan licence. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, there is a provision for manufacturing of drugs under loan licence from other licensed manufacturing units. This does not concern research and development.

(b) Question does not arise in view of Part (a).

[Translation]

Streamlining of RTH System

1279. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the Road Transport and Highways system in the country;

(b) if so, the targets thereof;

(c) whether instructions have been issued to State Governments in this regard and the extent to which they have been successful in implementing these instructions; and

(d) the details of the arrangement made for improvement of Ramnagar, Moradabad Highway under rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Improvement of the existing Road Transport & Highways system is a continuous ongoing process and as such no specific targets can be prescribed.

(c) The responsibility for implementation of various Motor Vehicles regulations vests with the respective States/UTs. who are suitably advised as and when the need arises.

(d) So far as improvement of Ramnagar-Moradabad highway under rural area is concerned, the same is a part of State Highway No 41 (Tehri-Ramnagar-Moradabad) and is being maintained by State Government of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Infrastructural Development Scheme

1280. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has formulated a comprehensive scheme for infrastructural development in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY

AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for infrastructural development comprises: (i) Strengthening of sub-transmission system, (ii) Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal, and (iii) Development of State Highways in Bihar.

(c) The approximate estimated costs of these schemes are as follows:

(i) Strengthening of sub-transmission system: Rs. 365 crore

(ii) Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal: Rs. 294 crore

(iii) Development of State Highways in Bihar: Rs. 846 crore (Rs. 163 crore for five districts to be taken up in the first phase)

(d) All these schemes will be taken up with 100% central assistance under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and an amount of Rs. 500 crore has been provided in the Annual Plan 2003-04 of Bihar.

[Translation]

Loan Licence by IPKA Laboratories

1281. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of loan licences obtained by the "IPKA Laboratories" located at Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and till date, year-wise; and

(b) the total number of drug manufacturers engaged in the production of medicines on the basis of loan licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the feedback available from Drugs Control Administration, M.P. a statement indicating the year-wise number of loan licences obtained by M/s. IPKA Lab., Ratlam (M.P.) during the last 3 years and till date is in the enclosed statement.

(b) As per the feedback available from State Drugs Control Administration, M.P. 153 loan licences have been granted till date by them for manufacture of drugs in the State of M.P.

Statement

The year-wise number of loan licences obtained by M/s. IPCA Lab., Ratlam (M.P.) during the last 3 years and till date

S.No.	Year	Date of grant	Name of loan licence
1.	2000	18.10.2000	M/s. Pure Pharma, Ltd., Indore, MP
2.	2000	18.10.2000	M/s. Pure Pharma, Ltd., Indore, MP
3.	2001	02.02.2001	M/s. Friends Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Indore, M.P.
4.	2001	02.02.2001	Ms. Friends Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Indore, M.P.
5.	2002	11.07.2001	Ms. Synocom Formulations (I) Ltd., Pithampur Dhar, M.P.
6.	2003	Nil	Nil

Rehabilitation Package for Poor and Helpless Widows

1282. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have prepared a rehabilitation package for poor and helpless widows of religious cities of North India;

(b) if so, the complete details of the package; and

(c) the achievements of the package till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) The Government has launched a Scheme called Swadhar which seeks to rehabilitate the women in difficult circumstances including widows left uncared near religious places by a shelter based holistic and integrated approach. The components covered include shelter, food, counseling, medical and legal support, training for the economic rehabilitation of women and helpline facilities. Out of 22 projects sanctioned under Swadhar Scheme so far, two projects have been sanctioned specially for widows left uncared at Vrindavan.

Security Deposited for Telephone Connection

1283. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh have deposited security for many years with the Department for telephone connections; and

(b) if so, the names of such villages and by when the telephone facility will be provided to these villages?

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

(b) Details are given in the Statement. The pending demand will be met by WLL system. About 30% villages will be covered during 2003-04 and remaining 70% will be covered during 2004-05 subject to availability of WLL equipment.

Statement

Name of villages and Registered demand in Satna SSA

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Registered demand
1	2	3
Nagod Sub-Division		
1.	Chunha	10
2.	Bilaundha	20
3.	Ghorahti	12
4.	Mauhari	10
5.	Dureha	19
6.	Usrar	12
7.	Kunchi	5
8.	Odkhi	8
9.	Raund	25
10.	Barha	6
11.	Bachbai	3
12.	Jignahat	10
13.	Dadhia	7
14.	Lagargawan	15

1	2	3
15.	Gurdaa	3
16.	Akhraha	5
17.	Karsara	29
18.	Semaria	6
19.	Kormahai	6
20.	Barethia	5
21.	Hilaundha	9
22.	Kular	4
23.	Bikra	2
24.	Gangwaria	3
25.	Gobroankala	4
26.	Ama	13
27.	Deori	2
28.	Bhajikhera	10
29.	Naubasta	10
30.	Palanpur	5
31.	Shivpur	4
Malhar Sub division		
32.	New Devraj Nagar	43
33.	Teondhari	44
34.	Bharauli	51
35.	Bherma	8
36.	Rigra	4
Satna Sub Division		
37.	Karhikothar	17
38.	Sohas	21
39.	Naya Gaon	16
40.	Majhgawan (Choond)	11
41.	Kubari (Choond)	6
42.	Bahupur	15

1	2	3
43.	Ghungchihai	18
44.	Chandai	26
45.	Baraundha	34
46.	Sukwah	27
47.	Karigohi	18
48.	Nakaila	16
49.	Chhibaura	40
50.	Chorhata	20
51.	Bahupur Gauriya	14
52.	Gauriya	35
53.	Karmau	23
54.	Barti	25
55.	Kurigawan	36
56.	Bakia	91
57.	Dagdiha	2
58.	Jhari	6
59.	Badhaura	23
Total		972

[English]

Indians Missing in Gulf Countries

1284. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians have gone missing in Gulf countries who had gone there for jobs and their whereabouts are not known;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to trace them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Indian workers reported to be *missing* in the Gulf countries are those who have failed to maintain contact with their

families or those who have moved from one employer to another clandestinely.

(b) A statement, giving details, is enclosed.

(c) The Indian Missions in the Gulf play a proactive role in locating these *missing* Indians on receipt of complaints from their families or from any other source.

Statement

Indians missing in Gulf Countries

S. No.	Country	Cases of Indians Reported Missing		
		2000	2001	2002
1.	Bahrain	—	—	—
2.	Kuwait	0	0	0
3.	Oman	11	37	26
4.	Qatar	0	0	1
5.	Saudi Arabia	101	105	115
6.	United Arab Emirates	18	22	16
Total		130	164	158

Telephone Facility in Orissa

1285. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having telephone facility in Orissa as on date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of villages where the said facility is likely to be provided during 2003-04, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As on 31.3.2003, telephone facility has been provided in 40435 villages in Orissa. District-wise details are given in the Statement-I.

(b) BSNL has planned to provide 5217 satellite based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remote and far flung villages of Orissa during 2003-04 subject to availability of resources and funds from the Government. District-wise number of villages to be covered are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

District-wise Villages with Telephone Facility

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Number of village having telephone facility
1	2	3
1.	Angul	1446
2.	Balasore	2499
3.	Baragarh	1191
4.	Bhadrak	1170
5.	Bholangir	1667
6.	Boudh	755
7.	Cuttack	1792
8.	Deogarh	505
9.	Dhenkanal	1052
10.	Gajapati	500
11.	Ganjam	2884
12.	Jagatsinghpur	1333
13.	Jajpur	1606
14.	Jharsuguda	346
15.	Kalahandi	1734
16.	Kandhamal	1077
17.	Kendrapara	1373
18.	Keonjhar	1863
19.	Khurda	1325
20.	Koraput	1594
21.	Malkangiri	501
22.	Mayurbhanj	3450
23.	Nayagarh	1113
24.	Nayapara	637
25.	Nowrangpur	793
26.	Puri	1585
27.	Rayagada	1332

1	2	3
28.	Sambalpur	1208
29.	Sonepur	729
30.	Sundergarh	1375
Total		40435

Statement II

*District-wise Villages planned to be covered on
Satellite Based VPTs*

Sl.No.	District	Number of village
1	2	3
1.	Angul	80
2.	Balasore	4
3.	Baragarh	5
4.	Bholangir	94
5.	Boudh	285
6.	Cuttack	13
7.	Deogarh	96
8.	Dhenkanal	20
9.	Gajapati	554
10.	Janjam	34
11.	Jajpur	16
12.	Jharsuguda	14
13.	Kalahandi	198
14.	Kandhamal	1115
15.	Keonjhar	104
16.	Khurda	2
17.	Koraput	433
18.	Malkangiri	189
19.	Mayurbhanj	95
20.	Nabarangpur	85
21.	Nayagarh	416

1	2	3
22.	Nuapada	2
23.	Rayagada	1000
24.	Sambalpur	20
25.	Sonepur	30
26.	Sundergarh	313
Total		5217

Family Welfare and Rural Health Care Schemes

1286. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Maharashtra for Family Welfare and Rural Health Care Schemes;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof;

(c) whether any proposal from the NGOs from the State has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No proposal regarding Family Welfare and Rural Care Schemes has been received from Government of Maharashtra. However, a proposal for Urban Health Projects, for 5 cities namely Akola, Nasik, Nagpur, Kolhapur and Solapur has been received recently from Government of Maharashtra. The total project cost of the proposal is Rs. 14.19 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do no arise.

Setting up Autonomous Medical University

1287. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for setting up an autonomous medical university in State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such proposal has been pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

[Translation]

Speed Post Services in Jharkhand

1288. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) the names of district headquarters in Jharkhand where speed post service is not available alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which all the district headquarters of the State are likely to be brought under this network alongwith the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Speed Post service is available in all districts headquarters of Jharkhand.

[English]

WLL Based PCOs in Kerala

1289. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have installed WLL based PCOs in the rural areas of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In 10 out of 11 Telecom Districts in Kerala WLL based PCOs are installed in rural areas and these are working satisfactorily.

[Translation]

SC/ST and OBC Employees

1290. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups A,B,C and D in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, group-wise; and

(b) the number of personnel belonging to other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of the total number of personnel, group-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Medical Reimbursement

1291. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware that her Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum No. S-12020/4/97-CGHS(P) dated 1.9.1999 regarding delegation of Powers under CGHS relating to referral system permission cases and ex-post-facto approvals etc., whereby the Head of Ministry/ Departments/Offices were authorised to accord sanction in respect of serving employees upto the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs; and

(b) if so, the details of reasons due to which the applications received for artificial limbs below the prescribed limit were dealt with in CGHS and some of these cases were rejected by CGHS instead of returning them to the office concerned to which the applicant belonged?

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

(b) The OM dated 1/9/99 pertains to general delegation whereas for purposes of artificial appliances reimbursable under CGHS O.M. No. S.11011/5/95-CGHS (P) dated 25/6/1997 stipulates that in case of artificial appliances (including artificial limb), if the Government Rehabilitation Specialist/Orthopaedic Surgeon (not below the level of consultant) advises an item, not included in the list of approved appliances, the permission in such cases is granted as under:—

- (i) For items costing below Rs. 2,000/- the same can be purchased without any quotation.
- (ii) For items costing above Rs. 2,000/-, prior permission from the Additional Director of concerned CGHS city is to be obtained.
- (iii) Requests for new and expensive items can be considered by the Govt. on case to case basis.

In one case request for permission to purchase Hydraulic Polyclinic Titanium-Knee Joint with Dynamic Plus Foot has been considered by an expert Committee, but the same was rejected as alternative prosthesis such as Jaipur Foot Prosthesis and Modular Prosthesis by ALIMCO which provide nearly similar functional restoration are available in the Indian market at much lesser cost and are maintenance free.

Security of Indian Ports and Convoys

1292. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of high risk zones in the country which have the possibility of an enemy strike having bearing on country's ports and convoys carrying cargo to these ports;

(b) whether the Government have taken care of not deploying too many foreign vessels in and around the Indian oil field installations as chances of disruption during adverse times are substantially high;

(c) if so, whether the Government have laid down certain guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) All the major ports are considered as high risk zones during war and are also vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

(b) to (d) No restriction has been imposed on the deployment of foreign vessels in the ports. Ministry of Shipping advised the major ports to take strict measures to protect and safeguard ports. In addition to the regular security arrangements, measures taken include:

- Special watch is being kept on patrolling of inner harbour waters. Night patrolling has been intensified. Strict punitive action is being taken against those fishermen who attempt to enter into inner harbour water by country boats.
- The security of the Ports has been beefed up with extra deployment of CISF personnel at various vulnerable points.
- Entry to the port has been restricted and identity is strictly checked.
- Water Front patrolling has been beefed up.
- The Civil Defence Authority has been requested to conduct training programme for all categories of personnel.
- Important security matters are being reviewed regularly.
- Random checking at vital installation has been intensified.

Bio Degradation of Plastic

1293. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to bio-degrade the high volume commonly used plastic bags, cups etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Pune based National Chemical Laboratory successfully conducted tests which show that the use of sugar can break down plastics in months; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage this device to combat the menace of plastic in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Scientists at NCL,

a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, have carried out exploratory studies, by which a conventional non-biodegradable plastic can be rendered biodegradable by attaching chemically a sugar moiety to polystyrene. Compared to polystyrene, the sugar modified polystyrene showed a greater ease of biodegradation. The studies are not complete. The industrial applications and commercial viability are yet to be established.

(d) Does not arise.

Nano-Biotechnology

1294. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work done by Pat Mooney regarding nano-biotechnology and its threat to the health of people brought out in this publication 'The Big Down' has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a high powered Scientific Task Force to look into the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) The Government is aware of the publication. "The Big Down" by Mr. Pat Mooney, Executive Director, ETC Group, Canada.

(b) The publication covers aspects from genomes to atoms giving historical, ETC evaluation, the production risks, how will the technology work, who and where will it impact and who cares for this including scientific institutions, civil society, organizations, governments etc. The report has introduced a set of tools and techniques called *Atomtechnologies*, which includes nanoparticles, nanobiotechnology, nanofabrication and molecular manufacture. It describes the coming convergence of biotechnology, information technologies and cognitive sciences with nanoscale manipulation of matter as the unifying force. Several applications of nanotechnology and nanobiotechnology in the area of pharmaceuticals and healthcare have been mentioned. It will have impact on every form of work and enterprise. It has both tremendous opportunities and social and environmental risks. The impact of converging technologies at the nanoscale is either unknown or underestimated.

(c) and (d) A Task Force on "Basic Research in Modern Biology" in the Department of Biotechnology has examined various research and development proposals on Nano-biotechnology for financial support. Areas include: Biosynthesis of nanoparticles, Nanoparticles for diagnostic/therapeutic use and Bionano composites. An expert committee on Nano-Science and Technology has been set-up by Department of Science and Technology for generation and understanding of new materials.

Payment of Medical Re-Imbursement Bill

1295. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of medical re-imbursement bills of pensioners is still pending since long;

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

(c) whether the Government have identified such defaulting CGHS Dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them alongwith the measures being taken by the Government to avoid such recurrence?

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

Scientific Expeditions under Sea Mining on India's Coasts

1296. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have launched scientific expeditions to study the potential of under sea mining on India's coasts;

(b) if so, the details of such expeditions undertaken in the last five years;

(c) whether there is any possibility of commercial exploitation of India's undersea mineral wealth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government is carrying out systematic seabed survey in Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. The surveys are being carried out onboard the Research Vessel and Samudra Manthan and two coastal research launches, Samudra Kaustubh and Samudra Shaudhikama since 1983 for seabed mapping and locating non-living resources by the Geological Survey of India. The important findings of the surveys during the last 5 years are given below:

- (i) Placer minerals like ilmenite, sillimanite, garnet, monazite, zircon and rutile are found off the coasts of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Maharashtra. These minerals could be exploited in near future for industries related to paint, alloy, refractories and also as strategic atomic minerals;
- (ii) Lime mud occurrences having high calcium oxide content are found off Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat coasts, and
- (iii) Huge sand occurrences are found within the territorial waters in east coast and west coast.

[Translation]

Funds for Development of Information Technology

1297. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide funds for development of information technology, computer programming and computerisation of various universities in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof with specific reference to Chhattisgarh?

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

[English]

Japanese Assistance for Research Projects

1298. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has been extending financial assistance for certain research projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether Japan has selected AIIMS for research on stomach ailments;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned/released by Japan for the project so far; and

(d) the latest position of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir, The Government of Japan has been extending financial assistance for research projects in India such as the 'Prevention of Diarrhoeal Diseases at National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED)' in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Violation of Drugs and Cosmetic Act

1299. SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the suppliers are facing charges of violation of sections 17 and 18 of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act in reference to illegal stocks of Copper T 380A manufactured for the Department of Family Welfare and seized in a raid on their premises in Goa;

(b) if so, whether the Department has ascertained the charges framed by the Drug Department before considering its current tender; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Department in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Directorate of Food & Drugs Administration, Panaji Goa has informed that manufacturing premises of M/s Famy Care the supplier of Cu. T. 380A were inspected by the Inspection Officer of their Directorate and it was found by them that the firm had packed Cu-T 380A which had the address label of their unit at Daman. The Inspecting Officers had seized this quantity. The stock was released to the firm by orders of Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate Court at Vasco-De-Gama subject to changing the label inserts of the product. The Firm has replied to the show cause notice issued by the Directorate and have explained the circumstances of wrong labeling.

(b) and (c) One of the eligibility conditions for participating in the tender for Cu-T 380A for supplies in 2003-04 is that the first should submit a certificate issued by the Drug Authority that the bidder has not been convicted. The said firm has submitted the certificates of no conviction issued by Drug Administration of Goa as well as of Daman. Their tender has been considered on the basis of these certificates.

Breaking into Computer Systems of BARC

1300. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the regular breaking into the computer system of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Nuclear Science Centre besides other highly sensitive data offices by the Pakistani cracker groups;

(b) if so, whether China's latest successful integrated command Control Communication and Computer Intelligence Surveillance is also posing a threat to various services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by the Government to meet the cyber menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the attempts being made to break into computer systems of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), etc. However, these have not been successful.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Following measures have been put in place in DAE:

- (i) Isolation of critical systems from internet.
- (ii) Special Security
- (iii) Security audit.

[Translation]

Indo-Sino Border Issue

1301. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the territory of Arunachal Pradesh constitutes the main dispute in the Indo-Sino border dispute;

(b) if so, whether a paper was prepared after conducting an indepth study in regard to Arunachal Pradesh territory recently before the Prime Minister's visit to China; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq kms of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh. China also continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq kms in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq kms of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) Appropriate preparations were made prior to the visit of Prime Minister to China in June 2003.

[English]

Irregularities in Admission

1302. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHURA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports about irregularities in admissions in various Engineering

colleges as reported in the *Indian Express* dated July 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the details and the Government's reaction to such uncontrolled trade in professional education field;

(c) whether it is a fact that the private colleges have resorted to this practice misinterpreting a Supreme Court judgement in December, 2002 freeing unaided private colleges from the Government fee control;

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether the Government have any proposals to formulate suitable enactment for regularising college fees;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. As per the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31st October, 2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation & Others Versus State of Karnataka and Others Case, in professional un-aided institutions, a rational fee structure should be adopted by the Management, which would not be entitled to charge a capitation fee. Appropriate machinery can be devised by the State or University to ensure that no capitation fee is charged and that there is no profiteering, though institutions may be permitted to accumulate a reasonable surplus for furtherance of education. Accordingly, an Interim Policy Regulation was notified by AICTE on 20th March, 2003, according to which, State Governments are to decide a fee structure for the Institution in the respective State for the academic year 2003-2004. The matter is at present *sub-judice*.

Norms for Declaring National Highway

1303. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the standard norms fixed for declaring a National Highway;

(b) the names of the State Highways that have been declared as National Highways in Karnataka during the last three years;

(c) whether the length of State Highways that have been declared as National Highways in Karnataka is much less than that declared in other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the basis on which funds are allotted for different National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) A copy of the existing criteria for declaration of new National Highways is enclosed.

(b) In Karnataka, the State Highway between Bijapur and Hubli having the length of 176 Km. has been declared as National Highway No. 218.

(c) and (d) National Highways are declared based on the criteria annexed and not on the basis of geographical area or population of any particular state.

(e) The funds for the improvement works of National Highways are allotted to States based on the length of National Highways, the progress of work, *inter-se* priority and the availability of funds. The maintenance funds are allocated to States on *pro-rata* basis for routine and periodic maintenance. The funds for special repairs and flood damage repairs are provided as per site requirement, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Statement

Existing Criteria for Declaration of New National Highways

1. Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.
2. Roads connecting adjacent countries.
3. Roads connecting the National Capital with State Capital and roads connecting mutually the State Capitals.
4. Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centers or tourist centers.
5. Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
6. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
7. Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.
8. National Highways grid of 100 Km is achieved.
9. The road must be up to the standard laid down for State Highways-both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.

10. The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State Government.
11. The right of way required for the National Highways (preferably 45m, minimum 30m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachments and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months.

Reservation in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1304. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15% and 7.5% seats in fresh admissions are reserved for SC and ST candidates in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that hundreds of seats are also reserved for employees of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of External Affairs and RAW employees besides hundreds of seats are allotted on the recommendations of the Ministers of Human Resource Development;

(c) if so, whether the reservation quota is adhered to in these admission too;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that children of the employees working in Ministries of HRD, EA and RAW are provided admission as per the reservation rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, there is a special provision for admission for the following categories:—

Allotted Seats		
(1)	Employees of M/HRD	100
(2)	Employees of MEA	75
(3)	Employees of RAW	15
(4)	Recommendations of Hon'ble HRM (spread over all states).	1000

(c) to (e) The admission against these quotas are made over and above the class strength. It is practically not possible to provide reservations in these admissions. Hence, no reservation is applicable in it.

Objectives of National Women's Commission

1305. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) the details of the objectives of the National Women's Commission;

(b) whether NWC is endowed with statutory power;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to take measures for granting statutory powers to the Commission in order to make it more effective;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The objectives of National Commission for Women (NCW) are given in Section 10(1) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, extracts of which are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) The NCW is a statutory body as it has been constituted under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Extracts of section 10(1) of National Commission for Women Act, 1990 on functions of National Commission for Women

10. Function of the Commission:— (1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:—

(a) investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;

- (b) present to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
- (c) make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women by the Union or any State;
- (d) review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;
- (e) take up the cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities;
- (f) look into complaints and take *suo moto* notice of matters relating to—
 - (i) deprivation of women's rights;
 - (ii) non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development;
 - (iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women,
 and take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities;
- (g) call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal;
- (h) undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as, lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity;
- (i) participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;
- (j) evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and any State;

- (k) inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
- (l) fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;
- (m) make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil;
- (n) any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

[Translation]

Generation of Power from Thorium

1306. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to generate atomic power from thorium;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the difference in the cost of production of thorium generated electricity and uranium generated electricity; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) to generate atomic power from thorium is being developed at BARC. The Reactor will be mainly utilising thorium as fuel for about two-thirds of its electricity generation. On the basis of research and development work carried out so far on design and development of major sub-systems involved, a detailed project report containing the major highlights of design, safety and other related aspects for this reactor has been completed. Being the first of its kind in the world, detailed peer review of the design is being carried out by expert groups.

(c) AHWR is still under development. However considering the features built in the design and rich thorium reserves in India, the cost of nuclear power using thorium is expected to be competitive in the long run.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Petrol from Plastic Wastes

1307. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to exploit the claim of Nagpur Raison College of Engineering of producing 25 lakh litres per day petrol from plastic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) to (c) Professor Alka Zadgaonkar from Nagpur University has claimed to have invented a technology for conversion of plastic waste into liquid fuels such as kerosene, diesel and petrol. An expert group was constituted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to look into the viability of the fuel. The group has opined that the resultant product needs further refinement before it is accepted as a fuel. A demonstration was also made by Prof. Alka Zadgaonkar at the R&D centre of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Faridabad. The IOC has reported that modification/refinement is a pre-requisite before it is accepted as a fuel. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Professor Zadgaonkar and Indian Oil Corporation for optimization of the process.

Clearance Sought for Central Projects

1308. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Central projects involving an investment of Rs. 100.00 crore and above will have to get the clearance from the Cabinet or Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) before implementation;

(b) if so, the fresh norms which are to be introduced for large social and infrastructure projects;

(c) whether the norms for implementation of Central Projects have been tightened; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The norms for approval of new large social and infrastructure project as notified by Ministry of Finance as per the O.M. No. 1 (3) PF II/2001, dated 18.2.2002 are as follows:

Project/Scheme Outlay	Approval Authority
Less than Rs. 50 crores	Ministry in charge of Administrative Ministry
Rs. 50 crores and above but less than Rs. 100 crores	Minister of Administrative Ministry and the Finance Minister
Rs. 100 crores and above	Cabinet/CCEA
Proposals for new autonomous organisations irrespective of outlay	Cabinet/CCEA

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The time frame for the appraisal of projects has been reduced from 24 weeks to 16 week as per the New Guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure as per the O.M. No. 1 (2)-PF II/03, dated 7th May, 2003.

Guidelines Issued by AICTE for Management and Engineering Institutes

1309. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has announced certain guidelines for management and engineering institutes registered in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over the past decade those foreign institutes were allowed to open shops in India;

(d) if so, the details of such institutes and also the reason for allowing them to operate from India; and

(e) the details of the punitive clauses included in the regulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) In order to systematise the operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in the country, AICTE has notified Regulations for entry and operation of foreign universities imparting technical education in India. As per these Regulations, no foreign university/institution shall establish/operate its educational activities in India leading to award of degree and diploma in technical education without the express permission/approval of AICTE. If any foreign university/institution fails to comply with the regulations, AICTE may consider withdrawing the registration granted to such university/institution. The concerned agencies including the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Reserve Bank of India shall also be informed of such decisions advising them to refuse/withdraw grant of visa to employee/teachers of such foreign institutions; stop repatriation of funds from India to the home country; forbid the advertisement of such universities/institutions in print or visual media, etc.

[Translation]

Development and Expansion of Technical Education

1310. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development/expansion of technical education in view of increasing unemployment in the country, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated for the expansion of technical education during 2002-03, State-wise; and

(c) the number of youths benefited by it and the progress report thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), during the past three years, significant expansion has taken place in the technical education in the country with a growth rate of about 30%. AICTE is committed to ensure that the delivery of technical education is of certain standard and quality so that the graduates produced by the institutions are appropriately employed. In order to maintain quality in technical education in the country, AICTE has taken various initiatives including Accreditation of Technical Programmes, Quality Improvement Programme for Teachers, financial support to the Postgraduate Education and Research, support to Research & Development in various areas of technology and Modernisation of Laboratories, Performance Appraisal System for institutions and faculty. Data with regard to employment of technical professionals are not maintained centrally. State Governments are ordinarily required to provide money for the promotion of technical education in their respective States. However, the Ministry occasionally provides financial assistance to the States for specific purposes, such as central assistance to State Governments for implementation of revision of scales of pay of teachers in degree level technical institutions in the States. In addition, AICTE operates various schemes such as Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB), Research & Development (R&D), Thrust Areas in Technical Education, etc. under which financial assistance are provided to technical institutions in the State.

[English]

Illegal Telephone Exchanges

1311. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether illegal telephone exchanges have been found operating in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the modus operandi thereof;

(d) the approximate loss caused to be exchequer since their inception;

(e) the action taken against the accused; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The year-wise number of cases are given in Statement-I.

(c) The modus operandi for operandi such illegal exchanges is given in Statement-II.

(d) The estimated loss to Department of Telecom/ VSNL, other International Long Distance operators as well as MTNL is given in Statement-III.

(e) and (f) The premises of the illegal Exchanges were jointly raided with Police and their equipment were seized. FIR lodged and cases were filed in the court by Delhi Police.

Statement I

Year-wise details of the cases detected during last four years

1998-1999	4 Exchanges
1999-2000	3 Exchanges
2000-2001	12 and 5 EPABX Exchanges
2001-2002	11 Exchanges
2002-2003	6 Exchanges

Statement II

The calls were being made by using the following devices

- (i) Satellite Dish Antenna.
- (ii) Internal leased lines.
- (iii) International private leased circuits.
- (iv) Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines.
- (v) Installation and operation EPABXs without containing MTNL Junctions and licences.

The subscribers in foreign countries are purchasing pre-paid cards from Private Companies and after dialling

toll-free number use illegal media equipment like Satellite Dish Antenna, Internal Leased Line, International Private Leased Circuits, ISDN lines which absorbs country code and sends only local digits to their counterpart in India on which PSTN lines are terminated illegally.

Statement III

The estimated loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL, other International Long Distance Operators as well as MTNL

(1) Loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL	Rs. 112 Crores Approx.
(2) Loss to other licensed International Long Distance Operators	Rs. 1 Crore Approx.
(3) Loss to MTNL, Delhi through EPABXs	Rs. 1 crore Approx.

Development of National Waterway in Kerala

1312. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in execution of the project of Kollam to Kovalam and Kottapuram to Kasargode National Waterway; and

(b) the financial outlay earmarked for it in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Inter-minister consultation has been initiated in order to finalise the declaration proposal relating to extension of National Waterway No. 3.

(b) At the moment, no financial outlay has been earmarked for this project.

Surprise visit to CGHS Dispensaries

1313. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether she alongwith some senior officers made surprise visits at some CGHS dispensaries in the Capital recently;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies noticed by the visiting teams in the functioning of those dispensaries;

(c) whether the comments of beneficiaries were also sought;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the surprise visits are proposed to be conducted at other CGHS dispensaries also to obtain the comments of the beneficiaries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A surprise Inspection has been conducted by Hon'ble HFM on 1st July, 2003 at the CGHS dispensary Inderpuri and CGHS dispensary/Polyclinic, Janakpuri.

(b) Working of the Inderpuri dispensary was found to be satisfactory but the accommodation provided by IARI was found to be inadequate, ill-ventilated and unsuitable for the patients. The work of Janakpuri dispensary/ Polyclinic was found to be satisfactory but there was overcrowding due to the large number of beneficiaries registered there.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble HFM interacted with the beneficiaries on the major areas of concern shown by the beneficiaries like:—

(i) Delay in supply of local purchase medicines.

(ii) Long waiting period on the local purchase counter and double queuing systems for getting the small chits and registrations.

(iii) Up-gradation of laboratory, X-ray and Ultrasound facilities at Janakpuri Polyclinic.

(iv) A separate dispensary for the CGHS card holders of Vikaspuri in the same building housing the Janakpuri dispensary/polyclinic.

(e) and (f) Surprise Inspection of the CGHS dispensaries is a continuous process and interaction with the beneficiaries is always a part of inspections.

Implementation of Family Welfare Schemes

1314. SHRI A.P. JITENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of irregularities in the implementation of various Family Welfare Schemes under the Department of Women and Child Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Women & Child Development have stated that they do not implement and Family Welfare Scheme.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Hospital in Iraq

1315. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army propose to set up a hospital in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons proposed to be sent to Iraq for this purpose;

(d) the time by which the said hospital is likely to be set up; and

(e) the estimated number of beds in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) As part of our commitment of US\$ 20 million in cash and kind announced in response to the UN emergency appeal for assistance to the people of Iraq, and in response to the Iraqi Ministry of Health's 'Adopt a Hospital'

programme, India is setting up a hospital in Najaf in Iraq. India will collaborate with the Government of Jordan in this venture. The project involves enhancement and upgradation of an existing 250-bed Maternity and Pediatric Care Hospital under the Iraqi Ministry of Health. It is estimated that about 75 Indian doctors and support personnel will be deputed to Iraq for this purpose shortly to renovate the hospital with necessary equipment and facilities, and run it until it can be handed over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

[English]

Ambulance to Airlift Critically Ill Patients

1316. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce aero ambulances to airlift critically ill patients on the pattern of the system available in other countries like US, Germany etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to introduce aero ambulances in the country as it is highly cost intensive.

[Translation]

Implementation of Schemes through NGOs

1317. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes are being implemented by his Ministry through the Non-Governmental Organisations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of budgetary provisions made for these schemes in the current budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH

RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Several schemes are being implemented through S&T based Non-Governmental Organisations namely Science & Technology Application for Rural Development, Science & Technology Application for Weaker Sections, Science & Technology for Women, S&T for Strategic Needs of Scheduled Castes under Special Component Plan, Empowerment of Tribal Population through S&T under Tribal Sub Plan, Biotechnology based Programme for Rural Areas and Biotechnology based Programme for Women. These schemes primarily aim at research, design, development, adaptation and dissemination of technology to the weaker sections of the society so that they derive benefit in terms of enhanced income, reduced drudgery and in general an improved quality of life. Apart from successful technology packages developed through these programmes, the schemes have also demonstrated the successful interface between S&T based voluntary organisations, R&D and Technology Institutions. This has helped to evolve effective systems of technology generation and transfer for sustainable livelihoods amongst the weaker sections of the community.

Apart from these, schemes for Science Communication and Popularization and Natural Resource Data Management System are also being implemented through research or academic institutions and science based voluntary organisations are important partners in field level activities.

(c) Details of budgetary provisions made for these Schemes for 2003-2004 are:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Budget Provision (2003-2004)
1.	Science & Society Programmes	Rs. 550 Lakhs
2.	Women Component Plan	Rs. 250 Lakhs
3.	Special Component Plan	Rs. 250 Lakhs
4.	Tribal Sub Plan	Rs. 250 Lakhs
5.	Science Communication and Popularisation	Rs. 400 Lakhs
6.	Biotechnology based Programme for Rural Areas	Rs. 200 Lakhs
7.	Biotechnology based Programme for Women	Rs. 300 Lakhs
8.	Natural Resource Data Management System	Rs. 200 Lakhs

[English]

Trauma Centres

1318. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of full fledged trauma centres for accident victims working in the capital;

(b) whether many of these centres are without neuro surgeons;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the victims have died in these centres on account of there being no neuro surgeon; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the availability of neuro surgeon etc. at the trauma centres?

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

Unsolicited Telephone Calls

1319. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increasing volume of unsolicited telephone calls from telemarketing agencies and market research companies resulting in harassment and infringement of privacy of individual subscribers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether as a consumer protection measure the Government propose to evolve a mechanism to keep the individual telephone out of bound for such callers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such case came to notice.

(c) There is no such proposal.

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

Aids Control Programme

1320. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently found gaps in the implementation of programmes to control AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new three pronged strategy has been announced by the Union Government to control AIDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Wastage of Funds by CSIR

1321. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into the wastage of funds amounting to crores of rupees by the CSIR on unsuitable and useless technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no wastage of funds in CSIR.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Vital Pregnancy Related Medicines

1322. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the hospitals under the purview of union Government in the capital are short of vital medicines especially for pregnant women;

(b) if so, the details of these hospitals;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps 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) to (d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in the Capital viz. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals are concerned, there are no shortage of vital medicines especially for pregnant women.

Assistance to Maharashtra under CRF

1323. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by State Governments of Maharashtra for assistance under the Central Road Fund in 2002-2003;

(b) whether the Union Government have processed the State proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Upto the year 2002-2003, Government of Maharashtra has forwarded 200 number of Central Road Fund (CRF) proposals to the Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ministry has so far processed and sanctioned 145 numbers of Central Road Fund proposals.

(c) Sanctioning/processing of proposal is a regular activity in the Ministry.

Ayurveda System of Medicine

1324. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Indian system of Medicine in the hospitals of Army and Railways in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt this system in these hospitals; 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) 129 Homoeopathic and 39 Ayurvedic part time dispensaries are functioning on the Indian Railways System under the Staff Benefit Fund Scheme. Armed Forces have initiated the process of introduction of the indigenous system of medicine by establishing dispensaries under the aegis of station headquarters in various stations of Armed Forces, viz. AF Station, New Delhi, Meerut and Secunderabad.

Visits of National Security Advisor Abroad

1325. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisor visited different countries in May, this year; and

(b) if so, the details of the visits indicating the purpose of the mission and the success achieved?

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

(b) The National Security Advisor (NSA) visited USA, UK and France from May 5 to 12, 2003. During a halt in London on his way to the USA on May 6, NSA met U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage. In Washington (May 8-9), he had several meetings, including with U.S. President Bush, National Security Adviser Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz.

On his return journey, NSA met Sir David Manning, Principal Foreign Policy Adviser to UK Prime Minister Blair, in London on May 10. In Paris he met Mr. Maurice Gordault-Montagne, Diplomatic Adviser to French President, on May 11.

India has established a regular dialogue on security and strategic matters with several countries, including USA, UK and France. The visit strengthened understanding with these countries on issues of mutual interest.

Initiating Peace Process in Sri Lanka

1326. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government are taking initiatives to revive the peace process in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The peace process is being conducted between Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) facilitated by Norway. While Government of India supports the actions taken by the Government of Sri Lanka in promoting the peace process, Government of India is not itself involved in it. The LTTE is a banned organisation and Government of India continues to seek the extradition of Prabhakaran from Sri Lanka.

Private Sector Participation in Postal Sector

1327. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreement/undertaking with private companies with regard to the use of Indian Post Network of 1.54 lakh post offices as the most efficient vehicle to bring communication revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the involvement of the private sector in the postal services in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the Government have not entered into any agreement with private companies with regard to use of postal network to bring about a communication revolution in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

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

World Bank Assistance for Medical Colleges

1328. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: 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 for World Bank assistance for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of the Government medical colleges and attached hospitals of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for Upgradation of Medical Colleges and Hospitals with an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crore was received from the State government of Maharashtra for World Bank Assistance. This is under examination of the Government of India.

Procurement of Equipments

1329. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have devised a new tendering process for procurement of equipments for Government owned telephone companies; and

(b) if so, the aim and objective of the said process and its salient features?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, codification of the procurement manual has been carried out by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)/MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited).

(b) The details of aim & objective of the tendering process are as under:

- (i) To expedite the procurement process in the present competitive market.
- (ii) To enhance transparency in the procurement process so as to provide fair and equal opportunity to all vendors.

The Salient features of the tendering process are given as under:

- (i) A calendar of procurement will be available on the Web Site of the concerned PSU indicating the equipment's/items likely to be procured, their tentative quantity, specification etc. for the information of bidders.
- (ii) The performance security to be submitted should be equal to 5% of the value of purchase order.
- (iii) The notice period of termination of the contract due to default has been reduced from 30 days to 15 days.
- (iv) The overall delivery period & monthly delivery schedule shall be clearly defined in the bid document/APO (Advance Purchase Order) depending upon the type of equipment/item being procured.

[Translation]

Decline in Profit of MTNL

1330. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether there has been decline in the profit of MTNL during the current year as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the total profit earned by MTNL this year and the extent to which it is less than the profit of last year;

(c) the reasons for decrease in profit of MTNL and whether MTNL is lagging behind in competition with other companies in the market; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to increase the profit of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per unaudited published results for 2002-03 net profit of MTNL after tax has been indicated as Rs. 897.4 crores, 31% less than the net profit in previous year.

(c) and (d) The Department of Telecommunications reviews the performance of MTNL. The reasons for decrease in profits is mainly due to continuous decline in tariff which have led to reduction in revenue over the last year. MTNL continue to be the main fixed line service provider in Delhi and Mumbai and also has presence in GSM and CDMA networks. MTNL also is continuously improving its network and services to customers by introducing new facilities. Hence it is not lagging behind in competition.

Admission to Students in Colleges/Delhi University

1131. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Hindi medium students who passed their 12th Class examination with good percentage have not been given admission in University of Delhi and Colleges affiliated with it;

(b) if so, the action taken against the colleges which are giving step motherly treatment to the Hindi medium students; and

(c) the measures taken and guidelines issued to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Though the Government has received some communications alleging discrimination against Hindi students in the matter of their admission to certain colleges of the University of Delhi, the University has categorically stated that the allegations made in the regard are baseless and no student with Hindi medium has been denied admission on that ground alone.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Assistance for Damaged Roads

1332. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from State Governments for giving assistance for repairing the roads damaged due to floods and rainfall;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) West Bengal Government has requested for release of fund for repairing of NH 55 damaged by floods.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been released for emergent repairs on NH 55.

Number of National Highways Passing through Gujarat

1333. SHRI SAVSHIVBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways passing through Gujarat;

(b) the number of districts served by these National Highways;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to link the remaining districts of the State of Gujarat to the National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Ten numbers of National Highways pass through the State of Gujarat.

(b) 21 districts are served by these National Highways.

(c) At present, there is ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints.

(d) Does not arise.

Task Force on IT

1334. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up task-force on IT hardware to make IT hardware destination strong in this country;

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

(c) the time by which the task-force would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to constitute a Task Force to draft the "National Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Policy".

(c) No date has been fixed in this regard.

Internet Exchange

1335. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's first Internet Exchange has started functioning but no Internet Service Provider has joined it till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government intend to establish three more proposal exchanges;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to attract Internet Service providers to join the Internet exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. Several Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have agreed to join the Internet Exchange Point (IXP) at Noida.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to collocate these IXPs at the premises of the Software Technology Park of India at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The promotional effort, undertaken by the Department of Information Technology includes organization of training and awareness workshops and seminars and waiving of fee payable by the ISP's for the first six weeks of operations.

Disinvestment of NALCO

1336. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvestment 30 per cent of share of NALCO through IPO and American Depository receipts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the employees' unions are opposed to any kind of disinvestment of NALCO;

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

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had decided on September 27, 2001 to disinvest NALCO through a Public Offer in a mix of ADR/GDR and Domestic Issues to be followed in the second stage by sale of equity of a Strategic Partner after reserving upto 2% of the equity for NALCO employees and leaving 26% of the equity as residual equity to be held by the Government. The Government subsequently decided on July 11, 2002 that work on all the three stages of disinvestment (Domestic Offer, ADR and Strategic Sale) should commence simultaneously.

(b) The decision to disinvest was taken by Government as a part of the strategy for disinvestment of non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

through reduction of Government shareholding to 26% or lower, on a case by case basis, irrespective of whether the PSU is profit-making or loss-making.

(c) There has been opposition to the disinvestment of NALCO.

(d) Because of the situation arising out of local opposition that disrupted due diligence, the disinvestment of NALCO is not being pursued at present.

(e) Protection of the interests of employees is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. This is ensured by making appropriate provisions in the Share Holders Agreement entered into by the Government with the concerned Strategic Partner. Typical provisions related to protection of employees' interest are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Typical provisions related to employees' interest incorporated in the Shareholders Agreement are as follows

Recitals:

- Subject to the substantives clauses in this regard, the Parties envision that all Employees of the Company on the date hereof will continue in the employment of the Company.
- The SP recognizes that the government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society. The SP shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the SP shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are retrenched at the end.

Substantive Clauses

- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article____, the Government, shall at any time and at its sole discretion, have the option of selling shares from its shareholding, in the company, representing not more than____ of the

share capital of the company existing as of date of this Agreement, to the employees of the company existing as of date of this Agreement, to the employees, of the company ("employees sell share"). In the event that the Government exercises its option to sell part of its shares to the employees, the employees shall be issued fresh share certificates for the shares transferred to the employees. The Shareholders agree that, upon the completion of transfer, the shares transferred to the employees pursuant to this sub-clause shall not be subject to any restrictions in this Agreement, whether by way of a voting arrangement or a right of first refusal.

- The SP covenants with the Government that
 - (a) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, it shall not retrench any of the Employees of the Company for a period of 1 (one) years from the Closing Date other than any dismissal or termination of Employees of the company from their employment in accordance with the applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable Laws;
 - (b) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to Sub-Clause (a) above, any restructuring of the Labour force of the Company shall be implemented in the manner recommended by the Board and in accordance with all applicable Laws;
 - (c) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to Sub-Clause (a) above, in the event of any reduction of the Strength of the company's Employees, the SP shall ensure that the Company offers its Employees an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not, in any manner, less favourable than the VRS applicable before disinvestment.

Evaluation of Answer-Sheets by C.B.S.E.

1337. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education engages private contractors for evaluating answer sheets of students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularity relating to the tampering with answer sheets has come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details of such cases reported in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise alongwith the details of action taken in each of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The answer books are evaluated by the teachers teaching the subject in a school affiliated to this Board or any other recognized Board/University/Institution or a person working in the State/National level educational organisations set-up by the Government or a retired teacher from a CBSE affiliated school teaching the same subject prior to his/her retirement and has not attained the age of 65 years on 1st of April of the year of evaluation.

(c) and (d) Recently, an incident of tampering in 31 answer sheets of 25 candidates in Chandigarh region has come to the notice of CBSE. No other case of tampering with the answer sheet has been reported during the last 3 years.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Embassies

1338. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Embassies neither use Hindi in their official work nor they have any facility for doing work in Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Embassies do not communicate in Hindi with the Indian Origin and do not extend any assistance in regard to Official Language Committee publications;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the use of Hindi in embassies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. Indian Embassies abroad do use Hindi in their official work as required and they also are provided with required facilities in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Embassies do communicate in Hindi with people of Indian Origin and do extend all assistance on Hindi related requirements including Official Language Committee publications.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government, through the Ministry of External Affairs, has a comprehensive scheme for propagation of Hindi abroad including use of Hindi in Embassies. In certain Embassies, Hindi Officers and Hindi secretariat staff have also been provided. Annual Programmes issued by Official Language Department are sent to all Missions for compliance. Hindi computer software has been supplied to 97 Missions and it is being supplied to the remaining Missions. Under instructions from Headquarters, Hindi is given due status in our Missions and all nameplates, signboards, letterheads, stationery are also printed in Hindi. Hindi books are regularly purchased and supplied to our Embassies for their libraries.

Economic Viability of PSUs after Disinvestment

1339. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the PSUs disinvested during the last five years in the country;

(b) the details of the economic condition of the said PSUs after their disinvestment;

(c) the details of the pay-scales of the workers in said PSUs before and after the disinvestment and the percentage of the increase; and

(d) the details of the effect of disinvestment of PSUs on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) During the last five years, the Government of India has sold minority shares in the market in 5 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and has disinvested 11 PSUs, 19 hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and 3 hotel properties of Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCI) through Strategic Sale alongwith transfer of management control to a Strategic Partner. The names of these PSUs are given in Statement-I.

(b) and (d) there has been improvement in the performance of most PSUs post-disinvestment. Information provided on the performance of some disinvested PSUs is given in Statement-II.

Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL) and Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) were loss-making companies prior to disinvestment. Post disinvestment, sales have increased and loss levels have been significantly reduced. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) was a profitable company, which was disinvested in June, 2002. During 2002-2003, as reported by the company, there has been a 6% increase in gross turnover and a 90.65% increase in net profit as compared to the same period in the previous year. In Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO), various operational and input costs have been reduced, the production of hot metal has increased and the new management is considering a substantial increase in this capacity. Those examples show that efficiency enhancement has been achieved by disinvested PSUs, which is beneficial for the economy.

(c) As per the information provided by the companies, the pay-scales of the workers have been increased in some of the disinvested PSUs. Statement-III is enclosed.

Statement I

(A) Disinvestment through sale of minority shares

1. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
2. Container Corporation of India Ltd.
3. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
4. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
5. Gas Authority of India Ltd.

(B) Disinvestment through Strategic Sale

1. Modern Food Industries India Ltd.
2. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.
3. CMC Ltd.
4. HTL Ltd.
5. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd.
6. IBP Co. Ltd.
7. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
8. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.
9. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

10. Maruti Udyog Ltd.

11. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

ITDC Hotels Located at

12. Agra

13. Bodh Gaya

14. Hasan

15. Mamallapuram

16. Madurai

17. Qutub-New Delhi

18. Lodi-New Delhi

19. Udaipur

20. Manali

21. Kovalam

22. Aurangabad

23. Airport Kolkata

24. Khajuraho

25. Varanasi

26. Indraprastha, New Delhi

27. Chandigarh Project

28. Ranjit, New Delhi

29. Kanishka, New Delhi

30. Bangalore Ashok (Including Airport Restaurant, Bangalore)

Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. Hotels Located at

31. Juhu-Mumbai

32. Rajgir

33. Airport Mumbai

Statement II**Sales/Profit figures of disinvested PSUs**

S. No.	Company Name	Period	Sale (Rs. in crore)	Net Profit (Rs. in crore)
1.	MFIL	Jan to Dec. 01	232	(-)12
2.	BALCO	2001-02	714.65	18.76
3.	CMC	2002-03	614.73	37.05
4.	HTL	2002-03	250.59	(-)17.21
5.	VSNL	Nine months ending Dec. 02	3780	589
6.	IBP	2002-03	8926	87
7.	PPL	2002-03	603.45	(-)68.71
8.	HZL	2002-03	1649.51	145.15
9.	IPCL	2002-03	5029	204
10.	MUL	2002-03	9064	146.40

Statement III**1. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)**

Grade	Old Pay Scale (Rs.)	New Pay Scale	% Increase*
N1	2150-35-2675	4250-70-5650	32.07
N2	2250-45-2475-55-3025	4480-80-6080	28.86
N3	2320-60-2680-70-3380	4610-100-5110-110-6760	28.42
N4	2438-80-2918-90-3818	5075-145-5800-155-8125	35.84
N5	2510-95-3085-105-4235	5500-160-6300-165-8775	36.24
N6	2672-115-3247-130-3897-140-5017	6000-170-6850-185-9255	34.02

*percentage of increase has been worked out with reference to Mid Basic of the scale of pay and D.A.

2. Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL)

1.	1200-20-1300-25-1675	3195-40-3395-50-4145
2.	1250-25-1375-30-1525-35-1875	3250-50-3500-60-3800-70-4500
3.	1310-30-1460-35-1635-40-2035	3320-60-3620-70-3970-80-4770
4.	1390-40-1590-50-1840-60-2440	3420-80-3820-100-4320-120-5520

Note: Company has informed that the current level of average wages is Rs. 8,000 per month as compared with average level of wages of Rs. 6,200 per month at the time of disinvestment.

3. ITDC Hotel-Kanishka, New Delhi

Grade	Avg. Gross Salary as on 1-9-02 (Rs.)	Avg. Gross Salary as on 1-7-03 (Rs.)	% increase
F1	4516	4878	8
F2	4333	4753	9.7
F3	3700	4000	8.8

4. Hotel Corporation of India—Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd.-Rajgir

Designation	Pay before disinvestment (Rs.)	Pay after disinvestment (Rs.)	% Increase
House Keeping Attendant	3580	3910	1.12
Technician Grade-I & Store Asst.	3840	3910	1.82
Sr. Security Guard & Sr. Steward	4420	4510	2.04
Sr. Technical-cum-Driver	4710	4820	2.34
Gardener	4080	4150	1.72
Others	4410	4650	4.49

5. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO): Long-Term wage agreement for a period of 5 years was concluded on 7-10-2001 under which workmen get a guaranteed benefit at 20% of the basic pay and increase in allowances.

[English]

Number of Accidents on national Highway in Mumbai

1340. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that occurred on the National Highways in Maharashtra-Mumbai during the last three years and the number of persons injured and killed in these accidents; and

(b) the steps the Government have taken to prevent road accidents on National Highways in Maharashtra-Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The details of accidents occurred, persons injured and killed on the National Highways in Maharashtra and on roads of Mumbai are as under:

	Year	No. of accidents	Persons injured	Persons killed
Maharashtra	1999	15343	12624	3181
	2000	16150	12266	3445
	2001	14269	12283	3318
		(Provisional)	(Provisional)	(Provisional)
Mumbai	1999	25945	6932	428
	2000	26450	7122	449
	2001	26329	6894	543

(b) Government of India has been undertaking a number of engineering and educational measures to prevent road accidents. Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to check the road accidents on National Highways are as under:

- (1) Cranes and ambulances are provided to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.

- (2) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (5) Institution of National Award for Voluntary Organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
- (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (8) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

Setting up of Internet Kiosks

1341. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronics Corporation of India Limited alongwith Ikisan.com of the city based Nagarjuna group has decided to set up 100 internet kiosks in 9 States under the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC);

(b) if so, whether the World Bank aided projects is likely to be executed in 18 months;

(c) whether the internet kiosks has been decided to be established in the cotton growing areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Orissa;

(d) if so, the total estimated expenditure involved therein; and

(e) the extent to which these are likely to be helpful in cotton growing States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project development and implementation is to be done in 9 months followed by on the field support for 12 months by manning and operating the Kiosks for use of farmers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rs. 1,96,28,000/- (Rupees one crore ninety six lakh twenty eight thousand only).

(e) Full information (continuously up-dated) on cotton cultivation will be stored in the Kiosks. This will be available to the farmers in their local language, Hindi and English. Latest Information Technology tools such as Touch-screens, Internet, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) etc. will be deployed for the purpose.

SAARC Foreign Secretaries Meet

1342. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agenda at the SAARC Foreign Secretaries meeting held in Kathmandu recently;

(b) whether any agreements were reached among the SAARC Countries during the above meeting;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the gain likely to be accrued to India from these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Fourth Special Session of the SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries was held in Kathmandu on July 9-10, 2003 to discuss activities related to the SAARC process, consider reports and recommendations of SAARC institutions and approve budget proposals of SAARC Secretariat and Regional Centres.

(b) and (c) The Committee emphasised urgency in finalising the draft treaty on creation of SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area) before the next Summit. It called for the completion of procedural formalities pertaining to SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement) on a priority basis, and recommended launching the Fifth Round of Trade Negotiations in 2004. All delegations emphasized the importance of making progress in the areas of trade and commerce. The Committee also reached consensus on the proposal of the Government of Pakistan to host the 12th SAARC Summit on January 4-6, 2004 in Islamabad.

(d) During the deliberations, India laid emphasis on the need for constructive and positive cooperation among SAARC members and that intensification of trade and commercial exchanges between member countries would be in keeping with the mandate given by the 11th SAARC

Summit. This process would enhance India's trade prospects with member countries.

[Translation]

Telephone Connection on Demand

1343. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide technologies having low operation cost and minimum maintenance and cheap and reliable service for rural and remote areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide telephone on demand throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the time by when telephone connections are likely to be made available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government PSU namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to induct WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) System having low operation cost, minimum maintenance reliable and cheap compared to wired line to provide telephone facility in rural and remote areas.

(b) and (c) The demand of telephones is a dynamic process. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., (BSNL) has drawn year wise plan to enhance the communication network subject to the availability of resources. It has been planned to enhance the network by addition of 14 lakh of wired lines and 16.61 lakh of WLL lines during the year 2003-2004 in the country to clear the waiting list of 18.07 lakh lines as on 31.3.2003. The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has already made all most all the areas as 'Telephone on demand' except in few technically non feasible pockets.

[English]

Unified Licence System

1344. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to move an unified licence system in telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits of this system;

(d) whether this proposal has been sent to TRAI;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether cellular operators are suffering losses despite tremendous growth in volume; and

(g) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) states that convergence of both markets and technologies is a reality that is forcing realignment of the industry. It further, states that this convergence now allows operators to use their facilities to deliver some services reserved for other operators, necessitating a relook into the existing policy framework and Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 needs to be replaced with a more forward looking Act. Accordingly, Communication Convergence Bill, 2001, was introduced in Lok Sabha in August, 2001.

(d) and (e) No proposal has been sent to TRAI by the Government. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on the subject to seek comments of all stakeholders.

(f) In a free market and economy, the profit and loss of various operators depend upon various factors. It includes the policy adopted by them with respect to tariff to be charged, various concessions to be offered to subscriber, timeframe and manner in which project is to be executed. However Cellular operators have claimed that they are incurring losses despite tremendous growth in volume.

(g) Government would await the submission of recommendations of TRAI on the subject and take suitable further action.

Evening OPD in Government Hospitals

1345. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to start evening OPD in Government hospitals in Delhi has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The evening OPDs started functioning in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences with effect from 9.1.2003 in the Speciality of Medicine, Surgery, Eye, ENT, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Gyne & Obst.

[Translation]

Modernisation of AIIMS

1346. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a comprehensive plan to give modern touch of township to the existing premises of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities to be provided under the proposed plan;

(d) the estimated amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to provide its services in the modern way to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The AIIMS is planning to upgrade their facilities and a detailed Master Plan has already been submitted to Delhi Urban Art Commission. The Master Plan includes expansion of housing facilities, expanded hostel facilities, new institutional buildings like Pay Wards, extended OPD, Digestion Centre, Renal Centre, Dental College, Captive Power Plan etc., extensive parking arrangements, boring of new tube wells, covering of nallah etc. The Project is

expected to cost Rs. 1300 crore and is planned to be implemented phase-wise 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.

[English]

Tuition Fee

1347. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tuition fee charged by the private Medical Colleges is as per the Supreme Court directions and the same is being reimbursed to SC/ST students;

(b) whether it is fully awarded as scholarship; 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) In the light of the directions passed by the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 31.10.2002 in the matter of T.M.A. Pai foundation and others Versus State of Karnataka and others, the Central government have issued broad policy guidelines to the State Governments and Universities having Medical Faculty on 14th May, 2003 on matters concerning admission of students and charging of fee in private medical and dental colleges. These guidelines, *inter-alia* provide for filling up of certain percentage of seats to be determined by the State Governments keeping in view the local conditions by students belonging to poor and weaker sections of the society, including SC/ST/OBCs. Some of the State governments have also framed Regulations which *inter-alia* provide for concession in fee/scholarships to SC/ST students and other students eligible for reservation as per the State Law. The guidelines of the Central government and the Regulations framed by some of the State Governments have been challenged and are presently before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Medical Treatment to Postal Pensioners

1348. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pensioners of Postal Department are provided medical treatment after retirement under any scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry have received any memorandum from retired Employees Association in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Those pensioners of the Postal Department who were beneficiaries of the Central Govt. Health Scheme at the time of retirement are enrolled in CGHS after retirement.

Those pensioners who retire from places where P&T dispensaries exist are provided O.P.D. facilities through the dispensaries, whereas other pensioners who are not covered by any dispensary are given the Fixed Medical Allowance of Rs. 100/ P.M. for meeting day to day expenses on medical treatment.

(c) and (d) Yes, the Ministry has been receiving memoranda from retired Employees Association in this regard. This is a policy matter concerning all Central Govt. pensioners not covered by C.G.H.S. The Ministry of Health the nodal Ministry has conveyed the view that this issue was considered in the light of the existing infrastructure and the present staff position and it was not found possible to extend C.G.H.S. facilities to P&T pensioners not availing C.G.H.S. facility at the time of retirement.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of BALCO

1349. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether while selling out BALCO company to Sterlite Company, its assets and term deposits have also been handed over to Sterlite Company;

(b) if so, the value of raw material in Korba Aluminium Plant of BALCO company, coal and fuel stock, material stock under processing, manufactured product, additional spare parts, scrap metal stocks and its term deposits separately; and

(c) the number of employees served with the notice of retrenchment by the Sterlite Company alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) BALCO was disinvested through a process of strategic sale to M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. In a strategic sale, the strategic partner acquires management control of the company along with the shareholding being sold by the Government. The strategic partner acquires the company on a going concern basis and therefore, acquires both the assets as well as the liabilities of the company in proportion to his shareholding.

(b) As per the Department of Public Enterprises' Survey 1999-2000, the value of inventories (raw materials, fuel stock, material under process, manufactured products, spare parts, scrap metal stocks etc.) was Rs. 177.10 crores and the value of cash and bank balance was Rs. 310.23 crores as on 31st March, 2000.

(c) As per the information available from the company, no employees of BALCO have been retrenched. However, 1099 employees have taken voluntary retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

[Translation]

Supply of Medicines to CGHS Beneficiaries

1350. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CGHS beneficiaries of the allopathic dispensary, North Avenue and CGHS dispensary-76, New Delhi are not getting the medicines on time and the pharmacists of the respective dispensaries usually give medicines less in quantity than that of prescribed limit;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the nexus among the dispensary in-charge, pharmacists and the local authorised chemists;

(d) if so, whether any representations/complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the results thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Disinvestment of BSNL

1351. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently finalized the sale of BSNL;

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

(c) the reserved price fixed for the disinvestment of BSNL;

(d) the manner in which the evaluation of their share has been done;

(e) whether the Disinvestment Ministry has undertaken any study on the cornering of BSNL share by major investors just before the Cabinet decision regarding disinvestment of BSNL; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith share holding pattern of BSNL share holders having more than 10,000 shares?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Government of India holds 100% equity in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL).

Dues Pending with U.N.

1352. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations is to pay a huge amount of peace keeping dues to India;

(b) if so, the total amount pending as on date;

(c) the time since when these arrears have been due;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the United Nations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The total amount pending as on July 11, 2003 is US \$ 21.52 million, which figure does not include amounts that have accrued since January 1, 2003, since the U.N. takes a minimum period of six months to process dues for current missions.

(c) to (e) Settlement of dues is a continuous, on-going process. Government of India has been continuously in touch with U.N. Authorities on this issue. As a result of Government's intensive efforts, during the last five years, payments were received from the U.N. for India's participation in various Peacekeeping operations, amounting to US \$ 199,344,601.95.

Four Lane on National Highway No. 47

1353. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide four lane on NH No. 47 from Cherthala to Kanyakumari and connecting bypasses as share component of Golden Quadrilateral Road Project with financial assistance from any external funding agency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Goitre Control Programme

1354. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented at present;

(b) the central assistance released to those States during the last three years for implementing the programme;

(c) whether the State Governments have been able to control Goitre in their respective States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) National Goitre Control Programme which has been renamed as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme is implemented by all the States/UTs.

(b) The Central assistance released to the States/UTs during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is to the tune of Rs. 79.94 lakhs, Rs. 82.48 lakhs and Rs. 153.45 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to control the problem of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders, 24 States and all the 7 Union Territories have banned the sale of salt other than iodised salt in their respective States/UTs, while there is a partial ban in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Resurveys conducted in various districts of 10 States and 2 Union Territories have shown significant reduction in the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders as a result of various control measures taken under the Programme.

Funds Allocated for Vocational Courses

1355. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to the State Government for starting of vocational courses in colleges and universities during the last three years, State-wise and college-wise; and

(b) the allocation proposed to be made for the purpose for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) does not allocate any grants directly to the State Governments for starting of vocational courses in their colleges/universities. However, grants are given by the UGC under its vocational education scheme to the institutions, which are fit to receive grants from UGC. The information relating to grants paid to these institutions, state-wise and university/college-wise during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The UGC has made an allocation of Rs. 25.00 crore for the year 2003-2004. No allocation for the year 2004-2005 has so far been approved.

Workshops on DNA/Fingerprints Technology

1356. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct workshops on DNA and fingerprints technology for the benefit of police, judicial officers and forensic scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include DNA and fingerprint technology in the syllabus of National as well as State Police training academies & institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) Yes Sir, the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Kolkata Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, conduct workshops, lectures and demonstrations on DNA fingerprinting technology and DNA awareness programmes for high level police officers, judicial officers and forensic scientists.

(b) The CDFD, Hyderabad has already conducted two two-day workshops in collaboration with National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science (NICFS), New Delhi in June, 2002 and July, 2002 at Chennai and Bangalore, respectively. The CFSL, Kolkata would organise awareness programmes on advances in forensic science for IPS officers during September 20, 2003 & January 17, 2004 and for judiciary officers during October 18, 2003 & February 14, 2004. In addition, this laboratory would organize fourteen intensive awareness programmes in police HQs. of North-east States of India at Itanagar, Kohima, Gangtok, Aizawl, Shillong, Imphal and Port Blair between September and November, 2003. The laboratory is also imparting training on DNA fingerprinting technology under the forensic awareness programmes being arranged by DGP, West Bengal for the crime-investigating officers of the State.

(c) The syllabus for basic training of Constable/SI/Dy. SP is formulated by the State Governments. However, the BPR&D has been preparing a model syllabus and circulating to different States for adoption. The last such syllabus was circulated in the year 2002. The fingerprint technology is adequately covered in the syllabi and

awareness about DNA technology is given during training session on "Preservation on bloodstain, tissue, bones, saliva, etc. from the scene of crime". These are highly specialised jobs and are to be done in the advanced laboratories at selected locations. The fingerprint technology on the other hand is quite old and practiced by the Police Officers.

Modernization/Computerization of Post Offices in Mumbai

1357. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have taken any steps for computerization of post offices in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of post offices in Mumbai, Maharashtra, earmarked for computerization;

(d) the number of post offices in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburb presently computerized and not-computerized;

(e) the expenditure incurred on modernization of these post offices;

(f) whether post offices at Kulla-Mankhurd and Kurla-Mulund area has been included for computerization; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) There are 259 Departmental Post Offices in Mumbai City including the suburbs (but excluding New Mumbai and Thane). Out of these, 11 are Head Post Offices and remaining 248 are Sub Post Offices. The details of the Post Offices computerized and not computerized in Mumbai, Mumbai suburb are given in the Statement-I. Four (4) Head Post Offices are included for computerization during the current financial year subject to necessary clearance and availability of funds.

(e) The total expenditure incurred on computerization of the Post Offices so far is approximately Rs. 1.49 crores.

(f) Yes, Sir. Out of 60 Post Offices in the area, 14 Post Offices have been computerized.

(g) The details are given in the Statement-II.

Statement I*The details of the Post Offices computerized and not computerized in Mumbai, Mumbai suburb*

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Post Offices computerized	Number of Post Offices not computerized
1.	Computerization of all branches (Total computerization)	7 Head Post Offices	252
2.	Computerization of public counters by installation of MPCMs (Multi Purpose Counter Machines)	56	203
3.	Computerization of Speed Post delivery (track and trace of speed post articles through Speednet software)	75	13 (There are total 88 delivery post offices in Mumbai City, where Speednet is required)

Statement II*Details of the 14 Post Offices computerized at Kurla-Mankhurd and Kurla-Mulund area*

S. No.	Name of the post office	Computers provided for
1.	Chembur HO	Total Computerisation
2.	Bhandup (West)	Multi Purpose Counter Machines (MPCM), Speednet
3.	FCI	MPCM, Speednet
4.	Kurla	MPCM, Speednet
5.	Mulund (West)	MPCM, Speednet
6.	Mulund (East)	MPCM, Speednet
7.	Rajawadi	MPCM, Speednet
8.	Ghatkopar (West)	MPCM
9.	Tilak Nagar	Speednet
10.	Vikhroli	Speednet
11.	Tagore Nagar	Speednet
12.	Bhandup (East)	Speednet
13.	TF Deonar	Speednet
14.	Nehru Road	MPCM

Anganwadi Teachers

1358. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Anganwadi teachers are unable to concentrate on teaching due to their involvement in cooking and distribution of cooked food to students under the national programme of nutritional support to primary education; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government to enable Anganwadi teachers to concentrate on teaching work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) There are no teachers in Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Each Anganwadi Centre is managed by an Anganwadi Worker and a Helper who provide, *inter-alia*, non-formal pre-school education to children aged 3-6 years and supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years and nursing & expectant mothers under the Scheme. The job responsibilities of Anganwadi Workers do not include cooking and distribution of cooked food to students under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education.

[Translation]

Payment of Telephone Bills

1359. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to authorize all banks to receive the payments of telephone bills and also to authorize the rural post offices for the same;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the number of rural post offices and banks authorized for this purpose in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Since 01-10-2000, the Government is no longer providing telephone services. The public sector undertakings, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as well as private operators provide these. The collection of telephone bills is now the responsibility of individual telecom Service Providers including the BSNL and MTNL.

(c) The Government (Department of Telecom) has not authorized any nationalized banks/post offices for this purpose, as these are now matters to be decided by individual Service Providers.

Modernisation of Telegraph Services

1360. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative for modernizing the telegraph services in Bihar;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for this purpose during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernization work of telegraph services in Bihar will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The District-wise details are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) No separate budget allocations have been made. However, the demands for such programmes are met in the developmental funds allotted for Telax and Telephone works in the year.

(e) Modernisation is an ongoing process and is done on need/feasibility basis.

Statement

Modernisation of Telegraphy Services

Bihar Name of District HQ	B Fax		
	SFMSS Ports	Stations	ETP
1	2	3	4
Aurangabad	1	1	2
Aroria	0	2	2
Banka	0	1	2
Begusarai	1	2	4
Bhagalpur	1	1	5
Bhojpur (Arrah)	1	1	3
Buxar	1	1	4
Bhabua	0	1	2
Chhapra	1	1	2
Darbhanga	2	1	2
East Champaran (Motihari)	2	2	4
Gaya	1	1	5
Gopalganj	1	1	2
Jamui	0	1	2
Jehanabad	1	1	4
Katihar	1	1	5
Khangaria	1	1	2
Kishanganj	0	1	2
Lakhisarai	0	1	0
Madhopura	0	1	1
Madhubani	1	2	2
Munger	1	1	4
Muzaffarpur	1	1	5
Nalanda (Biharsharief)	1	2	2
Nawadah	1	1	3
Patna	9	6	13
Purnea	0	1	2

1	2	3	4
Sasaram	1	1	3
Saharsa	1	1	2
Samastipur	1	1	2
Shekhpura	0	1	0
Shivhar	0	0	0
Sitamarhi	1	1	2
Siwan	1	1	2
Supaul	0	1	2
Vaishali	1	1	2
West Champaran (Betiah)	1	1	2

Note: One SFMS 64 lines System is available at CTO Patna.
Legend:—

SFMS: Store and Forward Messages Switching System

B/Fax Bureau Fax

ETP: Electronic Teleprinter

[English]

Payment of Excess Deficit Charge

1361. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have directed the cellular and WLL operators to

pay the access deficit charge from long distance calls to the fixed line operators so that they make up losses alleged to be suffered by them for low monthly rental paid by the consumers;

(b) if so, the details of the amount required to be paid by cellular and WLL operators to the fixed line operators; and

(c) the manner in which the proposed payments would neutralize the losses suffered by the fixed line operators on account of the low monthly rental charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation dated 24.01.2003 (effective from 01.05.2003) specifies that access Deficit Charge (ADC) has to be paid to the basic Service Operators in respect of National long Distance (NLD) and International Distance (ILD) calls. The basis of payment of ADC for the Basic Service Operators has been specified in Schedule I and Schedule VI of IUC Regulation, 2003 attached as Annexure for NLD & ILD calls are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(c) The IUC charges are distributed across calls on a per minute basis. Payments are dependent on the volume of traffic (both originating & terminating) across networks.

Statement I

Schedule I

Origination & Termination Charges per minute for Long Distance Calls i.e. Inter-SDCC calls routed through the one or more TAXs

Amount in Rupees per minute payable to	Cost in Rs. per minute for	Intra Circle & Inter Circle upto 50 Kms	Intra Circle (Above 50 and upto 200 Kms)	Intra Circle (Above 200 Kms)	Inter-Circle (Above 50 and upto 100 Kms)	Inter-Circle (Above 100 and upto 200 Kms)	Inter-Circle (Above 200 and upto 500 Kms)	Inter-Circle (Above 500 Kms)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Originating Access Provider								
(a) Fixed Line	Origination	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 for Intra-Circle	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Differential ADC	Nil	0.50	1.25	0.50	0.50	1.25	2.00
	Uniform ADC	Nil	0.50			1.50		
	Total at Originating end with Differential ADC	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 for Intra-Circle	1.00	1.75	1.00	1.00	1.75	2.50
	Total at Originating end with uniform ADC	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 for Intra Circle	1.00			2.00		
(b)	WLL (M)	Origination				Forbearance		
(c)	Cellular	Origination Terminating Access Provider				Forbearance		
(a)	Fixed Line	Termination	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 for Intra-Circle	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
	Differential ADC	Nil	0.50	1.25	0.50	0.50	1.25	2.00
	Uniform ADC	Nil	0.50			1.50		
	Total at Terminating end with Differential ADC	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 for Intra-Circle	1.00	1.75	1.00	1.00	1.75	2.50
	Total at Terminating end with uniform ADC	0.15 for Inter-Circle and 0.25 Intra Circle	1.00			2.00		
(b)	WLL (M)	Termination	0.50					
(c)	Cellular	Termination	For calls from Basic Service Rs. 0.30 per minute in Metro and Rs. 0.40 per minute in Circles and Nil Incoming Air Time.					

Statement II**Schedule VI****Schedule for International long Distance Calls**

Access Deficit Charge for both Incoming as well as Outgoing Calls from International Long Distance Calls shall

be Rs. 5.00 per minute. In addition origination/termination charges of Rs. 0.50/0.50 per minute shall be payable to BSO. Carriage Charges to NLDO as per Schedule II shall also be applicable. In addition ILDO is required to pay towards settlement rates for outgoing and incoming traffic between India and distant countries to the distant International Carriers. Difference between Retail Tariff and Wholesale Tariff, i.e., IUCs paid for origination/termination

and carriage of calls on the national network and the international settlements paid to foreign operators may be shared through mutual negotiations.

Express Highway in Kerala

1362. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government regarding setting up of Express Highway in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SC/ST and OBC Employees

1363. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' under his Ministry; and

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately out of total number of personnel, group-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): (a) Details are as under:

Group	Total No. of Personnel
'A'	11
'B'	44
'C'	44
'D'	26

(b) Details are as under:

Group	OBC	ST	SC
'A'	Nil	1	2
'B'	3	4	9
'C'	4	8	10
'D'	3	2	6

Post Offices in Bihar

1364. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices and Branch Post Offices proposed to be opened in Bihar during the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in urban and rural areas of the State;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the current year;

(d) the target set and the achievement made in the State during the year 2002-2003; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Bihar Circle has been recently allocated a target of 15 Branch Post Offices and 1 Departmental Sub Post Office to be opened during the current year. Selection of locations will be done subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms in this regard.

(c) The funds allocated for opening the 16 Post Offices mentioned at (a) & (b) above is Rs. 70,000/-.

(d) Details of target and achievement for opening post offices during 2002-2003 are given below:

	Target	Achievement
(i) Branch Post Offices	15	15
(ii) Departmental Sub Offices	Nil	Nil

(e) Various measures are taken by Government to improve postal services in the country, including Bihar. This *inter alia* includes activities undertaken under Annual Plan for expansion of the network through opening of post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras based on prescribed norms to enhance access to postal facilities, computerization of post and mail offices to upgrade the capability of the network to provide more efficient and value added services to the customers, provision of infrastructure to render specific premium and financial products and improve customer care. Measures are also in place for monitoring the quality of services through a system of regular inspections and visits as well as through norms laid down for assessing the efficiency of mail transmission.

[English]

Disinvestment of SCI

1365. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6501 dated May 7, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for further investment by the Government for the purchase of new ships;

(c) whether the proposals for the procurement of new ships have since been finalised and the reasons therefor in view of (a) above; and

(d) the time by which disinvestment of SCI is likely to be finalised?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) SCI has recently placed order for building 2 Very large Crude Oil Carriers at Hyundai shipyard, South Korea, and is in the process of signing the contract for building one Aframax crude oil tanker at Cochin Shipyard. Both these acquisition proposals were initiated before the process of disinvestment started in SCI and as per the business plan of SCI.

The impact of procurement of new ships by SCI will be positive which will also enhance the profitability of the company. Placing order for acquisition of the ship at prevailing low new building price would be favourable for

future profitability and its valuation. This will also ensure that SCI reserve/internal resources are gainfully utilized. Moreover, the Government would not provide any budgetary support for the acquisition and the same would be funded by the company through internal resources and borrowings from the commercial market.

(d) The disinvestment of SCI is likely to take place by Oct. 2003 as per the schedule of disinvestment, prepared by Ministry of Disinvestment.

Setting up of Technology Incubation Centre

1366. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for setting up of Technology Incubation Centre at Thiruvananthapuram; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Regional Cancer Centres

1367. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) at present functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Government have requested the union Government to upgrade the status of these Cancer Centers into deemed universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs to render treatment and undertaken

research activities in the field of cancer. A list of these RCCs is given as statement.

(b) to (d) This information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

List of RCCs

Kamla Nehru Memorial hospital, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal	Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Kidwai Memorial Instt. of Oncology, Bangalore, Karnataka	MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Regional Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society, JIPMER, Pondicherry
Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer, Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment, Cuttack, Orissa	Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam
Regional Cancer Control Society Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai, Maharashtra
Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar
Indian Rotary Cancer Institute, (A.I.I.M.S.), New Delhi	Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Trust & Research Institute (RCC) Bikaner, Rajasthan
R.S.T. Hospital & Research Centre, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Regional Cancer Centre, Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana
Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Civil Hospital, Aizawl Mizoram.

SERC Chennai

1368. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Structural Engineering and Research Centre based in Chennai works under the CSIR;

(b) if so, the speciality of SERC;

(c) whether it has branches all over the country;

(d) the quantum of consultancy fees and royalties earned by SERC for work done for industry and other institutions; and

(e) the details of its earning from different sources for the financial year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) SERC specialises in various aspects of structural Engineering like Structural Dynamics; Experimental machines; and Skeletal Structures; alongside the characteristics of various building materials like Concrete Composites & Materials, Reinforced Concrete Structures & Prestressed Concrete.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Earning from Consultancy, job work, Testing & Technical services for 2002-2003 were Rs. 224.46 lakhs.

(e) The details of earnings from various sources for 2002-2003 was as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Nature/ Source	Contract Research	Consultancy/ Tech. Services	Total
Govt./PSu	1769.12	74.48	1843.60
Private	—	124.46	124.46
International	—	25.52	25.52
Total	1769.12	224.46	1993.58

[Translation]

PCOs in Uttar Pradesh

1369. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 200 PCOs are lying out of order for the last two years in the rural areas of Pratapgarh and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

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

[English]

Atomic Energy Plant in Andhra Pradesh

1370. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission and the Nuclear Energy Corporation of India have conducted any survey in Andhra Pradesh to find a suitable location for an atomic energy plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any place was found suitable in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) carried out investigations and assessment of sites for setting up nuclear power plants in different regions of the country including Andhra Pradesh in Southern Electricity Region.

(c) A site named Kovvada in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh is among the sites investigated, and assessed by the SSC in the Southern Electricity Region.

(d) No decision has been taken by the Government on the sites for future nuclear power projects that may be taken up in the later part of X Five Year Plan, subject to availability of funds. Decision on sites depends upon factors like demand for electricity, energy options available to a region, nuclear power programme, availability of funds and order of suitability of sites based on site characteristics. Moreover site clearances are required to be taken on safety angle from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and environmental angle from Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) before a project at any site can be approved by the Government.

[Translation]

Fake Stamps

1371. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of fake stamps seized in the country till March 31, 2003;

(b) the number of people apprehended for their involvement in printing of these fake stamps and the punishment awarded to them; and

(c) the policy/measures adopted by the Government to check the business of fake stamps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) This Ministry is concerned only with postage stamps. As per report dated 20.12.2002 received from the Additional Director General of Police Karnataka, fake postage stamps worth Rs. 1,27,30,910/- have been seized by them.

(b) The report of the Karnataka Police does not indicate the exact number of people apprehended. It only indicates that some persons have been arrested in some cases. There is no information available with regard to punishment awarded to them.

(c) Postage stamps are got printed only at Security Printing Presses as a safeguard.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges In Punjab

1372. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for opening of new Telephone exchanges in Punjab during the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) the number out of them which has become operational so far, district-wise; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for the purpose and the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) BSNL has planned to open 21 new telephone exchanges in Punjab Telecom Circle during the current financial year 2003-04. The district-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) 3 new telephone exchanges have become operational so far as per the District-wise details given below:

District	New Telephone Exchanges Opened
Ludhiana	2
Ropar	1
Total	3

(c) Total amount earmarked is approx. Rs. 41.02 crore. Total amount released so far approx. Rs. 2.54 crore.

Statement

New Telephone Exchanges Planned to be opened in Punjab Telecom circle during 2003-2004

District	No. of new telephone exchanges
Amritsar	1
Faridkot	1
Ferozepur	1
Gurdaspur	3
Ludhiana	4
Patiala	1
Ropar	4
Panchkula	3
Chandigarh	3
Total	21

[Translation]

Higher Technical Education to Women

1373. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to develop many institutions to impart higher technical education to women in the field of information technology, computer, communication and electronics as well as business management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No specific proposal has been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of National Internet Exchange

1374. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has submitted its report to the Government and urged for the establishment of a National Internet Exchange for fast development of Internet services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI has also suggested to set up a Task Force at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in this regard; and

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

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

(b) TRAI had constituted a Task Force to accelerate the growth of Internet in the country. One of the recommendations of the Task Force is to set up Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) for peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). This will result in saving the cost of the international bandwidth, improving the quality of service and faster access, leading to higher usage of Internet and greater penetration levels. The IXPs may initially be set up in the four metro cities, viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to set up IXPs at Noida, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in collaboration with the Internet Service Providers Association of India. The first IXP at Noida is ready to be operationalised.

Extradition Treaty with Pakistan

1375. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an extradition treaty with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have handed over a list of wanted terrorists/gangsters to Pakistan for their extradition; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the past, India had on a number of occasions sought the return of fugitives from Indian law and terrorists operating from Pakistan. However, Pakistani authorities had not been cooperative.

In the aftermath of December 13, 2001 terrorist attack on the Parliament, Government had, on 31st December 2001, handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan, that 15 of the criminals in the list already had Interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them. The list includes individuals responsible for heinous crimes such as the Mumbai bomb blast in 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 to Kandahar and the attack on India's Parliament on December 13, 2001.

Pakistan has not responded positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, on January 12, 2002 stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistani national to India. As regards the presence of non-Pakistani nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given asylum to any such person.

Exodus of Psychiatrists

1376. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether mental health professionals (Psychiatrists) have been leaving the Government hospitals for seeking lucrative jobs in foreign countries;

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

(c) whether any review of the existing service conditions of these professionals have been made by the Government with a view to provide them more incentives to check their exodus;

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

Sub-Standard Drugs

1377. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI RAGUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that sub-standard drugs are being supplied by various suppliers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and penal actions to be taken against the person found responsible;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of cases of spurious drugs which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Government of India is making every effort to ensure that drugs of standard quality are supplied under the various disease control programmes. In case any specific instance of sub-standard drug being supplied comes to notice, suitable remedial action is immediately taken to get the supplied replaced and to take action against the suppliers.

(e) and (f) As per the feedback available from the State Drug Control Administration, a statement indicating number of spurious medicines detected during the period 2000-01; 2001-02 and 2002-03 is enclosed.

Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Governments. The State Governments are advised from time to time to gear up their enforcement machinery to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs moving in the inter-state commerce as well as to provide and strengthen their regulatory infrastructure; to establish their own State level testing labs to ensure speedy analysis of drug samples for which they are provided assistance to strengthen and augment their infrastructure facilities in their lab. The State Governments have also been advised to keep strict surveillance over the suspected dealers; collection of survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drugs (NSQED) programme; constitution/reactivation of state drug advisory committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer associations can file representations; establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal cell; to develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures; engaging experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases etc.

Government of India has taken the following initiatives to tackle the problem of spurious drugs:—

(i) Detailed guidelines in respect of strategies required to be adopted for efficient surveillance over the movement of spurious drugs were given

to States on November 17, 1999 to ensure focused surveillance over manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

- (ii) Issues concerning alleged sale of spurious drugs was taken up by Union Health Minister with State Health Ministers in the 7th Conference of Central Council of Health (CCH) & FW held on 12-13 July, 2001. CCH resolved that in order to address issues relating to the increasing reports of spurious drugs/counterfeit drugs, special attention required to be given to monitor and unearth such illegal activities by constituting a separate intelligence-cum-legal cell in the respective drug control organization and in seeking cooperation of the pharma industry, trade as well as the police.
- (iii) Department of Health constituted a broad based Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS in July, 2001 to examine issues concerning the problem of spurious drugs. The observations and recommendations of this Committee have been circulated on September 16, 2002 to all State Drugs Controllers for their information and necessary action in the matter.
- (iv) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had specifically written to all Chief Ministers on October 8, 2002 on the issue of spurious drugs, seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility of menace of spurious products so as to collectively ensure its total eradication.
- (v) A meeting of Health Ministers and Senior Officials of 13 major States of the country was convened by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 12.11.2002 to ensure concerted action to check any possible movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stake holders to fight this menace. Suggestions/ views which emerged out of discussion were forwarded on January 8, 2003 to all the State Governments for their information and necessary action. One of the recommendations which emerged as outcome of discussion, was enactment of "The Gujarat Prevention of Anti-social Activities Act, 1985" (PASA) by the State Governments for deterrent action against offenders.

- (vi) In order to increase the number of drug samples tested in the country and to bring down the reporting time to less than a month as against 3 to 6 months presently being taken by many laboratories, a comprehensive plan has been undertaken by Central Government under a capacity building project to be implemented with World Bank assistance.
- (vii) In order to ensure speedy information exchange and networking of all States and Central Drugs Control Offices and Laboratories, a computerization project has been undertaken by Central Government.
- (viii) A specialized training programme for drugs control officers of all State Governments responsible for keeping surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs has been formulated and was conducted from 25th June, 2003 by Central Government in cooperation with FDA, Maharashtra at Mumbai.
- (ix) Government of India have constituted a Committee of experts on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A Mashelkar, Director General, comprehensive review of the drugs regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious and substandard drugs and recommend remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The Committee has held two meetings on 26.2.2003 and 17.7.2003 to undertake focused examination of two distinct areas of its terms of reference. Consultations with number of eminent persons and stakeholders has also been undertaken. One of the issues to be addressed by this committee is to introduce highly stringent and deterrent punishment for drug offenders.

Statement

S. No.	States/UTs	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	4	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	1	Nil
4.	Bihar	3	3	3

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	2	2	5
7.	Haryana	15	42	13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	1	1
10.	Karnataka	Nil	4	1
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	3	3	21
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	1
19.	Punjab	17	4	16
20.	Rajasthan	13	20	7
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	Nil	8
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19	3	30
25.	West Bengal	1	2	6
26.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Delhi	7	5	10
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		112	96	129

Establishment of New Cultural Centres Abroad

1378. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open new cultural centres abroad;

(b) if so, the total number thereof and the countries where these would be set up; and

(c) the time by when these centres would be operational?

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

(b) and (c) New cultural centres are to be opened in China, Fiji, Malaysia and USA.

Lok Jumbish Project

1379. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new phase of 'Lok Jumbish Project' has become operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed and the achievements registered under the project during the last five years; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the project, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The 3rd Phase of the Lok Jumbish Project has commenced w.e.f. 1st July, 1999 to 30th June, 2004 with an outlay of Rs. 400.00 crores to be shared by Department for International Development, U.K., Government of India and Government of Rajasthan in the ratio of 3:2:1.

(c) As against the target of 7500 Sahaj Shiksha Centres, 9958 have been established; 139 Balika Shikshan Shivirs were conducted against the target of 69; 104 Muktagans were opened against the target of 104; 13710

villages were covered under Environment Building against the target of 10,000 and 11963 villages were covered for training of women against the target of 6750 upto February, 2003. For the period 2003-04, upgradation of 325 primary schools to upper primary level and recruitment of 1900 teachers have been targetted.

(d) Against the total sanction of Rs. 258.32 crores, an expenditure of Rs. 236.48 crores has been incurred.

Updation of List of Drugs and Medicines

1380. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of drugs and medicines for purchase and dispensing in CGHS dispensaries is updated from time to time;

(b) if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for this purpose; and

(c) if so, when it was last updated and the new medicines included in the recent years?

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

(b) and (c) The combined formulary of CGHS/MSO was circulated on 14.2.2002. However, the same has been kept in abeyance. Subsequently, it has been decided to follow the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCT)'s formulary and rate contract concluded by them in respect of Generic Drugs. In respect of proprietary drugs, a Committee has been constituted on 13.5.03 to prepare a formulary for proprietary items to be used by CGHS/MSO.

Central Assistance to States

1381. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of states owned resources and central assistance for the Eighth, Ninth and the Tenth Five Year Plan for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether those states whose financial position is sound are getting less central assistance; and

(c) if not, the reasons for providing less central assistance to Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A Statement indicating the ratio of States Own Resources and Central Assistance for the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh is enclosed.

(b) Central Assistance for the Annual Plans of State comprises of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for Special and Other Programmes. While allocation of NCA is based on the Gadgil Formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 1991, allocation of ACA for EAPs and ACA for Special and Other Programmes are based on the specific Guidelines for each of these Programmes. Hence, Central Assistance to a State is not exclusively based on its financial position.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Ratio of SOR and CA during Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plan (Projections)

Plan Period/Item		Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eighth Plan (1992-97)	SOR	5991.17	8323.70	8421.78	4568.75	10116.66
	CA	4508.85	4676.30	2678.22	5631.25	10883.34
	SOR:CA	1.33	1.78	3.14	0.81	0.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	SOR	12371.90	6512.65	11682.88	15012.09	24681.76
Ninth Plan	CA	12778.10	10167.35	8392.12	9987.91	21658.24
(1997-02)	SOR:CA	0.97	0.64	1.39	1.50	1.14
	SOR	2472.11	9278.59	14474.34	24993.87	24297.88
Tenth Plan	CA	22241.89	11721.41	10168.13	15006.13	35410.12
(2002-07)	SOR:CA	1.10	0.79	1.42	1.67	0.69

Establishment of Schools, Colleges and Universities by NRIs

1382. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Non-Resident Indians for the establishment of private schools, colleges and universities in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WHO's Report on Accidents

1383. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have paid attention towards the reports published by the World Health Organisation recently in which reference about the terrible deaths caused due to lacunae in traffic system is made;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any special action plan to make improvement in the traffic system of the country keeping in view the above report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not formulating such plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The report is on Priorities for policy and action on injuries in South East Asia Region. Among other causes, it also covers Road Safety.

(b) and (c) Government of India has been undertaking a number of engineering and educational measures to prevent road accidents. Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to check the road accidents are as under:

- (1) Cranes and ambulances were provided to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.
- (2) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
- (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (8) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

1384. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India in the last three months and till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information, country-wise is given below:

Bangladesh:

Mr. Saifur Rahman, Finance Minister of Bangladesh paid an official visit to India from May 19-22, 2003. Discussions focussed on increasing trade and investment between the two countries. In addition, both sides discussed the need for improving infrastructure for smooth trade and reduction in smuggling, delay and goods getting spoilt. No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

Myanmar:

Mr. U Win Aung, Foreign Minister of Myanmar visited India as a Special Envoy of Chairman, SPDC and Prime Minister of Myanmar, Senior General Than Shwe on July 10, 2003. He delivered a letter from Chairman, SPDC to Prime Minister and explained the circumstances in which Aung San Suu Kyi was taken into preventive custody. No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

Sri Lanka:

Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister for Enterprise Development, Industrial Policy & Investment promotion and Constitutional Affairs visited New Delhi on June 13, 2003. Prof. G.L. Peiris informed GOI on the latest developments in the peace process including suspension of talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam and the Sri Lankan Government's decision to put forth new proposals for restarting the peace process. No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

Vietnam:

Mr. Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of the Communist party of Vietnam paid a State Visit to India from 29th April to 2nd May 2003. Deliberations were held on further strengthening and expanding bilateral relations. There were also an exchange of views on international and regional issues.

During the visit of the Mr. Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam, a Joint Declaration on the Framework of Comprehensive Cooperation was signed by the two countries. The Joint Declaration envisages a comprehensive cooperation for the next 15 years with major thrusts on: conducting regular high level meetings; cooperating in the UN and other international fora; assisting each other in protecting their respective interests in the international arena, endeavouring to maintain and improve the efficiency of the Joint Commission; raising their trade and economic cooperation; promoting R&D Cooperation in various fields of S&T; taking gradual steps to expand cooperation in security and defence, anti-piracy measures, and preventing terrorists act targeted at each other, further expanding and diversifying cooperation in human resource development; and increasing exchange of and cooperation in culture and information, archaeology, tourism, etc.

Lao People's Democratic Republic:

Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic paid an official visit to India from 4th to 7th May 2003. Deliberations covered bilateral relations, preparations for the visit of the Lao Prime Minister in June 2003, and exchange of views on international and regional issues, especially with regard to ASEAN-India cooperation during the period of 3 years starting July 2003 in which Loans would be the country coordinator for India.

Mr. Bounhang Vorachit, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic paid a State Visit to India from 15th to 22nd June 2003. Deliberations covered the need to enhance cooperation in the field of trade and investment, IT, culture and tourism. There was also an exchange of views on international and regional issues, and both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the fight against terrorism and its support mechanism. In the context of Lao PDR's impending assumption of

responsibilities as Country Coordinator for India in ASEAN from July 2003, both sides agreed to take concrete initiatives to strengthen the linkages between India and ASEAN including under the Initiatives for ASEAN Integration designed to benefit the four new ASEAN member countries, including the Lao PDR. The two countries also agreed to support and participate in various projects within the framework of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation.

During the visit of Mr. Bounhang Vorachit, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, an Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology was signed. The Agreement aims to promote long term cooperation in S&T between the two countries. It envisages promotion and facilitation of cooperation between the respective S&T organisations, enterprises and institutions. It involves visits and exchanges of Experts organisation of seminars and workshops in various areas of S&T, training of science and technology personnel, implementation of joint projects on science and technology, exchange of scientific and technological information and documents, etc.

Mr. Samane Vignaketh, President of the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic, lead a Parliamentary delegation to India from 21st to 25th July 2003. He called on President, Vice-President, Speaker of Lok Sabha, received External Affairs Minister and held a meeting with the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Iran:

Mr. Mohsen Aminzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister visited India from 21-22 July 2003. The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister visited for the 'Third Round of India-Iran Strategic Dialogue held at the level of Foreign Secretary/ Deputy Foreign Minister. Issues relating to bilateral relations as well as regional issues including situation in Iraq and Afghanistan were discussed between the two sides. No agreement was signed.

Afghanistan:

The following foreign dignitaries from Afghanistan visited India in the last three months till date:

- (i) Transport Minister Seyed Ali Javid visited India from 20—30 April 2003. During his visit, he also called on External Affairs Minister. Issues related to bilateral relations including India's reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan, especially in the field of public transport were discussed.

- (ii) Minister of Civil Aviation Mirwais Sadiq visited India from 7-10 May 2003 on the invitation of Union Minister for Civil Aviation. Maintenance support to three airbus aircrafts gifted by India to Afghanistan and training for Ariana Airlines personnel in India were discussed during the visit.

- (iii) Minister-Advisor on Tribal Affairs and President, Afghan Cricketing Federation, Shehzada Masood, visited India and met Shri Rajeev Shukla, Member of Parliament and Member, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 17 June 2003. Discussions were held on cooperation with BCCI in promoting cricket in Afghanistan. No agreement was signed.

Bosnia & Herzegovina:

Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr. Mladen Ivanic visited India from 6-8 May 2003. During this visit, the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina called on the President and the Prime Minister of India and had meetings with the Minister of Commerce & Industry and the Minister of Tourism & Culture, besides holding detailed discussions with the Minister of External Affairs. Issues of bilateral cooperation in various fields, including trade and investment, were discussed during the visit. The two sides agreed to develop multi-faceted relationship between them.

Russian Federation:

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Igor Ivanov visited India from 15-17 June 2003. During his visit, the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation called on the President and the Prime Minister and had meetings with the Minister of External Affairs and the Raksha Mantri. Issues of bilateral, regional and international interest were discussed in these meetings. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress in bilateral relations which are characterised by strategic partnership between them. No agreement was signed during the visit.

U.S.A.:

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Amitage, visited India on 9-10 May, 2003. The visit provided opportunity to discuss ways to accelerate bilateral cooperation; exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the U.S. led war in Iraq; and, the Prime Minister's initiative with Pakistan as well as the latest trends in cross-border terrorism. No agreement was signed.

Djibouti:

Djiboutian President Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh along with four Cabinet Ministers (Mr. Abdi Ibrahim Obseih, Minister of National Education, Mr. Elmi Obsieh Wais, Minister of Equipment and Transportation, Mr. Ali Abdi Farah, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ougoureh Kifleh Ahmed, Minister of Defence) and a large business delegation visited India from 18 to 23 May, 2003. He called on the President, and met the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, HRD Minister and Surface Transport Minister. Issues of bilateral, regional and International importance were discussed during the meetings.

Three Agreements/Exchange Programme were signed during the visit. These are:—

- (i) Bilateral investment Protection and Promotion Agreement
- (ii) Air Service Agreement
- (iii) Cultural Exchange Programme

Saudi Arabia:

H.E. Dr. Saleh E.K Al-Hussaini, Deputy Minister of Industrial Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited India from April 25—30, 2003. He was accompanied by a 14-member official and 14-member business delegation. He met Secretary (ANA), MEA and Secretary (SSI&ARI) and useful discussions were held for increasing bilateral cooperation particularly in Banking sector. The Saudi delegation also visited Mumbai and Bangalore and new areas of cooperation were identified. The Saudi Minister showed great interest in Indian IT companies guiding Saudi's in the area of Information Technology.

UAE:

A delegation from the UAE led by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed al Nahyan, Chief of Staff of UAE Armed Forces accompanied by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah, Minister of Information & Culture and HH Sheikh Hamad, Head of the Department of Economy, Abu Dhabi along with accompanying officials visited India from June 30-July 1, 2003. Sheikh Mohammed called on President, PM, DPM, EAM and RM and delegation level talks were held between the two countries. The talks represented the first meeting of a strategic dialogue between the two countries covering issues of bilateral, regional and international interests including economic cooperation, cooperation in areas of defence and security. An

agreement on defence cooperation was signed during the visit. It was also agreed that the strategic dialogue would be institutionalised to take place annually at regular intervals.

Bahrain:

Mr. Abdul Nabi Abdullah Al-Sho'ala (without portfolio) in the office of the Prime Minister of Bahrain visited New Delhi to participate in the conference on "Dialogue amongst Civilisations" which was held from July 9-10, 2003 in New Delhi. During his visit he also called on our Deputy Prime Minister, and MOS (VK), Ministry of External Affairs. The Bahraini Minister handed over a letter from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain addressed to our Prime Minister. He also gave a copy of letter addressed to EAM UNESCO at the next session of the Board (October-November 2003)

Chile:

Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Soledad Alvear, Minister of External Relations of Republic of Chile visited India from April 24-27, 2003. The deliberations covered wide range of issues pertaining to bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest including the situation in Iraq, democratization and reforms of the UN, role of NAM in addressing global issues such as poverty alleviation, financing for development, food security, issues of international peace and security, terrorism and disarmament as well as environmental protection. The discussions also focused on further strengthening of bilateral relations in the political, trade, economic, scientific and technological spheres with a view to harnessing the considerable untapped potential for mutually beneficial cooperation between Chile and India in these fields.

The following agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Agreement on Animal Health;
- (ii) Agreement on Visa Exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports;
- (iii) Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2003-05.

Uzbekistan:

Col. Rustam S. Niyazov, Deputy Defence Minister of Uzbekistan visited India from 26th April to 2nd May, 2003. Bilateral defence related issues were discussed. A Protocol on Development of Military Cooperation between Ministry of Defence of Republic of Uzbekistan and Ministry of

Defence, Republic of India for the year 2003 was signed.

Angola:

Angolan Planning Minister visited India from April 17-19, 2003 to formalize India-SADC Forum. No agreement was signed.

Botswana:

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India from 7-11 April, 2003. He had 2nd Round of Foreign Office consultations. No agreement was signed.

Mozambique:

Minister of Labour visited India from 18-23 April, 2003. He has discussed areas of cooperation between our Ministry of Labour and the Mozambican Ministry of Labour, and for enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. No agreement was signed.

President of Mozambique visited India from 11-15 May, 2003. He has discussed issues relating to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. The following agreements were signed:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Agriculture;
- (ii) Bilateral Inter-Governmental Science & Technology Agreement;

Zambia:

President of Zambia visited India from 20-25 April, 2003. He has discussed issues to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. The following agreements were signed:

- (i) Agreement on cooperation in Trade;
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Agriculture;

Eritrea:

Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by a eight member delegation (with Minister of Education and Minister of Agriculture) visited India from 7-12, 2003. He has discussed areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. A General Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in political, economic, technical, cultural and other fields and also for setting up of a Joint Commission was signed.

Senegal:

Mr. Abdou Fall, Senegalese Minister for Culture and Communications visited India from 9-12 July, 2003. He has participated in the conference on 'Dialogue among Civilizations-Quest for new Perspective' held in New Delhi. No agreement was signed.

[Translation]

Cruise Terminals

1385. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to establish cruise terminals at all the seaports of the country in order to attract the tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds likely to be spent by the Government on this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):
(a) and (b) The endeavour of the Government is to establish/modernize cruise terminals primarily on Built, Operate & Transfer (BOT)/Joint Venture (JV) basis at some of the Major Ports, which have potential for cruise tourism, subject to feasibility, techno-commercial viability and response of the private sector.

(c) Since, various funding patterns such as BOT and JV are being explored, the requirement of funding by the Government, if any has not been quantified.

[English]

Banned Drugs Available in the Country

1386. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the side effects of globally prohibited drug Metoclopramide sold under the brand name of Perinorm and Reglan as reported in the Indian Express dated June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Paracetamol and Disprin also adversely affect the body;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to ban the production and sale of these medicines in the country; 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) The drug Metoclopramide is not a globally prohibited drug. It is included in the official Pharmacopoeias of USA and UK and is permitted to be sold in many countries apart from these two countries.

(c) Paracetamol and Disprin have analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties and like any other drug are associated with certain known side effects which are mostly reversible.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to ban these drugs as these are being used all-over the world for the management of pain, fever and inflammation.

[Translation]

Setting up of National Aids Control Institute

1387. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a National AIDS Control Institute in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patients suffering from AIDS in Maharashtra; and

(d) the assistance provided by foreign countries during the last three years for controlling AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir. The National AIDS Research Institute, Pune has already been established by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 30th June 2003, cumulative reported number of AIDS cases from State of Maharashtra was 11,638.

(d) No direct assistance under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is provided by foreign countries to Maharashtra. However, the National AIDS Control Programme is a wholly centrally sponsored scheme, with funds being provided to all states and Union Territories for the implementation of the programme, including state of Maharashtra. Details of funds provided to Maharashtra during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Agency	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
World Bank assisted NACP-II	852.00	550.00	1025.50
(i) To Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society.			
(ii) To Mumbai District AIDS Control Society.	431.65	588.65	603.00
USAIDS assisted AVERT project in Maharashtra.	25.00	483.00	665.00

Revenue Earned from Auction of Port Land

1388. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under his Ministry that was auctioned during the last two years alongwith the details thereof;

(b) the earning accrued to the Government therefrom; and

(c) the names of agencies which participated in the bid of these pieces of land?

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

(a) No land was auctioned by any major port during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Health Scheme for Ex-Servicemen

1389. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contributory health scheme for ex-servicemen is in operation;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to implement the scheme for ex-servicemen living in far-flung areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government have introduced a medical scheme known as Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). The ECHS is for the Medicare of all ex-servicemen who are in receipt of pension (including disability pension and family pension) and their dependents, which includes wife/husband, legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. The ECHS envisages establishment of new armed forces polyclinics at 123 non-military stations and augmentation of armed forces clinics at 104 military stations spread across the country including far-flung areas. The ECHS will be implemented over a period of five years.

Internet Services

1390. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new system has been put in place whereby no specific internet connection would be needed by BSNL subscribers to make use of internet services on computers;

(b) if so, the details of the system and its mode of operation;

(c) the manner in which it is likely to benefit the subscribers;

(d) whether similar facility is proposed to be extended to MTNL subscribers and other land line users in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced duration based dial-up Internet service (Calling line identification based) recently for its subscribers at Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune

and Goa. It will be further extended to other State capitals in a progressive manner.

(b) It is a unique system which provides Internet Service in which the subscriber can access the Internet from any telephone through dial-up. The system allows automatic registration on first log-in. The authentication will be based on calling line identification (CLI) of the telephone. The charging is totally usage based and the service is post-paid like normal Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). The billing will be separate depending on the duration of use and will be charged to the Telephone bill (CLI based) as Internet Access charges at 10 Paise per Minute.

(c) The service is likely to benefit the subscribers by way of easy accessibility, convenience and simplicity.

(d) and (e) This Internet Service can be offered by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to the landline telephone subscribers based on mutually agreed terms and conditions between ISPs and basic Service Providers Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is an ISP as well Basic Service Provider. MTNL has already launched this service by the name Express Internet Service, which is CLI based and subscriber need not to take regular Internet connection for availing this facility.

Poor Telephone Service in Rural areas of Delhi

1391. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone services in the rural areas of Delhi have been deteriorating and the telephones remain out of service for days together and the same are not rectified despite repeated complaints to the authorities concerned;

(b) whether there have also been complaints from different parts of Delhi about the poor services in attending to the complaints by the MTNL causing a lot of inconvenience to the people;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the MTNL's computerized center for registering complaints also remain out of order for days together and the complaints are not being registered; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to have the complaints of the subscribers attended to promptly and the instructions issued in this regard to the concerned authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Normally, the Telephones are rectified within 48 hours. Some cases get delayed due to damages/faults in underground cables.

(b) There have been large scale digging activities in Delhi in the recent past by various agencies like Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Private telecom service providers, agencies engaged in construction of over bridges apart from Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Vidyut Board etc. On account of extensive digging through out the Metro city a large number of underground cables have been damaged resulting into telephone faults at the onset of very first rains of season. MTNL has taken action to restore these faults on war footing basis.

(c) No, Sir. The complaints can be registered in MTNL's computerised telephone booking service round the clock in all the exchanges.

(d) Measures initiated to reduce the faults and improve the services are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Measures initiated to reduce the faults and improve the services

- (a) Computered fault reporting system is introduced, which helps in booking, testing and sending the faults to the concerned line staff.
- (b) Line staff is provided with pagers for easy communication and follow up with the testing staff for speedy clearance of faults.
- (c) Subscriber loop length being reduced by planning more Remote Subscribers Units (RSUs)/Remote Line Units (RLUs)/Digital Loop Carriers (DLCs)
- (d) Overhead wires are minimized by introduced 5 pair cables and wall Distribution Points (DPs).
- (e) Rehabilitation work in respect of leading in cable and rewiring of multi-storeyed buildings is being done.
- (f) Paper core underground cable are being replaced by Jelly Filled Cables/Optical Fibre Cables with DLCs.
- (g) All The Electro-mechanical exchanges and analog electronic exchanges in MTNL have been replaced by digital electronic exchanges.

(h) The junction network has been completely transferred to Optical Fibre Cable links. Further improvement is being done by providing Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) systems connected on the ring architecture.

(i) Faults are monitored regularly by Senior Officers.

(j) Managed Leased Data Network system has been introduced to improve the performance of the Leased circuits.

(k) MTNL has liberalized the policy to replace all telephone instruments older than 5 years. This is being implemented in phases. In the first phase, instrument more than eight years old are being replaced.

[Translation]

WLL Service of MTNL

1392. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Garuda/WLL mobile service was introduced by MTNL;

(b) the number of times MTNL changed telephone sets of WLL services;

(c) whether WLL service is not regular and effective at present; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to make WLL service regular and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The WLL Mobile service was introduced by MTNL in Delhi on 17th May, 1997 and service was rechristened as 'GARUDA' on 7th October, 2001. In Mumbai the service was introduced on 25.01.2002.

(b) Handsets are only changed in the event of fault or change of handset plan as desired by customer.

(c) and (d) Additional equipment to improve WLL service has been procured by MTNL.

*[English]***Call Centres for Grievances Redressal**

1393. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the MTNL and BSNL have failed to look into various grievances of customers promptly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set up Call Centres for grievances redressal in MTNL and BSNL;

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

(e) the time limit fixed by MTNL and BSNL for redressal of consumers' complaints; and

(f) the extent to which the said Call Centres are likely to settle various grievances of customers?

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

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

(c) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have set up Call Centres.

(d) In MTNL Delhi, Call Centre Service has been started where customer is provided on-line service information regarding various services including provision of New Telephone Connection, Shift of Telephones, provision of various phone-plus services, billing complaints etc. BSNL has set up 39 Call Centres in different States - 17 Call Centres in Gujarat, 7 in Punjab, 3 each in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, 2 each in Maharashtra and Haryana, 1 each in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan and Kolkata.

(e) Time limit is fixed depending on the nature of the grievance. Target for telephone faults in 48 hours and billing complaints 30 days.

(f) These Call Centres are likely to settle various grievances of customers to a great extent.

Quality Education Year

1394. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the year 2002-03 was observed as "Quality Education Year"; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme chalked out and being implemented in order to improve the quality of education in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Swayam Siddha Programme**

1395. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched 'Swayam Siddha Programme' to empower the women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of schemes included in the said programme; and

(c) the main objectives and goals of the said programme and the extent to which the goal of empowerment of women has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government launched the Swayamsidha in 2000-01 to be implemented in 650 blocks at a total cost of Rs. 116.30 crores from 2000-01 to 2005-06. Swayamsidha is an integrated Scheme for women's empowerment based on formation of women into Self-Help Groups and aims at holistic empowerment of women through thrift, awareness generation, skill development, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes. The main objectives of the Scheme are:

- Establishment of self-reliant women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs);

- Creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social, economic and political issues;
- Strengthening and institutionalizing savings habit in rural women and their control over economic resources;
- Improving access of Women to micro credit; Involvement of women in local level planning; and
- Convergence of services of Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) and other Departments.

More than 21000 Women's Self-Help Groups have been formed under the scheme and are at various stages of development.

Establishment of Heart Disease Institute

1396. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to open a Heart Disease Institute in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of place selected for the Institute is likely to be set up; and

(d) the time by when the institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No proposal for opening a Heart Disease Institute in Bihar has been received.

[English]

Bio-Village Schemes

1397. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bio-villages schemes being operated in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the bio-village concept throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) Under this scheme five bio-village and clusters of bio-villages are operational in the country. Out of these, four have been supported by the Department of Biotechnology. These are in Gujarat (Mocha village, Porbandar District); Madhya Pradesh (ten villages in five districts viz. Jabalpur, Raisen, Guna, Indore and Bhopal); Maharashtra (two villages namely Kurur and Varsoli of Raigad District) and Uttar Pradesh (fifty villages covering ten districts of Western and Central Zones). A biovillage project is also operational at Pondicherry by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai with support from the United Nations Development Programme.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Efforts have been made to identify location specific biotechnology interventions for the establishment of new biovillages. Areas to be covered would include; application of biofertilisers and biopesticides; vermicomposting; cultivation of mushroom, spirulina and high yielding sugarcane varieties; aquaculture including pisciculture and prawn rearing; and sericulture. Post-harvest technologies, development of entrepreneurship in vegetable dyes and herbal products have also been included. Many of the components which are highly region/ location-specific, would be tailored to the needs of the local stakeholders. Beneficiaries/target groups have also been identified. From the ongoing biovillage schemes, there has been a positive response from the target population.

Atomic Sorting Machines in Post Offices

1398. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDAIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether a number of changes have been made in the working of the post offices in the country;

(b) if so, whether long delays in the Indian postal system will be made easy by automatic sorting machines;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the working of the Indian post offices more economical and efficient.

(d) whether Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, A Central Government agency, is financing a three-years project with a French Institute; and

(e) if so, the extent to which these steps are likely to improve the functioning of the post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The computer based Multipurpose Counter Machines have been introduced in large post offices and introduction of these machines has made postal transactions more efficient and economical. With a view to optimising utilization of postal network, a series of value added financial services and products have been introduced by the department including Speed Post, International Money Transfer Service, Sale of Mutual Funds and Bonds, Electronic Fund Transfer Service and Cash Management Service.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Four Lane from Manor to Surat on National Highway No. 8

1399. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken work of construction of Four lane on National Highway No. 8 from Manor to Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have decided to collect toll from the commuters on this Highway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 167 km. long section

of NH 8 between Surat and Manor has been taken up for upgradation to four lane facility. The project is being implemented under three packages and is targeted for completion by June, 2004.

(d) Yes, Sir. User fee would be collected.

(e) Rates fixed by the Government for various categories of vehicles at 1997 price level, are capped at Rs. 0.40 per km for Jeep, Car and Vans, Rs. 0.70 per km for Light Good Vehicles (LGV), Rs. 1.40 for Trucks and Buses and Rs. 2.30 per km for earth moving machines and heavy equipments. These are linked to wholesale price index.

Damage of Cables and Telephone Lines

1400. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has suffered financial loss due to damage of cables and telephone lines on account of digging by Metro Railways in the Capital recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some cables damaged by digging activities carried out by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and total financial loss on this account was Rs. 2,87,017.

(c) Effective co-ordination is maintained with Delhi Metro Railway Authorities to re-locate MTNL's underground cable, wherever required, to avoid damages in future.

Telephone Connection by BSNL

1401. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the waiting list for telephone connection in the country is increasing day-by-date despite the promise of BSNL to provide telephone connections on demand by March, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which BSNL would be able to provide telephone connections on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The Waiting List as percentage of DELs has come down from 15.9% in March, 2000 to 4.7% in March, 2003.

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

(c) In most of the urban areas the telephone is available on demand. BSNL is working hard to reduce the waiting time for new telephone connections.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Programme in Rajasthan

1402. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps being taken by the Government to promote family welfare programme in Rajasthan;

(b) the total budgetary provision made by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan for this programme; and

(c) the target fixed and the steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A range of comprehensive services is being provided by the Government to promote family planning and access to quality health care especially for women and children in Rajasthan, under the Reproductive and Child Health programme, Border District Clusters Scheme, Integrated Population Development Programme, India Population Project-IX, and Sector Investment Programme. Rajasthan is also a member of the Empowered Action Group constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for specific focus to demographically weaker States.

(b) The total 10th Five Year Plan allocation for the Department of Family Welfare is Rs. 27,125 crores. No State-wise allocation is made in the Five Year Plans.

(c) Government does not fix contraceptive linked targets for States since April 1996. The Govt. of Rajasthan has projected 2011 as the target year for achieving the Total Fertility Rate of 2.1. It seeks to address the issue of population stabilisation through intersectoral convergence, decentralized planning, bridging unmet needs through Jan Mangal couples and by giving incentives and disincentives for popularization of the two-child norm.

Maintenance of National Highway No. 22

1403. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on maintenance of National Highway No. 22 during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have decided to strengthen it on account of its dilapidated condition on the priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Details of amount spent on maintenance of National Highway 22 during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	20.38
2001-2002	21.76
2002-2003	21.61

(b) to (d) The road is being maintained in traffic-worthy condition. The maintenance and repair of road is a continuing process. Besides maintenance, 15 works amounting to Rs. 31.55 crores were sanctioned by this Ministry for development of National Highway 22 in the last three years and the current year. Sanctioned amount is to be incurred for completing these works.

Eviction of Tenants

1404. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee consisting of three wings of BSNL, MTNL and Post and Telegraph Department has been constituted to verify tenants living in the residential quarters allotted to officers and employees in various colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of raids conducted by officers of three wings during the last one year in Delhi; and

(d) the action taken to evict the tenants?

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

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

(c) Surprise checks were conducted by officers and 25 cases of subletting/unauthorized sharing were detected.

(d) Allotments of such cases as mentioned at (c) above were cancelled.

Air Crash in Sudan

1405. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indians were also among the persons killed in an air crash in Sudan in July, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and other details of the Indians killed or injured in this plane crash;

(d) the cash and other compensation paid or to be paid to Indians by India, Sudan and the Airlines;

(e) whether the Government have taken up this matter with Sudan and the concerned Airlines; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The following three Indian nationals, who were on a short-term contract with a Sudanese commercial company, died in an air crash of Sudan Air flight on July 8:

1. Shri Patel Pravinbhai Lalubhai

2. Shri Patel Sanjay Kumar Laxmanbhai

3. Shri Rana Jaykumar Nandlal

(d) to (f) Their bereaved families have been informed by the Embassy of India, Khartoum as well as their employer. The Embassy has taken up the case for compensation with both the Government of Sudan and Sudan Airways, and it is understood that the latter is processing the case. Their employer has also been asked to pursue this matter.

Indian Territories under Occupation of Neighbouring Countries

1406. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the neighbouring countries under which Indian territories have been under illegal occupation as on date and the date from which the land has been under such occupation;

(b) whether Pakistan has handed over some part of the Indian territory to China after occupying it illegally;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the area of land of the country liberated from the neighbouring countries so far;

(e) whether the attention of the international organisation has been drawn towards this matter; and

(f) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) India has outstanding boundary issues to be resolved with Pakistan and China. Differences between India and China on the boundary question surfaced in 1950s. Pakistan has been in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq kms. Under to called "Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963", Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory to China.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peacefully consultations. In the Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation issued on June 23, 2003 during Prime Minister's visit to China, India and China have agreed that both would appoint

Special Representative to explore the framework of a boundary settlement, from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship.

India and Pakistan are committed under the Simla Agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore Declaration to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully through direct bilateral dialogue.

Assistance to Rape Victims

1407. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Government to provide any financial assistance to the rape victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Department is implementing a scheme called Short Stay Home under which women and girls who are deprived of social support due to family problems, mental stress, social ostracism, sexual exploitation or other causes, including victims of rape, are rehabilitated by providing the services and facilities of shelter, food, medical care, counseling, vocational training, legal support and other facilities. The Government is implementing another scheme called "Swadhar", the objective of which is to rehabilitate socially and economically, women and girls in distress, including those who are victims of sexual crimes and have been disowned by family or who do not want to go back to their respective family for various reasons.

[English]

Visit by Pakistani Business Delegation

1408. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani Business Delegation visited India recently;

(b) if so, whether the said delegation has urged the Government to ease visa norms for businessmen;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to ease visa norms to normalise trade relations between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. A delegation from Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India (July 7-8) at the invitation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

(b) and (c) The Joint Recommendations, arrived after their meeting, identified easing of the visa facility to businessmen of India and Pakistan as one of the factors for promotion of trade and commerce between the two countries.

(d) and (e) There is no restriction on grant of visas to Pakistani nationals, including businessmen, who are found eligible, and which is normally granted after pre-verification.

Coastal Highway on Western Coast

1409. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways propose to construct a new Coastal Highway in the Western Coast covering the coastal States of Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala under the Programme of the Ministry on National Highways which will not only boost up the marine and tourism industry but will also add to the security in the coastal region and further integration of people of these States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rail Service Link with Pakistan

1410. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to resume rail services between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be resumed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Prime Minister had, on April 18, 2003 extended the hand of freindship once again to Pakistan. Subsequently, India has taken the initiative to move in a step-by-step manner to normalize diplomatic and other links between the two countries. Both countries have appointed High Commissioners and the Delhi-Lahore bus service has been resumed with effect from July 11. Pakistan has indicated willingness to host technical level discussions for resumption of civil aviation, although proposals for specific dates are still awaited. Both sides have released prisoners. There have also been important exchanges in the context of business, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

Pakistan, on July 24, 2003 formally suggested meeting between railway authorities of the two countries to discuss modalities to resume railway service.

India would move ahead in a step-by-step manner, building on the successes achieved and the confidence generated.

Sale of Meghdoot Post Cards

1411. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Indian Post Offices has stopped the sale of "Meghdoot Post Card" meant for poor across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the names of the places where Meghdoot cards are available in the Post Offices; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to honour its announcement in this regard and to implement the scheme in letter and spirit?

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

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

(c) and (d) The Meghdoot Postcard was launched by the Department of Post in August 2002. The main feature of the Meghdoot Postcard is that the space on the left half of the address side of the post card is used for advertising services and products of organizations such as PSUs, Government Departments and Private Companies etc. on payment of Rs. 2/- per Post Card. Since the Postal Department earns additional revenue through advertising, the Post Card is sold at a lower rate of 25 paise. The advertiser (who has to order a minimum quantity of one lakh cards) is allowed to select the area(s) of distribution of the Meghdoot Postcard and therefore the availability of such cards is limited only to the areas selected by the advertiser. In last three months the Department has got orders for printing of Meghdoot Postcards which are to be distributed in Raipur, Durg, Bhillai, Bilaspur, Raigarh and Ambikapur districts of Chhattisgarh and Pune, Ahmednagar, Satara & Sholapur districts of Maharashtra.

Department of Posts has taken a lot of initiative to popularize the scheme by widespread marketing. Due to these marketing efforts, the Department has obtained orders for printing of Meghdoot Post Cards and for their distribution in the States of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. As a result of these initiatives the distribution area of Meghdoot Postcard is expanding. In due course, as the popularity of the scheme increases, the availability of Meghdoot Postcards can be expected to improve.

[Translation]

Category-wise Personnel in the Ministry

1412. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups A, B, C and D in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, group-wise;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of the total number of personnel, group-wise; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

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

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

[English]

Development Hinterland on New Mangalore Port

1413. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hinterland of New Mangalore Port is highly underdeveloped;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for financial and other assistance for developing the Hinterland of New Mangalore Port;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to develop this Hinterland without any further delay?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) This Ministry has not received any request from the State Government of Karnataka for the development of the hinterland of New Mangalore Port.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Official Tours of National Aids Control Organisation Officials

1414. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) were invited and attended a number of international conferences during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the additional knowledge gained by the officials of NACO from such conferences?

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

(b) As per statement enclosed.

(c) These conferences have helped to keep Government of India to updated in respect of strategies for HIV/AIDS that have succeeded across developing countries for prevention, care and support as well as in the areas of vaccine development, promotion of microbicides and methodologies for surveillance, etc. Additionally, participation in these conferences provided an opportunity to share India's prevention and control strategies for HIV/AIDS with other countries in the world.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Official	Designation	Date	Place	Purpose
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mrs. Meenakshi Datta Ghosh	Additional Secretary & Project Director	7-12 July, 2002	Barcelona, Spain	14th International AIDS
			3-4 February, 2003	Kathmandu, Nepal	Accelerating Momentum in the fight against HIV/AIDS, in South Asia
2.	Dr. P.L. Joshi	Additional Project Director	7-07-2002 12-07-02	Barcelona, Spain	Attended XIV International AIDS Conference at Barcelona.
			3-02-2003 40-02-2003	Kathmandu, Nepal	Attended High Level Conference on the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in South Asia.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Dr. Sadhana Rout	Joint Dir. (IEC)	July 2002	Barcelona (Spain)	Attended XIV International AIDS Conference at Barcelona
4.	Dr. P.L. Salil	Joint Dir. (Blood Safety)	7-07-02 12-07-02	Barcelona (Spain)	Attended XIV International AIDS Conference at Barcelona
5.	Dr. A.S. Rathore	Joint Dir. (Trg.)	15-11-02 17-11-02	California Oakland	The Asian & Pacific Islander Summit.
6.	Sh. Pratik Kumar	Deputy Dir. (IEC)	July 2002	Barcelona (Spain)	Attended XIV International AIDS Conference at Barcelona

Merger of Nistad

1415. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location, main objectives and the budgetary provision for the financial year of 2002-2003 for the National Institute for Science, Technology and Development Studies under CSIR;

(b) whether there is a proposal to merger NISTAD with other Institute of CSIR; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) The National Institute of Science, Technology & Development Studies (NISTADS), a constituent institute of CSIR, is located in New Delhi.

The situate is mandated.

- to carry out research in various areas of science and technology studies,
- to provide consultancy services and undertake sponsored research and commissioned studies for international and national agencies,
- to build, maintain and provide services based on information data bank in science policy areas and archives of science and technology,

- to provide training to scholars and functionaries from India and other developing countries in the areas of expertise of the Institute.

The Budgetary for the financial year 2002-2003 for NISTADS was Rs. 514.50 lakhs.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

NCTE Meeting

1416. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the National Council for Teachers Education (N.C.T.E.) had been convened in April-May-June, 2003 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken in the said meetings and especially about the problems being faced by the said council in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two meetings of the General Body of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) were held on 2.5.2003 and 27.6.2003.

(c) The meeting on 2.5.2003, relaxed the existing regulations relating to issue of NOC by the State

Government/UT Administrations, to a prescribed time limit of six months.

The meeting on 27.6.2003 took decisions on issues relating to teacher availability and training programmes for the elementary education sector. The Committee also approved the requirement of assessment/accreditation by National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) for all teacher education institutions seeking enhancement of intake, excluding the elementary teachers training institutions.

Vacant posts of Nurses

1417. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies of nurses in the reserved categories are lying vacant in various Government hospitals including Delhi in AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to fill up these posts at the earliest?

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]

Training Institutions for Employees

1418. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of recognised institutions providing pre and post appointment training to Group 'D' employees in shipping;

(b) the categories of personnel and the period of training provided by each institution; and

(c) the training fees charged from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) There are no recognised institutions providing pre and post appointment training to Group 'D' employees in shipping.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Amendment in Licence Condition

1419. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing licence conditions stipulate that a company having more than 10% stake in one cellular operator in a circle cannot acquire more than 10% in any other cellular operator in the same circle;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the existing licence conditions for cellular operators with a view to allow them to acquire more than one licence in the same circle; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The relevant conditions of the Licence Agreement for Cellular Mobile Telephone service (CMTS), in this regard are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. This is so, as in the case of Cellular Service Licence, a Licensee is allotted Wireless Spectrum which is a scarce and limited natural resource. One legal person, if permitted, to have substantial stakes in more than one Licence in the same Service Area for the same service, the competition gets compromise as no fresh Licensee can be inducted due to constraint of availability of Wireless Spectrum.

Statement

Relevant Conditions in the CMTS Licence Agreement for Transfer of Licence

(i) Transfer of Licence is permitted with prior written approval of the Licensor subject to certain conditions, including that no compromise in competition occurs in the provision of Telecom Services.

(ii) No Single company/legal person, either directly or through its associates, shall have substantial equity holding in more than one licensee company in the same service area for the same

service. 'Substantial equity' herein will mean 'an equity of 10% or more.' A promoter company cannot have stakes in more than one licensee company for the same service area.

Committee on Drug Formulary

1420. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. J.N. Pande for preparing the combined drugs formulary for the MSO and CGHS has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action by the Government to implement the recommendations of the report?

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

(b) The combined formulary of CGHS/MSO recommended by Dr. J.N. Pande contain 507 generic drugs and 655 proprietary drugs.

(c) The combined formulary of CGHS/MSO recommended by Dr. Pande Committee was initially circulated on 14.2.2002. Rate Committee was constituted on 5.3.02 to finalise the rates of generic and proprietary drugs included in the combined formulary. Subsequently it was decided to keep the formulary and recommendations of the Rate Committee in abeyance.

Indo-Pak Trade Relations

1421. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Indo-Pak relations with reference to economic aspects; and

(b) the details of the measures proposed to be taken to improve economic including trade relations between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India has supported stronger economic and commercial relations with Pakistan. However, Pakistan has continued to follow restrictive trade practices with India and hold any progress in this field hostage to political considerations. It had

also stymied any meaningful progress on SAPTA and SAFTA under SAARC framework.

(b) India had unilaterally granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. India has also been exchanging tariff concessions with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries, including Pakistan, under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA).

Prime Minister, in his statement in Parliament on May 2, 2003 had emphasised the importance of progress on economic cooperation between India and Pakistan for creating an environment, in which difficult issues between the two countries could be addressed. It is in this context that a business delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India (July 7-8, 2003) at the invitation from Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

During its deliberations at Kathmandu on July 9-10-003, the SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries stressed the urgent need for finalizing the draft framework treaty on creating a free trade area, i.e. SAFTA, before the next Summit. It also directed that there should be substantial progress to report to the Summit on other parallel trade facilitation measures including the proposed regional agreement on promotion and protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, trade arbitration council, customs cooperation and harmonization of standards and measurements. These are all trade facilitation measures aimed to operationalize SAFTA. India has expressed its happiness at the consensus in the Standing Committee on SAARC on the entire package of issues and hoped that this entire package will be fully implemented before the next Summit so as to make it meaningful.

External Assistance for AIDS

1422. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the World Bank and other International agencies have provided any financial assistance for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, Agency-wise; and

(c) the details regarding utilisation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of India receives assistance from the World Bank in the form of soft loan and from United States Agency for International Development (USAID),

Department of International Development (DFID), Government of UK and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as a grant of implementation of HIV/AIDS Control Programme in the country.

(b) and (c) The above agencies have provided financial assistance as stated below:

(Rupees in crores)

Agency	2001-02		2002-03	
	Expenditure incurred	Reimbursement received	Expenditure incurred	Reimbursement received
World Bank	187.72	155.44	201.46	137.07
USAID	11.46	11.46	14.90	14.90
DFID	25.37	10.08	25.00	19.80
CIDA	2.00	0	0.50	0

Establishment of Special Economic Zones

1423. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major ports which have set up the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) since when these ports have participated in SEZ; and

(c) the plan of other ports in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Special Economic Zone has been set up by any major ports. However, in principle approval has been given for setting up of a port-based Special Economic Zone at Vallarpadam and Puthuvyppeen area of Cochin Port Trust by the Department of Commerce.

(c) This Ministry has conveyed in principle approval for setting up of Special Economic Zone at Tuticorin Port. Presently no proposal is under consideration of this Ministry in respect of other major ports.

Participation of Private Sector in Road Construction

1424. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government in improving the condition of National Highways other than the Golden Quadrilateral;

(b) whether private sector investment in construction of National Highways is hampered due to high risk of revenue collection;

(c) if so, whether any incentive scheme to encourage private sector investment in the road construction is proposed to be chalked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Government has taken the following steps for improving the condition of National Highways other than the Golden Quadrilateral.

(i) Widening to four/six lanes of the North-South and East-West Corridors, from Srinagar to Kanyakumari (inclusive of spur from Cochin to Salem) and Silchar to Porbandar respectively, for a total length of about 7,300 km, as a part of the National Highways Development Project.

(ii) Widening of additional 10,000 km of National Highways to four-lanes through public-private

partnership on BOT basis in the next 4 to 5 years.

(iii) Improvement of Ridding Quality and other routine measures like periodic renewals and strengthening of the National Highways.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pace of Work on National Highway No. 8

1425. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the National Highway No. 8 is likely to be repaired completely in the country;

(b) the reasons for slow pace of work on this Highway between Ahmedabad and Udaipur in Rajasthan;

(c) the time by which the stretch of Highway between Mumbai and Surat is likely to be repaired; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) NH-8 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(b) The work of 4-lanning of Himatnagar to Chiloda section between Ahmedabad to Udaipur was held up due to litigation and the work has now started. The 4-laning of Ahmedabad-Udaipur section is targeted for completion by December, 2003 except Himatnagar to Chiloda section which is now targeted for completion by December, 2004.

(c) and (d) Surat-Manor section is being developed into four lane facility. The work is scheduled for completion by June, 2004. Manor-Mumbi section is already four laned and is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

Shortages of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

1426. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS Dispensaries in the country are facing heavy shortage of medicines and these are being purchased from outside;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of medicines purchased from outside during the last three years; and

(d) the details of agencies in Delhi from where medicines for CGHS dispensaries are purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) CGHS was facing shortage of medicine due to non-finalization of the formulary for CGHS/MSO. Arrangements have been made to procure the medicines by adopting the Generic Formulary of GNCT of Delhi and a list prepared by Experts for the Proprietary items. Order have been placed for supply of medicines to HSCC (a Govt. of India Undertaking) & MSO for supply of medicines to Delhi and outside Delhi respectively.

The medicines which are not supplied by the MSO/ HSCC to the CGHS or which are not available in the dispensary are indented with the Authorized Local Chemist on individual prescriptions.

(c) The details of medicines purchased through different agencies is placed at statement enclosed.

(d) The details of agencies in Delhi from where medicines for CGHS dispensaries are procured are as under:—

1. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Govt. of India Undertaking
2. Medical Store Organization
3. Authorized Local Chemists.

Statement

The budget allocation and expenditure during the last three years i.e. 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 up to date in CGHS Delhi under Sub-Head (Material and Supply) (Non-Plan)

	(Value in Rupees)		
Financial Year	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Total Budget Allocation	67140700.00	916781000.00	102,52,00,000
	Expenditure on different system of medicines	Expenditure on different system of medicines	Expenditure on different system of medicines
Allopathic (on local purchase against release of 4% out of 10 % withhold Reimbursement of medical claims	518964093.00	742163982.00	67440711
			39650258
			45,65,03,834
MSO	76059353.00	77088369.00	Nil
ISM&H	34787919.00	16959392.00	3,37,09,428
Life Saving & Others	41595635.00	40589558.00	7,00,68,210
Payments to HSCC	Nil	Nil	14,77,00,000
Payment made to Safdarjung Hospital	Nil	Nil	13,79,655.00
Kendriya Bhandra	—	—	17,47,904
Total Expenditure	671400000.00	916781000	102,52,00,000

[English]

Grants to Universities

1427. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) the details of grants sanctioned by the UGC to various universities and colleges in the country during the last three years, university-wise, particularly in Orissa;

(b) the amount out of that spent by each University in those years;

(c) whether the UGC grants have not been utilised by the each University of the State Government for the respective years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The information

is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Although the IX Plan period ended on 31.3.2002, the State Universities were permitted to utilise Plan Development Grant released at the end of the IX Plan as under:—

1. Buildings approved by UGC for which construction activities started before 31st March, 2002 will be allowed extension for two years, i.e. 31.4.2002 to 31.3.2004.
2. The cases where the building plans and estimates were received and approved by UGC before 31.3.2002 will have to be completed by March 31, 2003.
3. For others (Except faculty positions) i.e. upto 31.3.2003.
4. For faculty positions-no extension is granted.

Accordingly, the accounts of the IX Plan grant paid to State Universities will be settled on receipt of Audited Utilisation Certificate and Statement of Expenditure, to be provided by each University.

[Translation]

Providing of Telephone Services in Rural Areas

1428. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are committed to provide telephone services in each village of the country and are expanding telecommunication services in the country rapidly keeping it in view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decision has been taken at the higher level by which the establishment of telephone exchanges to provide telecom services in the rural areas has been stopped or restrictions have been imposed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Government is committed to provide telephone facility in all the inhabited villages of the country. BSNL has already provided telephone facility in 504945 villages upto 31.3.2003 of its share. The BSNL target for the current year is 29600 including 18006 satellite based telephones. The villages are planned to be covered during 2003-2004 subject to availability of equipment in time and funds for satellite based VPTs.

(c) No, Sir. There is no ban on installation of telephone exchanges in rural areas for providing telephone facilities. The telephone exchanges are being planned in rural areas as per present norms given below:—

- (i) The planning of rural areas will be first by WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) solution.
- (ii) If WLL solution is notworkable due to technical reasons a new exchange will be planned with minimum registered demand of 75 within 2.5 Kilometers (radial) of the exchange.

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

[English]

Providing of Jobs

1429. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are finding it difficult and facing hurdles too in implementing the Prime Minister's assurance of providing one crore jobs a year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the main hurdles being faced by the Government along with the sectors where there was a shortfall;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating land and watershed Mission in augmenting the rozgar avenues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total numbers of jobs provided so far during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(f) the quantum of funds spent by the Government in providing jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Tenth Five Year Plan sets out the strategy for creation of 50 million employment opportunities during the five year period 2002-07 i.e. on an average, 10 million employment opportunities per year. Out of this, around 30 million will come from growth process, and the remaining 20 million employment will be 'Programme Generated' through programmes and policies in labour intensive sectors like agriculture, small and medium industries, tourism, education and health etc. Priorities are assigned already for such sectors in the Tenth Plan.

(c) and (d) Out of the 'Programme Generated' incremental employment over the 10th Plan, 'National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas' is to contribute 0.5 million employment opportunities and 'On Farm Water Management' is to contribute 1.25 million employment opportunities.

(e) Estimates of employment are obtained on the basis of the quinquennial NSSO surveys. The two most recent surveys were conducted in 1993-94 and 1999-2000. State-wise employment opportunities estimated, on Current Daily Status basis, for the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) Every economic activity contributes to employment generation, and therefore, outlays provided for various schemes in the Tenth Plan will contribute to employment generation. A copy of Tenth Plan Document is available in Parliament Library.

Statement

Estimated Employment Opportunities by Current Daily Status (CDS) or selected States

(in Million)

States		1993-94	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.98	30.61
2.	Assam	6.79	7.65
3.	Bihar	27.61	30.35
4.	Gujarat	16.17	18.54

1	2	3	4
5.	Haryana	5.18	5.98
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.32	2.37
7.	Karnataka	18.67	20.33
8.	Kerala	8.94	8.90
9.	Madhya Pradesh	26.62	28.73
10.	Maharashtra	32.46	34.98
11.	Orissa	11.20	11.93
12.	Punjab	7.13	8.01
13.	Rajasthan	19.08	19.93
14.	Tamil Nadu	22.64	23.14
15.	Uttar Pradesh	46.47	49.39
16.	West Bengal	22.11	22.66
17.	Delhi	3.59	4.38
All India		315.84	336.75

Source: National Sample Survey Organization.

[Translation]

Issue of New Hand Set

1430. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL discourages the customers with regard to the issuance of new hand sets under 'Garuda Seva' in the event of the loss of the old one;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time taken in issuing new set in the case of loss of old one under Garuda Seva; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide new hand sets at the earliest in the case of loss of Garuda Seva set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. MTNL does not discourage the issue of new handset.

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

(c) Immediately after receipt of request alongwith a copy of first Information Report (FIR) and deposit of required charges by the customers, a Garuda handset is issued.

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

[English]

Malaria Eradication Programme

1431. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) the total budget outlay earmarked/released for this purpose for the year 2003-04 to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A statement showing details of Central assistance provided under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) including World Bank supported Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) during the last three years, State-wise, is enclosed.

(c) Funds will be released during the current year based on requirements and utilization of balance funds, if any, with the States.

Statement

Central Assistance Provided to the States under NAMP and EMCP from 2000-01 to 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2523.24	954.65	548.86
Arunachal Pradesh	293.79	364.67	377.08
Assam	2657.86	2377.47	1934.39

1	2	3	4
Bihar	328.82	525.94	95.85
Chhattisgarh	271.65	876.3	3047.95
Goa	0.98	6.17	7.97
Gujarat	1480.92	1353.89	767.99
Haryana	78.35	18.42	55.79
Himachal Pradesh	89.06	36.78	11.89
Jammu & Kashmir	84.28	69.62	382.43
Jharkhand	—	804.33	1267.52
Karnataka	233.36	369.55	227.36
Kerala	75.92	42.78	6.16
Madhya Pradesh	2154.36	2540.77	2408.15
Maharashtra	1478.39	2289.2	947.11
Manipur	235.72	275.28	144.86
Meghalaya	303.58	290.37	3091.7
Mizoram	235.26	345.85	195.4
Nagaland	27891	368.08	367.24
Orissa	1440.89	1745.01	3030.8
Punjab	148.31	94.09	65.75
Rajasthan	468.09	924.93	925.9
Sikkim	0.12	0.14	4.32
Tamil Nadu	133.9	85.72	125.2
Tripura	480.94	505.76	389.93
Uttar Pradesh	544.11	637.44	526.19
Uttaranchal	—	39.19	1.96
West Bengal	454.44	701.72	347.04
Delhi	100.45	89.57	58.47
Pondicherry	13.56	8.3	13.18
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	231.73	220.78	230.07
Chandigarh	44.81	35.51	38.29
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18.12	40.67	16.07
Daman & Diu	9.9	18.64	7.99
Lakshadweep	5.57	5.29	5.35
Total	16899.39	19062.88	18882.21

Protest Lodged by Passport Officers

1432. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers in the Regional Passport Offices all over the country observed a protest day by working an extra day on May 31, 2003, a Saturday to press for their demands; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As part of the strike threat issued by the All India Passport Employees Association (AIPEA), some of its members observed a protest day by working on Saturday, May 31, 2003. The AIPEA is an association of non-gazetted employees of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) and does not have officers of the CPO on its membership.

2. The AIPEA has gone on strike on several occasions since its recognition in 1998. The agitation in May 2003 had its origin in the refusal of the AIPEA to allow transfer of its members on the basis of orders issued in April 2003. AIPEA added several other demands subsequently relating to cadre review, departmental promotional committee meetings, formation of a Departmental Council, foreign postings, uniform office procedure, provision of uniforms, transfer matters, passport printing work, revision of recruitment rules and regularization of casual workers. Action had been taken or is being taken in these areas. There are also issues, which require consideration by other Ministries/Departments. On a number of areas, action is pending on the part of AIPEA.

3. In certain areas, such as cadre review and uniform office procedure, the attention of the office-bearers of AIPEA had been drawn to the fact that it would be difficult to make progress on these two matters unless the passport employees met the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) productivity norms established by the Ministry of Finance. The AIPEA has consistently not accepted the SIU norms. This has been a major factor leading to considerable pendencies in the issue of passports in almost all Passport Offices and the resultant dissatisfaction of the passport seeking public.

4. In regard to transfer matters, the AIPEA has been insisting on transfers only within limited zones, which are

highly unviable. This has resulted in overstaffing in some Passport Offices as well as understaffing in other Passport Offices. This factor has also led to a further increase in pendencies in issue of passports. It may be mentioned that in the case of the Regional Passport Office in Ahmedabad there are only 82 employees against the sanctioned strength of 134. As a result of this severe shortage of staff and the non-acceptance of SIU norms by the AIPEA, the pendency in the issuance of passports is more than 90,000 in RPO Ahmedabad.

5. On a number of occasions in the past AIPEA has given assurances to the Ministry that all pendencies would be cleared in a specific time frame and maintained at zero level. However, this has not happened and pendencies are instead increasing. The AIPEA has also linked the clearance of pendencies to the grant of financial incentives. It may be further mentioned that AIPEA in disregard of the Conduct Rules has gone on strike and go-slows and other forms of agitation. In addition to such action taken by AIPEA being illegal, the agitations of AIPEA have also severely hampered the work of Passport Offices and has resulted in falls in the output of Passport Offices, dissatisfaction among the passport seeking public, and projected the Passport Offices in a negative light to the general public. The activities of the AIPEA have not been helpful to the public seeking passports when the possession of passport is a basic right for all citizens of the country. The Government have nevertheless consistently taken a positive and constructive approach in its dealings with AIPEA as a result of which, the agitation in May 2003 was called off by the AIPEA on May 31 2003. The Government have now instituted a system of regular dialogue with the AIPEA with a view to expeditiously resolving outstanding issues.

German Assistance In IT Sector

1433. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has agreed to liberalise access for Indian information technology professionals to that country under a revised visa regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Germany will be able to help the Indian expertise on IT?

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

(b) In August 2000, the German Government had introduced the "Green Card" Programme for IT professionals from all countries. The German Government recently approved the extension of this scheme till December 2004. The number of these work permits/ "Green Cards" was formerly limited to 20,000. The expiry of the green card scheme was set for July 31, 2003; this has now been extended until December 31, 2004. Until June 30, 2003 out of a total of 14,566 green cards granted by Germany. 3741 were given to Indian nationals.

(c) The Indian IT professionals are in big demand in the world market especially in European countries due to their quality of services and cheaper cost. The experience of working in Germany will further enrich them professionally.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Bihar

1434. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a large number of telephones under these exchanges are not functioning properly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure proper functioning of these telephones; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide telephone facilities in rural areas of Bihar where the same has not been provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 531 telephone exchanges were set up in rural area of all districts of Bihar during the 9th five year plan as detailed below:

1997-1998	28*
1998-1999	43*
1999-2000	100*
2000-2001	251*
2001-2002	109

*includes districts of Jharkhand Telecom Circle.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The following steps are taken to ensure proper functioning of telephones:

(i) Telephone connections are being provided on drop wire.

(ii) 5 pair cable is being laid to minimise faults rate.

(iii) Effective monitoring of faults at all levels.

(e) The following steps are taken to provide telephone facilities in rural areas of Bihar where the same not been provided so far:

(i) All the revenue villages of Bihar have been covered with telephone facilities through Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(ii) 183 Rural Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Base Trans/receive Stations (BTSSs) with a total capacity of 91500 lines have been commissioned.

(iii) The capacities of rural Base Station Controllers (BSCs) and Base Trans/receive Station (BTSSs) are being expanded from 500 to 1000 lines, totalling to 40500 lines to meet the existing demand.

Objective Structural Clinical Examination System

1435. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Objective Structural Clinical Examination (OSCE) System with a view to make admission test in higher education in the field of Medical Science purposive and transparent besides maintaining its traditional nature;

(b) if so, the names of the diseases whose specialists would be selected to be awarded degrees; and

(c) the details of the procedure of selection of Doctors through the above-mentioned system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National Board of Examinations have introduced the practice of objective structured clinical examination for

students seeking DNB degree for post-graduation alongwith conventional examination. This is an objective method of assessing the clinical skills of the students, which is transparent with more acceptability among students and the teachers.

(b) The system has been introduced in the subject of ENT and Forensic Medicine. It is proposed to introduce such system in the specialists of Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic etc. in due course.

(c) In this system, students are examined in a group. The number may vary from 22 to 30 and as per requirements a number of clinical stations are prepared. Each station deals with one aspect of the clinical problem with a pre-determined questions and marks. The students have to visit all the stations one by one for answering similar questions at all stations.

Offices/Exchanges/Towers in Rented Buildings

1436. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of places where offices, exchanges and towers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are existing in rented premises in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in districts of Ghaziabad, Azamgarh, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Gautam Budh Nagar;

(b) the amount of rent being paid by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, separately in the above districts and the area of land specified therefor;

(c) whether the Government/BSNL propose to hire more buildings to enhance communication facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Expenditure Incurred on Haj Pilgrims

1437. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure incurred by the Government of Haj Pilgrims during each of the last three years;

(b) whether this amount has been proposed to be enhanced;

(c) if so, by when ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Expenditure incurred by the Government to subsidize airfare of Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee, Mumbai during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Estimated Amount (Rs. in crore)
2001	149.55
2002	163.80
2003	200.00

The other expenditure on making various arrangements for management of Haj pilgrimage is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) There is no plan to enhance the expenditure at present. Since other factors on air-travel of pilgrims remain unchanged, expenditure on the subsidized airfare is unlikely to increase during Haj-2004.

[English]

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

1438. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, recently;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the target set there under for the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no scheme called the Pradhan Mantri Swastha Suraksha Yojana. However, pursuant to the announcement made by the Finance Minister in the budget speech 2003-2004, a 'Universal Health Insurance Scheme' was launched on countrywide basis by the Prime Minister on 14th July, 2003.

(b) The main objective of the scheme is to provide easy access to good health services for a large majority of the less advantaged citizens and offer them health protection of some choice.

(c) 100 lakh families are proposed to be covered by the four public sector general insurance companies under the universal Health Insurance Scheme during the year 2003-2004.

[Translation]

Mobile Phone Service in Maharashtra

1439. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to provide mobile phone services in Gangakhed, Jintoor and Basmat Talukas in Parbhani district of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Sir, the following four companies have been granted licences to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area:

- (i) M/s BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.
- (ii) M/s IDEA Cellular Limited
- (iii) M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd.
- (iv) M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) (A Public Sector Undertaking)

Sir, as per the terms and conditions of the Licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), an operator for Telephone Circle Service Area is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters in the Service Areas within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns

shall lie with the Licensees depending on their business decision.

As intimated by the above mentioned Licensees, presently Parbhani District Headquarter is covered by CMTS. Coverage of the said Talukas within Parbhani District is not mandatory under the CMTS Licence Agreement and depends upon the business/commercial decision of the said Licensees.

Strength of Employees

1440. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The desired information in respect of the Planning Commission (including Programme Evaluation Organisation) is given hereunder:

Group	Total no. of personnel	No. out of Col. 2 belonging to		
		OBC	ST	SC
'A'	241	07	18	35
'B'	272	05	07	30
'C'	347	25	23	62
'D'	317	26	15	136
Total	1177	63	63	263

There is no Undertaking under the administrative of control of Planning Commission.

*[English]***Royalty Earned by CSIR**

1441. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has many patents and discoveries in its name;

(b) if so, the royalty earned by CSIR during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(c) whether CSIR-initiated research work does not have much commercial value;

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that CSIR encourages relevant research in the future; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make CSIR self-reliant and self-funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) CSIR earned Rs. 287.28 lakh and Rs. 421.32 lakh on account of Royalty & Premia during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively.

(c) to (e) CSIR research projects are always aimed at building self-reliance in Indian industry. Thus, it attempts to strike a fine blend between basic sciences and applied research. CSIR initiated research has a commercial value, which is evident from the fact that the industrial turnover based on CSIR process and products is over Rs. 5000 crore today. Products such as Sonalika (a tractor), Asmon (anti-asthmatic drug), Saheli (once a week family planning pill) E-Mal (anti malaria drug) etc. are amongst the examples of CSIR's recent success stories. Close industrial partnerships through different mechanism, improved marketing, setting up business plans and creating special incentives for scientists undertaking successful industrial research are some of the measures that CSIR has taken in recent years to make CSIR self-reliant and self-funded to the extent possible.

*[Translation]***Meeting of Western Regional Committee of N.C.T.E.**

1442. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Western Regional Committee (WRC), Bhopal of the National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) was held in April, May and June, 2003;

(b) if so, the decision taken therein;

(c) whether the WRC, Bhopal has received any representation from Maharashtra about the problems being faced in the implementation of the provisions of the regulations contained in the Gazette of India, NCTE dated 04.9.2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken thereon after deliberations in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Following meetings of Western Regional Committee (WRC), Bhopal were held during April to June, 2003:—

(1) 46th meeting on 26th and 27th April, 2003

(2) 47th meeting on 24th and 25th May, 2003

(3) 48th meeting on 20th to 22nd June, 2003

(b) A decision has been taken to grant recognition to 111 teacher education courses, subject to the Institutions submitting the list of staff/faculty approved by the competent authority and to increase the intake of seats in 25 institutions.

(c) to (e) No representation from the Government of Maharashtra was received in WRC for consideration in these meetings.

*[English]***Financial Assistance to NGOs**

1443. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisation receiving financial assistance from the Union Government for the welfare of child and women in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to them during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the misuse of grants by some of these organisations;

(d) if so, the names of the organisations found misusing the grants during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Details of Non-Governmental Organisations receiving financial assistance from the Department of Women & Child Development are available in the Annual Reports of the Department, copies of which are available in the library of Lok Sabha.

(b) Details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) As and when specific instances of irregularities are noticed, action is taken to recover the money sanctioned the organisations. Legal action is also initiated for recovery of sums due to the Government.

Statement I

Total financial assistance provided to NGOs during last three years, State-wise and Year-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UT	Grants Release		
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	482.56	841.58	805.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85.43	34.43	100.94
3.	Assam	160.17	123.06	199.07
4.	Bihar	280.60	152.41	212.42
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	6.21	22.65
6.	Goa	3.56	62.65	5.86

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	236.28	114.43	494.79
8.	Haryana	119.79	129.57	215.90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	83.77	154.15	68.93
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	196.47	101.92	199.55
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	1.51	0.00
12.	Karnataka	447.82	228.93	385.21
13.	Kerala	246.72	183.96	218.09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	353.30	328.01	514.38
15.	Maharashtra	347.20	407.08	531.23
16.	Manipur	119.33	59.00	154.20
17.	Meghalaya	21.06	48.24	28.17
18.	Mizoram	37.21	58.09	28.96
19.	Nagaland	85.26	109.72	106.31
19.	Orissa	330.34	367.34	342.69
20.	Punjab	249.28	189.87	204.97
21.	Rajasthan	157.33	133.73	182.34
22.	Sikkim	21.41	18.50	23.89
23.	Tamil Nadu	320.71	231.54	284.23
24.	Tripura	111.18	56.54	101.84
25.	Uttar Pradesh	521.23	931.26	689.81
26.	Uttaranchal	13.85	3.97	173.51
27.	West Bengal	332.34	243.96	597.42
28.	Delhi	235.35	148.20	109.90
29.	Pondicherry	33.81	53.94	14.81
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.72	1.35	33.51
31.	Chandigarh	17.64	9.25	7.39
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.57	4.62	4.56
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	16.49	14.55	20.71
Total		5701.78	5553.57	7083.32

Statement II

List of the Organizations found misusing the grants during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the organizations
1	2
1.	Peda Prajasa Seva Samiti, Gangadhara, Nellore-517125, Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh)
2.	Women & Child Welfare Committee, Nai Basti, Anantnag, J&K
3.	Hilal Institution, General Bus Stand, Anantnag, J & K
4.	Nandini Bal Vikas AvamGrameen Gramodyog Seva Samiti, Gram Parvati, Harvanshpur, District Gonda, Uttar Pradesh
5.	Saket Mahila Mandal Nalyan Samiti, Nawabganj, Gonda
6.	Bal Vikas Avam Mahila Kalyan Parishad, Nawabganj, Gonda
7.	Rama Montessori Junior Basic Vidyalaya Samiti, Nawabganj, Gonda
8.	Indira Mahila Mandali, Flat No. 406, Malik Chambers, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
9.	Shri Kunjal Smarak Samti, 118-Makhaniya Mohal, Sadar Bazar, Lucknow (U.P.)
10.	Alapsankhayak Mahila Prashikshan Sansthan, Patna, Bihar
11.	Kommi Educational Society, Nellore, A.P.
12.	Sindura Mahila Mandali, Nellore, A.P.
13.	Aruna Mahila Mandali, Nellore, A.P.
14.	Haritha Mahila Mandali, Nellore, A.P.
15.	Sandra Subba Rao Memorial Education Society, Nellore, A.P.
16.	Vimla Mahila Mandli Society, Nellore, A.P.
17.	Community Development Social Service Society, Kondayapally, Cuddapah, A.P.
18.	Haritha Mahila Mandali Society, Hyderabad, A.P.
19.	Khadi Silk Gramodyog, Dommaranandyala, Cuddapah, A.P.

1	2
20.	Folk Arts and Culture Research Centre, Tiruvellore, Tamil Nadu
21.	National Development Institute, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir
22.	Social Welfare of India Organisation, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir
23.	Madhya Pradesh Mahila Vitt Evam Vikas Nigam, Bhopal, M.P.
24.	Gram Shakti Sramjeevini Sangathan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
25.	Jayasree Mahila Sangam, Khammam, A.P.
26.	Bapuji Khadi Rural Development Association, Produtur, Cuddapah, A.P.

[Translation]

Postal Services

1444. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of new post offices, speed post counters proposed to be opened at the rural level in the country during the current financial year;

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose in the current financial year;

(c) the name of States where the targets for 2002-2003 in this regard had been fixed and achieved; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Post offices are opened based on need assessed through fulfillment of distance, population and income norms and subject to availability of targets approved on an annual basis. Speed post counters are also opened based on an assessment of the business potential and connectivity. Details of targets for the current year allocated to the different Circles, for Branch Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar-Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) to be opened in rural areas, of needy districts are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Details of funds allocated under annual Plan for opening branch post offices, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras is given in the Statement-II enclosed. Separate funds are not allocated under Plan for opening speed post counters.

(c) The Circle-wise details of targets and achievement for opening rural post offices in 2002-03 is given in the Statement-III enclosed.

(d) Various measures are taken by Government to improve postal services in the country. This *inter alia* includes activities undertaken under Annual Plan for expansion of the network through opening of post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras based on prescribed norms to enhance access to postal facilities, Computerization of post and mail offices to upgrade the capacity of the network to provide more efficient and value added services to the customers, provision of infrastructure to render specific premium and financial products and improve customer care. Measures are also in place for monitoring the quality of services through a system of regular inspections and visits as well as through norms laid down for assessing the efficiency of mail transmission.

Statement I

Circle-wise Targets for Opening of Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) for the year 2003-2004

S.No.	Circle	EDBOs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Assam	14
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	16
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Gujarat	10
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
10.	Jharkhand	6
11.	Karnataka	8

1	2	3
12.	Kerala	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15
14.	Maharashtra	25
15.	North East	10
16.	Orissa	6
17.	Punjab	5
18.	Rajasthan	15
19.	Tamil Nadu	6
20.	Uttar Pradesh	20
21.	Uttaranchal	5
22.	West Bengal	5
23.	Sikkim	2
Total		200

Statement II

Circle-wise Funds allocated for opening of extra Departmental Branch Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras for the year 2003-2004

S.No.	Circle	Opening of	
		Extra departmental Branch Offices (Rs. in thousand)	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.0	4.19
2.	Assam	56.0	14.88
3.	Bihar	60.00	30.04
4.	Chhattisgarh	64.0	15.81
5.	Delhi	8.0	Nil
6.	Gujarat	40.0	7.92
7.	Haryana	8.0	8.37

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.0	8.74
9.	Jamu and Kashmir	20.0	1.86
10.	Jharkhand	24.0	9.02
11.	Karnataka	32.0	1.02
12.	Kerala	16.0	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	60.0	22.32
14.	Maharashtra	100.0	23.25
15.	North East	40.0	9.86
16.	Orissa	24.0	2.79
17.	Punjab	20.0	6.51
18.	Rajasthan	60.0	11.35
19.	Tamil Nadu	24.0	10.70
20.	Uttar Pradesh	80.0	29.57
21.	Uttaranchal	20.0	2.79
22.	West Bengal	20.0	0.38
23.	Sikkim	8.0	0.19
Total		*800.0	#221.53

* For 200 EDBOs

For 900 PSSKs

Statement III

Circle-wise Targets and Achievements of Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) for the year 2002-2003

S.No.	Circle	EDBOs	
		Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	3
2.	Assam	15	15
3.	Bihar	15	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	20	20

1	2	3	4
5.	Delhi	1	1
6.	Gujarat	15	15
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	5
10.	Jharkhand	10	8
11.	Karnataka	9	8
12.	Kerala	2	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14	16
14.	Maharashtra	30	30
15.	North East	9	9
16.	Orissa	10	10
17.	Punjab	5	5
18.	Rajasthan	18	18
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	5
20.	Uttar Pradesh	18	18
21.	Uttaranchal	4	4
22.	West Bengal	39	32
23.	Sikkim	1	Nil
Total		250	241

Basic Telephone Service

1445. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided by the Government so as to enable basic telephone service to compete with the private companies;

(b) whether the Government propose to install some more towers to improve the mobile service of BSNL;

(c) if so, the names of the places in Aurangabad in Maharashtra where such towers are proposed to be installed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In October, 2000, when BSNL was corporatised, certain package of measures were extended to BSNL so that viability of BSNL is not impaired on account of services provided by BSNL, which are uneconomic but socially desirable at the behest of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has plans to expand its cellular mobile service to enhance the capacities in the towns reaching saturation.

(c) and (d) Presently, additional tower at Shivaji Nagar is under installation and three more towers are planned as part of expansion.

[English]

Interactions with Russia

1446. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to initiate IT interactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The latest bilateral interaction in the field of IT was under the aegis of the India-Russia Working Group on IT, which met at New Delhi on 7.4.2003.

Setting up of Medical Colleges in Orissa

1447. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up some Medical Colleges in Western Orissa are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the pending proposals;

(c) whether any of those proposals are from private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the new medical colleges proposed to be set up in the state, location-wise; and

(f) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

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

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

(e) and (f) Central Govt. has no scheme to open medical colleges in the State sector. However, Central Govt. is permitting establishment of new medical colleges under provisions of Indian Medical Council Act and the Regulations made there-under. Those who fulfill the criteria prescribed in the Regulations can apply to the Central Government for permission to open a new medical college.

Waiting List of Telephone Connections in Delhi

1448. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications in the waiting list for Telephone connections in various parts of Delhi and Mysore;

(b) the time taken by MTNL and BSNL to install telephone after receiving the applications;

(c) the steps taken by MTNL and BSNL to provide the connections expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of applicants in the waiting list for Telephone connections as on 30.6.2003 in various parts of Mysore and Delhi are 3850 and nil respectively.

(b) Time taken by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) to install telephone is as follows:

(i) There is 15 days time limit for providing new telephone connections in the areas where telephone connections are 'On Demand'.

(ii) Under the scheme of phone on phone service, the connections are to be provided within 48 hours from the time of receipt of the request.

In MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) Delhi about 95% connections are installed within 15 days and remaining 5% are delayed on account of subscriber reasons.

(c) The steps taken by the MTNL & BSNL to provide the connections expeditiously are as follows:—

- (i) Large scale deployment of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) has been planned to meet the scattered demand in rural and far flung areas.
- (ii) Installation of more number of telephone exchanges.
- (iii) Use of Wireless technology equipments like Cor DECT (Cor-Digital Enhanced Technology) & PAS (Personnel Access System) and installation of DLC (Digital Loop Carrier).

Patient Care Allowance

1449. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn patient care allowance of certain categories of CGHS Employees;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government had discussed this issue with affected employees before withdrawing the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) An Audit Para No. 10.1 of the Union Govt. (Civil) Report No. 2 of 2002 of the C&AG for the year ended March, 2001 had pointed out that Patient Care Allowance (PCA) was being paid to ministerial staff of CGHS who were not working in CGHS dispensaries and were not entitled to PCA. Thus, the audit para stated that payment of PCA of Rs. 34.16 lakh for the period from 29.12.98 to 28.2.2001 to such employees was incorrect.

The matter was examined by the Govt. and it was decided to stop payment of PCA to the non-entitled officials. Accordingly, orders were issued on 24.3.2003

stopping payment of PCA with effect from 1.3.2003 to the non-entitled officials. However, the said orders dated 24.3.2003 have been kept in abeyance for a period of three months vide order 2.6.2003.

(c) to (e) The Govt. had not discussed the matter with the affected employees prior to the issue of order dated 24.3.2003, as it was not considered necessary.

[Translation]

Category-wise Strength of Personnel

1450. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups A, B, C and D in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, group-wise;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of the total number of personnel, group-wise; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There are no departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, the position in respect of the Ministry is as under:—

(As on 1.4.2003)

Groups	No. of employees	SC	ST	OBC
A	195	24	8	15
B	201	30	10	5
C	315	55	10	7
D	186	58	6	12
Total	897	167	34	39

[English]

Universal Service Obligation Fund

1451. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones being maintained through funding by the Universal Service Obligation Fund, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that such VPTs are not being maintained properly;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that VPTs are properly maintained; and

(d) the details of authorities responsible for maintaining VPTs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) being maintained through funding by Universal Service Obligation Fund State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The VPTs are generally maintained satisfactorily by adhering to the following maintenance routines:

- (1) Testing of VPTs is being carried out daily from exchange to identify the faulty VPTs and action is taken to attend to it immediately.
- (2) Testing of MARR lines are carried out daily from the Base Station.
- (3) Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low reading is taken as an indication that the system is not performing properly and is specially checked.

(d) Respect Basic Service Operators providing VPTs in an area are responsible for maintaining VPTs in their areas.

Statement

State-wise Consolidation of No. of VPTs (Funded by USO Fund)

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Circle	QE 31.3.2003
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24346
3.	Assam	18040

1	2	3
4.	Bihar including Jharkhand	64772
5.	Gujarat	14652
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16565
7.	Haryana	6853
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	4098
9.	Karnataka	28452
10.	Maharashtra including Mumbai and Goa	33507
11.	Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh	51880
12.	North East	3725
13.	Orissa	40811
14.	Punjab	12470
15.	Rajasthan	22628
16.	Tamil Nadu	19256
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	75208
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West) including Uttaranchal	33133
19.	West Bengal including Kolkata	36568
Grand Total		507165

[Translation]

Hepatitis Vaccine Programme

1452. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Hepatitis Vaccine in the National immunisation Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where the vaccination programme of the said vaccine is being run in the country;

(d) the names of the countries from where the Government have purchased Hepatitis-B (Triple Las) vaccine;

(e) the amount spent by the Government for purchasing the said vaccine during the last three years;

(f) whether auto disposal syringes are being used in the said vaccination programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir. A proposal is under consideration of the Government to introduce in a phased manner depending upon the experience-gained in the pilot projects now under implementation and also on the basis of the resources available to consider to introduce Hepatitis-B vaccine in the National Immunization Scheme.

(b) The Government is introducing Hepatitis-B Vaccination in the Universal Immunization Programme, as a Pilot Project in 15 cities and 32 districts. After the Pilot Project the Hepatitis-B vaccination would be introduced to other districts in the country in a phased manner. The project is being funded by Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI).

(c) Details of the cities and districts are enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) Under GAVI funding, UNICEF is procuring Hepatitis-B vaccine for the project as a commodity assistance.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. Auto disable and not auto disposal syringes, are being used for the first time in the Universal Immunization Programme, in cities and districts where Hepatitis-B vaccination is being introduced. This is to ensure safe injection practices.

Statement

Cities & Districts being included in year 2002 to 2004 under the Hepatitis B Vaccination

State/U.T.	Cities 2002-03	Districts 2003-04
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Madurai Nilgiri

1	2	3
		Virudhnagar Ramanathapuram
Kerala		Alapuzha Ernakulam Pathanamthitta
Karnataka	Bangalore	Kodagu Shimoga Mysore
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Chittoor Vizianagaram
Goa		Goa
Maharashtra	Mumbai Pune	Ratnagiri Chandrapur Satara
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal & Indore	Balaghat
Orissa		Sundergarh
Punjab		Rupnagar Hoshiarpur
Haryana		Panchkula Ambala
Himachal Pradesh		Hamirpur Solan
Uttaranchal		Nainital
Pondicherry		Pondicherry
Lakshadweep		Lakshadweep
Assam		Jorhat Sibsagar
Jammu & Kashmir		Rajouri Udhampur
Gujarat	Ahmedabad & Vadodara	Surat
Andaman & Nicobar Islands		Andaman & Nicobar district
Delhi	Delhi	
West Bengal	Kolkata	
Rajasthan	Jaipur	
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow & Kanpur	
Bihar	Patna	

[English]

Creation of Jobs

1453. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had convened a crucial meeting of Secretaries of several Central Government departments and State Planning Secretaries in the month of June with a view to set up a fool-proof mechanism to achieve the target of five crore jobs during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan of action in this regard has been prepared by the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the suggestions made by the Planning Commission to the Central and State Government and the extent to which they have been accepted by both;

(d) whether the Planning Commission is likely to monitor the progress of the action plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir, a Conference of State Government's Planning Secretaries was held in Planning Commission on 2.6.2003. The Conference discussed various issues like approach of State Governments for creation of employment opportunities, the constraints that have to be removed and to develop a monitoring mechanism for employment generation at State level.

(b) to (e) After deliberations at the Conference, a Task Force has been set up on formulation of State level employment strategy, monitoring employment generation at the State level and implementation of the employment related programmes and policies in the Tenth Plan by the State Governments.

A Copy of the Order constituting the Task Force, which *inter alia* describe its scope of work, is enclosed as at Statement.

Statement

No. P-12049/14/03/LEM/ERS
Government of India
Planning Commission
(LEM Division)

Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi, the 1st July 2003

ORDER

Subject: Task Force on Employment Strategies and
Employment Monitoring at State Level

It has been decided to set up a Task Force on formulation of State level employment strategy, monitoring employment generation at State level and implementation of the employment related programmes and policies in the Tenth Plan by the State Governments.

2. The terms of reference will be as follows:

2.1 An indicative assessment of State-wise distribution of the five year target of 50 million employment opportunities; (i) on the basis of information received from the States and (ii) utilizing States' analysis of employment strategy.

2.2.1 To suggest changes, at State level, in (a) the school education and vocational training systems; and (b) the labour hiring and manpower recruitment policies and procedures; so as to (i) reduce the mismatch between facilities for vocational training and demand for labour in the State; and (ii) to prepare the large number of 15+ youth passing out of schools at class VIII stage for gainful employment as and when they enter labour force.

2.2.2 To suggest modalities for strengthening the link between vocational training and employment at State and district level, particularly for the youth and women in Rural Areas.

2.3.1 To suggest guidelines for preparing an employment-policy at State level.

2.3.2 To evolve, on consensus basis, the procedure of monitoring employment generation in the States so as to have an integrated holistic picture conforming to the Tenth Plan Employment strategy; and

- 2.3.3 To suggest a Nodal Department, in the State administration, responsible for employment and vocational training.
- 2.4 To recommend measures for strengthening of State level and district level statistical system(s) for estimating and/or enumerating the employment opportunities created at the level of households and/or economic establishments.
- 2.5 To recommend the measures to strengthen planning process on employment, at State level and at National level, towards:
- 2.5.1 Augmenting the creation of employment opportunities;
- 2.5.2 Improving the productivity and income of labour, particularly in the tiny, small and medium establishments;
- 2.5.3 Building in the direct and indirect employment creation through public sector projects and the programmes, as a target variable, in the project appraisal methodologies and procedures; and
- 2.5.4 Identifying the employment dimension in formulation and implementation of economic policies
- 2.6 To consider any other matter related with or incidental to above terms of reference.
3. The composition of the Task Force will be as follows:

Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member (LEM), Chairman
Planning Commission

1. State Governments

Chief Minister, Government of GOA Member

Eastern Region

1. Planning Secretary (West Bengal) Member

2. Planning Secretary (Orissa) Member

Northern Region

3. Planning Secretary (Uttar Pradesh) Member

4. Planning Secretary (Punjab) Member

Western Region

5. Planning Secretary (Gujarat) Member

6. Planning Secretary (Maharashtra) Member

Southern Region

7. Planning Secretary (Andhra Pradesh) Member

8. Planning Secretary (Tamil Nadu) Member

North Eastern Region

9. Planning Secretary (Assam) Member

II. Central Government Departments:

10. Secretary, Planning Commission Member

11. Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy Member

12. Secretary, Secondary & Higher Education Member

13. Secretary, (Statistics) Member

14. Secretary, (Labour) Member

15. Secretary, (Agricultural & Cooperation) Member

16. Secretary, (Rural Development) Member

17. Secretary, (Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation) Member

18. Secretary, (SSI & A&RI) Member

19. Secretary, (Textiles) Member

20. Principal Adviser (LEM), Planning Commission Member

III. Industry & Employers

21-24 Four representatives of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Small Scale Industry and Trade Member

IV. Experts in related fields

25. Chairman (KVIC) Member

26. Dr. V. Kurian Member

Or representative as alternate Member

27. Representative of SEWA Member

28. Shri Nanaji Deshmukh Member

Or a representative as alternate Member

29. An Expert on Vocational Training Member

30. Prof. Amitabh Kundu, JNU (Expert on employment) Member

31. Prof. (Retd.) Ruddar Dutt (Expert on Labour) Member

32. Director (IAMR) Member
33. Adviser (LEM), Planning Commission Member-Secretary

4. Task Force may co-opt any other expert(s) as Member(s) of the Task Force.

5. The Chairman of the Task Force may invite specialist(s) to the meeting(s) of the Task Force.

6. The Task Force will submit its Report by March 2004. An Interim Report will be submitted by December 2003.

7. 'Labour, Employment & Manpower' Division in the Planning Commission will act as the Secretariat for the Task Force. In the Planning Commission, the Nodal Officer for the Task Force will be Mrs. Padmaja Mehta, Director (LEM), (Room No. 561, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi. Telephone No. 23096541).

8. The expenses towards TA/DA of the official members will be met by respective Government Departments/Institutions, to which they belong. The TA/DA to non-official Members and invitees to meetings will be paid by Planning Commission as admissible to Grade I Officers of the Government of India.

(T.R. Meena)
Director (Administration)

Copy: to Chairman, all Members and Member-Secretary of the Task Force

Copy for information to

1. PS to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
2. PS to MOS (Planning)
3. PS to Chairman of Task force & Member (LEM) (Dr. S.P. Gupta)
4. PS to Members (DNT) (KV)/(SP)/(KA)/(NKS), Planning Commission
5. Sr. PPS to Secretary, Planning Commission
6. Pr. Advisers/Advisers, Planning Commission
7. Member-Secretary to Task Force
8. I.F. Cell, Planning Commission
9. Pay and Accounts Officer, Planning Commission ,

10. Director (Admn.), Planning Commission
11. Information Officer, Planning Commission

Rocket Launching Centres

1454. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to build some Rocket Launching Centres in Orissa;

(b) if so, the places identified therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Report on Privatisation of BALCO and MFIL

1455. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister and comprising officials from Ministry of Disinvestment and Labour set up for looking into the privatisation of BALCO and MFIL has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the forced/ compulsory VRS to the employees of BALCO by the management of BALCO (Sterlite) and also part/restricted payment of VRS amount to employees;

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

(e) whether the Government are also aware of the fact of substantial reduction of staff strength of Modern Food of India Ltd. by the Management of Hindustan Lever Limited from 1650 to 850 in just over two years and remove the machinery from Delhi factory to Jaipur;

(f) whether the Hindustan Lever closed down MFIL's unit at Faridabad for sale of its land;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government to parts (e) and (f); and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (h) During the meeting of the Central Trade Union with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, held on 18th October, 2002, some of the trade union leaders had complained that workers of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) and Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL) have been laid off/retrained without a fair deal. In view of this, a decision was taken in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister that a small group consisting of representatives of the trade unions, employers and the Government would be constituted to visit these industries and to look into this issue. Accordingly, a team has been constituted comprising of Shri Hasubhai Dhawe, President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh; Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, Employers Federation of India; Shri Sanjeev S. Ahluwalia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disinvestment and Shri K. Chandramouli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

The team has so far visited BALCO's head office/factory at Korba on 13-14th February, 2003 and one unit of MFIL located at Mumbai on 29th April, 2003.

Technology Obligations on Private Service Operators

1456. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether private service operators have certain rural telephony obligations according to their licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of village to be covered by these private service operators in each of the State, State-wise;

(d) whether they have to pay to the Government any liquidated damages for non-commissioning of the promised services;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to make them fulfil their commitments?

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

(b) and (c) The details of number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) committed to be provided by the private basic service operators are given in the Statement. The licences granted from July, 2001 to October, 2001 to various companies for providing Basic Telephone Service do not have roll out obligations in terms of coverage of VPTs but in terms of establishment of 'Point of Presence' in equal proportion in each category of Urban, Semi-urban and rural Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) typically a tehsil.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details of Liquidated Damage charge (LD) recovered from private Basic Service Operators are as follows:—

Name of the operator	Service Area	Total LD Charged for non commissioning of service & delay in provision of VPTs and DELs (Rs. in crores)	LD for delay in provision of VPT and DEL (Rs. in crores)	LD Charged for non commissioning of service (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	4.00	4.00	Nil
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	13.00	6.50	6.50

1	2	3	4	5
Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	7.75	6.50	1.25
Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	13.00	6.50	6.50
Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	8.00	4.00	4.00
HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	8.00	4.00	4.00
	Total	53.75	31.50	22.25

(f) The private Basic Service Operators have been asked to fulfil their roll out obligations by providing VPTs in remaining uncovered villages by December, 2003 progressively failing which steps for encashment of Performance Bank Guarantees will be initiated. In the first phase, it has been stipulated that VPTs may not be

provided in the depopulated villages, villages with population less than 100, villages affected by Naxalite and insurgency problems and villages to be covered through satellite media. Further, four operators have submitted additional Performance Bank Guarantees of Rs. 50 crores at the time of signing new licence for basic services.

Statement

Name of the Operators	Service Area	Effective date of licence	No. of VPTs Committed in first three years of effective date of licence
Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	30.9.1997	16500
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	30.9.1997	9635
Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	30.9.1997	25760
Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	30.9.1997	8635
Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	4.3.1998	36727
HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	30.9.1997	5442
	Total		97806

These commitments were to be met by 30.9.1998 in case of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30.9.1999 in case of Maharashtra. Further, in the event of villages still remaining uncovered on the completion of said three years period, the licence stipulated an obligation on the part of licensee to maintain or exceed its committed rate till all villages get covered with VPTs.

Fixing of Telecom Tariff

1457. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAKURTHY:

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

(a) whether several cellular companies are involved in unhealthy and unfair competition especially in fixing the tariff and tendency to monopolise the services; and

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

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

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

Technology adopted in Mission to Moon

1458. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technology to be applied in the Mission Programme would be fully indigenous;

(b) if not, the details of the collaboration proposed; and

(c) the details of the gains likely to be accrued from the said Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The gains that are likely to be accrued from the said Mission are mainly to expand the horizon of our scientific knowledge. For accomplishing such a deep space mission, we will be upgrading our technology capability which will be another gain in the long run. This mission would also throw up a challenge to the imagination and vision of growing younger generation of the country which, when nurtured further, would provide immense benefits to the society at large over a long period of time.

Projection of Indian Stand Abroad

1459. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's negative projection abroad especially in the US has come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed by the Indian Missions to counter such projection and depict the true picture of our country abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Through regular monitoring of international media, the Government of India is aware that on occasion some negative publicity of the country appears abroad along with other positive and balanced reportage.

(b) The Government is constantly taking steps to counter any negative projection and to project the correct perspective. These steps, include *inter-alia*, regular press briefings by the Official Spokesperson, production and dissemination of films and other audio-visual material, publications in foreign languages, visits to India by eminent media personalities, organization of seminars and conferences on themes of critical relevance, involvement of NRIs and Persons of India Origin in our publicity efforts, interaction by senior Indian diplomats with editorials boards of newspapers and on main television news programmes, and utilization of the internet for projecting the views of the Government.

Poor Services of Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

1460. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are suffering due to the poor services of Mohan Lal Ganj, Gonda, Unnao and Kheri (Lakhimpur) and Mankapur Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to improve the situation?

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

(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The telecom services in these telephone exchanges are working satisfactorily.

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

Indo-Bangladesh Ties

1461. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relations of India with Bangladesh has deteriorated over the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to restore normalcy in the relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. In fact there have been a number of high level exchanges in the recent past. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India from 13-16th February, 2003 and subsequently the Finance Minister of Bangladesh visited India from 19-22nd May. The External Affairs Minister also visited Dhaka recently from 14-16th July for the Sixth meeting of the Joint Economic Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Trial of Risyug

1462. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third and final phase of testing of the male contraceptive 'Risyug' has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to complete the test of this contraceptive in near future and ensure its practical use; 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 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is coordinating the Restricted Phase-III Clinical trial with

Risyug-enrolling 50 subjects each at LNJP Hospital, New Delhi, DDU Hospital, New Delhi and Rural Medicare Centre, New Delhi—which is not a final phase of testing.

An interim data analysis of 63 subjects by the Monitoring Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have shown some adverse side effects like albumin in urine in 6 cases and in some cases scrotal swelling with pain, scrotal nodules and 4 cases of method failure, one leading to pregnancy.

Based on the above observations, the Monitoring Committee, Toxicological Review Panel of ICMR and a team of Nephrologists from AIIMS, New Delhi, suggested not to induct any new cases and to follow up the recruited cases for long term safety and efficacy.

(c) and (d) After the analysis of raw data of all the 141 subjects who have undergone the test so far and ensuring safety of the Product, full fledged Phase-III clinical trial and reversibility studies with Risyug, will be suggested before its practical use for contraceptive purposes.

[English]

American Warship at Cochin Port

1453. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American warship returning from Iraq war was permitted entry into Cochin Port;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the duration of their stay at Cochin;

(c) whether permitting this ship at Cochin was against the spirit of the country's stand on the Iraq war; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Two U.S. naval vessels, USS Gary and USS Vandegrift, visited Cochin during 19-21 June 2003. According to the information provided by the U.S. Government, the ships made a normal rest and replenishment halt, following their deployment in support of U.S. operations in Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom. The U.S. Government had taken prior approval of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Illegal Detention of Indian Fishermen

1464. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of illegal detention of Indian fishermen by Sri Lanka are on the increase;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tackle this problem and ensure the safety of Indian fishermen; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The number of Indian fishermen apprehended has increased in the last three years from 25 in 2000, 85 in 2001, 116 in 2002 and 208 upto July 16, 2003. The Indian fishermen are apprehended when they happen to stray into Sri Lankan waters, either by the Sri Lankan Navy or fishermen's associations. Therefore, the detentions are not illegal. The apprehended fishermen are treated humanely and repatriated quickly. The Indian High Commission in Colombo, the Indian Cost Guard, the Indian Navy and the Tamil Nadu Government facilitate their return in cooperation with the Sri Lankan Government and its agencies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accident Spots on Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra Highways

1465. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra Highways are most accident prone of the five highways leading out of Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times dated June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the NHAI has since identified exact accident prone spots on the two highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to block the direct entry on the highways from the villages located on the highway side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Road accident data on National Highway-wise basis is not maintained by this Ministry.

(b), (c) and (d) To minimize accidents, all the unauthorized gaps in the medians on Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra National Highways have been recently closed by NHAI and encroachments have been removed on both these Highways. Improvement of junctions and construction of under-passes and service roads are some of the measures for reducing accidents at such places.

Intercircle Mergers and Acquisitions in Telecommunications Sector

1466. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are actively considering to allow intercircle mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any efforts to prevent monopolies in the telecommunications sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Sir, the Government have recently, in June, 2003, amended the Licence Agreements for various Telecom Services so as to permit transfer of licence with prior written approval of the licensor at any point of the time subject to certain conditions. However, in case of Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and Basic Telephone Service, the said transfer is permitted if otherwise no compromise in competition occurs in the provision of telecom services. This is so as to prevent monopolies.

All Telecom Services in the country have been opened up for unrestricted competition, except for services such as Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS), where the number of operators is restricted due to radio spectrum constraint.

[Translation]

Loading and Unloading Tonnage Capacity

1467. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ports in the country which can keep 10,000 ton or more than that capacity ships;

(b) the loading and unloading tonnage capacity of all ports per day; and

(c) the average loading and unloading tonnage at these ports per day and the details thereof?

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

(a) All the major ports can handle 10,000 Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) Ships.

(b) Capacity of major ports is worked out on yearly basis, which as on 31.3.2003 is 363 Million Tonnes for all major ports.

(c) The loading and unloading rate of tonnage depends on factors like type of vessel, parcel size of vessel, cargo handled etc. and differs from port to port. The total tonnage handled by all the Major Ports during the last two years is 313.45 million tonnes in 2002-03 and 287.58 million tones in 2001-02. The Port-wise details are as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Name of the Ports	2001-02	2002-02
1	2	3
Kolkata	30.40	35.75
Paradip	21.13	23.90
Visakhapatnam	44.34	46.01
Ennore	3.40	8.49
Chennai	36.12	33.69
Tuticorin	13.02	13.29
Cochin	12.06	13.00
New Mangalore	17.50	21.43

1	2	3
Murmugao	22.93	23.65
Jawaharlal Nehru	22.52	26.84
Mumbai	26.43	26.77
Kandla	37.73	40.63

[English]

Women and Child Development Schemes

1468. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for sanctioning schemes under Women and Child Development in the State;

(b) the State-wise, Year-wise details of funds sanctioned and released to the State under the programme for 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated June 30, 2003 captioned "Government maps its failure";

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Details of the criteria used in sanctioning projects to states under various Women and Child Development Programmes are available in the Departmental website (<http://www.wcd.nic.in>)

(b) Details of funds released to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The news alleges uneven distribution of projects in different parts of the country.

(e) Capacity building exercises are being conducted in various parts of the country to encourage submission of more proposals.

Statement

Details of funds released to the States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 2002-03 & 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Funds Released	
		2002-03	2003-04 (April-June, 2003)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14922.85	1862.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2539.72	512.61
3.	Assam	8192.58	1383.99
4.	Bihar	7470.94	3878.22
5.	Chhattisgarh	7056.93	2490.87
6.	Goa	435.75	99.66
7.	Gujarat	7110.28	2063.01
8.	Haryana	4567.41	1075.53
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2194.40	655.11
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3761.80	1084.26
11.	Jharkhand	2607.46	2133.81
12.	Karnataka	11259.29	1683.09
13.	Kerala	6671.88	1087.89
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15095.51	5840.75
15.	Maharashtra	18934.92	2325.96
16.	Manipur	2364.06	311.64
17.	Meghalaya	1181.87	296.55
18.	Mizoram	1160.44	196.89
19.	Nagaland	2425.47	483.09
20.	Orissa	8777.42	3818.2
21.	Punjab	3777.09	1297.77
22.	Rajasthan	11625.33	1779.18
23.	Sikkim	284.97	45.48

1	2	3	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	13521.18	4404.14
25.	Tripura	1407.94	357.45
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14052.22	3841.89
27.	Uttaranchal	4999.32	1000.82
28.	West Bengal	16679.57	3079.98
29.	A & N Islands	172.22	45.48
30.	Chandigarh	122.40	27.42
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1022.08	253.83
32.	Daman & Diu	43.00	9.36
33.	Delhi	43.24	18.39
34.	Lakshadweep	31.83	9.36
35.	Pondicherry	245.05	45.48
Total		196758.42	49500.07

Deployment of Indian Forces for the U.N.

1469. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent U.N. Fact-Sheet, India is the 3rd largest provider of peace-keeping forces in the world;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from the United Nations to deploy Indian troops to different parts of the World to work for the U.N.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Country-wise tally of the total number of peace keepers participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations is constantly changing, owing to changes in the status of peacekeeping missions. However, India continues to be among the top three contributors to the U.N.

(b) and (c) Yes. From time to time, the United Nations has requested Government to consider contributing personnel to on-going, as well as new peacekeeping operations. Some of the recent requests are with regard to peacekeeping forces for Democratic Republic of Congo,

Cyprus and Liberia. The U.N. requests are studied carefully and a decision regarding our participation is taken after a careful examination of various aspects. We have recently, responded positively to a U.N. request, by sending a helicopter contingent of the Indian Air Force to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

IPO of Maruti Udyog Limited

1470. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether response to the first offer-IPO of Maruti Udyog Limited was over-whelming;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the circumstances and reasons for taking such decision and the extent to which the issue was over-subscribed;

(d) whether it was offered to general public investors or to institutional investors;

(e) whether this has led to disinvestments in respect of other profit making public sector undertakings and enterprises; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 'Offer for Sale' by Government of approximately 25% equity holding in Maruti Udyog Ltd., was a domestic offering with participation of Indians and global investors as permitted by law, through the book building process.

(c) The IPO was undertaken according to the terms of the Revised Joint Venture Agreement entered into by Government with Suzuki Motor Corporation, which *inter alia* incorporates the road map of disinvestment by Government of India of its shares in Maruti Udyog Ltd. The issue was over-subscribed by more than 10 times.

(d) The 'Offer for Sale' was made to both institutional and non-institutional investors as per SEBI guidelines.

(e) No, Sir. Government has been taking up the disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings over the past several years in accordance with a well-defined policy.

(f) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds for Developments of Projects

1471. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the development of various existing major development projects executed in West Bengal and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes to these states during the said period;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects in both the States have been utilized fully; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of outlays and expenditure for plan programmes for West Bengal and Bihar during the last three years are as follows:

Year	(Rs. in crore)			
	West Bengal		Bihar	
	Approved Outlay	Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Expenditure
2000-01	5659	5631	3100	1638
2001-02	7186	4595	2644	1471
2002-03	6307	3644	2964	2227

(c) and (d) The details of disbursement and utilisation of individual centrally sponsored schemes, central sector

schemes and projects are available in the central Ministries/Departments administering them. Some of the reasons for poor utilisation of fund are:

- (i) Delay in submission of utilisation certificates.
- (ii) Delay in release of funds.
- (iii) Inability of the State Governments to provide their matching State share,
- (iv) Delay in obtaining statutory clearances for projects,
- (v) Implementation problems such as:— delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation issues and contractual disputes etc.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Temples in Afghanistan

1472. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Afghanistan has appealed to the Government of India for the construction of Hindu temples and repair of the damaged temples in Afghanistan as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated May 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India and Afghanistan have discussed several areas of cooperation as part of India's humanitarian, financial and project assistance for Afghan reconstruction.

In this regard, in addition to several projects under implementation dealing with infrastructure, agriculture, health and education sectors, and on a specific request from the Government of Afghanistan, Government of India has decided, in principle, to undertake repair work at one temple, one gurudwara and one mosque in Afghanistan.

[*English*]

Safety Conditions on National Highways

1473. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India have stated that some National Highways leading out of the capital are very unsafe leading to unsafe traffic;

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

(c) the plan of Union Government to control the increasing percentage of accidents occurring day by day in the country; and

(d) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the dilapidated condition of Indian roads and make them at par with that of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) National Highways leading out the capital are four lane divided carriageway facilities which are safer than undivided carriageway.

(c) The number of accidents per 10,000 vehicles have been declining in the country from 110 in 1996 to around 78 in 2001.

(d) Government is taking engineering, enforcement and education measures to control accidents. Engineering measures include improvement in riding surface and widening of high traffic density corridors to 4/6 lane divided carriageway facility, improvement of horizontal and vertical alignment, improvement of at-grade intersections and provision of over and under passes for crossing facilities, segregation of local traffic in built up portion through provision of service roads, provision of adequate road signs and markings, provision of wayside amenities like rest areas, bus by and truck parking and provision of additional safety features such as steel beam safety barriers and pedestrian safety guard rails.

Road safety audit is proposed to be taken up the completed four lane sections of National Highways for identification of hazardous locations and taking corrective measures.

High Traffic Management System (HTMS) has been installed on 86 Km long Kotputli-Amer Section of NH-8 with facilities of emergency call boxes at every two kilometer interval, variable message signs at 6 vantage locations, Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Monitoring System, Mobile communication sysem, highway patrolling, crane and ambulance. These are all controlled from a control centre. This is intended to be replicated at other suitable stretches.

Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

1474. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of automatic and modern telephone exchanges set up in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the details of such exchanges proposed to be set up in Gujarat during the current financial year;

(c) the details of the telephone exchanges whose capacities were expanded in the current financial year; and

(d) the details of telephone exchanges where waiting list for telephone connection has been cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of automatic and modern telephone exchanges set up in Gujarat during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of Exchanges
2000-2001	456
2001-2002	128
2002-2003	28

(b) Two telephone exchanges are planned to be set up during 2003-04 in Gujarat.

(c) The capacity of 54 telephone exchanges has been expanded upto 30.6.2003 during the current financial year.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise Road Accidents on National Highways

All India/States/UTs.	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	8518	7203	8626
Arunachal Pradesh	53	70	93

(d) Waiting list in 1214 telephone exchanges has been cleared as on 30.6.2003.

[Translation]

Accidents on National Highways

1475. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in accidents on National Highways during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the compensation paid by the Government to the families of the victims of the accidents;

(d) whether the Government have taken any step for widening the roads to stop the encroachments and to stop the accidents on the National Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) As per information available, the total number of accidents on National Highways in the country during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 were 103839, 110508 and 102777 (Provisional) respectively.

(b) Details are enclosed as statement.

(c) The details regarding the compensation paid to families of victims of road accidents are not compiled by this Ministry.

(d) Roads are widened wherever traffic needs to demand and not for stopping encroachments or accidents.

(e) Does not arise.

1	2	3	4
Assam	1754	1889	1927
Bihar	1899	2127	1167
Chhattisgarh	Included in Madhya Pradesh	2096	2597
Goa	887	1091	1149
Gujarat	7758	1813	6738
Haryana	2779	2765	3033
Himachal Pradesh	829	709	898
Jammu & Kashmir	2112	2328	526
Jharkhand	Included in Bihar	1419	1392
Karnataka	9162	9605	N.A.
Kerala	7596	8512	10095
Madhya Pradesh	6783	5611	7164
Maharashtra	15343	16150	14269(P)
Manipur	214	217	208
Meghalaya	159	186	370
Mizoram	36	31	52
Nagaland	57	35	54
Orissa	2651	2784	2759
Punjab	1223	1268	1256
Rajasthan	6778	6718	7465
Sikkim	33	29	43
Tamil Nadu	16329	18615	19881
Tripura	242	184	202
Uttaranchal	Included in Uttar Pradesh	236	469
Uttar Pradesh	6442	6198	5790

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	2615	2443	2791(P)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	56	62	45
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	1153	1277	1123
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	378	537	595
Total	103839	110508	102777 (P)

N.A.=Not Available,

P=Provisional

Pending List of Telephone Connections in Bihar

1476. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list of telephone connections in Bihar particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether there are lakhs of applicants waiting for telephone connections in Bihar due to the lack of telephone cables;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to supply cable to the rural areas at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The total waiting list in Bihar Telecom circle as on 31.3.2003 is 101154, out of which 80087 is in rural areas. BSNL has planned to provide 93000 lines switching Capacity and 80000 lines Direct Exchange Line for rural areas during 2003-04. This will clear the waiting list as on March, 2003 subject to availability of resources.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However the telephone cables detail for Bihar Telecom circle in Lakh Conductor Kilo Meter (LCKM) is as under:—

1. Cable available as on 1.4.2003	1.82800 LCKM
2. Cable in Pipe line	2.96800 LCKM
3. Cable likely to be allotted during 2003-2004.	10.85294 LCKM

[English]

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges

1477. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending for opening of new Telephone Exchanges, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have changed norms to open new Telephone Exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due to change of norms the setting up of many Telephone Exchanges have been cancelled; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):

Reply in respect MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)

(a) Ten new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in MTNL Mumbai only and nil in MTNL Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Reply in respect BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)

(a) to (e) The information is being collected from all the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sex Determination Tests

1478. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to implement the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misused) Act, strictly;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether various hospitals in the country are still doing sex determination and sex selection tests; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act rest with the States and Union Territories. They have been advised to implement the provisions of the Act and Rules in letter and spirit including wide publicity thereof. The States/UTs are implementing the same. As per the reports received from various States/UTs more than 20700 clinics have been registered, 397 complaints have been filed in the Court/Police against violators of the law and 198 ultrasound machines have been seized/sealed.

However, since the detection/disclosure of the sex of foetus of pregnant women as well selection of sex before conception are secretly restored to by parties in collusion with each other, it is very difficult to unearth such cases. Funds have been released to States/UTs for implementation of the Act including use of decoys for unearthing the cases relating to detection/disclosure of sex of foetus have been booked in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and other states/UTs.

Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara By-Pass of National Highway

1479. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work of the IInd Phase of Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara combined by-pass of National Highway is likely to be started and the present position of the land acquisition;

(b) the allocation of funds and total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years till date; and

(c) the total length of roads improved under the Improvement of Riding Quality Programme and Central Road Fund Programme respectively in Kerala during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The total length of Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara Combined bypass Phase-II is 21.62 km (Ch. 0/00 to 21620m). Land acquisition in a length of 3.27 km (from Kovalam to Mukkola) is in progress. Proposal for land acquisition in another 5.47 km (Mukkola to Kanjirakulam) is under examination. The work of construction of Phase-II of the bypass can only be taken up after entire land has been acquired.

(b) The details of allocation of funds and expenditure on development and maintenance of National Highways in Kerala State are as under:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2000-01	123.18	110.23
2001-02	115.97	113.84
2002-03	99.68	108.83

(c) A length of 829 km has been improved under Improvement of Riding Quality Programme and 114 km has been improved under Central Road Fund Programme in Kerala.

International Dalit Conference

1480. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had sought the clearance of the Union Government for his participation in the International Dalit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada;

(b) if so, whether the permission was not granted by the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the invitation for participation in the said conference was received by any other Minister or NGO; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Political clearance is accorded by the Government after taking into consideration several factors, including the guidelines laid down by the Government of India for this purpose; the functional justification for the visit; the background and antecedents of the organisers; and recommendation from our mission concerned. The invitation from the International Dalit Conference to the

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh failed to meet any of the above criteria.

(d) and (e) Government is not concerned with political clearance for invitations extended to non-governmental organisations. A member of the Union Council of Ministers who received the invitation did not participate in the event, in accordance with the guidelines for ministerial participation in conferences abroad.

World Bank Assistance for Health Projects

1481. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any financial assistance from the World Bank for the Development of Health Schemes/Projects during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the total assistance received and provided to States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from States for the increase of such assistance;

(d) if so, whether any new schemes have been submitted to the World Bank; 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) The details of assistance given by World Bank for new Health projects during the last three years and for current year are given in Statement-I.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of new projects submitted to World Bank are given in Statement II.

Statement I

(in US \$ million)

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Date of the Agreement	Date of Closing	Sector	Area of Implementation	Loan Credit Amount	Cumulative Disbursement on 31.3.2003	Cumulative Disbursement on 30.6.2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	UP Health System Development Project	19.5.2000	31.12.2005	State	UP & Uttaranchal	110.00	12.84	14.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Immunisation Strengthening Project	19.5.2000	30.6.2004	Central	Nation-wise	142.60	86.22	86.22
3.	2nd National Leprosy Elimination Project	19.7.2001	31.12.2004	-do-	-do-	30.00	18.46	18.46
4.	RCH Supplementary	26.3.2003	31.3.2004	-do-	-do-	12.00	0.00	0.00

Statement II

The following 9 new health sector projects have been posed to World Bank for assistance

- (i) Rajasthan State Health System Development Project
- (ii) Tamil Nadu State Health System Development Project
- (iii) Assam State Health System Development Project
- (iv) Kerala State Health System Development Project
- (v) West Bengal State Health System Development Project
- (vi) Reproductive and Child Health Phase-II
- (vii) Karnataka Health Nutrition and Population Project
- (viii) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project
- (ix) Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project.

Study on the Working of CBI

1482. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the working of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and its manpower requirement has been done recently;

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

(c) whether the study reveals that in trap cases involving corruption among bureaucrats and the Government officials, the acquittal rate has been found very high;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the outcome of the study alongwith the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in respect of finds of this study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (f) No such study has been conducted recently. However, the Staff Inspection Unit, Ministry of Finance conducted a study on manpower requirement of the CBI in 1997 and submitted their report on 12.10.1998. Accordingly, synthesized norms for staff strength in investigation and prosecution posts were laid down. The terms of reference of this study did not cover analysis of trap cases. However, as reported by the CBI, out of 375 trap cases, whose trial was completed in 2001 and 2002, 228 cases ended in conviction while 134 cases ended in acquittal. The reasons for acquittal in trap cases are (a) long time taken in conclusion of trial (i) making it difficult to continue the same set of Investigating and Prosecuting

Officers, (ii) affecting the memory of the witnesses and quality of evidence stored in voice/wash samples; and (b) some of the complaints, who had filed written complaints and initiated the process, turning hostile.

For reducing delays in trial, a Directorate of Prosecution has been set up in the CBI to effectively conduct and supervise the prosecutions. In the last financial year, plan assistance has been provided to the CBI for a training scheme for improving the quality and storage of evidence collected, including in trap cases.

Advance Procurement Orders

1483. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) within less than a year of launching its limited mobility wireless local loop propose to cut back on advance procurement orders (APOS) it had placed for purchase of WLL-CDMA handsets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the AOs are proposed to be cut short and the BSNL propose to get out this situation and deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is procuring the WLL CDMA handsets as per the advance Purchase Orders (APOs).

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Well Equipped Nursing Homes

1484. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the specialised health care facilities are presently available only in the big cities in the country;

(b) if so, whether people in the rural and other small cities are being deprived of specialised medical facilities;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to revise their policy of encouraging the people to establish their well equipped nursing homes only in the metro and other cities and to impress upon them to set up their clinics

etc. in the rural and other places to provide consultations/treatment to the people without much inconvenience; and

(d) if so, whether the Government also propose to have consultations with the state Governments with a view to have a uniform policy in making available the required medical facilities to the major players, the land, financial assistance etc. for the establishment of such clinics and to increase the ratio of hospital beds per thousand to 3.2 beds as per WHO guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Health being a state subject, setting up of nursing homes and specialized health care facilities falls in the purview of state governments. It is therefore, for the state governments to provide land, financial assistance and other incentives for setting up of nursing homes and other specialized health care facilities in small cities and rural areas in their respective states.

[Translation]

Development of Telecom and Postal Work in Bihar

1485. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development works concerning Telecommunications and Postal Sector to be carried out in Bihar during the Tenth Five Year Plan in general and the current year in particular;

(b) whether some works which were taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan are still incomplete;

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

(d) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A total of 367.67 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) have been tentatively planned for whole of the BSNL during 10th Plan period but circle-wise planning is done only on yearly basis. The tentative development plan in respect of Bihar Telecom Circle for the current year 2003-04 is given below:

(i) Capacity addition

Wired line - 130000 lines

WLL - 83000 lines

CMTS - 60000 lines

(ii) DELs - 255000 lines

(iii) OFC - 2500 Route Kms

(iv) TAX - 48000 Circuits

(b) No, Sir.

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

Reply in respect of Department of Post

(a) During the 10th Five Year Plan period, the Department proposes to take up a range of developmental activities in Bihar, which would include:

- (1) Expansion of Postal Network through opening of post offices, PSSKs (Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra)
- (2) Upgradation of the network's capacity through induction of technology including computerization to improve efficiency and introduction of value added services like e-post and e-billpost, financial products like prepaid cards etc.
- (3) Promotion of Philately and Premium products, including upgradation of speed post centres and upgradation of track and trace facilities.
- (4) In service and Computer training to the staff.
- (5) Construction of buildings for post offices, mail offices and staff quarters.
- (6) Modernization of post offices, mail offices etc.

Activities proposed to be taken up in Bihar during the current include:

- (i) Opening of 70 PSSKs (Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra)
- (ii) Opening of 15 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices
- (iii) Opening of a Departmental Post Office
- (iv) Construction of Jahanabad RMS building
- (v) Provision of Inservice training to officials

(vi) Provision of Computer Training to officials

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details of the Building projects taken up in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan, which are still incomplete and their projected dates of completion are as indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the projects	Likely date of completion of work
1.	PO/SPM Qtr. Gulzarbagh, Patna	31.3.2004
2.	PO/DO/IQ/SPM Qtr. Hajipur	31.3.2004
3.	2 Suits of IQ at Taylor Road, Patna	31.3.2004
4.	D/O at Chapra	31.3.2004
5.	CSD/DAP, Patna	31.3.2005
6.	6 T-II SQ at Gaya	31.3.2004
7.	1 T-V SQ at Muzaffarpur	31.3.2004
8.	16 SQ at Gardanibagh	31.3.2004
9.	12 T-I SQ at Muzaffarpur (V/E)	31.3.2004
10.	8 SQ at Lohianagar, Patna	31.3.2004
11.	6 T-I SQ at Gaya	31.3.2004

The projects were taken up in the latter half of the 9th Plan and were scheduled to be completed only in the 10th Plan period.

[English]

Indian Schools in Gulf Countries

1486. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian schools existing in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether these are under the administrative control of respective Indian embassies/consulates/High commissions and also receiving grants-in-aid from the Union Government to run the schools;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact there happened to be some cases of expatriation of school staff;

(d) if so, the details of such cases, school-wise;

(e) whether the Government are taking any step to prevent such expatriation in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per the information received from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), there are 84 Indian schools in Gulf countries.

(b) Most of these schools are private schools. There are some schools which are run by Indian Missions/ Embassies. No grant-in-aid is extended to these schools from the Union Government.

(c) to (f) CBSE has recently received one complaint from Mrs. Rafia Zafar Ali against Al-Amal Indian School, Salmiya, Kuwait regarding her termination. CBSE is taking suitable action on this complaint.

Open Heart Surgery

1487. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities available for open heart surgery in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi along with the receipted and unreceipted payment schedule for patients before and such operations in these hospitals;

(b) the number of open heart surgeries performed at Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS during the last five years and the comparative morbidity and mortality ratio of such operations in these Hospitals during each year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the large number of deaths during these operations and protection of poor patients who have to pay huge unreceipted money before being getting operated?

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

Shifting of Telephones

1488. 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 several cases of shifting of telephones from Jorbag Exchange to other areas are pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the telephone office at Bhikaji Cama Place is also taking a lot of time in shifting and installation of telephones; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to direct these Exchanges to provide better and quick services?

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

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) MTNL Corporate Office issues instructions from time to time to all the Exchanges in MTNL, Delhi to provide shift and new telephone connections quickly and within the prescribed time frame.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 noon.

11.21 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Papers be laid on the Table first.

THE MINISTER OF LAWS AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): On behalf of Shri Arun Shourie, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7836/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.
VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audited Report thereon.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7837/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7838/2003]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study Shimla, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2001-2002.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7839/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7840/2003]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7841/2003]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7842/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7843/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, 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 Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, for the year 2001-2002.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7844/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7845/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur, for the year 2001-2002.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7846/2003]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7847/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7848/2003]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal Group 'C' and Group 'D' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 455(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2003 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7849/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): 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. 659(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2003 seeking to amend notification No. S.O. 1099(E) dated the 10th November, 2000.
- (ii) S.O. 659(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2003 specifying the rate of fee for services or benefits rendered in relation to the use of four laned road on National Highway No. 8A in the state of Gujarat.
- (iii) S.O. 1215(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in Visakhapatnam district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 172(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada section) in Thiruvallur district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (v) S.O. 173(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada section) in Prakasam district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

- (vi) S.O. 174(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada section) in Thiruvallur district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (vii) S.O. 280(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in Visakhapatnam district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 281(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in Visakhapatnam district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ix) S.O. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in Visakhapatnam district in State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 300(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section) in West Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 301(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section) in West Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 400(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Gudipadar to Suvani section and Ichapuram to Ganjam Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xiii) S.O. 401(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Gudipadar to Suvani section and Ichapuram to Ganjam Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xiv) S.O. 402(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land

for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Gudipadar to Suvani section and Ichapuram to Ganjam Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.

- (xv) S.O. 403(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Gudipadar to Suvani section and Ichapuram to Ganjam Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xvi) S.O. 500(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Etawah to Sikandara-Kanpur Dehat) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xvii) S.O. 505(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Kanchipuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xviii) S.O. 457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur Varanasi section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 469(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Dessa-Radhanpur Section on National Highway No. 14 in Boundary Patan district in the State of Gujarat.
- (xx) S.O. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Dessa-Radhanpur Section, District Border of Banaskantha to Radhanpur on National Highway No. 14 and four laning to District Border Kutchh on National Highway No. 15 in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxi) S.O. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Bamanbore-Samakhiali Section in District Boundary Rajkot to Samakhiali on National Highway No. 8A and Samakhiali-Radhanpur Section in Boundary Patan district

on National Highway No. 15 in the State of Gujarat.

- (xxii) S.O. 478(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Tiruvallur district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 480(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 7 (Hosur-Krishnagiri Section) in Dharampuri district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiv) S.O. 541(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxv) S.O. 564(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 2 (Delhi-Kanpur Section) in Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat district in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O. 565(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Allahabad Bypass on National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxvii) S.O. 629(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 8 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (xxviii) S.O. 628(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxix) S.O. 637(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxx) S.O. 638(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada Section) in Prakasam district the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xxxi) S.O. 643(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Allahabad Bypass on National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxxii) S.O. 647(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 648(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 670(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the West Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxv) S.O. 557(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2003 regarding rate of toll fee to be recovered from users of four-laned National Highway No. 8 (Manor-Dahisar Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (2) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (iii to xxiii) of (1) above.
- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 8A of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
 - (i) S.O. 716(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2003 making certain amendments in the notification No. 716(E) dated the 21st August, 1998.
 - (ii) S.O. 717(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2003 making certain amendments in the notification No. 717(E) the 21 August, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7850/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh Pradhika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of District Primary Education Programme Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh Pradhika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7851/2003]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): On behalf of Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:—
 - (i) G.S.R. No. 386(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th May, 2003 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
 - (ii) G.S.R. No. 393(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2003 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Housing Loan (Amendment) Regulations, 2003.
 - (iii) G.S.R. No. 547(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2003 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (General Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
 - (iv) G.S.R. No. 461(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 757 (E) dated the 8th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7852/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Management for the Safe Operation of Ships) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 196 in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7853/2003]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2003."

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 13th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 6 May, 2003.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Rajnath Singh to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'. As Shri Paswan has given notice for Adjournment Motion, I will allow him first.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice...*(Interruptions)* The vigilance officials of the Government of Punjab have raided the House of a Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khuranaji, I will go according to the notices of Adjournment Motion given by the Members.

[English]

I am going to allow you also. I know you have also given notice. I will give you the floor. Now let me give the chance first to those who have given notices for Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Hon. Speaker told yesterday that I will be given the first opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall listen to you also but it is more important to take up notices of Adjournment Motions which has been given by Members on important matters. It has been the tradition of the House that the notices of Adjournment Motion given by the Members will be taken up first.

[English]

We must follow some system here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those Members will get chance first who have given notices of Adjournment Motion and you will also get a chance to speak on the notice given by you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been the tradition of the House that those Members will get first chance who have given notices of Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Malhotraji, you are well aware of the convention of the House that those

who have given the notice of Adjournment Motion will first get the opportunity to speak, subsequently all others will have the opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard that the volunteers of the 'Shivsena' and Togadia will be sent to Pakistan who will return to India after giving a befitting reply to terrorism. I am very curious to know the date of their departure, please tell...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is being wasted in this way. I have to finish the 'Zero Hour' within one hour, you all will have the opportunity to speak. All will get a chance if you listen a bit quietly. Why do you behave in this way.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the material of the recent bomb explosion in Maharashtra was assembled at the local level, it is the opinion of the forensic experts. It is therefore, required to be investigated...*(Interruptions)* The party which supports terrorism is currently extending its support to the Government of Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawale ji those members who have given notice of Adjournment Motion will be given first opportunity to speak.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please, give us first the chance to speak on it as it is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would be better if you listen to them peacefully.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The incidents of bomb blasts have taken place at five places so far in Mumbai wherein 18-19 persons have been killed...*(Interruptions)*

Today, 'bandh' is being observed in Mumbai which has received overwhelming response from the people here. But, the Government have been subjecting people 'lathicharge'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANAT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): They have got the Question Hour suspended now there is no need of Zero Hour. The issue of Mumbai is very serious...*(Interruptions)* A number of people have been killed there in bomb blasts. The people

have expressed their feelings and condemned this incident by way of observing a complete 'bandh' in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* We would like to request the Prime Minister to dismiss the Government of Maharashtra. There is no law and order there at all. Therefore, action be taken against the Government of Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Will you please resume your seats?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, I am on my legs. Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rasa Singh Rawat, you are a senior Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kriplani, what is going on in this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are as many as 42 hon. Members who have given notices for the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you not allow even me to talk here?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: 15 Members have given notice...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, please allow me to complete.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The Shiv Sainiks have been lathi charged in Mumbai. The Congress party is in Power there.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: There have been five bomb blasts in Mumbai. It occurred at Juhu, Ville Parle, Ghat Kopar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want the 'Zero Hour' to continue? I have to conduct the 'Zero Hour' in an orderly manner. If you cooperate, then only it is possible. Otherwise, I have to skip the 'Zero Hour'. Now I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan because there are six Members who have given notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Our Shiv Sainiks are being beaten in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notices of Adjournment Motion have been given by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Devendra Singh, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, Shri Hannan Mollah, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai and Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was bomb blast in Mumbai in 1993 also...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not even allow me to complete.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be no discussion on Adjournment Motion as you had already suspended the Question on Hour that is not required now...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is most unfortunate that Members themselves are not bound by the rules they have framed here. According to the convention, those who have given notices of Adjournment Motion are given a hearing. I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. You are not allowing him to speak. After that all those hon. Members who have given notices will be allowed to intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Congress Government in Mumbai has been beating the Shiv Sainiks. Today, Shiv Sainiks have been lathi charged in Mumbai. There is the Congress Government there...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have been called by the Deputy Speaker, let me speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: 15 members have given notices...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These fifteen Members have not given notices of Adjournment Motion. They have given notices to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. There is a convention that I have to first call those who have given notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to observe any rule?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, ask them to behave properly in the Question Hour. That is a must. Only they are creating problems in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, I have already mentioned it. But for the benefit of all the Members here, I would again repeat it. It is an established convention that Members who have given notices for Adjournment Motion will be heard first during the 'Zero Hour'. So, I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. And you do not allow him to speak! How can I conduct the House like this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not want the House to be conducted, we will adjourn. That is all.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Let me speak first...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: No Question Hour, no 'Zero Hour'...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As he has given first the notice of Adjournment Motion, he will be given the first opportunity to speak. I will give you also a chance to speak after they have spoken...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to express the feelings of the people in the House about the incidents in Mumbai. Please give us the time to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE (Osmanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the senior Members will behave like this, then how the House will go on. There was no issue to suspend the 'Question Hour'...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have been observing the convention during the 'Zero Hour'. Now the convention of the 'Zero Hour' is not allowed to be followed in this House. I am sorry to comment that the Members are not following the convention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On account of Members not observing the conventions and rules framed by the House itself, I am bound to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 pm.

12.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Secretary-General to lay the Messages.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, there have been the incidents of bomb blasts at five places in Mumbai. According to the report of the forensic experts the bomb blast which took place at Ghatkopar was assembled in Mumbai. Local material was used in that...(Interruptions)

14.01 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 29th, July, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 2003."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th July, 2003,"

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2003.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has to make a statement now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, I have to make a submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can do it tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): The Govt. of Maharashtra has been rendered ineffective the Govt. of Maharashtra should be dismissed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, this is not 'Zero Hour.' I cannot allow you to speak today. Please do not interrupt. The 'Zero Hour' is over. We have to take up the Legislative Business. I am now asking the hon. Minister to make a statement. In the morning, he was not allowed to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, what about our Adjournment Motion?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): We would like the Minister of Home to come and give statement. You urge upon him to come here and make statement...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, I would like to say that since the hon. Prime Minister has agreed to meet the High Power Delegation of the Congress Party and discuss the Arunachal Pradesh situation, we, from the North-East, do not press the demand for a discussion at the moment...(Interruptions) We would watch the developments and then get back to the House again...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Innocent People are being killed in Maharashtra. The situation of law & order has deteriorated there. Dismiss the Government of Maharashtra. It is our demand...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants to say something. You do not allow anybody to speak in this House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is fixing. The matter he raised had come up on TV and even now he is raising the matter. I shall expose them here. It is fixing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the hon. Minister wants to say something.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Nobody on behalf of the Government listens when a member speaks to raise an issue and now when he has raised the issue, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stood up, what does it mean?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Raghuvansh Babu says that only I stand up to respond. It is the responsibility of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to rise when an important point is raised from the opposition or the ruling party and a response is sought from the Government. Why does the hon'ble member has any objection and he is surprised when I rise to respond?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When they raise points. I too will do so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You can also raise your point. Who has prevented Raghuvansh Babu to raise this point. If you raise the point, I will give you the same response.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The people from the ruling side have obstructed. Mine was the notice for Adjournment Motion but I was not allowed to raise the point and the Government did not pay any attention. They are delighted over the fact that the House is not going on and they are creating disturbances here. The Shiv Sena is creating disturbances in Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the hon. Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj wants to say something...*(Interruptions)* We are not objecting to the hon. Minister making a statement...*(Interruptions)* If she is going to respond to all the issues that are being raised from morning till now, we have no objection to it. But if

she is selective to somebody's issues, then, we would object to it...*(Interruptions)* So, I would request that she must respond to all these issues...*(Interruptions)* I find that she is now responding to the issue in a partisan manner...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, she should respond to all the issues that have been raised in the House since morning...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now let me hear what she wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is going to respond as a representative of the Government. But my submission to you is that she should respond to all the issues that have been raised in the House since morning...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, innocent people are being killed in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hindus are being killed there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hindus are being killed there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: You should have some sympathy for the Hindus...*(Interruptions)* It is Hindustan...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, you are the Leader of your Party. Why do you not sit in your seat now? Afterwards, you can seek my permission and I will give the permission. Now I have given the floor to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister would like to express her views on our issue...*(Interruptions)* These people can seek statement from the Minister on their issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hindus are being killed in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why have they, denied?...*(Interruptions)* They have got the Question Hour' suspended today morning...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can any Member speak without giving a prior notice?...*(Interruptions)* How is this Possible...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Since morning many issues have been raised in the House. She should respond to all the issues...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many people have been killed in Mumbai bomb blasts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Why is the Congress Party not serious about it?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are least concerned. There have been five incidents of bomb blast in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* Forensic Experts report says that the bombs used in the blast are local made...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, till the time the Deputy-Prime Minister does not take care of internal security such things will continue...*(Interruptions)* We are also really concerned about the Mumbai incident...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am afraid, you are continuing with 'Zero Hour' even now. I am sorry to say this. Now we have to take up Legislative Business and before that I have called the hon. Minister to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): They have given a call...*(Interruptions)* They say that You are protecting the terrorists...*(Interruptions)* We are providing assistance to them...*(Interruptions)* He is ready to have a discussion on this issue, but they are interrupting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the terrorists are getting support of the Congress Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Those people have observed Mumbai 'Bandh' today...*(Interruptions)* Incidents of bomb blast are taking place frequently in Mumbai. The people are frightened there...*(Interruptions)* Innocent people are being killed there...*(Interruptions)* It seems that the Congress Government of Maharashtra has hand in glove with the terrorists...*(Interruptions)* Our demand is that the Government of Maharashtra should be dismissed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, when the Parliament was attacked, the Prime Minister did not resign, when the Jammu incident took place, Shri Advani did not resign, when the Akhnoor incident took place, Shri George Fernandes did not resign, but now they are demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde for the Ghatkopar bomb blast. If that is their resolve, then let them demand the resignation of Shri L.K. Advani...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, will you please resume your seat now?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajnath Singh, you may make your statement now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him make his statement now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to the hon. Minister. Please resume your seat.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are giving adjournment motion on the issue of farmers for the last three days, even we are not being heard. Sir, will you not hear anything until we resort to some other method...(*Interruptions*) The dues of the sugarcane farmers are not being paid in Uttar Pradesh...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked the hon. Minister to make a statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the Minister of Agriculture says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how has a chance been given to them?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to the Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, please listen to me for a minute. I will not convert this time of the House into 'Zero Hour'. Whatever happened in the morning had happened. Now, we have regularly started the business of the House I have asked the hon. Minister to make a statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to make any statement?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the payment of outstanding dues of the sugarcane growers is not being made in Uttar Pradesh...(*Interruptions*) The Minister of Agriculture is present in the House. I would like that the hon. Minister of Agriculture clear the position in this regard...(*Interruptions*) The government of Uttar Pradesh say that it is the responsibility of the Central Government and the Central Government say that it is the responsibility of the state government...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, it is not a 'Zero Hour' I will take it seriously.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am on my legs. Will you please resume your seat?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly, you should listen to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will name you. Please do not do this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I am on my legs. You should have an elementary knowledge of the Rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not utter a sentence. Now, Shri Rajnath Singh will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to take a serious note of your behaviour. Do not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajnath Singh, do you want to make a statement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, please make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The farmers are suffering a lot...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? Is this House to be run or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked her. She does not want to make a statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Members belonging to the ruling party are confabulating in the Parliament...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him make a statement. Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is making a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khaira, please do not interrupt him now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 'Bandh' is being observed in Mumbai today...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, I have never objected to making any statement.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is ready to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister wants to make a statement, it is his liberty. He can do so.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt Shri Rajnath Singh. Let him complete his statement.

14.14 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2003-04 Season

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Sir, the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Kharif Crops of 2003-04 season. The MSP of paddy common and paddy Grade-A has been raised by Rs. 20 each as compared to the previous year and fixed at Rs. 550 and Rs. 580 per quintal respectively.

The MSPs of *Jowar*, *Bajra*, *Maize* and *Ragi* have been raised by Rs. 20 each and fixed at Rs. 505 per quintal as against Rs. 485 per quintal fixed for the previous year.

The MSP of *Arhar* (Tur) has been raised to Rs. 1,360 per quintal as against Rs. 1,320 per quintal for the previous year, thus marking an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal. Similarly, the MSPs of *Moong* and *Urad*

have been raised by Rs. 40 per quintal as compared to the previous year.

The MSP of Groundnut-in-shell has been fixed at Rs. 1400 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 45 per quintal as compared to the last year. Similarly, the MSPs of Soyabean (yellow) and Soyabean (black) have been raised by Rs. 45 per quintal and fixed at Rs. 930 and Rs. 840 per quintal respectively...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, they cannot make the House function like this...*(Interruptions)* This House is represented by the people of India...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): People are being killed in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rawale ji, I have said that I will give you a chance to express your views.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. After his speech I will give you the floor.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The MSP of Sunflower Seed has been raised from Rs. 1195 per quintal last year to Rs. 1250 per quintal for the 2003-04 season.

As compared to the last year, the MSPs of Sesamum and Nigerseed have been fixed at Rs. 1485 per quintal and Rs. 1155 per quintal respectively marking an increase of Rs. 35 per quintal.

The MSP of Cotton (F-414/H-777/J-34) and (H-4) varieties have been raised by Rs. 50 per quintal as compared to the previous year.

It is expected that the increases effected in the MSPs of the Kharif crops will encourage the farmers for increasing the production and productivity of the crops in the country and will also encourage the farmers in diversification of crops.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7853'A'2003]

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, our request is that let the Deputy Prime Minister make a statement in the House whenever it suits him...*(Interruptions)* Let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs convey our feelings to the Deputy Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are saying that he should inform the hon. Deputy Prime Minister in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Advaniji should make a statement in the House about the incident of bomb blasts in Mumbai. As we have demanded that the Government of Maharashtra be dismissed...*(Interruptions)* The law and order situation has deteriorated there...*(Interruptions)* Innocent people are being killed there...*(Interruptions)* 'Bandh' is being observed all over Mumbai today...*(Interruptions)* 'Bandh' is being observed in the bastis having a population of one and half crore people.

We should raise their issue here. Sushma Swarajji should express her views on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Now, this is not 'Zero Hour'. Anything that you demand from the Government in 'Zero Hour' will be taken note of by the Government and the concerned Minister is informed.

You have taken up a very serious matter regarding bomb blast in Mumbai. I do not give less importance to that. But there are other matters also which the hon. Members were not able to raise during 'Zero Hour'. Now, you have raised your issue and if I have allowed you, in all fairness, I must also allow Shri Akhilesh Singh, Shri Mistry and others. The response from the Government naturally is according to the prerogative of the Government. They can do it. I cannot give a ruling from the Chair to ask them to respond immediately. You know that.

[Mr. Speaker]

At the same time, to deviate from the accepted norms and asking the Government to respond in 'Zero Hour', I think, will be setting a new precedent. I would only appeal to you to take up the matter tomorrow and let the Government come with whatever statement they want to make. They can do it. Otherwise, what will happen is that I will be setting a new precedent if I ask the Government to respond now and I do not want to set that new precedent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I would not have got up to say anything on the floor of the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): A compensation of Rs. Ten lakh should be given to the next of the kin of deceased...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): We will not allow the 'Zero Hour' to continue...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You have rightly said that it is not the 'Zero Hour' and...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Shiv Sena did not allow the 'Zero Hour' to go on'...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, they interrupt repeatedly. It is a very serious issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would not have got up to say anything on the floor of the House, but as some allegations have been made, therefore, it is necessary to record that the Bandh is called by Shiv Sena.

It is on the record that the *bandh* is called by Shiv Sena. law and order problem is created by Shiv Sena...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): They have raised issue of Law and Orders when, we observed 'bandh'...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are not doing any service by making allegations and counter allegations. That is not going to help us. You are not doing a service to the country. I appeal to you that let us start our Legislative Business. Let us do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, I have given the floor to Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, do you want to make any submission?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Hindus have been killed, therefore, they do not feel sorry...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: When five persons are killed, there is no law and order problem but you talk about the issue of law and order when we observe a 'bandh'...(Interruptions) What type of justification is this?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the elected Members are doing this in this House, you can realise that they would be doing in Mumbai...(Interruptions) The language they use, the ideas they float...(Interruptions) This is the evidence before us of the manner in which they might be behaving in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: This incident is similar to that of 1993 bomb blasts...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

A compensation of Rs. Five lakh should be given to next of the kins of the each of the deceased...(*Interruptions*) What action the government of Maharashtra is taking in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Parliamentary Affairs Minister, if you cannot help me, how can I conduct the Business? Your own Members are doing like this. I can understand the Opposition doing it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (*Raiganj*): Today's Shiv Sena *bandh* is nothing but to divide the society against the wish of the Prime Minister, against the common policy of NDA. They are desperate to divide the Society. It is they who created problems in Mumbai. It is they who created nuisance in Mumbai and again they are after that...(*Interruptions*) Sir, they are the symbols of the division of this country, living symbols. I was told that they will send volunteers to Pakistan. When will they send them?...(*Interruptions*)

14.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up matters under Rule 377.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the matter being raised by Shri Javiya.

...(*Interruptions*)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA (*Porbandar*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not started speaking now, I will speak when these people keep calm.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today will be treated as laid on the Table.

[*Translation*]

(i) Need to take up the matter with Government of Pakistan for release of Indians including fishermen from Gujarat Imprisoned in Pakistani Jails

SHRI G.J. JAVIA (*Porbandar*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even now some Indians including fishermen from Porbandar and Jamnagar area of Gujarat have not been released from the Pakistan jails. Keeping in view the new scenario, the government should raise this issue with Pakistan and resolve this issue through dialogue and get the Indians released. The Government should get a list of the names of the Indians including fishermen languishing in Pakistani Jails.

(ii) Need to open more post offices in Bulsar district, Gujarat

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI (*Bulsar*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our government is not paying that much attention towards setting up of post offices as it is paying towards propagation of Information Technology and spreading telephone network while even today the poor, the tribal people and the labourers have to depend on the post offices only for sending messages etc. Some times back the government had fixed a norm with regard to the setting up of post offices but that is also being followed with much laxity. In my Parliamentary Constituency of Bulsar in the State of Gujarat the number of post offices is very less whereas in my district the population of the scheduled tribes is too much and these people live in small villages located at distant places. The result is that even if they have to purchase a postcard they have to walk quite a long distance thereby spending lot of time and money.

I would, therefore, especially request the hon'ble Minister of Communications that necessary orders for urgently opening of post offices atleast as per govt. norms, if not more, in my parliamentary constituency of Bulsar district on top most priority be issued so that post offices, as per demand could be opened there and the problem of those people could be solved.

(iii) Need to create an 'Ahir Regiment' in the Army

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (*Mahendragarh*): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Union Defence Minister towards an important subject. Sir, a demand is being made for the last several years for raising an 'Ahir Regiment' in the Army. During the war with China the Charlie company of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

**Not Recorded.

[Dr. (Smt.) Sudha Yadav]

the 13th Kumaoni regiment which was of Ahirs had immensely contributed over the Rejangala pass and it is remembered even today. Similarly, during the Kargil war and during the freedom struggle the Ahirs have contributed a lot. As there are Gurjar, Jat, Gorkha, Kumaoni and other regiments in the Army and the hon'ble Defence Minister has talked about Gurjar regiment so the demand for raising an 'Ahir regiment' is being made for the last several years and the government have given assurances from time to time.

It is my request to the hon'ble Defence Minister that the government may grant approval for raising an 'Ahir regiment' so as to fulfill an important demand of the Ahirs who at various occasions have sacrificed themselves and have extended cooperation for enhancing the glory of the country.

(iv) Need to accord clearance to Sandaul, Udanti and Tel Barrage Projects in Kalahandi district of Orissa

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The Sandaul Barrage Project, Danti Barriage Project and Tel Barrage Project in the District of Kalahandi be cleared by the CWC. as these projects will play a big role in mitigating drought in the KBK Region of Orissa.

(v) Need for early construction of Thermal Power Station at Yamuna Nagar district, Haryana

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 12 years back the former Prime Minister of India (Shri Narasimha Rao) by pressing the remote control button from Delhi inaugurated the 1000 megawatt thermal power station in the Yamunagar district of Haryana, but this thermal power plant has not been completed till date. 1500 acres of very fertile land of this area acquired 15 years ago is lying vacant till date. Non-installation of this thermal power plant has created a sense of disappointment in the industrial and agricultural sectors of the State.

I demand that in this regard Minister of Energy should give a statement and information pertaining to the role of the State Government in this project may also be provided.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for making Nag Nadi and Peeli Nadi at Nagpur pollution free

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): The Nag Nadi and Peeli Nadi which are passing through the Nagpur

city have been posing a great threat to the health of the people of the city. Acute insanitary conditions have been created as a result of the industrial and other waste which gets accumulated in these rivers. While during rainy season this waste gets washed away because of the heavy flow of water but at other times the waste remains accumulated in these rivers and is a health hazard to a large population. The National Environment and Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) conducted a detailed study to revive these rivers for providing clean water to the city but the reports of the institute are yet to be implemented by the Government.

I would urge upon the Government to kindly extend all the assistance to the State Governments, financial or otherwise, in the implementation of the reports of NEERI so as to revive these rivers with a view to provide safe drinking water to the people of Nagpur to keep them pollution-free.

(vii) Need to bring coastline of Karnataka under Coastal Regulation Zone-Category II restricting CRZ area of enforcement within 200 meters from the shore line

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): The Centre has enforced Coastal Zone Regulation scheme all over the coastal States to protect the ecological balance of the shoreline. Presently the coastline of Karnataka comprising of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada district has been brought under Category-III of the CRZ, preventing development of tourism related projects and settlement of fishermen community within 500 meters of the shoreline.

Karnataka's tourism potential rests to large extent on the existing tourism infrastructure along with coastline, especially beach resorts like Gokarna, Maravanthe and Malpe as also many temples located along the shoreline. Development works on this is being hindered by the CRZ as also the State Government's plans to construct group housing for the fishermen community.

Without compromising on the ecological aspects while furthering the interests of both tourism and fishermen community. I would urge the Centre to bring the State's coastline under CRZ-Category-II restricting the CRZ area of enforcement only within 200 meters from the shoreline.

(viii) Need to grant special status to Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts of Punjab under Border Development Scheme

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): The Central Government has announced special status to the border areas/districts

in the country for over all development to uplift the living of the people.

This Scheme is yet to be implemented in Punjab although this privilege has been extended to J&K, Himachal Pradesh and some Northern States. Three border districts of Punjab, i.e. Ferozepur Gurdaspur and Amritsar should be brought under this scheme immediately.

(ix) Need to grant necessary approval to Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala for construction of railway over-bridges in Kerala

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): The Railway has entrusted the construction of 20 Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) in the State of Kerala to Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDCK). The Southern Railway has expressed satisfaction about the good progress achieved by RBDCK on ROBs already entrusted with them. The General Manager, Southern Railway has recommended *vide* letter No. W35311/RBDCJ/GEN/C dated 10.10.2002, the transfer of 20 more ROBs to RBDCK. In the meeting held in the office of the Hon. Minister of Railways on 20.12.2002, at Delhi, Member (Engg) had agreed to issue necessary orders.

However, the Railway Board has not taken any decision so far in the matter and this has considerably slowed the progress of remaining ROB work in the State. After August, 2001, RBDCK has not been able to tender any ROB, for want of approval from the Railway Board, though there is necessary Budgetary allocation. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Hon. Minister for Railways to take necessary steps to give approval at the earliest.

(x) Need to allocate adequate funds under Indira Awas Yojana for construction of rural houses at Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram): Allocation of funds Indira Awas Yojana to the States is made on the poverty ratio and the rural housing shortage as per the Census Report. Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh is one of the most backward tribal areas in the country where housing is one of the basic shortfalls faced by the poor people. Most of them live in thatched cottages which often catch fire accidentally resulting in great loss to the poor people. It seems there is no clear co-relation between poverty and the housing activities.

Considering the magnitude of the acute housing shortage, I request the Government of India to allocate adequate funds under Indira Awas Yojana for construction of rural houses at Parbatipuram in Andhra Pradesh to help people who are mostly living below poverty line.

(xi) Need to declare Firozabad in U.P. as a Telecom district

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh) is divided into two districts from the telecom district point of view and causes much problem to the consumers. There are 6 BTS (Basic transmission system) in the Agra district. The capacity of which is required to be upgraded. In Kagaroll there is a BTS of 500 lines which was to be expanded by providing 500 additional lines, but approval was not accorded for that. In Jagner BTS is urgently required but that was not approved. In Jagner there is a waiting list of 300 prospective telephone consumers and that list is likely to increase. The telephones provided to the Panchayats in the rural areas have become meaningless because the MARR telephones are lying out of order. There is a lot of shortage of antennas for installing WLL telephones and this goes out of order quite often. In Firozabad also the waiting list for telephones is very long. The villagers of the Nauni, Dadki, Iradatnagar, Musalpur, Hanspura, Lalpur, Kathumari, Chachaund and other villages of the Kheragadh assembly constituency of the Agra district had deposited in the year 2000 itself the amount required for getting telephone connections but still they have not got the telephone services. Same is the position of the Kankapura, Jagraipur, Salempur, Dhanagar villages of the Fatehabad assembly constituency. The people of the Mahua-Shala and other villages of the Wah assembly constituency are also deprived of telephones. The government should urgently declare Firozabad a telephone district and take effective steps to provide telephone connections to the people of Agra district deprived of the telephone services.

(xii) Need to declare Tamil as an official language of the Indian Union

[*English*]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, time and again the matter has been raised in both Houses of Parliament by MPs from DMK Party that the Tamil should

be included as one among the official language, taking into consideration the cherished values of being oldest in its grammar literature and esteem of its olden civilization.

The language is spoken by more than 100 million people throughout the world and is also one among the official languages of Singapore, Sri Lanka and also widely spoken in Malaysia and Mauritius.

It is, therefore, necessary to include Tamil as an official language to wipe out the disparity between Tamil knowing students and Hindi speaking students while participating in various National competitive examinations.

Further, Tamil with abundant administrative, scientific and technical terms in its possession is good enough to become an official language.

It is also pertinent to mention here that our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has written to Prime Minister on 22nd April, 2003, to declare Tamil as one among the classical languages in this country, citing out various qualifications Tamil language possesses to become a classical language.

I urge upon the Government to see that Tamil is declared as an official language of the Indian Union and should also be declared as a classical language without any further loss of time.

(xliii) Need for early completion of Paradeep Oil Refinery project in Orissa

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): It has become a matter of serious concern for the people of Orissa that in the year 2000 the Hon. Prime Minister alongwith other Ministers has boldly declared that Paradeep Oil Refinery would start production by December, 2003. For more than six months now, the work has come to grinding halt.

Paradeep Oil Refinery was conceptualized in 1990 and was planned to be installed with the help of Kuwait. But after the Gulf War, Kuwait had withdrawn from the Project and thereafter Indian Oil Company decided to do it alone. Cabinet decision of Government of India was made in this regard and the foundation stone was laid, land acquisition was made and some infrastructure was also developed. But six months back suddenly the work was stopped.

I urge upon the Government of India to restart the work on was footing, so as to complete the project within a year time.

(xiv) Need to extend broad gauge rail line between Rajapalayam and Tenkasi upto Sengottah in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi): I would like to take this opportunity to place our appreciation on the record for the sanction of broad gauge railway line between Rajapalayam and Tenkasi. But, Sengottah is just 5 kms. from Tenkasi. Sengottah is an important commercial and tourist centre. It will give an important connection. So, I request that broad gauge work should be extended upto Sengottah.

Moreover, on the Tenkasi-Sengottah line, there is a dire need for construction of railway over bridge. There is a heavy traffic near the new bus stand and also a hospital is situated nearby. Construction of over bridge will ease traffic congestion. In fact, this project is pending for a long time and I request the Government to take up the project on top priority by sanctioning the full amount required for the project.

(xv) Need to provide adequate facilities for the passengers including a reservation counter at Canning Railway Station in the South Sealdah Section of West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government the sad state of affairs at the Canning Railway Station in the South Sealdah Section of West Bengal.

Canning is known as the gateway to the Sundarban area. At the Canning railway station, the basic facilities are not available to the daily passengers. There is no drinking water supply at the station. In the absence of this, the passengers face lot of difficulties.

Another problem is the lack of reservation for long distance trains. This is causing tremendous hardships to the passengers. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Government. Recently two officers visited for this purpose. But so far no action has been taken.

Lastly, the Canning station has also no waiting room. As a large number of tourists come every year, without a waiting room, they have no place to take rest. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take steps for the fulfillment of these demands.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you because you had said that this question should be raised during the Zero Hour...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Had Shivraj Patilji not said this...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have permitted me to speak...(Interruptions) This issue is very serious and if you do not like to hold discussion on this issue today then on tomorrow morning discussion may be held after the Deputy Prime Minister gives a statement on this serious issue...(Interruptions) Why Shri Shivraj Patilji stood to tell this...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was lathi charge in Mumbai, people got injured, the traffic came to standstill and the Members of the Congress Party are making fun of such a serious issue by saying that why this question is being raised...(Interruptions) These people are against Mumbai...(Interruptions) If you do not want to take up for discussion during the zero hour the incidents that have taken place there, then take it up tomorrow as I said...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I do not know whether you understood what I said earlier. I said, "When we reassemble at 2 o'clock, we never convert the House into a 'Zero Hour'." As such, the Presiding Officer cannot direct the Government to take note of what is happening here. Therefore, I am helpless in this. Whatever I have asked them to submit, they have submitted, and I will not be in a position to direct the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, the Deputy Prime Minister or somebody should give us an accurate information. A statement may be made either today or tomorrow...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, five bomb blasts have taken place in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you have given a notice for Adjournment Motion in the morning. I will give you one minute to make a submission. It is not 'Zero Hour'. Shri Chandrakant Khaire also wanted to make a submission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already stated that nothing goes on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): He has not given an Adjournment Motion. We also have to make submissions. We should also be given a chance to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad Maharashtra): Sir, three people have been killed in the bomb explosions that have taken place in Mumbai and several people have got injured whose condition is serious. Law and Order Situation is deteriorating in Mumbai. The condition of Mumbai, being the state capital is worrisome. 25-30 people have been killed in the bomb blast at Ghatkopar.

I urge the hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister to assess the Law and order situation of Mumbai. The terrorist activities are on a rise in Mumbai. A team of the Union Government should be sent there to curb it. It is our demand that the state government should be dismissed owing to the occurrence of such incidents. Terrorist activities are on a rise due to them. Rawaleji has told about the RDX. The State Government could do nothing despite all these. It is the fifth explosion there. The Home Minister should make a statement here in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): If any team is going to Mumbai, a team should go to Akhnoor also. Let the Members of Parliament go to Akhnoor...(Interruptions) What kind of logic is this? Parliament was attacked. This was not a first attack...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard all the submissions. Now, I am not in a position to give directions or to ask them to take it down because this is not 'Zero Hour'. Tomorrow before 10 o'clock, you can give the notices.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Whether the Home Minister resigned after the attack on Parliament...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever unparliamentary expressions are there and whatever indecent remarks are there, I will remove them. After having sought my consent, I have given permission to Shri Shivraj Patil to make his submission. Whatever objectionable remarks are there, I will expunge them. Otherwise, my suggestion is that tomorrow before 10 o'clock, you can come and give any appropriate notice so that you can take it up either under Adjournment Motion or for suspension of the Question hour, as you are now doing usually or you can take it up in any other form of discussion, the hon. Ministers are also sitting here; and they can also respond. Let us now stop this here and I will ask the hon. Law Minister to proceed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be no talk about resignation here...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you may also take it up tomorrow. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is also my good friend. He will also take it up tomorrow. I ask both of you to please co-operate with me. Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you want my co-operation tomorrow, then sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you will get a chance tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is demanding discussion of the State Government over there. I would like to tell him that we condemn terrorism and it needs to be uprooted. If they demand dismissal of the State Governments then we demand dismissal of the Union Government. The need of the hour is to overcome terrorism unitedly...(Interruptions). We condemn this incident.

14.38 hrs.

ELECTION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT BILL), 2003

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 14. The time allotted for this item is two hours.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People act, 1951, the Companies Act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the need for this Amendment Bill which seeks to amend the Representation of People Act, the Income Tax Act as also some provisions of the Companies Act has arisen on account of the fact that there has been a larger consensus both in the democratic polity of India as also amongst the various political parties that 56 years after Independence, we have still not been able to establish a transparent mechanism by which politics, political activities and political parties in the country are to be funded. The Committee headed by late Shri Indrajit Gupta had submitted a Report in 1999 where it had given some very valuable suggestions in relation to State funding of elections.

It was envisaged that the funding would take place on the basis of a corpus created, and which would be contributed by the Central Government and the State Government. Most State Governments expressed their reluctance to contribute amounts to it on account of various fiscal pressures on the State Governments themselves. Therefore, the Government looked into this question as also several other suggestions which are being made by different political parties and also by the persons outside the parliamentary arena as to how to make and develop a transparent mechanism of funding of Indian politics. I do recollect that about a year and a half ago the Congress Party also had set up an internal Committee headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Committee had made several suggestions in regard to streamlining of this entire process. Therefore, this (Amendment) Bill is really intended to develop this transparent system as an alternative to what many believe has to be no system by which politics is

being funded or any invisible system by which it is being funded.

Sir, the ingredients of this Bill are that any person, and "any person" includes not only an individual, a partnership, HUF, also a company, but it excludes Government companies that are entitled to make contributions to a recognized political party. In order to incentivise contributions to be made by a cheque, a procedure had been streamlined in this Bill that contributions can be made by cheque as far as individuals are concerned, partnerships are concerned, and HUFs are concerned. This is private money of individuals. There is no limit imposed on it. But as far as companies other than Government companies are concerned, because it is also shareholders' money, there is an upper cap of five per cent imposed under the Companies' Act. More than five per cent of profits cannot be contributed. Whatever is the amount so contributed in order to incentivise donations by cheque, an Amendment is being proposed to the Income Tax Act wherein a suitable deduction as an admissible expenditure for the amount so contributed would be available to the donor under the Income Tax Act. This is intended so as to incentivise persons to give donations to political parties by cheque. There will be an incentive for that in terms of the fiscal regime being amended in that purpose. Political parties in turn will have a responsibility to audit their accounts, to strictly maintain their accounts. They will be required to maintain a list of all donors who donate more than Rs. 20,000, in a given financial year. That entire statement of accounts, signed by the authorised person of the political party, would be submitted before the Election Commission each year. So, the object of this Bill is two-fold. One is to switch over from the present system where many believe that contributors are made to political parties through black-money which is generated. As a replacement to this contribution which could be incentivised and be made by cheque, there will be a responsibility on the political parties to maintain their accounts, to audit their accounts, and to regularly file their returns before the Election Commission in addition to the returns being filed before the appropriate income tax authorities. Additionally, the Committee, needed by late Shri Inderjit Gupta made certain suggestions with regard to the State funding. We could not implement all the suggestions made by the Committee because the States were reluctant to contribute to the funds which were to be created for the State funding. But we decided to make some beginning in this matter, and the beginning which has been suggested in this particular Bill that as far as electronic media is concerned, which include both the public broadcaster and also the private electronic media and the cable channels, the Election Commission

would be empowered at the time of elections to draw out a code for them so that there is equitable and fair sharing of time by all political parties as far as the electronic media is concerned. The time would be allocated on the basis of the votes polled by the political parties in the preceding elections. Additionally, voters lists would be made available to political parties and candidates free of cost. There is also an empowering provision in this Bill that depending upon the improvement in the finances both with the Central Government and the State Government, such other facilities at the expenditure of the State, which could be given to candidates at such an election as the financial position improves and also the ability of both the Central and the State Government improves. Those additional amenities to be given to candidates at elections, could be provided under this particular Act.

There is also a proposal to add an explanation to Section 77 to obviate any requirement for any ambiguity that may arise in future in relation to the expenditure incurred by a candidate at the time of elections. Candidates incur expenditure on their own behalf, for, at times, when national leaders of political parties visit constituencies or State leaders visit constituencies, the expenditure which is incurred for the visit of these national leaders or State leaders, particularly in relation to their transportation—some may fly in planes or even private planes or helicopters—now if that expenditure is added to the expenditure to be incurred by each individual candidate, then, perhaps, for inviting a State or a national leader of his party, bulk of expenditure of the candidate would be included by that one visit. So, this Bill has clarified—because such ambiguity had arisen in the past—that this expenditure would not be treated as an expenditure attributable to any particular candidate which is in relation to the national and the State leaders of that particular party who incur the expenditure. There are also certain persons in relation to whom there is—because of security requirements—some responsibility of the Governments to provide some mechanism in relation to security or such other facility as in the case of the Prime Minister or other VIPs who are protected VIPs. Now, a lot of Government employees, including security personnel, are deployed for such persons to whom security is to be provided or other arrangements are to be made, the expenditure incurred on them also would not be attributable to any particular candidate because such expenditure is not really in furtherance of his election prospects.

Sir, this is a modest beginning which we are attempting to make to, at least, cleanse the process of politics by which there is a transparent funding mechanism

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

of Indian politics. Parliament, Parliamentary democracy and political parties are inherent aspects and components of Indian democracy. What should be the funding mechanism of political parties, candidates, has remained a big question before the public, as a result of which several questions relating to the credibility of politics and political parties is involved.

These amendments, which have been proposed, amalgamate some suggestions, if not all a few suggestions, made by the Committee headed by the late Indrajit Gupta, as also suggestions which have been made by several parties and several other well-meaning persons so as to cleanse the funding mechanism as far as Indian politics is concerned.

With these few observations, Sir, I commend to this hon. House that this being a modest beginning in this regard, that this Bill may be discussed and finally approved by this hon. House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Companies Act, 1956 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, I stand to support this Bill which is the need of the hour. It is because the political parties and politicians are very important subject matters of discussion nowadays in the media. Now, the politicians have got a very important role of governing the country and also the States. We have made three-tier system where the local administration is also under the people's representatives. At such a juncture, we need a lot of money for reaching the people and putting forth our ideas when we are contesting the elections. Running a political party is also a very big task. In such a position, there will be a lot of allegations regarding the corrupt practices, misusing the Government machinery, and also getting the contributions from different sources.

A very important allegation made by the media is that the black money is circulated for the purpose of the political activities. Therefore, it is a very important thing on which the entire nation is now debating, but the Government is coming forward with certain suggestions which were made by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. But, at the same time, as the hon. Minister has mentioned, Dr. Manmohan Singh has given a lot of

suggestions to the Congress Party and we are implementing them in a proper way.

At the same time, the contribution level of Rs. 10,000 is now increased to Rs. 20,000, which is to be accounted for and the reports which are to be given by the treasurer or a representative of the party to the Election Commission also have to follow according to the new amendments made in this Bill. So, the funds that are coming through different sources are restrained now by this Bill. The Government-owned companies cannot contribute but at the same time individuals and private companies can contribute. These contributions would be shown in the accounts given and reported by the political parties to the Election Commission. In the same way, the parties who are contributing can also show it in their accounts.

There are political parties now coming up in multiple numbers. At the same time, independents are also contesting elections. Now, there is a vacuum regarding contribution to individual candidates. This Bill is confined only to political parties and not to individual candidates. So, candidates ought to depend upon the political parties. This is where corruption comes in. A candidate should have the freeness and he should not have any binding that there is a financial crunch for a particular candidate. Political parties are now coming up in different guises and are spending a lot of money which is not accountable. They can very easily escape in different ways but the individual candidates in different areas are facing the financial crisis. If you take the example of Tamil Nadu, it is one of the places where the costliest electioneering is going on. We cannot say that it is restricted to the accountable limit of Rs. 15 lakh for an election to a Parliamentary constituency. We can see that the expenditure goes up to Rs. 1 crore or even Rs. 2 crore. The public can easily see that while the limit for spending is Rs. 15 lakh, the actual expenditure is Rs. 2 crore. They are lavishly putting up their own advertisements, wall writings, posters, banners, hoardings and cut-outs and spending money for transport facilities and everything else.

It was only during the period when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister and when Shri T.N. Seshan was the Chief Commissioner of the Election Commission that things went on properly and the expenditure was confined within limits. If someone went outside the limit, that was exposed then and there and he was penalised. Even now, the Election Commission is giving out rules and

observes are reporting matters. We cannot shut our eyes. We cannot dupe the people saying that everything is happening within the laws laid down. That duality is now being questioned by the media and also by the people who are observing the developments in our democracy. Therefore, it is high time we brought things within the law.

Any individual or any company contributing to individual candidates should also be allowed to make such contributions and the freedom to receive contributions should not be confined to political parties alone. We have a multi-party system and independents are also allowed to contest elections, who cannot get contributions while political parties can get contributions.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one more aspect. There are NRIs, the people who are interested in having good governance at the Centre and also in the States. They are interested in contributing to political parties but their contributors are not coming in the legal way. Therefore, we are having a parallel economy where the contributions are not accounted for. Now, we are going to have a law where political parties would be required to properly show their accounts to the Election Commission. So, if NRIs or people living in foreign countries are ready to contribute to a particular party or a particular principle, that contribution should come through the legal route. Money is coming in but it is not coming in through the legal route. So, this should also be considered in future and amendments should be brought in.

Regarding this Bill, I would like to confine myself to saying that the system that is now being created by this amendment is welcome.

At the same time, I would like to say something about the equitable sharing of the time on the cable, TV and electronic media. Now, the publicity is given in the newspapers. Newspapers are carrying a lot of advertisements for individual candidates and the political parties. There are some parties which cannot contribute to that level. How are we going to make it? It is just like the Government advertisements. So, why do you not allow some expenditure by the Government to be allowed to the recognised political parties to advertise in the newspapers also? Then, they can very easily see and have a comparative study. So, instead of having the contribution from different political sources, the Government should allow and treat it as one of the advertisements of the Government and the recognised

political parties should be allowed to participate equitably in the advertisements during the course of the election period.

In the United Kingdom and in other countries, the entire expenditure of the election is born by the Government. We cannot go to that extent because our exchequer cannot allow it. But, at the same time, we have to consider it, at least, and we should go nearer to it.

Now, the posters are very costly ones. We have to restrict it. There are some restrictions also. But, at the same time, there should be a sort of contribution by the Government, by allowing the posters by the candidates. However, it should be a confined one. There should not be any unequitable posters put up in particular constituency. There should be equality given to the Parties also. The Government should also consider that contribution. In the same way, there is electronic media, which is run by the local cable TVs. They are reaching the homes faster than the national network or the regional network. Therefore, we may be having the Doordarshan or other cable TVs, which may give some chance to us and which may give some chance to political parties also to debate upon a particular issue during the time of the election.

In the same way, the Government should also help the local TV so that they will also give equitable chance to the candidates, especially to the political parties, which are recognised by the Election Commission.

Now, a very wide scope is given for the Executive by insertion of new Section 78A and 78B where, in due course, whenever there is a necessity for a particular Government or a particular State Government, they can widen the scope by giving free distribution of certain materials, which are not mentioned. But statutory possibility is given to the Executive so that they can consult the Election Commission and give it freely. The voter's list is mentioned as one of the free materials given to the parties.

Now, nothing is mentioned regarding the candidates. There, again, I want to say that independent candidates are standing and unrecognised parties are also standing in the elections. I want to know whether they are going to be helped by giving these free distribution of the voters' list or not. It is because every candidate is not given the voters' list and only the recognised parties are

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

given the voters' list. I would like to know whether that would also be considered. It has to be answered by the Government.

Now, using of vehicles, fuel and other things are very important. It is a welcome measures to give possibility for the leaders of the political parties, which is numbering about 31 to 41. That way they are given funds and they are allowed to incur their own expenses when they are going throughout India for the election purpose. But what about the candidates? A number of candidates are having a lot of money to utilise. They can hire many vehicles. But what about the individual candidates? Will a substantial number of vehicles be given to them because the number of voters to be reached is very large in India? It is from ten lakh to 50 lakh. How many people have to be reached by using these vehicles by a single candidate? In the same way, the fuel charges are going up very heavily. Once, it was rationed in certain years, but, now, at least, some fuel charges should also be born by the Government. These are some of the things which will help in reducing the possibility of the corrupt measures and use of the black money.

In the same way, I would like to suggest that the State Governments are suffering because of the financial crunch. When they go for Legislative Assembly sections they should also be contributed by some way or the other. We have to find out the funds and those should be utilised for the State Governments.

In the same way, I would like to point out that around 50,000 people or above elect representatives for the Local Boards and for the District *Zila Parishad*.

15.00 hrs.

Those people also need a lot of funds. There, the ordinary people cannot stand for that election and they cannot reach the 50,000 people without the help of the Government. Therefore, the State Governments also should help the candidates when they are conducting the Zilla Parishad elections and Local Board elections so that the crunch of the money for genuine candidates, who is ready to help the people and who is ready to fight for the cause of the people is not felt. They should not feel that because he is poor and he is having no money he could not serve the people. That aspect should be looked into by the Government.

With these words I support this Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003. Before I go into the provisions of this Bill I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Law and Justice for the resilience he has shown in accepting the recommendations, *in toto*, of the Standing Committee on House Affairs, and a new and freshly drafted Bill has been presented to the House.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, any legislation, for that matter requires an assessment of factors that govern a particular situation at a particular given point of time. The factors are political, social and economic considerations. In amending the Representation of the People Act, the NDA Government has taken into consideration all aspects which have been bothering the Parliament and the contesting candidates for the last 52 years. The hypocrisy part of it is being removed slowly, steadily but effectively. We have already enacted a number of amendments relating to the Representation of the People Act and I hope this is the fourth Amendment which is coming up today and I am hoping also that another two amendments are in the anvil and those will also come.

We must thank Shri Indrajit Gupta, who is not more with us, for having started a dialogue and a comprehensive policy for State funding of elections, This Bill aims at part of State funding—not full State funding but part of State funding—and this Bill also aims at transparency at all levels. It aims at accountability and fairness. The Government is to be congratulated and the hon. Minister of Law and Justice is to be congratulated for having meticulously taken into account all aspects of electioneering. As I said, the hypocrisy is being removed which is known to everybody and everybody has been practising it also as to how to manipulate the records so that the Election Commission does not put the axe on the candidate or the Party concerned.

It is also a fact that when a number of VIPs belonging to different political Parties visit a particular area, lot of *bandobust* has to be done, arrangements have to be done. Since there is a threat perception to larger number of VIPs or important persons, an elaborate arrangement has to be made whether he or she goes by air or by road or whatever it is and it involves a lot of expenses. By making a provision in Clause 4, the expenditure of all political Parties has been explained in

a very beautiful manner so that the candidate is not put to any difficulty at all. He is able to go in another matter and the accountability part is taken away from his expenses itself. The threat perception has been rising everyday. The fundamentalist groups have been attacking people at different places. Only the other day, in Mumbai, there was a bomb explosion where a number of people had been killed. As you know, everyday, in Jammu and Kashmir, an average of ten persons are being killed and there are repercussions of it all over the country where the fundamentalist groups from across the border have been creating problems. At the time of elections also, this will be a problem of greater magnitude.

So, by bringing this amendment to Section 77 of the principal Act, the Government has taken into account the reality that has been prevailing in this country itself. As I said, the most important fairness that is coming is regarding the use of the electronic media and the cable television network. It has been explained in a very proper manner and section 39A of the Representation of the People Act is being amended by this enactment itself.

I would like to know one thing. A lurking doubt comes in my mind about those who have not harnessed or who have not controlled the print media. We have put some sort of a restriction on the electronic media or on the cable network and the cable network may, in a way, circumvent this provision by making advertisements for a particular candidate. That has to be curbed. I would urge upon the Minister himself to give guidelines to the Election Commission to prescribe different rules—there is a question of prescription also—so that advertisement part of it is also a part of this control over electronic media and cable network communicate media, to put a restriction so as to see that they do not allow different people to circumvent this legislation itself.

The third thing, which requires a little bit of thinking also, is of giving 40 members of VIP category in a recognised political party as per Explanation 1(a) and 20 members for the unrecognised political party. To my mind, this is too liberal a matter because there is mushrooming of unrecognised political parties to some extent and regional parties are coming up in large number as a result of which this 20 number, which has been indicated, would be too large a number so far as Explanation 1 to Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act is concerned. I would request the hon. Minister to ensure by a dialogue with the Election Commission to see that there is some restriction on those political parties which are not recognised at all. If they come up at the time of

elections, a period should be there, a gap should be there between the election and the parties which are coming up for facing elections because if a political party comes up at the nick of the moment and asks for 20 people to be of the VIP category, I think, it would be too much to ask for.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Statecraft or managing a State is a complicated affair and anybody, who wants to be a part of the Statecraft itself or the ruling party itself for forming the Government, requires to incur expenses. May I quote from Bhartruhari's *Niti Shatkam*, a beautiful presentation which has been made?

"Nityavyaya Prachur nitya dhanagana cha; horangnaiv tripiti anek rupa"

Nityavyaya means that you must have lot of expenses everyday. How do you meet the expenses unless you get money from whatever source it is possible? Prachur nitya dhanagana—money has to come from different sources. How nriptiti is formed? How the Statecraft is formed? It is formed like a courtesan, a prostitute presenting herself before a customer in different ways, in different garbs and that is what is Statecraft. So, we have to take into account that money is required, more money is required but to it has come in a proper manner so that there is no criticism of anybody in whatever manner possible. So, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I strongly oppose the provision regarding funding of elections and support some other provisions in the Bill. Now, I shall deal with these two aspects separately.

I am a person who is conversant with the process of election in India for over half a century. I have contested seven State Assembly Elections and three Parliament Elections, out of which I succeeded continuously four times, and two times respectively. So, from my personnel experience I am speaking in this august House, about the way in which money power is influencing our election process.

After our experience for the last 50 years, a stage has come wherein the money power and the muscle power are the most predominant factors in the process of Indian democracy.

Now, we are fighting for a free and fair election. We are fighting, so that the election should be free from all external influence either in the form of money or in the

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

form of physical extortion. The muscle power can be prevented by collective action of the people, but money power cannot be prevented by any such actions.

I am surprised, and I am very much aggrieved also that the Government had not done justice to Comrade Indrajit Gupta—after whom the Committee was named. If Shri Indrajit Gupta were alive, he would be the first person to oppose this process of election funding as provided in the amended Bill. In the amended Bill, the provision is that the companies other than Government companies can contribute to the election process; and to the political parties.

I would say that we are living in an age of multinational companies. In India, multinational companies are definitely functioning under the cover of national companies. In the Bill also, there is a provision that foreign contribution is prohibited, but there is an indirect way of foreign contribution to the process of elections in India.

I would submit that the candidate can be purchased, and the process may be made a mockery by the multinational companies functioning in India. In the ultimate analysis, I am afraid that we will be risking our State security also. Our policies; our political decisions; and such other legislative business would be decided by the Board of Directors of the multinational companies and that we never expect to happen, and the result will be that the multinational companies will be having the remote control of Indian Parliamentary Democracy. If you do not agree with me, you will feel it within a short time. If I am alive, I can also feel it myself. But, the question is how to prevent this money power; how to prevent this influence of money in the election processes. The Gupta Committee is also very vehement of having a State Election Funding.

Now, the argument advanced is very unreasonable, that the Central Government, as well as the State Governments are not in financially sound position to contribute to the corpus of the State Election Funds. We must find out for what purpose this is done. We must find out the corpus to prevent the money power from influencing our election process. It will not be an excessive expenditure. We will have to fight it out; we will have to find a method by which the election funding can be done by the State itself.

What was the purpose of our fighting for an independent India? We were fighting for a democratic India; and we were fighting for the liberties of the individuals. By this amendment, I am sure that we will

be subject to money power; and not only money power in India, but, in an indirect form, even abroad. I am very much afraid that we are also doing injustice to the Gupta Committee.

Therefore, the first and foremost thing we would have is to revive State funding to save Indian democracy and to save Indian parliamentary democracy, which we hail as the largest democratic country in the world; and we have a free and fair electoral system. All these will be jeopardised within no time, when these companies are allowed to pay to the political parties, who are sponsoring the candidates.

Gentlemen, you please hear and understand me. I am an old man having the experience of ten elections.

Every year, the election expenditure will be high. The candidate will have to find money—either he will have to sell his family property or his personal property to meet the election expenses, which is on the increase. Now, this could be prevented. The poor candidate should not be left to the mercy of the multinational companies for fighting elections because he will then be duty bound to obey the orders of the Board of Directors of the multinational companies.

There are political parties in India, who are fighting for equitable distribution of wealth among the electorate. Throughout my life, I am arguing that the wealth should not be concentrated in a few hands and in a few companies. We are fighting for equitable distribution of wealth throughout India. Everybody should get a chance to earn wealth. It must be equitably distributed. Do you argue for concentration of wealth in a particular company? Their interest is in the candidates who support their ideas, that is, the concentration of wealth in their hands. They will contribute liberally to them, and not to those candidates who are fighting against their interest. There are socialist parties, there are communist parties and there are peasants and workers' parties who are fighting all along for equitable distribution among the masses and the electorate. They will never argue for multinational companies to run in India, and they will never work for a multinational company which wants to amass wealth in India. The people of the company, which is contributing to the political party, are definitely interested to see that their wealth is safe in the hands of the people who come to power. They can influence the parties. What will be the state of affairs? Can the party which is advocating for distribution of wealth among the electorate get a cheque from these companies? They would not do it

The political party which is advocating their interest will get a cheque with no difficulty.

Our learned friend talked about transparency. He was arguing for transparency in the election funding. Is transparency at work in India? In spite of the Income-Tax Act, the Companies Act and all those other legislations, our poll is influenced by black money. Black money is the real challenge today and we could not control the black money. Now, we are arguing that these companies should be allowed to influence the electorate and influence this Parliament. I would say that even the submissions before this House would be on the dictates of the company, which has funded his party. The company will give a direction to the Member of the House to take up a particular issue in the House, and he is duty bound because has accepted a huge amount, in a transparent way. According to Shri Arun Jaitley, that is transparency. It is not transparency, it is political bribing. We are giving licence to political bribing in India. These big companies are being given the licence to bribe the candidates, to bribe the political parties by issuing cheques in one way or the other. Not only that, the Government also is coming to their help by giving income-tax exemption. No income-tax will be paid on the amount that is given to the political parties. It is exempted from income-tax. The Government is also encouraging the big companies to donate to the political parties, which could influence them.

Indian democracy, I am sure, will become a mockery. Indian democracy will become a mobocracy. In other words, it will be a rich man or a capitalist who can control the Indian parliamentary system.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, all companies of Bengal will donate only to CPI (M). That is their monopoly.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If any political party—whether CPI (M) or CPI, or any other—is receiving donation from any company, I am opposed to that. I do not know whether the CPI(M) has accepted such donation or not. Any party accepting donations from any company is not acceptable. Otherwise, our process of democracy will be curtailed. Hence, I oppose this provision with all vehemence. I am sure that in the next decade we would be forced to bring in an amendment because the multinational companies will start influencing Indian Parliament by then. Such a situation will arise, I am sure, in future. The Government may be able to pass this amending Bill, but in due course, Indian democracy will

get into a crisis. To tide over that crisis, the Government would have to bring another amendment to this.

I support the provision of sharing of time on the electronic media. There must be equitable sharing of time. I support that provision. I support the provision that sharing of time should not be the business of the Ruling Party. All parties should equally share the time on the electronic media. Justice must be done. There must be a detailed procedure evolved for sharing this time. I support this provision. I support the provision which refers to supply of copies of electoral rolls by the Government and also other election material to the parties. I support those issues because they are justifiable.

My opposition is to the point related to the expenditure of leaders. That will be disadvantageous to the parties in Opposition. The Members belonging to the Ruling Party, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, or Ministers, can travel throughout India. They can spend any amount. It would put the candidate belonging to the Opposition party in a disadvantageous position, if this amount is not included in the election expenditure. That is why I oppose it. If the Ruling Party is given that power, that prerogative, or that privilege of using the state machinery, that will be disadvantageous to the contesting candidates because they do not have that capability. To curtail the misuse of the Government machinery, this should not be allowed. The Government's propaganda machinery and all other Government machinery should not be misused for election purposes by the Ruling Party. The present amendment will give ample opportunity to the Ruling Party to misuse the Government machinery in the election campaign. That is why I oppose that provision.

Then again, there is a provision which says, in respect of voluntary contribution of up to Rs. 20,000 the political need to maintain any records. Below that limit, the political can keep the money without record; no accounts need be maintained; no audit is done; and the accounts need not be produced before the Election Commission. The political parties which are supporting certain companies will get an opportunity of amassing wealth in respect of elections being held periodically in India. I oppose that provisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I already rang the bell thrice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is rather very unfortunate and objectionable. It has to be deleted. That is my humble submission.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

We have not done justice to the Indrajit Gupta Committee.

So, the first thing is that we must not be a victim to money power. The Indian parliamentary democracy should not be made a victim to money power, power to be influenced by the multinational companies as well as the monopoly companies in India. That will be a death-knell of the Indian democracy.

With these few words, while supporting certain provisions of the Bill, I am strongly opposing the funding process amendment contained in the Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. This is a very important Bill and I thought that every political party would take part in the debate on this Bill. But what I observed a few minutes ago was that everybody was interested more in raising their issues than to discuss this Bill. But I do not think that Bill is less important than any other subject.

Sir, as a political party, I feel ashamed to say that nowadays, it is very difficult for anyone to say that he belongs to a political party. Nowadays, people criticise a political party like anything. We cannot attract the new generation because there are so many lacunae, and our image is getting down before them. But it is also a fact that political party is not fully free from honesty, sincerity, dedication to duties, vision, mission and action.

Sir, I am really happy to hear the views and voice of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. But may I tell him one thing...*(Interruptions)*

Let Shri Varkala Radhakrishnanji, just ask their West Bengal party unit that when they were not in power what was their party funding? Now, he is saying about the influence of the multinational companies and big monopoly companies in India...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you will be surprised to know about the building of their party office. It is like to a 10-star hotel building that they have created as their party office. Crores of rupees are flooding there...*(Interruptions)* I am really sorry to say this, but this is a fact...*(Interruptions)* This is just one point. I have got so many points. Sir, I want to congratulate the Law Minister because of his intention...*(Interruptions)* That is why with so many political parties, you are here...*(Interruptions)* You people do not have the guts to speak on this Bill. All of you criticise the Bill but you always take all sorts of advantages. When the Members Salaries and Allowances Bill is discussed, you criticise it

like anything, but when it is passed, you are the first one to take advantage of this. It is a double standard. You double-speak. Do not hypocrite. I feel really sorry to say this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister. His intentions are very clear. At least, he tried to bring the Bill which had been unanimously supported and recommended by the Standing Committee. I came to know this from the hon. Minister's statement.

I have seen a mention about electoral rolls. It is already there. All recognised political parties get electoral rolls in a free manner. We also get the electoral rolls. I also want to congratulate the hon. Law Minister for having the sharing of timings for the TV and other electronic media. It is there. Though I have not seen the full clarification, I think only one new point is being included here. There is a point regarding free voter slips to be given to the candidates. If it is there, then I think, one-fourth of the problems of the candidates would be solved. There are small constituencies, medium constituencies and larger constituencies. In some constituencies, the number of voters is from 10 lakhs to 15 lakhs; and in some big constituencies, the number of voters is even between 20 lakhs to 25 lakhs. So, distribution of free voter slip, of course, would be very helpful for the candidates and for the political parties. So, to bring this Amendment Bill with a successful intention is one part of the Bill.

But Sir, I have some questions also. The Government should have brought this Bill as a comprehensive one. Here, I must congratulate Shri Indrajit Gupta, though he is not alive today, for giving very valuable suggestions and recommendations from that Committee. At that time also, I remember correctly that all the political parties gave their opinion. This time Vajpayee's Government is stable. But before that we faced a lot of troubles when within three to four years, every year we had to face general elections. After the Government of 1998 was toppled, I remember that I wrote a letter to the hon. President. Hon. President was kind enough to forward my letter to Hon. Prime Minister. We are the smallest party, and how can we go in for election every year? From where will we get funds? Funds would not come from the sky. The Government can audit our Party. I challenge, they would not find anything in our accounts. I am very happy to say here that, we submit our updated audited accounts to the Election Commission every year. But it is very difficult for a smallest recognised State political party to contest election every year. There are

some political parties who are in power either in the Centre or in the States. My party is not in power either in the Centre or in the State. But, ours is a recognised political party, and we also have people's support...(*Interruptions*) This is my chance. Let me be allowed to speak. You can speak whatever you want to speak when your turn comes. I do not want to waste the time of the House. But, let me express my feelings here in this House. If I am not allowed to explain my feelings here in the House, will you give me money to contest the next election?

Sir, the Opposition is raising so many points. Why I am saying all these things because, we are fighting a battle. We know how CPM Party is spending money for the election. We know it is very difficult for us to contest election without money. That is why I am saying that the Government must bring a comprehensive Electoral Reforms Bill in the Parliament.

Shri Radhakrishnan has raised a solid question regarding State funding. You said: "Yes, there was a proposal where the Central and the State Governments will jointly fund the parties." Is it a fact? West Bengal Government was the first Government that opposed State funding. I really condemned it. It was because, we were in favour of it. If there is a State funding, at least, good people will come; grassroot-level workers will come; and the common people will come who may not be having money but who may be having good intention of serving the country. They cannot come to Parliament because they do not have the money. The message should not go that because of money, muscle, and *mafia* power, we are here. There are many good and bad people everywhere. Potato and potato chips are not one and the same thing. I appreciate the modesty of the Minister for bringing this Bill. Of course, it will be helpful. I do not think this Bill will fulfil the commitment of the people. It is because, it is neither comprehensive nor impressive. I do not know whether it is a modest beginning or the end.

Sir, I feel very sorry for the political parties. I think the Government must investigate one thing, namely, where from the political parties are getting funds; what are the amounts; what are their assets till now, and so on. I want to know these things from the Government. It is because there are so many political parties in this country. Audit is done. But their accounts show that they have only a small amount of money. Now, you take the examples of UTI and other scams. You will see how people have invested their money by way of many

schemes. So, I want to ask the Minister to disclose the assets of all the political parties in this House so that, at least, people of this country know which are the political parties owing assets, and so...(*Interruptions*) Then your cat will be out of the bag first.

Sir, I know they will disturb me, but they cannot disturb the people. Sir, I should not mention the names of the NGOs. I do not know why we give incentives to the companies. They generate a lot of black money. This is my feeling. There may be some differences of opinion but this is my personal feeling as also my party's feeling, namely, why necessarily we give incentives to the companies. There may be some parties that may stand for accountability, credibility, transparency, sincerity, honesty, dedication, etc. but there may be parties which may not stand by these things. But today we are lagging behind and we need for our or five reforms immediately.

We need a comprehensive Bill on electoral reforms and political reforms. We have to see how the political parties are misusing the power. They are saying one thing and doing quite another. Therefore, if you want to attract the younger generation, political reform is a must. We also need to have administrative reform and judicial reform. Without these reforms I do not think the country will be able to reach its goal.

This Bill was introduced earlier also and it had gone to the Standing Committee. I asked the Members of that Standing Committee whether somebody had given a written note of dissent. Our party Member, Shri Bikram Sarkar told me that there was no note of dissent and the Committee gave a unanimous Report. The hon. Minister has tried his best to give at least some help to the people. I sincerely feel that electoral reform and State funding are must.

In 1998 I wrote a letter to the hon. President requesting him to do something with regard to State funding, otherwise it would be very difficult for a Party like ours to contest elections and come to the House. I must confess that the hon. President had forwarded my letter to the hon. Prime Minister for taking appropriate action. Today, I am grateful to him and I want to be on record that for a recognised small political party like ours, it is very difficult to contest elections because nobody is there to help us. We do not even knock at the doors of the industrialists for money. I, therefore, appeal to you that if you need good parliamentarians, then money should not be the criterion. You should see their intentions,

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

experience, vision and their working capacities. I would say that the hon. Minister has tried his best but he should come up with a comprehensive electoral reform Bill next time. We should not give incentives to the industrialists.

[Translation]

No political party pays income tax. Everybody makes list...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Whether Trinamul Congress pays income tax...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Conduct an enquiry in this regard. You can ask us...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Can you challenge it? I can challenge you inside the House.

[Translation]

Whatever income we have, it is because of the dedication of our workers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You must know it. You are taking money from the multinational companies. You are spending the entire Government fund for your party purpose. You are purchasing *bandooks* to kill people. You are not allowing the people to cast vote. It is your nature not ours. It is quite unnatural thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb her.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Do you think BJP gives us money? Are you supporting the Front because it is giving you money? It is a question of ideology. We are supporting them on moral grounds...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, kindly address the Chair. Please do not look towards them.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The point is, they cannot speak here and when we want to speak they start hue and cry. Just because we are supporting the NDA, it does not mean that BJP will give us money or we are a purchasable commodity. It is our moral and

ideological support to them. It is not a financial support...*(Interruptions)*

They should be asked of themselves. They may also have to go for coalition. Every political party may have to go for coalition politics. They cannot blame a political party supporting a particular political party and say that their support is because of money. They may also have to go for coalition in West Bengal...*(Interruptions)* They have Left Front, Forward Bloc, CPI(M) and so on. They cannot say that because they have purchased them, they are in the Front...*(Interruptions)* While speaking, please remember what you are saying and what you want to do. They cannot say it like this. On behalf of the common people, I would like to say that this House is supreme.

It is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a man of identity, principle, and ethics. He is also a senior person and a senior politician and we are supporting him. That is why, I feel if we want to combat corruption, State funding is the only way out. State funding can save the democracy and the democratic system in this country otherwise this House will become a mockery.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I want to ask one question from the Minister. Has he tasted both potato and potato chips?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarifications please.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, first and foremost, let me thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of AIADMK with reference to this Bill initiated by the hon. Minister.

At the outset, I want to pat and praise the hon. Minister for bringing a Bill of this nature for legitimising and legalising the permissibility of receiving donations by the political parties. I am one who belongs to a school of thought which warrants a comprehensive and total package on electoral reforms. After having seen over a period of time what is the electoral process, its operation, its governance, I feel we need a comprehensive package of electoral reforms, as has been well said by the previous speakers also. But the Minister has rightly said in his all modesty that this is only a beginning and as such he has made a marginal attempt to touch the fringe of the problem.

As far as I am concerned, as a student of management, I have been given to understand that any single problem will have more than one solution. Now

several problems are there and several alternatives are there. Now it is upto the concerned, how to match these alternatives with reference to the problems subject to its constraints and compulsions. In that process, the Minister has made a beginning. On that score we are supporting him.

Before I could take up the merits of the Bill I may kindly be pardoned for divulging the background of the entire electoral system which has been in existence in our country. We are really proud of being a citizen of the world's largest democracy that too the world's largest working democracy. Now in our democracy, people have been given the power through their elected representatives. The Indian democracy stands on three pillars—the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary operating through the bureaucracy and assisted by the Fourth Estate. This is how it has been said. The Indian democracy has been in existence not for one or two years. It has been surviving for five and a half decades. Free and fair elections have been held for all these years. It has been going on with 500 million electorates spreading in the length and breadth of the country with 29 States plus six Union Territories.

A massive and a gigantic physical exercise has been going on. As such, our Indian democracy is not only a grand success, but also a great success. This is the best side of our democracy.

On the other hand, there are the ills and evils of the system. One could have seen as to how it has been going on. Initially, for the first two decades, electoral process in democracy in this country had been working very well. Afterwards, over a period of time, all these evils have crept in. Malpractices, misuses, corrupt practices and all such things have come into play. In fact, there have been erosion of ethics and values have vanished. Not only that, the entire system is now in a turmoil. Why is it so? It is due to our own electoral system. This electoral system warrants a total package of reforms. Due to this, as has been rightly said by Madam Mamata Banerjee and others, we are not able to get the right person for the right task. Now, as against three 'S'—namely, service, sacrifice and self-discipline, the traits of the age old leaders—there are five 'Ms', namely, muscle power, money power, mafia power, ministerial power and media power. Our electoral system should aim at improving and avoiding these undesirable elements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have seen all these powers when you were the State Election Commissioner.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, after having served that assignment, I am speaking from my own experience as to how the electoral system should be confined in a different angle. Of course, the hon. Minister has made a beginning. This has got a wider angle and a wider ramification. The crying need of our country today is to have a leader, a parliamentarian, a legislator with a direction, with a vision, with a commitment to cause, with decisiveness and a person with a true spirit of honourable service and disinterested devotion to public duty. For that there should be a due electoral system. There should be a proper environment. This is the way I look at it.

Under this backdrop we are debating the Bill initiated by the hon. Minister. He has rightly legitimised and legalised the eligibility of political parties to receive donations. But here, I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. What does he mean by a 'political party'? There are recognised political parties, registered political and unregistered political parties. On two occasions in the Bill it has been mentioned recognised political parties. First, it has been said that recognised political parties will be given equal time as far as TV network is concerned. Second, with reference to supply of electoral rolls it has been said that recognised political parties will be supplied with electoral rolls. But in regard to receiving donations, why has there been no mention of it? It has only been said 'political parties. If one takes into account the total number of registered political parties alone, it may be numbering around 500. The number of unregistered political parties may be still more. What does it mean? Everyday there has been mushroom growth of not only registered political parties but also other parties. Even amongst those who are registered political parties, some of them remain only in namesake and have become defunct in effect. Are they also eligible to get donations? I would like to have a specific clarification on this whether the right of receiving donations by political parties are restricted only to recognised political parties or to all political parties. It would be desirable to confine to recognised political parties.

Sir, when this aspect of donation by a business house is being legalised and legitimised, as has been rightly said by somebody here, in that event will they not influence or have a nexus with reference to all kinds of decisions that the party is likely to take either as a political party or as a ruling party?

If a particular company is able to donate a huge amount of money, will they not have their influence? What is going to be your safeguard to see that the chance of misuse or the influence of that business house is

[Shri K. Malaisamy]

prevented? This is one aspect which should be borne in mind.

Secondly, as Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has also pointed out, as you have rightly said in your Bill, political parties can afford to receive money except from a foreign source or from a Government company. From the corporate sector or from any person they can afford to receive donation. The Minister must ensure that the foreign source of money either directly or indirectly is prevented. What is going to be the Minister's device to prevent this kind of foreign source of money getting into politics through political parties? This is a very important thing which you must see is prevented.

Finally, Sir, it has been said in the objective to ensure transparency, to prevent the role of black money and also to promote and streamline the donation process. I wonder whether the purpose will be really served by a legislation of this nature. According to me, still black money can afford to play its own role. This has to be taken into account while finalising the Bill by putting good safeguards.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003. Through this piece of legislation we are going to recognise the donations which are being flown into political parties in the legal way. In the past, we have not recognised these donations.

The limit that you have stated is that donations up to Rs. 20,000 need not be stated and donations beyond that need to be recorded. Rs. 20,000 is a very small amount. It should at least go up to Rs. 99,000. What is the value of money today? Otherwise, accounting procedure is going to be very large and those who are giving donations will also be afraid of giving as it is happening now. If you make anything beyond Rs. 20,000 accountable, you are also limiting them to give only Rs. 20,000 and you will not be getting beyond that amount. So, I do not think it will serve the purpose. Only donations exceeding Rs. 99,000 should be made accountable so that hassles will come down. Otherwise, all political parties will face difficulties in course of time. Perhaps, this aspect has not been seen. This angle will have to be seen.

There is an amendment in the Bill relating to the use of electronic media, cable TV, radio, etc. They could be shared by the recognised political parties. The term 'recognised political parties' applies for donations and

everything else also. Where is the question of non-recognised political parties sharing the TV and not maintaining records after receiving donations comes? So, for all practical purposes, it has to be 'recognised political parties'. Otherwise mushrooming of political parties will take place and all sorts of problems will arise. Supply of copies of electoral rolls, sharing of the media or receipt of donations, all these things are meant for the recognised political parties alone.

Then, we will be operating a system of democracy in the country. Otherwise, everybody will call his party a political party and everybody has to be supplied with the electoral rolls. At the time of elections, supplying of copies itself would become a big process.

As far as the media is concerned, it is defined as 'recognised political parties'. Kindly see that for the electoral laws also, the same definition of 'recognised political parties' is applied.

If it is possible, please see that the donations received up to Rs. 99,000 are not made accountable, so that the system will be simplified. Otherwise, as and when you go to somebody, it is very difficult to get money. No company is willing to give you donation beyond that. Otherwise, if a company gives donation to one political party, then that company has to give it to other political parties also the same amount. The problem will also arise.

I welcome this Amendment Bill. Please note these things. This is only a beginning. Kindly see that a comprehensive Amendment is brought taking into consideration all electoral procedure simplification. I welcome this Amendment once again.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on election and other related laws Bill.

I have one or two submissions to make, firstly what relief the donor will get in income tax if he pays by cheque and if he does not get relief in income tax then we doubt that we will be able to achieve the objective. First of all Government should ensure as to what relief you are going to give to the donor who is paying by cheque.

As the hon. Minister has said that it is in the beginning stage and some loopholes might remain which

will be attended to in due course of time. It is true which everyone here has emphasised that elections are being conducted on the basis of muscle power and money. Whether the Government propose to make any arrangement for the money that the parties will receive besides cheques and that from the donors i.e. the black money so that the parties should not have access to unlimited funds to spend in elections. The hon. Minister should pay attention in this regard also so that money factor should not play a foul play in the elections. You should, if possible, also find a way to check flow of blackmoney from back door.

Thirdly, till now it is not clear which are the recognised parties. There are several regional parties, whether these will also be covered under the recognised parties or not. This is also a point, I should like a clarification in this regard. Another thing that has come to my mind is whether there is any provision that an individual candidate can receive money or the money will be received only at the party level and the money so received will be received by the candidate of the Party or the District President will receive that money. Hon. Minister may please also clarify this point. As you know generally there are problems between the representatives and the President. Do you want to create rift between the candidate and the organisation, it would be good if the hon. Minister also take this point into consideration. Although I feel that it is not his department yet he might acquaint us with his views. In the end I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for he has done a commendable job. It is always difficult to take an initiative. I congratulate Shri Jaitley for taking a step in the right direction. I conclude with these words.

[English]

16.00 hrs.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the electoral process is not just a set of rules providing for the conduct of elections but more importantly it is a system which has a far-reaching impact on our quality of democracy reflected through the quality of the elected representatives of the people. Democracy, in turn, is not just about choosing a Government through elections but instilling a democratic temper in the political culture.

During the last five decades of the working of our democracy, we have seen the progressively increasing role of muscle and money power in the elections. Criminalisation of politics, besides the vice of communalism and casteism has tightened its grip over our polity. This has resulted in an immense decline in

the respect for the elected representatives as also the loss of their legitimacy. The need to make the electoral process clean, fair and free from the influence of muscle and money power has always been felt but we have been able to do precious little in this regard.

The civil society, the Supreme Court, the Election Commission and the Law Commission have all from time to time, expressed concern over this scenario in the country. Occasional amendments to the law have not really succeeded in achieving the desired results. In a situation where it is free for all, the clout that an elected position bestows even on a person of questionable antecedents and credentials affects adversely the administration and saps the vitality of our democratic institutions.

Sir, it was as early as in 1964 that the Santhanam Committee had brought out the ugly role of money in elections. The Vora Committee Report about ten years back had also taken note of this fact and said that all over India, crime syndicates had become law unto themselves and that "the nexus of criminal gangs, police bureaucrats and the politicians has come but clearly in various parts of the country."

In one of the Reports, the Election Commission has also lamented about it and I quote:

"The political parties are inclined to do the minimum by way of insulating the electoral process from seizure by criminal and corrupt elements."

Sir, between the two, the basic problem that governs our system that defies a solution, that also leads to criminalisation of politics, is the role of big money. This Bill does not seek to tackle that situation though it does seek to impart some transparency to funding of the elections as such, and, to that extent, this is a welcome measure. I would support it though it is a half-hearted one. I must say this.

It has been pointed out by other hon. Members that even if we pass this Bill, we do not find ourselves in a position to check the role of blackmoney, the debilitating effect of blackmoney on our democracy. That is the cause of primary concern to us which I do not find anywhere discernible in this Bill.

We have already in place a mechanism to prescribe limits of expenditure that the candidates can incur in an election. However, it is anybody's experience that the actual expenditure is many times more than the limit that

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

is prescribed. The actual expenditure, to be honest, is such that every elected representative is forced to begin his career by filing false returns in this regard. That is the beginning of one's hallowed career. On the source of funding and the colour of money depend the conduct of the elected representative once he assumes his position in the polity.

This is the critical problem which we have to address ourselves to. The high cost of elections not only keeps many good candidates out of the field but it also leads to corruption, non-performance and compromises on principles. In fact, compulsion for election funds is a veritable foundation of a corrupt system, a system which prevents the building up of democratic temper. Sir, putting a halt to the pumping in of uncounted and unaccounted I would like to underline both these words, 'uncounted and unaccounted'—money in the elections is, therefore, the problem that we must try to address ourselves to.

Sir, the Companies Act was amended way back in 1969 to permit the companies to donate some funds to the candidates or to the parties; and the question whether to permit companies to make donations or not has had a chequered history. We have been making law, amending it, subsequently banning it, and then bringing it again. It was the Dinesh Goswami Report which wanted complete banning of it but with uttermost respect to the Committee I would beg to differ with it. It is because today it is the different nature of channels of funding which is a cause of concern and I say so repeatedly only for the sake of adding emphasis to it. But today kickbacks and scams in public contracts and procurements and Government decisions for consideration are the channels that support elections. It is these which need to be stopped. What really we are dealing with in this Bill are matters peripheral which I said 'I welcome'. But it is a half-hearted measure. We have often been told that electoral reforms is a continuing process. We perhaps gloat over that fact but today we need to take a comprehensive look at the entire matter. If we are serious about it, if we really want to ban all those practices which today have come to hold their grip over the system, we have to look into the role of big money...*(Interruptions)* I admit that funds are required for elections. The important question that arises is: How do we do it?

It is in this context that people from time to time had recommended State funding. To be honest, I was not always enthused by this idea because I thought that if the States were to fund elections, this would only lead to

the increase in the kitty available to a candidate and there would be chances of his spending more on items which really have to be barred. But, Sir, with the passage of time, I have changed my opinion to that extent and I, also, am supportive of the provision that has been made in the present Bill about the provision of electoral rolls to the candidates besides the party which was already there. But here I would like to add that just besides electoral rolls, it is today the floppy discs, and the CDs which are prepared, which should be supplied to the candidates. I, for one, would also support that there is need to provide identity slips to the voters because it has been my experience like the experience of many other friends that is one single item which costs you immensely, and finally since all the candidates in the fray try to send those slips to each household, each household ultimately lands up getting 5, 6 or 10 identity slips. So, to cut down that expenditure, I think it was desirable that the State authority should have taken up that business on its own.

But I find from the Report of the Standing Committee that, in their collective wisdom, they have somehow thought of not pressing that and have left the matter to the Government to decide in consultation with the Election Commission. I only hope that one day we again discuss this matter and come to the conclusion that the identity slips be supplied by the Govt. because I have seen it being supplied in the United Kingdom sometime back. They supply beautiful slips from door to door giving the details of the polling both etc....*(Interruptions)* Even today, in the identity slips that we distribute we are not supposed to print even the symbols of our party. So, if we have to campaign, we can otherwise campaign without distributing the identity slips. We can go from house to house giving party literature, talking about manifesto and the points that we would like to raise. But this expenditure by all the candidates can be put an end to if the identity slips were to be supplied by the government.

Sir, this new Section 29B which is proposed to be inserted in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, by the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, which we have before us today, permits individuals and non-governmental companies to contribute voluntarily to political parties. Now, there are differences of opinion on this. I would not like to refer to them, but I would only say that this is a desirable step, as far as my opinion goes, because there is an inbuilt component of State funding also and this is so because it is provided that the amount given by any individual or a company to a political party as a contribution shall be deducted from his or the company's total income for the purpose of

income tax. That means, in the process, even the State parts with some money and that is a part of the State funding. So, it serves double purpose. The corporate sector can play its legitimate role in the conduct of the elections confining itself to the given parameters and at the same time since there is a reduction there from the income tax, the State also, in a way, pays something.

Sir, it is in this context that I would like to make a point regarding the failure of the political parties to file their return. This is a welcome provision which ought to be there, but I find, perhaps, a repetition is there. If you were to see both the sub-section 4 of the proposed new Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act and the proposed new proviso to Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, it is almost *pari materia* and if you say that if the political party through the Treasurer or through any other authorised person fails to file a return, that political party shall not be entitled to take the benefit of the income tax provision, I think, that is a repetition. What should have been really provided for, as far as Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act is concerned, you should have provided an independent penalty that in case a political party does not file its return to the Election Commission, as stipulated, that party shall be penalised in such and such way. Then, there should also be a provision that a copy of the report filed to the Election Commission—though we do file the return under the Income Tax Act to the Income Tax authorities—should also be sent to the Income Tax authorities.

Sir, allocation of time on the electronic media, to quite an extent, is already there, but since it is being provided for in the Bill today, I suppose it is a welcome step.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Allocation of time in the private electronic media is not being given now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, the hon. Minister is right in saying that allocation of time in the private electronic media is not being given now and rules will have to be framed to give time to the candidates and the political parties in the private electronic media. To that extent, it is right, but I am sure that the hon. Minister knows that today there are many ingenious ways devised by genius people which impel a candidate to shell out much more money even on advertisements and news coverage that what it was ever thought of. So, that is the issue which has to be dealt with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I would seek some more time. If you were to go by the party time, our party has not really taken much time. Kindly see that and we have only one more Member to speak after me from our party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are getting bonus and premium now. Your party's time is already over.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is it so, Sir?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have always been very generous. So, kindly give him some more time...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I also welcome that effort to harmonise the provisions of Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act with Section 171H of the IPC. Henceforth the travel expenditure by the leaders of political parties shall be exempted from the expenditure of a particular candidate when those leaders happen to be there for campaigning.

I only wanted a thing to be added to it. You referred to travel. It should not have been just on travel. Actually, it should have been on the entire expenditure by the political party leaders on the campaign because if a leader goes from Delhi to some other State, it is not just on travel that expenditure is incurred. It is on boarding and lodging as well. You should have provided that the expenditure by the political leaders—'40' in case of recognised parties and '20' in case of unrecognised parties—shall not, be a part of the expenditure calculated to have been incurred by a candidate.

I would like to make only one more point. This Bill does not speak of it. It has been mentioned earlier. The Election Commission is clear and concerned about it. When we talk of the role of big money, it is just not an end by itself. The question is on what things it is spent. Bogus voting is one of these and preparation of bogus electoral rolls is another. We have been saying it repeatedly. In Delhi and elsewhere also, when you prepare the electoral rolls, that is where the influence of the party in power comes to play a very effective role. The names of electors from the entire street are struck out and bogus voters are entered to the extent that in one house, you find 190 voters being enrolled. Is it possible that in one house, 190 people are residing? These are the steps on which we must concentrate.

Along with this is another very important step. I do not know why you have not been able to do it during

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

the last so many years. It was many years back that you provided that each elector will get a voter's identity card. Why do you not really take steps to ensue that people have those voters' cards? Why can you not give them those unique numbers which, in any way, cannot be tampered? What we find is that a person has a voter's card in his hands but his name is found missing from the electoral rolls. Why does that happen? Are we concerned about the electoral rolls or we just want to indulge in this much ado about nothing that this is the reform we are bringing about? It is the system that has to be cleansed. If you want to have free and fair elections, please try to look into all the aspects as to where are the sources and what are the reasons which really pollute the system. Please tackle those problems head on. Only then, you will have our support on all these measures.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party, I support this Bill. The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 seeks to introduce State funding in kind. That means, supply of electoral rolls and identity slips of electors to the candidate. It also intends to bring in transparency in funding of the political parties. These two things, that is, the immediate State funding of elections and the transparency system about the political donations, are very good. On behalf of the DMK Party, we welcome these measures.

As far practice of funding of parties in the world is concerned, in Australia and Canada, the practice is of post-election funding of political parties. In Israel, the election funding is during the election period only. In New Zealand and South Africa, the funding of the political parties is only at the end of every financial year. In India, all the political parties collect it not only during the post-election and during the election period, but all the political parties also collect it all the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not put an inconvenient question to your leader.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, we take objection to this.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: It is believed that the present Bill is a beginning in the electoral reforms for curbing the growing role of money power and muscle power in the election. At the same time, if this Bill is passed in its current form, it would open the floodgates of litigation and would complicate the matters and make it difficult for political parties to function. Even the companies also would hesitate in donating to the political parties. In this

kind of arrangement the list of small donors would be too long. So, there should be a ceiling on such donations. It is impossible to maintain such list of all the donors. I would like to know how the donations could be audited and not the other form of income of the party.

Sir, DMK is one of the most democratic parties in India.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Who says so?

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: We say that. Even though DMK is a regional party, it is having nearly one crore members. Through membership DMK collects Rs. 3 per head. For thirteen times, our party conducted party elections in a fair and democratic manner. The ceiling on donation for maintaining accounts has been raised to Rs. 20,000. It is a welcome measure.

Here, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister that a provision should be made in the Bill regarding compulsion on the voters to vote so that bogus voting could be stopped. I would give an example of Tamil Nadu State. There were two bye-elections; and in the Andipati Assembly bye-election, nearly 25 per cent bogus votes were polled...(Expunged as ordered by the Chair)...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, this should be expunged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will take care of it. This is a Bill, you cannot level allegation while speaking on a Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will expunge that portion. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allegations and counter allegations, both are expunged.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: So, the provision of the compulsory voting system should be included.

Regarding the allocation of time sharing in the electronic media, this facility is made available only to the national parties and not to the regional parties. Now a days, the role of the regional parties has become important for forming the Government at the Centre...(Interruptions) So, I would request the hon.

Minister that all the political parties should have equal opportunities on national television as well as on private television. With these words I conclude and support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government's initiative to bring in Election and other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 is a commendable step and I welcome it. In a democracy the more we will make the electoral system fairer and transparent the better its result will be. Efforts have been made to make the electoral process fool proof and fair on the basis of long experience we have gained after Independence. But the scenario which has emerged during the last few years is definitely detrimental for the democratic set up. Our predecessors have individually contributed a lot to strengthen the set up.

I want to mention an incident when an officer of the first Prime Minister of the country fixed up an appointment with the then hon. Speaker Shri Mawalankar. The hon. Prime Minister was not aware of this. When Pandit Nehru saw the hon. Speaker's name on the list of appointments he got angry and said that it is highly irregular to give time to the Speaker at this place and he immediately said that he would himself go to the hon. Speaker's place to keep the appointment and he visited Shri Mawalankar at his residence. He accepted that the post of Speaker is the highest in a democratic set up and if due respect is not given to it then definitely it would not strengthen the parliamentary system. Our predecessors have strengthened the parliamentary system set up by step and going by today's scenario it appears that we are decidedly moving towards defeating the aims of parliamentary system and for that not only political parties are responsible but public is also equally responsible for it. Therefore, just by bringing this amending Bill or by making certain changes will only be a superficial approach. We should, therefore, discuss it in detail. All the political parties, eminent personalities and people who believe in democratic set up should be invited to discuss the issue in detail. Discussion in detail is necessary since blackmoney, money power and muscle power are not the only factors. There are many factors which are collectively eating into the healthier aspects of democracy. Hence now a days when a person who does not have money and adequate resources files his nomination papers for election then the reaction of public is not very encouraging. There is word "Jhuttan" in our dialect which means a person is incapable of standing up to others

i.e. public does not realize the ultimate power which vests in it. It has a reason. I would therefore say that government feels that the stronger and democratic set up, the better it would be in the interests of the nation. It is another matter that inspite of numerous problems Indian democracy has been able to sustain in the world. The way democratic traditions have been eroded in our neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Burma and Nepal etc. while it has taken its roots in India is just because our predecessors laid a strong foundation and our public too has a will power. This will power should be motivated in the right direction. Right now hon. Member Bansalji was telling us how there are 190 persons in a family on the electoral list.

Right now Madhya Pradesh is being ruled by your party. You should contemplate as to how the democratic setup and be strengthened. It needs to be seen how the electoral list in Bihar has doubled or trebled. I am not blaming any party, The same is the case with Bengal. We should see how the electoral list at all the places can be improved upon.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Since Sudeepji intervened you so you named West Bengal.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: That was not my intention. Even my party should pay attention in this regard. If we want to make any institution or system sacrosanct then every political party and leader should contemplate as to how a positive and healthy environment can be created. When we form the Government, we generally reward the officials working for us and do not punish them. The public gets the picture of what type of environment we wish to create and what is our intention. Today the society is divided into many sections. It is due to unemployment, poverty and illiteracy. If we really want to bring in changes in the electoral list then we should discuss the basic issues of illiteracy, unemployment and poverty. Economy is getting centralized in certain big houses. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. If this continues then whatever changes we may bring in the electoral list, votes are being bought and this will continue. We will not be able to drive away the sense of insecurity and apprehension from the minds of people. People who want to come here will continue to win elections by resorting to various means. That is why we should contemplate over basic issues how there is an inflow of economy in villages and how unemployment can be abolished from there.

Elections were held recently in Bihar where public representatives were purchased. Elections were held there

[Shri Arun Kumar]

for 24 seats of the Legislative Council. Though, the political parties had stated that they would not contest elections on party basis but it can be seen from the way the votes of the public representatives were purchased in Rs. 1000-5000 what sort of elements have made it to the Upper House through the election. Nobody could imagine it. When these elections were underway, our machinery was also observing it. All had seen—the distribution of money and the horse trading at the very Block where elections have been held. There is a law and the provision of punishment to prevent it but all were rendered mute spectators. Hence unless we have genuine intentions and will power, this practice will continue. While the Judiciary has been invariably pointing it out but the political parties are unconcerned about it. The manner in which criminals are entering in politics those who have black money and are kidnappers they are joining politics. How to contain it has to be decided collectively by all political parties. Our democracy cannot become strong merely by enactment of a legislation. Mechanical system should be rectified. Only if we have the will power as to how we have to strengthen the roots of democracy then we will be able to do this. It would instill the confidence in the minds of the people that ultimately the power rests with them. If we are to strengthen this democratic set up and preserve its sanctity, we need to focus on these basic issues otherwise we cannot bring about change in this system.

There was great man from the farming community in the Hindi speaking states whose name was Swami Sahjanand Saraswati. He played a significant role in the freedom movement. He had stated that the producer of grains and clothes will be the ruler But such a situation has not emerged as yet. The villages and farms are still a neglected lot and are the victims of apathy and the basic necessities of the people are not met. This will definitely weaken our democracy. We urge upon the Government to pay heed to all these things in order to strengthen the democratic process.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this legislation on behalf of our Party, but we do consider that this is not the foolproof legislation. This is one or two steps in the forward direction.

The comprehensive concept of electoral reforms is yet to come before the nation through this Parliament. I do look forward to the Government to bring a

comprehensive proposal for the entire reform of the electoral practice of this country to justify its transparency. In that regard, if the Government once again looks at the Dinesh Goswami Committee's Report, I shall be grateful to the Government, and we shall co-operate with the Government when they bring a comprehensive legislation.

There are two or three areas where I support the Government for having taken at least the initial steps. Steps one is to regularise the ambit of law in regard to donations by companies and individuals to the recognised parties, supply of electoral list to the recognised parties and the candidates in time and, of course, to maintain the accounts and the records of the candidates during the election, which is already there. All of us have come to this Parliament. From the date of nomination to the date of result, all of us have had to do that. This is nothing new. Only incorporation has been done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you that with all this exercise, the main question is whether a free and fair election can be ensured. You have partially ensured free and fair funding so far as the company donations are concerned. So far as the other areas are concerned, you have partially ensured free and fair justice to the recognised political parties. But what about free and fair election? In our State, only one month back, the by-election was held in Nabadwip parliamentary constituency. Do not take it otherwise. I am not accusing any party. I was delighted to see the statement of Shri Manju Mazumdar, the Secretary of the CPI in West Bengal that the entire election was rigged, and rigged to that dimension which is unprecedented. Be it done at my Party's power or be it done by the Party of somebody else, be it done in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, the time has come to collectively concentrate on how to ensure justice to the electorates and the candidates.

While I say this, I always think of my own fate. Rajiv Gandhi died on 21st May, 1991. The next day, the entire counting was stopped including, in my constituency in Howrah. Re-polling was done at 29 or 30 booths due to certain complaints. You will be shocked to know that if one month before, the candidates scored 300 or 400 or 500 votes in an adjacent both called Booth No. 20, in all the adjacent booths which were polled later on within one month, the winning candidates got 900 or 920 votes whereas the losing candidates got five or three or two or one or even zero votes. Now, if these things continue in your system—I do not blame any party, whether it is done by our party in power or by his party in power or

'x' party in other States—what mechanism can you evolve? I will only suggest one thing to the Law Minister. I am not technically an expert in this matter, but from my own knowledge, I will say this. I will quote one incident.

In the last Lok Sabha elections, in a booth at Poar under chakulia police station in my own constituency, I got a message that people were in queue and none could enter the booth, but some people entered and started polling. When I rushed there, the situation was so delicate that even a car could not move. I tried to prevent them but I was gheraoed. The President Officer was a smart school teacher. To save my life, he ordered a police constable, the only one, to use his gun to disperse the mob. Otherwise, he could not have done anything. A case was filed, the accused was caught red-handed but nobody has been tried till this date. This could happen in Delhi, in Rajasthan and even in Bihar. I found that the paramilitary forces could not move because there is a guidelines that if the local police or the local SP did not direct, the paramilitary forces shall not move. My submission to the Law Minister is that he should consider whether a comprehensive Bill could be brought in at a later stage.

The day the election is declared, the Government will have to notify the names of the Returning Officers of the Assembly and Parliament segments including officials on duty of the State Government, be it the SP or any other officer in charge. They should be under the command not of the State Government but of the Election Commission or its representative. They would obey the directions of the Election Commission and nobody else's direction. If such direction is flouted, the Election Commission and the Government of India must possess powers to take penal action against those offices, be it a Collector of the Indian Administrative Service or an SP of the Indian Police Service. When an election takes place, normally, a District Collector or a Superintendent of Police remains loyal only to the party in power in the State on that day, that is, the Chief Minister, who is the main person responsible for transferring, promoting or even demoting him. Naturally, therefore, whether the State is ruled by my party or any other party, if he remains loyal to the Chief Minister, the team of Election Commission's observers cannot do anything. So, can we bring in such law that the day the election is announced, within 24 hours, the list of returning officers and list of polling officers in charge of respective segments is notified with a clear direction that from that day onwards, they are under the Election Commission and the other law and order duties of the State shall be looked after by the

State Government with the help of Additional SPs and other officers?

Another problem is that whenever a situation crops up in a constituency, the paramilitary forces cannot move unless they get instructions from the local authorities. If the instruction is: "You stay here", they remain static and I know of such cases. They cannot move even as things are happening in front of their eyes. This is an important area where I request the Law Minister to consult the State Governments, if possible, and bring a comprehensive legislation, an election management law or whatever he may call it. At the end of the day, it is the SP of the district who matters, a District Magistrate who matters in a Lok Sabha election and an SDM who matters in an Assembly election. They are afraid of the party in power in the State. So, the hon. Minister has to consider what mechanism he can create to give them confidence and to instill the fear that if they do not obey the Election Commission's directions to ensure free and fair elections, they would be in the court of the Election Commission, not in the court of the State Secretariat. Till that is not done, I am sorry, the free and fair election concept—whatever you may do in the law—will never become a reality.

The Indian democracy is rich and we are proud of it. Our population growth going on and therefore our electoral list is also large. Now, in our State, for the last 15 days, the exercise of electoral roll revision is on. Now, with electronic voting, one polling booth would cater to the population of two booths and would be looked after by a bamboo stick wielding Homeguard. The whole crowd would come to the electronic voting centre and if something goes wrong, nobody would come to our rescue. So, while you are taking up modernisation of the election system from ballots to electronic voting machines and from electoral rolls with names to voters' identity cards, it is election management which is the most important factor to ensure free and fair elections. If in that area the law is silent, the whole exercise would be at stake. Therefore, my humble appeal to the Law Minister is that he should consult the State Governments and the Election Commission and bring in another legislation related to election management to at last ensure fairness to the electorate and candidates and their safety.

This is my only submission today. I am saying all these things based on my own experience. I do not spare any party. We may commit wrong things, but that does not mean that in this debate I have to take a partisan line. This is really creating a problem.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

I know of a candidate. I do not like to take her name. It happened in the State of West Bengal. The candidate herself could not approach the Presiding Officer. She was prevented to go to the booth on the day of the election. She could go to the counting hall only after three rounds were over. By passing this Bill we may claim that we have gone one step forward, but the reality of the day will be the same.

Therefore, please come forward with another piece of legislation for the final step to ensure free and fair elections throughout the country. I do not mind, it should be ruthless, whichever party it maybe, but unless that is done by the Parliament, I do not think we will strengthen the democracy and ensure the stability of parliamentary form of democracy through free and fair elections.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we generally mean by democracy the rule of vote. Healthier the electoral system, stronger will be the democracy. There is no scope of dissent in it. Various commissions and committees were constituted and opinion was expressed by various Stalwards to revamp the democracy and the electoral system. The Committees headed by Dinesh Goswami and Inderjit Gupta were constituted in this regard but the hon'ble Minister has shelved those reports. Now the hon'ble Minister has brought in a legislation. Though, he has claimed to have incorporated one-two recommendations of Inderjit Gupta Committee into the Bill but there is no such thing. You have claimed in this Bill that electoral rolls and voter lists will be provided. We have been observing ever since we have been contesting elections that the voter lists are provided to only the recognised political parties. Your claim is false that one-two recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee have been incorporated, you have not done by any such thing. That Committee's report had referred to State funding. What is the background of this Bill. The hon'ble Minister has veiled the background of this Bill. The background is that the Presidents of the two parties of the ruling alliance received money. All came to know about the bribery. These efforts were made to convert the bribery into donation. It is the fact. I am making a revelation inform us about this. Shri Lal Krishna Advani who was an accused in the Hawala Scam was exonerated by the Court. For this a committee of the Cabinet had also been formed. That Committee found it messy that first bribe was taken and later on it was stated that the money was received for the party work. One of the President of their party was caught while

taking bribe in the Tehelka Scam. Subsequently he said that the money had been received for the party work. He was putting the notes in a drawer and was asking for dollars. I am not revealing any secret. Everybody saw it but no action was taken against him. The case of bribery was exposed in the house of a party-President. The legislation has been brought in to convert that bribery into donation and to legalise it. This is the real secret behind this Bill. We all say that let us save the country from the muscle power as well as the money power, save the democracy and strengthen it. Cash, caste and criminals-the three of them are evils. One hon'ble Member stated that there are five evils and not three.

16.50 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The report of the Standing Committee was unanimous...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Bill had been referred to the Standing Committee, the report thereon has come but the Bill had been returned. I am revealing the secret of the Government why this Bill has been brought here? Mr. Speaker.

Sir, all are concerned to strengthen the democracy. An investigation Committee was constituted in 1954-55 for which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had called for a an economist of the Cambridge University, Shri I.N. Cander. He had reported that the black money was to the order of Rs. 400-500 crores which has since been increased upto Rs. 8 lakh crores. If this Bill is enacted, it will go up to thousands of crores of rupees why will it go up. It was stated that the parties will receive donations why will one give donation to other parties, all will give donations to the ruling party because they will derive benefits form the ruling party....(Interruptions) We are talking about knowledge. If we do not tell you then who will explain. The Government talks of introducing transparency. The donation is that amount which is given to a poor, a hermit and for a temple so that one gains in righteousness. Will the multinationals, the black-marketers give donations to party for mere righteousness? Will their religion will expand as a result of this? They will give donations solely for deriving benefits from the ruling party.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to narrate briefly an anecdote from the Mahabharata. When Bhishma Pitamaha was lying on 'Ban Shaiyya' (a bed of arrow) during the battle of Mahabharat everybody went near him to hear his preaching. Draupadi broke into laughter when Bhishma Pitamaha started his preaching about knowledge. The Pitamaha asked the reason for her laughter. Draupadi replied, when I was being denuded, you could not raise your voice, today you are preaching and teaching us a lesson of high philosophy and knowledge. Bhishma the Pitamaha said that since he ate the food provided by Duryodhana at that time, and was the member of his court, his blood had been contaminated. That is why his knowledge was spoiled. That contaminated blood has been blended out after having been put on this bed of arrows and the clean blood is flowing into my veins. That is why I am preaching enlightenment and knowledge to the people and explaining them about it. When the blood of a great man like Bhishma Pitamaha was contaminated because of eating the grain of Duryodhana, his knowledge was spoiled and he could not speak about what is just in the open court. Similar will be the fate of the political parties which will receive donations from the multinationals and black-marketers. How can I convince myself that the political parties which will receive donations will not succumb to the pressure of multinationals and black marketers for getting any unreasonable favour which will be binding upon the government to oblige.

How will the advantages of democracy reach the poor in villages, how can justice be done to him, I want to raise this issue before the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will raise donations from the multi-nationals? will it not have its ill-effect on the Government? How will justice be done to the poor with their donations. As Bhishma Pitamah contaminated his blood having been fed by Duryodhana and couldn't afford to protest against injustice. What sort of remedial measures are available to the Government? I hold the conviction that this law is fraudulent and nothing but an eye wash. The Election Commission has issued the directives that the expenditure incurred in elections/should be restricted to Rs. 15 lakh, anything exceeding this limit is illegal/invalid but nobody contests election within this limit of an investment of Rs. 15 lakh. It's public knowledge that the expenditure incurred in the process amounts to two crore, three crore, five crore, ten crore and even more than that. Just to deceive the public, documentary formalities are done and it's claimed that the amount spent falls within the set limit of Rs 15 lakh. Now, the

question remains as to where does this additional sum of amount from...(Interruptions) Therefore, I challenge, let there in enquiry to gauge the reality what is the clue to it. Let the whole thing come to surface and expose those who invest crores of rupees those who exercise control over their expenditure to fall within Rs. 15 lakh limit and also those who turned out to be winners by applying their money power, muscle power or on the basis of caste-equation or by indulging themselves in criminal nexus. How long will this continue. Unless some comprehensible Bill of reforms, election reforms, electoral reform, is introduced...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): An enquiry should also be set up to get the clear picture as to how money is being extorted from the businessmen in Bihar. There must be a law on that too...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will unveil the whole things-of-affairs. I will unfold everything. It is not your real self that speaks. It's the impact of the wealth amassed by the persons involved in Black-marketing which prompts you speak like this...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: You fail to put a check on whatsoever is taking place in Bihar and you are giving surmons lying on Banshaiyya (Death-bed)...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It's not the real you, it's blackmarketeers' money that finds its words through you. I will unveil the whole thing. Hon'ble Minister of Law has come up with right legislation which has given us a chance to speak the truth/throw light on reality...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: It's not secret that the Chief Minister of Bihar has had been sent to jail for being allegedly involved in fodder scam, you have already been exposed....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Workers and businessmen are not spared. They are also forced to shell-out donations to the political parties, your words don't hold grounds...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatsoever he said, just tell me one thing. Whether

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the RSS is a political party the source of the donations coming into its basket is abroad or does it come from within the country. Let me tell the historical background of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): It has nothing to do with the RSS. It doesn't make any sense to name any group while this doesn't figure in the bill...(Interruptions)

DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not raising a question. The Bill has been introduced here to provide a legal cover over their foul game of money exchange. While the RSS was brought under income tax net, it happened to remark that theirs is a political party. Please tell me exactly whether it's a political party or not. They show income on paper, and the VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD that accumulate money through fraudulent means, is it a political party or else? Why is it that they are exempted from income tax liability. What will be their transparency. Therefore, having introduced this bill, hon'ble Minister is throwing dust into our eyes. They say that they have introduced the bill to make everything clear, it would be transparent. People belonging to all parties will file returns of their income to the Commission. The statements of income and expenditure will be submitted to the Commission, will it be transparent, all this is fraud. The actual amount of expenditure does not match the one figuring in records. The bill has put a gloss upon their vested interest. For the first time, it was practiced in Hawala scam and in Tehelka exposure. Allegations have been levelled against their ministers, not just that, their party president is also accused in these cases, this legislation has been brought in with a view to protecting them, to give them a clean chit and to convert bribery into donation. Therefore, I rise to oppose the bill.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am not opposing this Bill which is brought forward by the hon. Law Minister before this House. One of the important amendments proposed in this Bill is insertion of Section 29B in the Representation of the People Act. It allows the recognised political parties to accept donation or contribution from any Indian company and individual. There are diverging opinions of different quarters, different political parties. Some quarters have the opinion that some big companies and rich persons want to convert their black money into white money. Sir, it is known to everybody that it is the age-old system of

our country that all big companies are paying contribution and donation to the major political parties.

17.00 hrs.

It is also an accepted system of our country since the very inception of the election process. If we want to ensure a free and fair election in the country, I would request the Law Minister to bring in a comprehensive Bill covering all the aspects of the electoral process.

Sir, the electoral process starts from the preparation of electoral roll. It is also alleged that in different States—I do not want to mention the names of the States—fake voters lists are being prepared. In those voters lists, there are names of persons who are not the real residents of that locality, and fake names are included in the voters lists. Sir, nowadays though we are proud that we are living in the greatest and largest democratic country of the world, yet our election process is influenced by money and muscle powers. Every time, we are observing that in different States—I do not want to mention the names of those States—money power and muscle power are prevailing in the electoral process. The persons who are well guarded; the persons who possess the arms; the political party which has the 'gondas'; 'lathials'; and arms, they capture the polling booths, and the real voters are prevented from entering the polling booths. The fake voters press the electronic voting machines by themselves for casting the fake votes.

At the time of submitting the Bill, the hon. Law Minister told that he has accepted some recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee. Sir, I also agree with Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that two or three recommendations made by it may be included in the proposed Bill. But, I expected—from this Law Minister and this Government—that most of the recommendations would be incorporated in the proposed Bill. I am talking not only of the Indrajit Gupta Committee's Report, but I know that our hon. distinguished colleague Shri Somnath Chatterjee is also a Member of that Committee. So, most of the recommendations made should be incorporated in this proposed Bill.

Not only that Sir, another Committee was constituted by a very renowned parliamentarian Shri Dinesh Goswami named as Dinesh Goswami Committee, and this proposed Bill was quite silent about the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee.

Sir, if you want to make a free and fair voting system, then it is not dependent on a Bill or a law, but

it is on the sweet will and wisdom of all the political parties.

Sir, I propose that there should be a recommendation that each candidate should inform the people; the voters his moveable and immovable property. Sir, the candidate should submit a statement of his moveable and immovable property before the Returning Officer, and this should be displayed at a conspicuous place of his parliamentary constituency or assembly constituency so that people can know what is the property of this candidate. Sir, in our election process, some questions arise about the non-stipulated money that was spent after the voting. Hence, the candidate defeated, as well as the winning candidate should submit their returns before the Returning Officer.

But, it is a fact that, in our days, it is very difficult to contest an election. A candidate who has no money power; who has no muscle power, even though the person is a very good political worker, yet he has no capacity to meet the election expenditure; and because of this he may not contest the elections.

A political party which has money and muscle power is able to contest the elections, but a political party which has no money or muscle power is not able to contest the elections or participate in the electoral process of our country. Therefore, cutting across party lines, it is the beloved and noble duty of all political parties to ensure free and fair elections, to uphold the dignity and prestige of our country. India is a democratic country.

Therefore, I urge the Law Minister to bring forward a comprehensive Bill after considering all pros and cons and after all the aspects, as far as possible, in order to ensure free and fair elections—free from money and muscle power and free from casteism and communalism.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I give the floor to Shri S.K. Bwismuthiary.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I would like to speak on the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and not on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on this Bill?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, now the Minister will give the reply.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of Members have expressed their opinion on this Bill. A few of them have opposed it because they have fundamental differences with the process of legitimising political funding and making it transparent. Some Members have suggested that we must attempt to bring out a more comprehensive legislation, which can actually deal with all the ills of the electoral system.

Sir, I just wish to inform the hon. Members to seriously introspect as to what our present system of political funding actually is. Political parties contesting elections, they are maintaining offices, their leaders are flying in planes and helicopters, and all this costs money. Political parties are not surviving merely on the goodwill of the people. They also need material resources to survive. If we honestly introspect ourselves as to where these material resources are coming from, they are effectively coming from those sources where resources are actually available. Small donations may be available with members of political parties in the form of membership fees. In my political party, we have a particular fund where a lot of active people and sympathisers give Rs. 10,000 every year, and we collect a large amount of money. But then, political parties also turn to all kinds of sources to collect donations...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is nice to know about your internal funding.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, in the B.J.P., we not only collect it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not saying 'cover up'. I did not know about it, and I am happy to know that you have got such followers.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Let me complete. We not only collect it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He says that everybody uses 'planes'. I am for a review of that.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: In my Party, we not only collect it, every Member of Parliament of my Party also has to pay Rs. 10,000 every year, besides giving an amount every month to my Parliamentary Party. This

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

amount of Rs. 10,000 is collected by cheque. In our Party's Journal, we publish a list of all donors. However, political parties are collecting money from various sources, as I said, where sources of moneys are available.

There is also a popular perception that there is a large amount of invisible money which comes into politics. This Bill is an effort to correct a part of that ailment. When we speak in terms of comprehensive reforms, let me very honestly confess, there is no such law which can be a comprehensive electoral reforms Bill.

The late Shri Indrajit Gupta made some very valuable suggestions. He said that there must be some form of 'in kind' assistance, but not 'cash' assistance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It was a unanimous report.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It was a unanimous report and it was a very good report.

I have just two queries to raise, while I agree with the substantial part of what the late Shri Indrajit Gupta recommended. When we sent that report to all State Governments and asked them to please indicate as to how much they were going to contribute because there was a fund to be created—a part of which was to be contributed by the Central Government, a part by the State Government—close to almost all State Governments turned around and said that they were not able to contribute to this particular fund.

While we sat as members of the Committee we said, "Let the State Governments make a contribution, let the Central Government make a contribution"; when we wrote to the State Governments, the response was, "We are not in a position to contribute to this particular fund."

A question which some of the Members have raised, and that is the second question which we have to ask, was that even if we implemented that Report *in toto*, would that have stopped candidates, would that have stopped political parties, from going to other sources for additional resources in order to spend on such activities which Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal very elaborately, in the course of his speech, indicated? A part of the reform have to come not merely by a legal exercise but also by the conduct which candidates and political parties are going to maintain. If we indulge in an activity such as booth-capturing; if we indulge in an activity such as rigging the electoral rolls; if we indulge in such activities as to

distributing money and other such illegal incentives for the purposes of voting; if the political parties and candidates across the board do it; to expect that there can be a comprehensive law which can change the concept of this particular law throughout, which can change the behavioural pattern throughout, itself may not be so easy.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who opposed this Bill, made one very honest statement that the amount most candidates disclose in the return may not be an honest reflection of what is actually spent in the election. If we honestly see as to how the funding takes place, even when black-money enters politics, if you are spending more than what you are declaring, let us just analyse how the funding takes place. If black money is contributed to a political party, that political party will in turn undertake its expenditure in the same invisible colour of money. When the political party pays its bill—whether it is to the printers, or for advertisements, or for hiring the vehicles, or for travel, or for organising money—all its expenditure continues in the parallel economy and not within the tax net. At no stage will this money enter the tax net. At no stage will this money enter the proper taxation provisions of our law. As a result of that, the money which is being used in the electoral process is earning no revenue for the Government of India. It earns no revenue because it remains outside the tax net at every stage where the taxable expenditure is undertaken, or the taxable income is earned. So, if a political party pays the printer, if it pays the transporter, if it pays various other sources, it pays in the same colour of money in which the donation is received. As a result of that, at no stage is the tax paid on it—whether it is excise duty on the paper which is used, whether it is sales tax on the purchase of certain commodities or whether it is income tax on the income which is earned—and the parallel economy continues.

This Bill, therefore, does not give any incentive in as much as this money is already outside the tax net. It is an effort to bring this entire money—if entire is not possible, in the first instance at least some part of it where the reform can begin—into the tax net. If, therefore, businessmen are incentivised, individual citizens are incentivised, any taxable entity—whether it is an individual or a HUF or a partnership firm, or a company—is incentivised to pay by cheque, the Government of India is not losing any revenue because, in the first instance, we are not losing any revenue on the money spent on the political activity as the situation stands today. If at the first stage you give an incentive, at every subsequent stage this money is going to be a part of the tax net.

Therefore, at every stage where the expenditure is incurred—first by the political party, then by the person to whom the expenditure is made, whether it is a transporter or a printer—the money goes into the tax net and, therefore, taxes would be paid at that stage. In fact, we will start a process of bringing this money into the tax net. You are actually, in the long run, going to earn more revenue by giving this form of an incentive.

A fear has been raised that multinationals will come in and start funding the political process.

I would urge the hon. Members—when they spend substantial time of the House in raising these pleas—to, at least, read the basic provisions of this Act.

Sir, on the first page itself, it says:

"Provided that no political party shall be eligible to accept any contribution from any foreign source defined under clause (e) of section 2 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976."

Section 2(e) very clearly says about the foreign source. A foreign source includes a multinational company; it includes a company which is a subsidiary of a multinational company; it includes a company where the shareholding is held by the foreigners. Non-Resident Indians are also included in the definition because they cannot start sending money from outside India in order to influence the Indian polity. So, that kind of a fear which they have expressed is belied by the very provisions which are set out in the Act itself.

Sir, I have already indicated that this would not be an incentive being given to even a businessman because the incentive only is to the extent that 'please stop siphoning money from business and then giving it to political parties, you are now being given an incentive to actually give money by cheque so that people get into the habit of accepting this money by cheque.'

There is a responsibility of a political party in order now to maintain strict accounts. Those accounts are audited. The present provisions is only under the Income Tax Act. Under the Income Tax, if a party has audited accounts, it files return with the Income Tax Authorities every year and gives a list of donors who have donated more than Rs. 10,000 in a given year. Then no tax is levied on the political party. We have increased this Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 because the Standing Committee felt that Rs. 10,000 was inadequate. And this

having been increased, now the additional requirement is that you will also file your return with the Election Commission. There is a consequence of not filing the return. That provision is already there under the Income Tax Act. Now, if you do not file your return to the Election Commission after these benefits have been given to you, the consequences will be that the tax relief available to you under the Income Tax Act would be denied to you.

Sir, a question has been raised to which are the political parties who will be entitled to the benefits of it. The Standing Committee consciously went into this question. At some stages, the phrase used is a 'political party' and at some stages, the phrase used is a 'recognised party'. 'A political party' is a phrase which is used in section 29(b) and clarified by an amendment to the Companies Act that it will mean such parties as are registered under section 29(a) of the Representation of People's Act.

Sir, we recollect that when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, the Representation of People's Act was amended in order to provide for registration of political parties. So, all political parties are required to be registered. There is a particular declaration which they have to file with the Election Commission. So, there are benefits of donations which are available to political parties which is defined as 'political parties as registered under section 29(a) with the Election Commission.

In the first instance, take the case of benefits regarding equitable distribution of time on electronic media. These are all benefits which are available to the recognised political parties. A recognised political party is in contravention to a registered political party whereas any party which seeks the registration can be a registered political party. A recognised party is one which is allotted a symbol on the basis of the minimum percentage of votes that it scored under the Symbol Allocation Order. Therefore, these are distinctions which have been made.

Sir, a question has been arisen as to what are the benefits which will come out of this, besides the benefits of incentivising donations by cheque and legitimising the process of political funding.

Sir, we had initially recommended that, besides equitable distribution of television time this is extremely important. The electronic media has a tremendous influence on the minds of the people. If the electronic media is used in favour of one political party as against the other, or even a cable television is used in favour of

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

one candidate as against the other, it can give an unfair advantage to one candidate or one party over the other. So, we have said that the Election Commission during the election period will regulate the kind of time which cable television will give, which the private television channels will give, which the Prasar Bharti will give both on television and radio, as far as the political parties are concerned.

As far as Prasar Bharti is concerned, which is a public broadcaster, this is an step forward because this regulate not only the time to be allotted, but it will also extend to the private electronic media.

Similarly there are also provisions which we have made. Initially, we had intended that the slips which you have referred to can be given free at the State expenditure to the candidates. But the Standing Committee felt that really the amount of resources available at the stage of every election should be ascertained, and whatever additionally is to be given—this is not all—before every election, the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission depending upon the resources available, will declare whatever facilities further can be given in terms of publicity material, or in terms of other benefits which can be given to the candidates.

As I indicated, this is an small step forward. I am conscious of the fact that merely because we are trying to legitimize and incentivise funds by giving these incentives, the change will not take place overnight. Changes will come about when those who donate money, whether they are individuals or others, and those who accept those donations, also increasingly realise that this, perhaps, is the system which will add not only legitimacy but also credibility to the full process of potential funding. Once you have credible political funding processes available, you straightway know as to whether there is an nexus between any official decision taken by the Government and the donor. In fact, as long as it remains invisible, the nexus will never be known. The knowledge of that nexus, at least, will add further transparency and knowledge as far as public is concerned, whether donation is being given for a *quid pro quo* or it is a part of the general donation which big business is trying to give as a part of its public responsibility. As I indicated elections are a part of democracy. Political parties are an inherent part of parliamentary democracy. Funding politics cannot be a hush-hush exercise. It has to be an honest and transparent exercise. The more we are able to do it by virtue of these amendments which we are seeking to make, the better it will be for the Indian democracy.

With these few words, I commend to this House that this Bill be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Companies Act, 1956 and the Income Tax Act, 1961 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title were added to the Bill."

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.24 hrs.

REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS BILL, 2002

MR. SPEAKER: Now we go to Item No. 15 Shri I.D. Swami.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, on behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to country or place outside India and reception in India of certain prisoners from country or place outside India, be taken into consideration."

I request that this Bill may be considered and passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to say something on this?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: This has already been introduced in May in the Lok Sabha. But this is a very beneficial Bill to the extent to most of the prisoners on humanitarian ground and otherwise also because of the countries entering into treaties and agreements. India has also entered into treaties and agreements with three countries, and more are in the line. Negotiations are going on. But the difficulty that we do not have is enabling law whereby our Indian prisoners who are in the jails in other foreign countries where we have or we will have treaties in future, can be repatriated to India so that in the remaining time of their imprisonment, they may be able to spend in the jails nearer to their homes in the better social and harmonious climate. Similarly, those prisoners of other countries who are in India will like to go back to their countries, to their own region on repatriation.

For this, an enabling Bill was needed. We have made an effort. This Bill has already gone through the Standing Committee and the Committee has already agreed with almost all the clauses of the Bill. I, therefore, request that this may be considered and passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to country or place outside India and reception in India of certain prisoners from country or place outside India, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, this is a very important Bill and we support it. Till now there was no statutory provision for repatriation. At the same time, the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"Foreign convicted nationals were transferred to their home countries to serve their remaining jails terms,

it would take care of the human aspect in as much as the said convicts would be near their families and have better chances of social rehabilitation. Further, it would also take care of the problems which the Indian jail authorities are facing in keeping these prisoners."

So, these points are focussed in the Bill and the procedure has also been laid in clauses 2 to 11.

Many ignorant people, who go to foreign countries for seeking job without knowing the procedure to enter into the job, are being convicted to prison. In Maldives, African and other Arabian countries a number of Indians are being imprisoned for various reasons. A number of Indian citizens are suffering in jails in Maldives. In my constituency itself about 20 people have been imprisoned there without any reason. Since there is no need for getting visas, they can travel without passport, people go to these countries for job. But on landing at Maldives, the police is putting them in jail. These people cannot even send a communication to their families. There is no procedure for repatriation.

Earlier also we had requested the Minister of External Affairs in this regard but he had replied saying that they are not covered by any understanding with that country. We have got the information that many of them have been killed by the police while chasing them. We had even approached the Human Rights Commission for this torture being committed on our people. But the Commission has also said that they are not the signatories of the Human Rights Commission, therefore, they could not be repatriated or compensated. Same is the case with Malaysia and Singapore, even though we have some agreement with them.

A number of Indians are suffering in jails in Arabian countries also. There are instances of their hands being removed. They are tortured like anything. But they could not be repatriated.

Very often, we have been sending communication through the External Affairs Ministry to the concerned High Commission and Embassies but we have not been able to get any relief. Therefore, the portion covered in Clause 12 should be focussed much because a number of ignorant Indians, who have not committed any offence, are suffering in various prisons throughout the world. We are not asking something for the criminals. They can go through the legal provisions. We are asking for the ignorant people.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Therefore, this is a very important piece of legislation, especially for the southern part of the country from where a number of youth have gone to foreign countries for employment purposes. I request that the Home Ministry should concentrate upon such complaints and they should have some communication through the Ministry of External Affairs. At the High Commission level, contracting and non-contracting States should have some understanding. They should see that wherever Indian prisoners are there, it should be communicated to the Indian Embassy and to the concerned State so that we can try to help and repatriate them.

It is because this provision gives a lot of scope for that. The person who is aggrieved, has to initiate the petition through the concerned State or the concerned nation. That is the scope given by this Bill. But at the same time, I would request that many of the people are ignorant of this law itself. Now only this provision is being made. But when this Act is enacted, the Embassies and High Commissions should be asked to find out the data from every nation where Indian prisoners are there. They should also find out how best we can repatriate them and how best they could be allowed to join their families. This is the object which has been shown by the Government in the Statement of Objects and Reasons regarding the foreign convicts. The same thing should also be applicable to the Indian convicts who are suffering in the prisoners.

Finally, I would like to request that the people who are living in the rural areas should also be informed of this. Whenever they go outside the country, they should be told that this type of law is there so that they can use it whenever they are pending up with that type of consequences.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Bill is introduced to have an amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 with regard to transfer of prisoners from a foreign State to India and *vice versa*. It also says that there shall be a State which is prepared to accept the prisoners. Now the condition required is that the rest of the sentence will have to be undergone in the transferred State. But the law prevailing in the two States must be similar in every respect.

Now in this case, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some prisoners in India. They are really Indians. They are all Malayalis belonging to Calicut which is North of Kerala and who had migrated to Pakistan at the time of partition. They were residing there.

They are doing business there. They are really the born citizens of India but due to the partition, they had become the citizens of Pakistan. Their mother is here and father is in Pakistan. Their son is here and the daughter is in Pakistan. They belong to the same family. Members of the same family reside in two different States. So, whenever the husband comes here to see his wife—who is domiciled in Kerala—if he remains here for some time, he would be imprisoned. Such a situation is there. They are not, in any way, affecting the security of India. They are really Malayalis and they speak Malayalam. They are really people who were born in India long before. It so happened that because of their business compulsions, they had to go to Pakistan and remained there for years together. After sometime they may return to see their wife or children in Kerala. If they come here, they are imprisoned. Such a peculiar situation has arisen because of the migration laws. So, this matter may be considered with a humanitarian approach. We all know that they were born in India but due to the circumstances beyond their control, they migrated to Pakistan. As a matter of fact, he is not at all interested in remaining in Pakistan forever. They want to joint their wives and children in India. This is the situation. So, even if he is a prisoner in India, he is transferred to Pakistan. As a matter of fact, he is very reluctant to go there. Sending him back to Pakistan, is against all humanitarian considerations. They were born here and rest of their family is in Kerala. So, this situation will have to be looked into. I think the present amendment will help the Government in helping these prisoners who had born here but due to some reasons had to migrate to Pakistan. Hitherto, there was no provision to help them. But by this amendment, the Government can help them. If Pakistan Government agrees, we can allow them to remain here. If somebody wants to go there, that can also be done.

Sir, there are other things as well. There are requests from foreign countries for release of prisoners, who have been convicted for offences against the State, who are detained in India. There was one such request from the United Kingdom to the Government of West Bengal for transfer of prisoners to that country. I do not know whether it has come out or not. But it was reported in the newspapers. This provision of the Act should not be misused. The Government will get powers to do such mischief under the cover of this amended provision of the Act. When somebody is committing an offence against the State, this provision should not be misused for sending that person back to the country of his origin. There are chances of this provision being misused. It should be made crystal clear that there will not be any misuse of

this provision when offences alleged is against the State. That must be made clear because the provision is very evasive in nature and there is every likelihood of a misuse of this provision. I would like to request the Government to make it clear that this provision would not be misused for somebody coming into India and committing a crime against the State. Suppose a foreign national visits our country and explodes a bomb here. In that case, he becomes an accused and convict, and he should not be allowed to make an escape under the provisions of this act. This should not be a routine business. The Government should exercise abundant caution in dealing with this amended provision of the Act.

Sir, I hope the Government with enough caution and care would go ahead with this legislation in the best interest of the prisoners. We are a signatory to the Human Rights Commission and under that, all prisoners have to be treated with dignity and honour. We would have to treat the prisoners with dignity. But it should not be the case with prisoners who have committed crimes against the State, like the terrorists who are committing heinous crimes against the State. Such an attitude need not be shown to them.

The Government should consider all these aspects. I support the Bill with these limitations.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has introduced Repatriation of Prisoners Bill for eight things. This is concerned with those criminals who belong to our country and have been booked in jails in various other countries and they should be extradited. There are two types of criminals. The first one constitutes those who are convicted and the others are under trails who have been arrested and are in jails. We have signed a treaty with various countries for the extradition of our people arrested or convicted in some other country. Quite recently it has been reported in both print and electronic media that Abu Salem and Monika Bedi has been arrested in Portugal. The Government made a tall claim that they will be brought in there we had an extradition treaty signed with that country. However, the Portuguese Government stated that first, they would be convicted there and then they will be allowed to go to India. I would like to know the updated position in this regard.

As many as 20 criminals of our country have been booked in Pakistan. The Government happened to claim

time and again and official correspondence was also made for their repatriation. America too, exerted pressure on Pakistan that all of the twenty dreaded criminals who played have here be sent back to India. The criminals of our country have a tendency to leave the country and get settled somewhere else after committing some crime. The Government have introduced this Bill as to what remedial measures may be undertaken on that front. You have not been able to repatriate the criminal, having been convicted in the other countries. There came a statement from the Minister of External Affairs that we have made an extradition treaty with seven countries. I would like to know the names of all such countries? Hon'ble Minister may please try to clarify the *modus-operandi* to be employed to bring those back home who settle in Pakistan after committing crimes in India.

Different sorts of Arms were dropped by foreigners at Purulia and a foreigner was also apprehended. Please clarify whether he has been released or is continuing behind the bars. Different kinds of arms including AK-47 were dropped at Purulia followed by arrest of some people. The Government should clarify the status? We will rise in support of this bill. Only when hon'ble Minister clarifies the whole thing properly. Only after being apprised of the entire thing with meticulous details, we shall let this bill pass.

Fishermen go for fishing to the sea and Pakistan arrests them by mistake. Lots of such people have been put behind bars in Pakistan. The Government should make a statement on the status of our citizens in Pakistani jails. One becomes awfully upset on hearing the inside story of the inmates coming back home from jails in Pakistan. Sir, it's said that the culture of a family can be guessed by its lavatory and the culture of the Government gets characterised by its mental asylum the culture and civilization of a country is largely characterised by the way prisoners are treated. The Government should state the position of our native citizens kept in the prisons of our neighbouring countries. It's no use introducing this Repatriation of prisoners Bill, 203. Unless the status of our native citizens in various countries spelt out, the passage of this bill will be withheld.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, 2002 is a welcome sign particularly for a country like India because a large number of Indians working elsewhere are being imprisoned on very trivial charges. Recently, we had many cases of

[Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi]

impounding the citizenship records of IT Services people. We do not know how much sentence will be given to them in future and how it could have a bearing on our Indian citizens who are working elsewhere.

People of other countries are also working here. They come here not for work; but may be for other reasons too. So, the amount of sentence we give to the foreigners or foreign tourists is a limited one, except in the case of the people of the surrounding countries who come here for fishing. They are being impounded or sentenced and are kept in India. In such cases, it is a welcome sign.

17.44 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

However, I would like to have a clarification that the transferring State which gives the permission should have the right to review the sentence. It should be very clearly stated because after getting repatriated to the other country, a prisoner should not be left out of the sentence according to their laws. You have stated that the laws of the country to which these prisoners go will also apply to them. That means the sentence could be lightened and they may be let off according to their laws. This aspect should be taken care of.

The other point is, a convict who is being repatriated to the other State should be a natural citizen of that State. He could be a citizen in two countries. You have just said that he should be a citizen of that country, but you have not stated that he should be a natural citizen of that country. If there is an acquired citizenship, he can go to that country and easily get off the hook.

How could it be done? Where there is a dual citizenship, the convict should be sent to the State where he possesses natural citizenship. That is very important. Otherwise, the convicts, particularly the white-collared ones, will go scot free. Please ensure that the request for repatriation should be accepted by that country where the convict belongs as a natural citizen and not for dual citizenship. This thing should be taken into consideration by the hon. Minister. Of course, these laws are applicable to those countries which are having bilateral agreements. So, it can be worked out before repatriating the convicts to such countries, whether such country will really honour the commitment. Otherwise, we cannot have the monitoring system. Where is the monitoring system? If there is a request from that country and if he is a natural citizen, he will be sent to the country. We should see

that the convict undergoes the imprisonment as is given in India, and we should see to it that whether that country honours the sentence that is given in India and kept imprisoned. Presently there is no monitoring system. But you have to believe and trust those countries. You must also be careful in repatriating convicts. Convicts who have committed those crimes which have very grave consequences should be kept in this country. There should be a clear-cut understanding and clear-cut bifurcation as to which convicts can be repatriated and which convicts cannot be repatriated. Those convicts who go to the receiving countries should be the natural citizen only.

I am sure the hon. Minister will take into consideration my observations. With these remarks, I support the Bill whole-heartedly.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I rise to support this Bill. At this juncture, I would like to say that I adopt the same points which were raised by my friends who spoke before me.

Why should we wait till a conviction is passed by a competent court in India? It is because after conviction, according to this Bill, after exhausting all the appeals that convict has to be repatriated to his country. It is waste of money and waste of time for prosecution, judge and the State Exchequer. Immediately after filing, why do you not directly transport them and transfer their cases to the International Criminal Court, which has been set up now? It has been set up recently. We can directly repatriate them there. It is an offence against the State. If he has committed an offence against the Union of India or the State Government, this Government should have the satisfaction of punishing him. If we have no chance of punishing him by putting him in our prison, then why do you allow him to undergo trial here? If he is going to service the sentence in his own country, why should the prosecution initiate prosecution in India? There are a number of sentencing policies that are working in different countries. All these repatriations are to be done in respect of foreign nationals. Normally, the offence committed by foreign nationals in India is regarding Narcotic Substance Prevention Act.

That entails life imprisonment and death penalty if he has committed the offence again. If he has committed it for the first time, then it is life imprisonment. If he has committed another offence, then it is death penalty.

In the United States, there is a periodical review of the Sentencing Policy, that is, the Proportionality Review.

Once a death sentence is passed, after five or six years, they will review again all the death sentences. If a new fact comes in, if there is any non-appreciation of law on facts, then they will immediately commute the sentences. They will even order re-trial and set the accused free. That policy was in vogue in India as early as in 1922. We had the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Act 2 of 1955) wherein our Indian Courts were vested with the power to veto their own judgement. But that power of veto has been taken away by the 1955 Act. Prior to that Ordinance, that was in vogue for three years only...*(Interruptions)* That Criminal Law was in vogue in India only for three years. After the delivery of the judgement, if it is avoidable trial, if there is any effect of nullity of the judgement, the convict was allowed to go free. Under the present set up, under the Indian Evidence Act, the last Section, Section 167 says that admission or rejection of any evidence after the disposal of a case is not entertained. If a new fact comes in, if there is any fresh appreciation of the evidence, it is to be adduced. It cannot be that the accused has to be proved guilty beyond reasonable doubt. After that even if there is a real accused absconding somewhere, he cannot be brought to book for the same crime. The court becomes *functus officio* after the disposal of that case. So, in that view, I urge upon the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs to look into this matter to revise Section 167 of the Indian Evidence Act as also Section 57 to date back to the Criminal Law (Act 8 of 1955) to make the trial voidable. The sentencing judge should have been given the power to veto his own judgement.

Now, at every stage, the judgement is a finality. If a Magistrate passes a judgement, it is final. He cannot review his own judgement. He cannot alter the judgement except to correct the clerical errors. Section 362 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides for it. So, when these matters are being looked into, we have to be more careful because the accused has to undergo the sentence in his country. So, when he is allowed to go there, our nationals, who are languishing in foreign jails, have to be looked into. Had they been allowed to be there, they would have the periodical review of the sentences. In some countries like Greece, a person can buy a sentence. If you repatriate a prisoner from India to that country, after reaching Greece, he can buy that sentence. He need not go back to prison. In India, we do not have that provision for buying a sentence. At least, the Government may incorporate that provision here because it is costly. For putting a person in jail, the State has to suffer. He is not only suffering but also he is making the State suffer. So, the State can evolve a new Sentencing Policy to buy a

sentence as it is in vogue in countries like Greece. In that way, you can reduce the work. Suppose a foreign serves a sentence here. You ask him to pay money and release him. Instead of sending him back to his country, after having suffered in our State, he has to be punished here only. Because he has offended the law of our country, because he has committed an offence against our State and our State is wounded, he has to be punished here only.

But for repatriation, you can ask him to pay for the sentence and he can buy the sentence here. We can give that concession. He can be allowed to buy his sentence. If he wants to commute the sentence of life to four years, three years, that can be done, because trial here in India will take at least ten years. In death sentence cases, it takes about ten to twelve years. There are a number of reviews provided under articles 134 and 136 of the Constitution before the Supreme Court. So, in that way, this provision will not be of any use to a foreign national who is detained here in our country as a convict. In that way, the Government may look into the matter. I would like the Minister to look on that line.

Then, Sir, previously, the first provisions of law has now come into the Statute Books. In 1898, Section 367 Clause 2 of the Cr. PC. now comes to the aid of the present Section 354 Clause 3 of the Cr. PC. There, death sentence is given in exceptional cases and life sentence is a general rule. Section 367 Clause 2 of 1898 Act generally says now special reasons have to be given if death sentence has to be passed. There, special reasons have to be recorded on the death sentence was passed or not passed. Read the two Sections, Section 367 Clause 2 whether it is synonymous with Section 354 Clause 3 of the present Cr. PC and also the Parliament has not supplied guidelines to the sentencing judges. As you are aware, Sir, about twenty five years back a Bill called Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1978, was introduced in Rajya Sabha. It was 25 years back. But it was not able to be introduced here with the dissolution of Lok Sabha. Till now, it has not been passed by our Parliament. Time and again, the Supreme Court has reminded the Parliament saying that you supply us with the guidelines to see which are the cases should fall under the general rule of life sentence. In the case of Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab, 1980, Supreme Court AIR, it was recommended by the Supreme Court that the Parliament should supply guidelines. Now, there is a capricious and freakish exercise of unguided, unlawful and lawless sentencing policy is being adopted by different courts in our country. The Supreme Court has said that in different words.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I remind the Home Minister that in 1980, there were three persons namely, Kashmira Singh, Cheatah Singh and Harbans Singh who participated in killing of one person. They were jointly tried in Punjab and they were awarded death sentence. When they came to the Supreme Court, each case was heard by a different Bench. Luckily, two persons got their sentence commuted to life sentence. This is a reported judgement of Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab. By the time by Registry called the other bundle to be heard by a Bench, he was executed. It was held by the Supreme Court that the Supreme Court has committed a judicial vagary. It is judicial vagary by exercising the judicial discretion.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, there was a famous actor called N.S. Krishnan in 1930s in Tamil Nadu. He, along with Tyagaraja Bhagavathar were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Madras High Court based on the judgement in the case of Aathappa Gounder who was sentenced to death in Salem District of Tamil Nadu on the ground of admissibility of confessional statement under section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act. That judgement in Aathappa Gounder case was passed in 1937 by the Madras High Court and he was sentenced to death. He was hanged to death and that judgement was being operated for 10 years. On the basis of that judgement, N.S. Krishnan and Tyagaraja Bhagavathar were sentenced to life imprisonment on the basis of the same line of judicial interpretation under Section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act. Then the matter was taken to the Privy

Council. The Privy Council reversed it by saying that the Madras High Court's judgement in Aathappa Gounder case was wrong and all those people who were hanged to death were unfortunate. So, there is a possibility of judicial error. The judges are not having computers in their mind or floppies in their heart. So, I would say that the hon. Minister may issue guidelines for sentencing policy of the judges.

As far as this Bill is concerned, it is a welcome measure. It is going to yield good result. However, the Government has to see the proportion as to whether the repatriation of our nationals from foreign countries to India is going to be more or the thickly populated foreign national criminals who are operating in India are going to be benefited more. The Government should be more careful in applying this provision because the sentencing policy differs from country to country. There is no uniform sentencing policy throughout the world. In the United States of America, for death sentence it is quite a simple appreciation of evidence, but here in India, we apply large yardsticks to the offence of murder.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate. This is a very good measure. So, I support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 31, 2003/Sravana 9, 1925 (Saka)

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