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Wednesday, August 6, 2003

Sravana 15, 1925 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

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(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 6, 2003/Sravana 15, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion for suspending the Question Hour. I have done so because the problem of unemployment has become serious in the country.

Sir, at the time of assuming charge the Prime Minister, had announced that one crore employment opportunity would be created in the country every year and for the purpose he had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Ahluwalia.

Sir, the number of unemployed persons was increasing at the rate of 4.3 in the year 1993-94 but that rate has increased to 7.32 in the year 2000...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARBEL SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members belonging to the Samajwadi Party have made it a practice to disturb the Question Hour daily.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, when you have permitted him to speak, who is he to object to it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not proper. Whenever Samajwadi Party raises any issue in the House, these people try to prevent us by interrupting in this way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have stood up to speak with the permission of the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh and all of you know that we have decided in a meeting that no other matter will be raised during Question Hour and the Question Hour will be conducted smoothly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have permitted Hon. Mulayam Singhji to speak. I want to know as to why he has given notice for Adjournment Motion and suspension of the Question Hour. I want to know as to what issue he wants to raise after getting the business of the House adjourned.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the height of indecency...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down all of you for a while, Mulayam Singhji, please tell in a nutshell as to what issue you want to raise. I have received a number of notices.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the report of Ahluwalia Committee, the unemployment rate was 7.32 and growth rate was 6.5 in the year 2000. The Prime Minister has said that everyone will be provided employment in 10 years but in the report of Ahluwalia Committee, it has been stated that the promises made by the Prime Minister can not be fulfilled. In the same way, as per the report of Gupta Committee it is not possible to fulfil the Prime Minister's promises.

Sir, we want that the reports of both the committees should be laid on the table of the House and discussion should be held on those reports. This is the purpose of my Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have also received notices from Ram Vilas Paswanji. Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji and other hon. Members

[English]

concerning reported findings of the Centre for Science and Environment regarding presence of deadly pesticides in Pepsi and Coke soft drinks.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I have also given a notice on the serious employment situation. Kindly allow me to speak during 'Zero Hour.'

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have also given a notice. You can raise this issue by way of discussion. The employment issue cannot become an issue for Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not at all ready to waste the time of the Question Hour on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of unemployment is a very important.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that the issue raised by Mulayam Singh ji is very important. The meeting of Business Advisory Committee is to be held tomorrow. That subject may be taken up for discussion in that meeting.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take that issue first during 'Zero Hour' and the hon. Minister will reply on the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to the Question Hour. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 241—Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I do not mind if it is taken up during 'Zero Hour'. But this issue is a collective issue of the House. Therefore, the issue of unemployment should get precedence over other issues...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am making a straight rule:

[Translation]

You can raise your issue during Zero Hour. It has been decided. I do not want to curtail the time allotted to Question Hour, so I shall not permit you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall not permit to raise the issue which can be raised during Zero Hour in the name of Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The same rule will apply to all. There would be no exception.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV (Purnia): Mr. Speaker, Sir it is a very important issue because the lives and property of the people of the country are involved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Pappu Yadav ji, you can not ask a question in this way....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can give you permission to speak during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: I have given a notice in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected the notice. I have not admitted your notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have urged you that it is related to the lives and properties of the people of the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I would give you permission to speak during Zero Hour. Everyone has cooperated. Why do not you cooperate?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your notice also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your notice also.

...(Interruptions)

11.10 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indo-US Ties in S&T Field

+

*241. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether Indo-US Science and Technology agreement lapsed in 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to sign a new Science and Technology agreement with U.S.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[Translation]

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 (d) There was no separate bilateral Indo-US Science & Technology agreement. However, a US-India Fund was being operated for implementing scientific projects and visits between the two countries, under the Indo-US Agreement of Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation of January 7, 1987. This arrangement was valid for ten years, but was subsequently extended upto January 7, 1998, when it finally expired.

However, in order to continue strong collaboration towards the advancement of science and development of technology, a Joint Statement between the two Governments was signed on December 19, 1997 expressing intentions to establish an Indo-US Science & Technology Forum. Subsequently, an Agreement between the two Governments on the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum was signed on March 21, 2000 to facilitate and promote interaction, between India and the United States, of government, academia and industry in Science & Technology in identified areas of mutual interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not to read out whole answer. You just say that the statement is laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this statement is not laid on the Table of the House, Minister is reading out his answer...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, what the hon. Minister has read out, has already been supplied by way of answer.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I was saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has not replied to your question. He has only read out the written reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker Sir, ...*.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us save the time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I object strongly to what the hon. member has said just now. Hon. Member is saying that*...This is totally wrong. He should take his words back...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying it again that Mr. Minister has given the written reply but yet he is reading it out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, things are going on as per the rules of the House. You

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

have permitted for this. After that also he is levelling allegation that*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Then why don't you give reply?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There seems to be some misunderstanding which I would like to clarify. The Minister in the reply has not said that it has been laid on the Table of the House. If it is not mentioned, the Minister has the right to read the reply. Now, he has read the same reply which has been printed and that is the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about my submission. He has levelled a false allegation that*.....that should not go into record....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove it from the record.

Dr. Murthi, you please put your question now.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, there are precedents in this House that the Ministers can read out the Answers. There is nothing wrong in it. There have been instances where the Ministers have read out the Answers. I do not know as to why they are making noise about it. What I would like to say is that the hon. Minister could have saved some time by not reading out the answer and, in the process, could have given me more time to ask my question.

Sir, I agree with whatever has been said by the hon. Minister. But he has not explained a missing link here. The missing link is that the Science and Technology agreements entered into earlier lapsed in the year 1998. Then we have not entered into any agreement till March, 2000. What happened to the existing projects during these two years? We have had many projects on technology, like the Multi-roll technology, the transport aircraft, etc. Why have they not extended the period of these agreements? According to my knowledge, I may be right or I may be wrong, after the Pokhran explosions the US had discontinued extending technologies to India. Several projects had been affected due to this. The country has lost huge sums of money since we could not complete the projects in these two years, that is between 1998 to 2000. Why has the Minister not explained this missing link? I would like to have a categorical answer from the Minister as how he would like to explain the gap of these two years between these two agreements.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the earlier agreement with regard to US India Fund with them, under which negotiations were made, had already been expired. It was extended for two years. It is not related to Pokharan. Had there been no Pokharan, it was to be expired in 1998. Its earlier period was upto 1996. This is the rule that whenever there is agreement between two nations, it is a for a limited period. If both countries agree, they can extend it or they can terminate it, it depends upon the terms of agreement. As per old terms it was to be expired in 1996, but due to some reasons and some ongoing projects, it was extended for two years. Then it expired automatically in 1998. It was under consideration that what type of agreements should be made because in the meantime intellectual property rights and different type of new things had surfaced. While formulating the draft of new agreement because both sides should be ready. America as well as we, then only new agreements can be made. So it took time. Once America was ready and we too were convinced that it suits us then the agreement was made in the year of 2000. This does not mean that we suffered a loss because we are getting what we aspired for in the new agreement and all the basics of old agreement, which were in the favour of country, have been fulfilled. There is no need to worry at all.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: When there was no harm, then there was no need for entering into another agreement also. But we have lost two years. In this period we would have gained scientifically had we entered into an agreement. That is my feeling. I do not expect an answer on this.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You are free to express your feelings but please do not waste the time of the House by expressing your feelings. You please ask your question.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, the US has entered into a partnership with 15 countries for maintaining clean climatic conditions. Besides that, they have also entered into a Protocol Agreement for Greenhouse gases, maintenance, etc. in addition to that, a separate agreement has been entered into with 15 countries, including India, for developing new technologies that would help climatic change. It is because our country is suffering because of hot climate and also there is a problem of drinking water. Unless there is some change in the climatic conditions, there might be a lot of trouble in the future years for our country. In promotion of that they wanted to put up a clean coal project in India. Has any headway been made in that project with the aid of the Technology Mission over the years?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This question is pertaining to the Ministry of Environment.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It is not on environment. I am talking about the US Partnership Agreement. Or you tell me whether any project has been taken up under that agreement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the projects relating to Kyoto Protocol are handled by that Ministry. If you want detailed information about these projects, that will be supplied to you because that is not available with me.

But I tell you about the efforts of the Ministry for improving the climatic conditions not only in India, but in many parts of the world. In the Third World Conference that we held here, we suggested for creating a centre here for capacity building for the climate control and understanding of climate. Therefore, the Government is very sincere and very clear that climate change has to be studied very deeply and very urgently—not only the atmosphere, but also under-water conditions and under-earth conditions. So, the Government is very clear and all the Ministries—my Ministry and the Ministry of Environment—are both taking adequate steps about it.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Thank you, Sir. I am very much satisfied.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Recently, a dialogue was arranged between the two Governments under the Global Issue Forum. I want to know the topics discussed in that Forum. I am informed that both the Governments agreed to share their successful information and examples for cooperation especially in regard to access to safe water, sanitation and human settlement, etc. for which India needs the latest information on technological development to solve our problems.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This supplementary also does not arise from the main Question, which deals only with the Indo-US Forum on Science and Technology. So, any question relating to that can be answered here.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I know that this does not arise from the main Question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: India can boast of having the third largest scientific community in the world. However, as per ISI Report, we have been ranked at this moment 21, lagging behind even Taiwan. How many doctorates are we producing every year in India?

As far as the Indo-US ties are concerned, they have got a severe jolt in the wake of the Pokhran explosion. However, the Government is persistently denying this. May I ask the hon. Minister as to which are the areas that have so far been identified in promoting science and technology for mutual benefit? It has not been mentioned in your reply statement. Furthermore, has any bilateral agreement been proposed by the Government of India to the USA Government? Thirdly, is the Government considering any proposal to develop Missile Defence System in India in conjugation with the US Science and Technology Department?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not arising out of the main Question.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, First of all this agreement was done in the year 2000 and I want to tell you the areas of mutual cooperation as identified by us.

[English]

These are: Distributed energy systems including hydrogen fuel, renewable energy sources, bio-fuels and bio-energy; nano technology covering mono computing, quantum computing, bio-computing, molecular computing, nano fabrication and advance material; climate modelling and global change with emphasis on mode of analysis and forecasting and ocean water systems brain research covering developmental neuro biology and computational neuro science, diagnostic medical tools, including tele medicine, health and pharmaceuticals, bio-technology including human and plant genomics, bio-informatics etc.,

universal digital library and distance learning, communication, neural connectivity, information technology, e-security, S&T to counter terrorism, high energy physics and astro physics. These are the areas which have been identified as thrust areas for mutual cooperation. Activity portfolio where the possible programmes of the Forum are to be undertaken and they are under development, are: (1) support joint workshops and symposia in India and the U.S. in emerging areas of science and technology; (2) promote joint R&D projects of mutual interest; (3) exchange visits of experts/scientists from the two countries; (4) identify and initiate a few plan projects with societal benefit and impact; (5) initiate forum frontier symposia; (6) interface private and public sector participation in joint R&D efforts and promote distinguished lecture series; (7) catalyse training and capacity building programmes; (8) catalyst to establish centres of excellence and network centres; (9) crate data base of various aspects of science and technology and R&D. These are the activities under which we will work and these are the areas which have been identified.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Is there any bilateral Agreement?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The Indo-US Science Forum itself is a bilateral agreement.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the hon. Minister mentioned a list of identified thrust areas which have been identified for mutual cooperation. But, for several years now, India has been denied technology in some frontier areas, like cryogenics and dual-use of nuclear technology.

May I know from the hon. Minister what are those frontier areas of technology where the U.S. has pronounced its objection or intervention in order to deny India such technology?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: These are the thrust areas where we are cooperating. Every country protects its technology. Americans do protect their technology. We also protect our technology. We also do not give access to many other countries. This is a question to seek access in those technologies.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have mentioned two specific areas, cryogenics and the other one.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: In the field of cryogenics, the Space Department is now going ahead. I would like to assure you and the House that we do not need any such thing. We do not have any deficiency in terms of cryogenics. Very shortly, India will become as self-sufficient as any other country is. Let us congratulate our space scientists. Do not be afraid that if America does not give us this technology, then we cannot do anything. Indian scientists today are in a position to access higher levels of technology.

[Translation]

Unrecognised Medical Colleges

+

*242. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether several medical colleges unrecognised by the Government are being run in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such unrecognised colleges?

[English]

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

Statement

At present 211 medical colleges are functioning in the country. All these medical colleges are recognised/ permitted by the Central Government for running MBBS course. Medical Council of India has no information on unrecognised medical colleges running in the country. The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, was amended in 1993 to check the mushroom growth of medical colleges in the country wherein seeking prior approval of Central Government is mandatory to open new medical colleges.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, it has been clearly mentioned in the reply that for starting a medical college or a dental college, permission of the Central Government is mandatory as per the Dentists amendments 1993 Act.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that under the regulations of this amendment it has been made permissible for the Central Medical Council or the Dental Council to give permission for one

year to start the medical college and in the next year permission has to be obtained for renewal and this practice continues up to five years and in the last year also the permission is needed. There are certain colleges where the students have completed five years. But so far recognition has not been given to such colleges. Is it also a fact that this is justified by the amendment and the rules made under this Act? If it is a fact, the hon. Minister may kindly apprise the House.

SHRI A. RAJA: The usual procedure that is being adopted by the Ministry is that one who wants to establish a medical college should submit an application to the Ministry. The Ministry, in turn, sends the application to the Medical Council of India for scrutiny and appraisal. It conducts an inspection to see whether the amenities provided by the college are up to the mark and whether they are in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Ministry. Once the inspection and the appraisal is concluded by the Medical Council of India, which is a statutory body created under the Parliament Act with a separate legal entity, it will give the findings whether the college can be given permission for the first year or not. Then it will be submitted to the Ministry. According to the advice of the Medical Council of India permission will be given...*(Interruptions)* For the first year, permission will be given. For the second, third and fourth consecutive years also, renewal will be given. After completing the fifth year, the MBBS Degree will be given. So, in the last year, after giving the renewal for the consecutive years, final recognition of the Degree will be given by the Medical Council of India. Every year, it needs further amenities. For example, the first year students may need facilities for the general medicine. The second year and third year students may need facilities to learn anatomy and *post mortem*. Everything will be needed. Higher laboratories and other amenities are needed. Subject to the amenities, after the inspection by the MCI, renewal and permission will be given accordingly.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fate of the seven colleges in Bihar which have been denied permission at the first-year stage, second-year stage and the fifth-year stage? Do you need me to mention the names of the colleges which are located in Darbhanga and the areas around it? Unfortunately, most of the students are from Kashmir and they suffer there. Who is responsible for the victimisation there? You have given permission for one year; stopped it for the second year; given it for the third year and stopped it for the fifth year. Who is responsible for the destruction of the future of those students who have come to the level of committing suicide? What is the status of those colleges? Where does the responsibility of the Central Government lie to intervene in such an exploitation? It had been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons in the Amendment Bill, 1993 that the amendment was brought forward with the intention that there should be no victimisation and no allegation made to the Central Government stating that there is victimisation of the students on the part of the Government. The students have been misled by the regulations under this amendment which the Government had made in 1993. Are you aware of it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is over. Do not repeat the question. Now, the hon. Minister has to give reply. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is important but he cannot repeat the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, Future of thousands of Students is being ruined...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Are you aware of the reputation of the Medical Council of India? What is the role of the Health Ministry is stopping the victimisation particularly in respect of the seven colleges in Bihar?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: With due respect to the hon. Member, I do not admit that 27 colleges are kept pending for giving renewal for the year 2003-04. here are two things before the Medical Council of India and the Government. One is renewal and the other is permission. After giving permission for the first year, renewal is made. The second thing is this. Suppose a college, which is having a capacity of 60 students, wants to have 100 students. Even for the higher intake of the students, inspection should be conducted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: My question is very precise but you are not coming to that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: I am coming to that. Do not worry. I will answer that question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, you are wasting your time in this. You have been given the opportunity to ask the question, let the Minister complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: With all the sincerity, I can say before the House that there is no question of victimisation either on the part of the MCI or on the part of the Government...*(Interruptions)* I will come to that. What is this? When they are not permitting me to give the answer, what can I do?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: No, this is not the matter...*(Interruptions)* He is not aware of the facts...*(Interruptions)* I hail from there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: No doubt, we are having control...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us get the reply from the hon. Minister. Please sit down.

SHRI A. RAJA: With your permission, I can put a very basic question to the hon. Members. Do the hon. Members want a substandard college?...*(Interruptions)* Shall I give you a substandard college?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am standing now. Please sit down.

Have basic discipline please. A very important question was raised. I can understand the plight of the students and, therefore, it becomes absolutely necessary that we must try to seek a correct reply from the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is on his legs. I am going to help you to get a proper reply from the hon. Minister. But if you all stand up at one time, I will go to the next question and you will miss the opportunity. Therefore, I am not going to the next question. I want the hon. Minister to reply. The hon. Cabinet Minister will reply now. Please listen to her.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me take two-three questions and then we can have an Half-an-Hour discussion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member seems to be quite agitated while asking question on this subject. I would like to request through you Sir, that he please listens as to what the scheme is all about.

Sir, recognition and granting permission are two separate things. It seems quite odd when one comes to know that Central Government gives permission for one year, then it gives for second year and continues like this till five years. It has also happened that after giving permission for one year permission for next year stopped. It does not sound nice but why do such things happen. But please try to understand why it happens.

Recognition is given only when full infrastructure and faculty in place and in position is available. But it requires a lot of money and if full faculty along with five years infrastructure is made available...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow this. Please sit down. You cannot raise a point like this.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, I would like to apprise why was this scheme brought and what was its background. Those who wanted to establish Medical Colleges were of the view that if recognition is accorded only after completion of infrastructure and faculty then the whole infrastructure will remain idle for four years as they will be giving admission for first year only so they may be allowed to provide the required infrastructure initially for first year and permission may be granted to them on that basis and then they will subsequently keep on adding infrastructure for second, third, fourth and fifth year and ultimately when the infrastructure is complete they should be accorded recognition, therefore giving permission and according recognition are two separate things. Permission is given to increase the infrastructure on yearly basis and recognition is accorded when there is complete infrastructure. It has happened that permission was granted for one year and it was stopped for second year the reason for this is when the college authorities sought permission the MCI inspected and found infrastructure complete for first year and so permission

was granted to them and when they came for renewal it was found that infrastructure was not complete...*(Interruptions)*

Permission was granted for one year but in order to get renewal next year they did not complete the infrastructure...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is this is policy what will happen to the students? What kind of policy is this?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister's reply come.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, injustice is not done with those students...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

She is telling you as to how permission is granted for opening up of a college...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted her. She has not said a word wrong till this moment. She is replying about the procedure of permission.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Students do not suffer...*(Interruptions)* I am replying about them only...*(Interruptions)* They do not suffer because they get into second year...*(Interruptions)* A new batch does not come and that year is declared as zero year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a discussion on the issue. Please sit down. I will allow a discussion and you can raise it during the discussion.

[Translation]

I am ready to allow a discussion after getting the reply.

[English]

You can raise a discussion on the issue and they you can put your question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Students do not suffer because the infrastructure is there for one year...*(Interruptions)* If 100 students are admitted in one year there is infrastructure for 100 students therefore, they are given admission in second and third year but permission is not granted for a new batch and that year is declared as Zero year. The future of admitted students is not damaged they keep on moving ahead but new batches are not allowed to be admitted...*(Interruptions)* Permission is not given...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She has replied, you have not heard.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The future of those students does not get affected because the infrastructure required for them is available, therefore, they keep on moving ahead, but new batch is not allowed to be taken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen, ask your supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: See, the Member had put a question. He has a right to ask a supplementary, which I have permitted him. Please keep quiet. Nobody will be allowed except him. He has a right to ask a supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister—she has a kind heart—that is she prepared to look into the matter of seven colleges which have been denied permission and now they are under litigation. The boys and girls, who are suffering, are not in a position to go home. They are there and

sometimes attempt to commit suicide. They are there for the last one decade.

[Translation]

They are there for the last one decade. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she would like to apprise the House of those seven colleges as to what happened there?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when my younger brother was replying, he told that there were 27 colleges not 7. Do you wish that permission should be granted without required infrastructure faculty and assistance so as to make Medical Colleges sub-standard....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have to give the advice to the Minister, Mr. Speaker Sir, if there is not a policy to recognise them, then what is the point in having medical education.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary. His name is next in the list of questions. Please let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was asked from the Government in part 'a' of the question whether many un-recognized Medical Colleges are being run in different parts of the country, if so, the details thereof? The Government informed in its reply that 211 colleges are being run in the country and all these colleges are recognized by the Government and un-recognized colleges do not exist but un-recognized colleges are being run in different parts of the country and huge amount of money is being extorted by them. The doctors produced by such colleges are quacks. The Government should collect information about it. I would like to know from the Government as to what is there in the policy which was amended in 1993 and what success has been achieved by the government in checking the functioning of un-recognized Medical colleges?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment made in the policy is that the Central Government itself should give recognition and permission. The MCI is only a recommendatory body. There are 211 such colleges out of which 159 are recognized by University and remaining 52 have been given permission by the Central Government. Excluding above mentioned colleges, if other colleges exist, they are un-recognized. We do not recognized their degrees and they have no right to undertake medical practice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Such questions should not be replied which I did not permit to ask.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, Medical education is a very important issue when we need more doctors, we need more colleges also. It is also necessary to see whether the doctors passing out from a college, are able to give proper treatment or not? Funds are provided for opening medical colleges, buildings are constructed and sometimes instruments are also installed, but unfortunately, there are professors and teachers to teach in these colleges. So, despite the colleges being well equipped the doctors produced by these colleges are not competent. What measures are being taken to solve the problem which has arisen in the field of medical education? What steps are being taken for those students who take admission in the first year but the concerned college does not have proper infrastructure for the second year for them? What steps are being taken to produce competent doctors and what is the policy in this regard?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my pleasure that Shivrajji has associated himself with the concern which I expressed before all of you. During the inspection of medical colleges we not only see the building and equipments but we also see whether proper faculty is available there or not and whether the colleges are upto the mark or not? Whether the doctors of teaching cadre are available there are not? There are instances that a single doctor is shown on the strength of as many as seven colleges. He is shown teaching in a college and also teaching in second and third college at the same time. How such colleges can be given permission. Where there is not faculty? It is right that building and equipments are installed but there is no faculty, then how the permission can be granted to such colleges. In such cases, the reason behind not giving permission is non-availability of faculty for which you have expressed concern. So far as the question of allowing admission for the first year is concerned, we don't put a question mark on their future subject to fulfillment of infrastructure of faculty. We declare next year as a zero year so that the next batch is not admitted but the faculty continues teaching the students already admitted. Permission is not granted only due to the reasons expressed by him.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What steps are being taken to solve this problem?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have given my reply in this matter. No recommendation is issued without faculty...*(Interruptions)* We do not give them further permission...*(Interruptions)* You please get it done that if the infrastructure is available for complete five years, then only permission will be granted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not fair.

SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am raising a brief question. My colleague has mentioned about seven or nine colleges of Bihar. I would like to know if these colleges are under the government of Bihar, then whether the Central Government or the State Government is responsible for providing infrastructure. If it is the responsibility of the State Government will the Union Government penalise the State Government for refraining from its responsibility. I have heard that number of seats have been reduced by the government of India in several colleges for want of infrastructure in Bihar and other states to improve the quality of the students. Mr. Speaker Sir, considerable reduction in seats was made in Maharashtra during your tenure also. The reason was the lack of infrastructure with State Government. You made it available. If the Government of Bihar run such colleges, then who is responsible for that?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Patilji has rightly said and infact, I also wanted to say that same thing. Those colleges are under the State Government. State Government is not providing infrastructure, we have written them many times in this regard. We have written Patna Dental College, BCI asks to retain it. We have asked to provide infrastructure. If they do not provide infrastructure, quality can not be improved. Should permission be granted to them without ensuring quality? Patilji, you are absolutely right and you have rightly pin pointed the root. And this is the only root of problem.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, though the question raised is related to the whole of the country and this question mainly envisages the matter of corruption. As you know concern has been expressed in this matter. I would like to say about Darbhanga, Kishanganj, Katihar medical colleges and I especially want to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble minister that two incidents of suicide by Darbhanga Dental medical college have occurred in front of Patna medical college. The students polished shoes in front of Shri Shatrughan Sinha when he was Health Minister. Students were lathi charged but the students of Kashmir or Maharashtra were given admission after charging Rs. 10 lakh each. I would like to tell you that all these seven colleges are fake and the ministers in Bihar Government are responsible for this illegal act. Whether the Central Government is interfering in this regard so that the students....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask question only. You are not allowed to deliver any speech by using question as a base. You may ask direct question. Only the question asked by you will go on record.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that if the Government of Bihar is ignoring this matter and whether the Central Government is going to take any action against the state Government, if not, whether the students of that state by passing the examination through improper way are going to play with the lives of the people. Whether the Government has any scheme in the regard?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the honourable Member that the valid recognation is from Central Government only. The recognition by the State Government is not valid. Since the valid recognition is from the Central Government and it would decide whether to give recognition or not.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Please do not give recognition...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is over. Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar please ask your question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the honourable Minister has stated that on one side the permission is given to colleges for lack of infrastructure and on the other side the M.C.I. and D.C.I. have become so dominant that the Ministry is unable to control them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can have discussion on it. 7 to 8 questions have already been asked. I have to go for other question also.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as MCI is concerned its chairman has been

removed by the court and its proceedings are still going on in court. The appointment of a new chairman is yet to be made and there is high handedness in MCI. Even than there is a system of providing permission through M.C.I. and D.C.I....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask a direct question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether any amendment will be made in the law to check the pressure of the M.C.I. and D.C.I. So that the students may get justice?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as M.C.I. is concerned it is a recognised body and we receive its recommendations and Central Government gives its final approval or permission for recognition. If some people are not satisfied with the recommendations of the M.C.I. they can come to us for personal hearing. Central Government is having solution for this.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister has stated the reasons for which permission and recognition is not given and lack of infrastructure have been stated as one of them. I would like to ask whether the Minister is aware that the Government Homeopathic Medical College at Bhopal which is running for the last 10 years has not been recognised. They have complete infrastructure. At last the students of that college approached High Court and High Court have also given its directions in this regard which have been pending for the last 1 $^{1}/_{2}$ to 2 years. What are the reasons for not giving recognition, even after that what are the reasons for not giving recognition even after having infrastructure? Will the Minister take action in this regard?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just as the recognition of a Allopathic Medical College is given on the recommendation of M.C.I. Similarly the Homeopathic Medical Colleges are given recognition on the recommendations of Central Council of Homeopathic. Now we are changing rules in this regard and the Central Government will have the power of giving recognitions since the Member has asked specifically about Bhopal Homeopathic College, I would have to gather information, why this college was not given recognition even after the directions of the High Court. I will inform the Member about it after getting the requisite information.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I have given a notice...*(Interruptions)* The problem is that you have called hon. Members from one State...*(Interruptions)* You have not called me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask for a discussion. I will permit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask for a discussion on the subject. I will allow discussion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 243.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds for Rural Telecommunication Service

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*243. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) whether the funds provided by the Government for telecommunications service in rural areas have not been utilised and the work undertaken in this regard is also not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken against those found guilty in this regard;

(c) the rural areas in the country which have not been provided with telecom facilities;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken any review of the work done in this regard; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Subsequent to the formation of BSNL in October, 2000, Government has provided support to BSNL in the form of reimbursement to compensate the losses incurred on account of rural telephony operations, and loan in perpetuity for BSNL's ongoing VPT programme. In addition, as part of the Universal Service Obligation, Government has extended support to BSNL and private operators for reimbursement of losses in operation and maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and for replacement of MARR VPTs. These funds have been fully utilized in the following manner:—

(i) BSNL has been able to maintain the existing telecom network in rural areas: rural teledensity has increased from 0.76 in October, 2000 to 1.49 in June, 2003.

(ii) BSNL has replaced 46,411 MARR VPTs from 01.04.2000 to 30.06.2003.

(iii) BSNL has installed, 1,07,684 VPTs during 2001-2003.

(iv) BSNL and Private Operators have undertaken operation & maintenance of 5,16,182 VPTs as on 30.06.2003.

Prior to formation of BSNL, more than 50% of allotted funds for VPTs remained unspent during the period of 1997-1998 to 1999-2000. This was primarily due to non-availability of suitable technology to replace MARR technology which it was decided to discontinue, and due to delay in the procurement of WLL equipment.

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

(c) to (e) The Government is reviewing regularly the provision of Telecom facilities in rural areas. In terms of provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs), 5,16,182 have been provided telephone facilities, out of total 6,07,491 revenue villages in the country, 91,309 villages have not been as on 30.06.2003. State-wise status of VPTs is furnished in the Annexure.

The review of villages which could not be provided with VPTs indicates that the following factors are among the ones that account for these villages remaining uncovered thus far:

(i) Poor performance by private Basic Telephone Service Operators due to non-remunerative nature of VPTs.

(ii) Villages being in Naxalite infested and other insurgency affected areas.

(iii) De-population of villages.

(iv) Many villages have a population less than 100.

(v) Clearance not being accorded for VPTs based on Wireless Local Loop systems in the States of North East and J&K.

(vi) VPTs can be provided only by utilizing satellite as a media, and this is cost prohibitive.

Government is considering a proposal to support BSNL for providing VPTs based on satellite media. Necessary steps have been taken by BSNL to provide VPTs on WLL in the States of North East and J&K. These are expected to be installed by the end of 2003 after receiving clearances from the concerned agencies.

Notices were issued in May, 2003 to private basic operators to provide balance VPTs by the end of 2003 after excluding in the first phase, villages identified as de-populated villages, villages with population less than 100, Naxalite or insurgency affected villages and those to be covered by satellite media. They were informed that failing this, steps for encashment of the Performance Bank Guarantee will be initiated. The issuance of notice has resulted in increase in the number of VPTs installed by private operators from 10,648 at the end of May, 2003 to 11,632 at the end of June, 2003, i.e. approximately 10% increase. The fulfillment of the commitments now given by the private operators will be closely monitored and Performance Bank Guarantees would be liable to be encashed in case of failure.

Annexure

State-wise Status of VPTs as on 30.6.2003

Sl. No.	Service Area	Total No. of Revenue villages	Villages covered by VPTs	Villages without VPTs	No. of / depopulated less than 100 population villages	Naxalite/ thick Forest/ disputed/ insurgency affected villages	No. of villages which can be covered only on satellite media
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201	198	3	0	3	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	24733	4727	577	2247	1536
3.	Assam	24685	18034	6651	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	72780	64745	8035	5267	448	2320
5.	Gujarat	18125	15328	2797	296	0	0
6.	Haryana	6850	6811	39	39	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16585	340	61	0	279
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4502	2262	0	0	654
9.	Karnataka	27066	27066	0	0	0	0
10.	Kerala	1468	1468	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	52727	18799	5391	913	2547
12.	Maharashtra	42467	33859	8608	4192	564	2100
13.	North East	14145	5860	8285	0	0	5386
14.	Orissa	46989	40435	6554	701	636	5217
15.	Punjab	12687	12687	0	0	0	0
16.	Rajasthan	39483	26448	13035	5159	0	1596
17.	Tamil Nadu	17899	17899	0	0	0	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	79792	75965	3827	3685	142	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	39214	32898	6316	2336	0	3980
20.	West Bengal	38774	37743	1031	0	978	53
21.	Delhi	191	191	0	0	0	0
	Total	607491	516182	91309	27704	5931	25668

Bihar Service area includes Bihar and Jharkhand States, Madhya Pradesh Service area includes Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States, North East Service area includes States of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram; Punjab Service area includes U.T. of Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh (West) service area includes western parts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal State.

Figures as reported by licensees.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a good reply but I would like to know something more. Only 50 per cent of the fund allotted for rural areas is actually utilized...*(Interruptions)* Even today, whenever we contact T.A.C. at district level in our state, we are told by the B.S.N.L. officers that out of five lac villages...*(Interruptions)* They also tell us that they lack both staff and funds. The hon. Minister has told that they do not utilize the funds given to them fully. Three or four private operators were allotted the work in my constituency, Banaskantha in the year, 1992 but after some time they left the work. The same thing was repeated in the year 1995. In that area the waiting list is pending since 1992. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the development will take place in my Constituency.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, Rs. 5,600 crore have been spent on rural telephony during the last two years. If work has not been completed in an individual Constituency like Banaskantha, I would inform him after collecting the details about it...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Why do not you meet each Member of Parliament? Please fix the time for meeting the Members of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I have not permitted you to speak.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The best way of increasing the outlay, as the hon. Member has suggested is the Universal Service Obligation Fund for which a Bill has been placed before the House. As soon as that Bill is passed, the Fund would be constituted and we will have much more money for rural telephony alone...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Sir, the hon. Minister had promised during last month also that he would do something about Banaskantha but he did not do so till date. Sometimes, he says that M.A.R.R. is full, sometimes he says that W.L.L. will be introduced, sometimes the G.M. of B.S.N.L. says that instruments pertaining to W.L.A. are not likely to reach. All these factors were responsible for not undertaking the work in my constituency. In the reply to the question, it has been stated that private operators do not work because they are not given any remuneration. In part B of my question, it has been asked whether the guilty have been punished. I want to know whether those private operators have been punished who did not complete their work.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are right. The penalty was prescribed in the original licences...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you need not respond to his query. Please continue your answer as it is going on record.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker Sir, in the Letter of Intent of the original Licences issued in the year 1996, 1997 and 1998. One time penalty was prescribed for non-performance and according to that Rs. 57 crore has been withheld. Now, I have sent them additional notices which stipulate that additional guarantee for non-performance has been increased from Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 50 crore. We have asked for specific plans from them. But, the original conditions were very defective, which provided escape route to the private operators. I can read out the conditions, if you give me permission for it. Why were the defective conditions incorporated in the licence?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, it is only half answer to the question which has been asked...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, you know the rules. There is another name on this Question. You please read the Question. The next name is of Shri Laxman Giluwa. He is allowed to ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the whole question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not reply to Shri Jos. I have not permitted him to ask the question. The Ministers should reply to the questions, which are allowed by me. I have allowed Shri Giluwa to ask the question as his name is there on the Question.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the question asked by me is very simple. It has been asked whether the funds allotted by the Government for

telecommunication facilities in rural areas have not been fully utilized? The reply given in this regard is not satisfactory. The government has said in its reply that in some areas more than 50 per cent of the funds allotted for installation of rural telephone (V.P.T.) has not been used and it has been explained that no suitable technology was available for replacing M.A.R.R. technology. I would like to know as to who is responsible for denying telephone facility of the rural people. Whether the government propose to take action against those officials who are held responsible for it and whether it wants to fix any timeframe for punishing those who have been found guilty; if so, the timeframe for taking action against those officials?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the M.A.R.R. technology was taken from early 90s till about 1997-98 and various Members know the circumstances in which these exchanges were installed. Now, the analogue exchanges proved to be defective. They were replaced by digital M.A.R.R. technology. That has proved better. But because of no proper maintenance of batteries, it is not working properly.

The plan is to replace two lakh M.A.R.R. VPTs and out of that 59,600 have already been replaced. Now, by 18th of August, which is the final date for bids for tenders for replacing the rest of the M.A.R.R., tenders are invited. The tender is worth Rs. 300 crore and we hope to finalise this entire tender process by the end of August. The bids have already been invited.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour over.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time is not over.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not speak on this subject. Please sit down. It is not proper to waste the time of the House in any way.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask for Half an Hour Discussion. I would give permission for it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this issue relates to the interests of the people from rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Every question is important, if the Members pay attention to it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the question loses its importance when the problem of the villages is not highlighted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Internet Usage Charges

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has asked certain cellular Mobile Telephone Service providers to hold in abeyance the proposed increase in air time cost of STD, ISD calls announced by them;

(b) if so, whether the telecom service providers and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have agreed to an interim solution for implementation of the internet usage charges from May, 2003;

(c) if so, whether there has been a demand for roll back of increase in the cost of making calls from fixed phone;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) Regulation on 24th January, 2003 specifying the amounts of IUC charge to be paid and received by various operators. The regulation has become effective from 1st May, 2003. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has received feedback and representations from service providers and other stakeholders on tariffs applicable under the new IUC regime. TRAI has decided to review the IUC regime to address various points raised with respect to the present regime. Till such time that a revised IUC is notified

and implemented, the present IUC regime will continue to prevail.

No origination/termination charge has been specified for Internet Service Providers in the IUC Regulation issued on 24th January, 2003. This Regulation of TRAI provides that if no charge is specified, it is subject to forbearance i.e. it can be mutually negotiated between service providers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has rolled back the tariffs for calls from Wire Line and Fixed Wireless subscribers to Cellular subscribers within 50 Kms from Point of Interconnection of the two networks. Such calls are charged at the rate of Rs. 1.20 for every 60 seconds with effect from 17th May, 2003 instead of Rs. 1.20 for every 30 seconds made effective from 1st May, 2003. Prior to 1st May, 2003 such calls were charged at a rate of Rs. 1.20 for every 180 seconds. With the implementation of IUC regulation of 24th January, 2003, the Basic Service Operators have to pay termination charges to the Cellular operators and incoming calls have been made free for Cellular subscribers.

Treatment of Patients at AIIMS

*245. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of doctors working in AIIMS with the total number of sanctioned posts;

(b) the number of patients who come to AIIMS for treatment from different parts of the country on a daily basis;

(c) whether the existing number of doctors are sufficient to attend to the visiting patients;

(d) if not, whether it has been noticed that a number of doctors are either on leave or they have gone abroad for study due to which problems arise in treating the patients;

(e) if so, whether the Government have laid down some guidelines/procedure to be followed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The total number of doctors working in AIIMS *vis-a-vis* the sanctioned strength is as under:—

	Sanctioned Strength	In Position
Faculty (Assistant Professors & above)	505	480
Senior Resident (Non-Academic)	237	237
Senior Resident (Academic)	122	122
Junior Resident (Academic)	393	393
Junior Resident (Non-Academic)	66	66
Medical Officer	9	9

(b) and (c) In All India Institute of Medical Sciences about 7200 patients attend the OPD every day. There are 1656 beds with an average occupancy rate of 89%. The number of doctors, faculty and other residents both academic and non-academic are deployed in the speciality area depending upon the actual workload in the OPD, Emergency and Speciality clinics including diagnostic services as well as other academic responsibility. On an average, 190 doctors are available at the OPD every day and doctors patient ratio is 1:38.

(d) to (f) At present, only 22 faculty members (4.35% of the total sanctioned strength) are on foreign assignment and 8 faculty members 1.58% of total sanctioned strength) are on fellowship/training abroad. The faculty members are permitted to accept the assignments or to avail of the fellowship/training etc. in accordance with the guidelines framed by the Governing Body. Only those Faculty Members who are permanent and have completed five years of service as a Member of faculty are eligible for these assignments. A member of the faculty is permitted by the Institute to accept such assignments for a period ordinarily not exceeding 2 years at a time and not exceeding a total of 5 years in the first 25 years as a member of the faculty. In place of such leave vacancies, the posts are filled at the level of Assistant Professors on ad-hoc basis so that patient care services of the Institute does not suffer.

Toll Tax

*246. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that travellers are indirectly being burdened with the development as well as maintenance of roads as they have to pay heavy toll tax on various highways and expressways;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a number of proposals from various organisations urging to minimize the collection of toll tax; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to devise a method to collect reasonable toll tax on various highways?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) User fee is being levied under the provisions of National Highway Act, 1956 as amended by Parliament in 1992. Government has approved the ceiling rates for various categories of vehicles in July, 1997. These rates have been fixed after giving due consideration to the savings accrued to users on vehicle operating cost, damage caused to the road and willingness to pay. On the improved facilities, user fee charged is much less than the savings accruing to the user.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from individuals/organizations for reducing toll fee, giving rebate/ concession or for replacement of levy of fee by additional cess on petrol and diesel. A committee has been constituted by the Government to examine the methodology of working out quantum of toll charges.

Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes

*247. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is committed to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, the details of projects based on atomic energy; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of atomic energy in the country?

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) Some of the major projects/achievements are as follows:

(i) The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) a Public Sector Undertaking, is responsible for the design, construction and operation of nuclear power reactors. There are fourteen (14) nuclear power reactors with a total nuclear power capacity of 2720 MWe in operation and 8 reactors are under construction in the country.

(ii) The Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) and the Heavy Water Board (HWB) provide support to the atomic power programme.

(iii) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) provides research and development support to nuclear power programme, produces radioisotopes and provides facilities for research. The radioisotopes produced in the research reactors at Trombay and at the nuclear power plants and the cyclotron at Kolkata find wide applications in the fields of agriculture and food, medicine and healthcare, industry and research.

(iv) Amongst other activities, the Centre for Advance Technology (CAT) is engaged in the application of lasers in industries and health care and research.

(v) The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is responsible for the processing of radioisotopes for supply to medical and industrial users across the country. Medical applications include radio pharmaceuticals, brachytherapy wires, radioimmunoassay kits and various other products and services.

(c) Some of the steps being taken to increase the production of atomic energy are the following:

(i) Eight nuclear power reactors at four sites are under construction. On completion of these projects, the nuclear power capacity in the country will be 6680 MWe. A total nuclear power capacity of 2000 MWe by the year 2020 has been envisaged.

(ii) A 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is planned for construction at Kalpakkam during the X Plan.

(iii) The utilisation of thorium reserves for electricity generation is the main long term objective of the Department. The advanced heavy water reactor with a capacity of 300 MWe has been designed by BARC as a technology demonstration project to utilise thorium for electricity generation.

Technology for Water Purification

*248. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CSIR has developed an ultrapore filtration membrane technology for water purification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided any assistance to any NGO's for the adoption of this technology in rural areas; 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) and (b) Yes Sir. Two CSIR laboratories viz. Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune have developed Ultrapore Filtration modules using polysulfone/polyether solfone as well as poly acrylonitrile membrane. In addition CGCRI has developed ceramic micro pore filters for water purification.

The ultra-filtration (UF) membrane has small sized pores that exclude micro-organisms. The typical water flux depending on water quality is 15-20 liters per hour for a domestic module and 45-60 liters per hour for community module. UF assemblies have been made employing hand and foot pump, cycle pump and compact electrical pumps. The micro filtration system is useful for removal of arsenic and iron impurities from water.

(c) and (d) CSIR, with the assistance from other Government Departments, has provided 40 units to NGOs for trials and performance evaluation. In addition 30,000 lit/day capacity plants were set up at Allahabad (to provide safe drinking water to pilgrims in Kumbh Mela) and Radhanpur (to provide drinking water to earthquake victims). Also, Ceramic micro pore filtration units have been set up in the Barasat area of West Bengal where arsenic problem is acute. These units are operating on a cost sharing basis by the community. The laboratory has transferred the technology to an entrepreneur. It is being propagated through some NGO's including Ramakrishna Sevasharam for its use.

Pending Cases with CBI

*249. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have specified any time-limit for completion of investigation of the pending cases with CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure investigation within a reasonable time frame?

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 process of investigation is governed by statutory provisions that prescribe the manner of investigation of an offence. Accordingly, the Government has not specified any time limit for completion of cases under investigation. However, since the efficiency and effectiveness of the CBI is determined by the quality and pace of cases under investigation, periodic monitoring is done to decide the steps and action necessary to reduce the delays in investigation.

Review of Nutrition and ICDS Scheme

*250. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has undertaken a major review of nutrition sector and ICDS scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to huge demand there are problems in delivery, quality and coordination;

(d) if so, the status of ICDS scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make nutritional programmes and ICDS scheme meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Two review reports on nutrition sector, including, inter-alia, the ICDS Scheme, titled "*Wasting Away: The Crisis of Malnutrition in India*" and "*Improving Household Food & Nutrition Security in India: Achievement and Challenges Ahead*", were prepared by the World Bank in 1998 and 2001, respectively.

The report "*Wasting Away: The Crisis of Malnutrition in India*" aims to review the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of public spending on nutrition in India, and suggests how these might be enhanced. It recommends priority actions for major nutrition efforts, including, inter-alia, Integrated Child Development Services Programme.

The thrust of the report "Improving Household Food & Nutrition Security in India: Achievement and the Challenges Ahead" is on critical analysis and exhaustive review of various programmes of Government of India targeted at providing food and nutrition security at the household level and the weaknesses and strengths of these programmes.

(c) to (e) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) theme is the world's largest community-based child development programme, which aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and expectant & nursing mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education. Currently, services under the Scheme are being provided to about 388 lakh beneficiaries, comprising of about 322 lakh children below 6 years and about 66 lakh expectant & nursing mothers through a network of about 6 lakh Anganwadi Centres.

ICDS is a Centrally-sponsored scheme, wherein the Central Government is responsible for programme planning & operating costs and the State Governments are responsible for programme implementation and for providing supplementary nutrition out of State's resources.

Improvement is a continuous process. Several steps have been taken during the past few years to make the delivery of services under the Scheme more effective and result-oriented. With concerted efforts, the supplementary nutrition beneficiaries have increased from 290 lakh in March 2001 to 388 lakh in March 2003, with the beneficiaries per Anganwadi Centre increasing from 70 in March 2001 to 83 in March 2003.

State-wise status of ICDS Scheme is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of ICDS Projects*						Number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)		Number of Beneficiaries		
		Sanctioned			Operational							
		General	Funded by World Bank	Total	General	Funded by World Bank	Total	Sanctioned	Operation	Children <6 years	Expectant & Nursing Mothers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	220	143	363	207	143	350	53700	52419	2196322	599476	2795798
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56	—	56	56	—	56	2326	1319	63279	9039	72318
3.	Assam$	196	—	196	151	—	151	20152	19719	734224	97586	831810
4.	Bihar$	248	146	394	25	146	171	20058	17683	248957	29142	278099

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	73	79	152	73	79	152	20289	20146	1144937	244811	1389748
6.	Goa	11	—	11	11	—	11	1216	1011	40155	8700	48855
7.	Gujarat	227	—	227	227	—	227	37961	32830	1387354	230903	1618257
8.	Haryana	116	—	116	116	—	116	13546	13546	984346	237923	1222269
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	—	72	72	—	72	7354	7314	274905	60337	335242
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	121	—	121	120	—	120	10321	10125	216416	43974	260390
11.	Jharkhand	153	51	204	101	51	152	12478	11372	151605	30355	181960
12.	Karnataka	185	—	185	185	—	185	40301	40285	2560241	458036	3018277
13.	Kerala	120	43	163	120	43	163	25315	24289	918780	106679	1025459
14.	Madhya Pradesh	151	185	336	151	185	336	47728	47229	2791814	674024	3465838
15.	Maharashtra	271	99	370	264	99	363	61866	56235	3935658	592210	4527868
16.	Manipur	34	—	34	34	—	34	4413	4371	158916	28543	187459
17.	Meghalaya	32	—	32	32	—	32	2218	2200	186171	32567	218738
18.	Mizoram	21	—	21	21	—	21	1341	1193	98807	23286	122093
19.	Nagaland	54	—	54	52	—	52	2595	2575	230579	39024	269603
20.	Orissa	326	—	326	308	—	308	31855	31209	2049015	611154	2660169
21.	Punjab	142	—	142	142	—	142	15829	14017	444313	111419	555732
22.	Rajasthan	191	66	257	191	66	257	35710	35457	2379278	530799	2910077
23.	Sikkim	5	—	5	5	—	5	500	492	31513	5509	37022
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	—	434	431	—	431	42279	31713	1267784	399503	1667287
25.	Tripura	42	—	42	39	—	39	3692	3553	119350	15192	134542
26.	Uttar Pradesh	726	110	836	409	109	518	64570	56871	3829955	750577	4580532
27.	Uttaranchal	99	—	99	54	—	54	4243	3971	83789	18598	102387
28.	West Bengal	358	—	358	340	—	340	56544	51700	3149901	486296	3636197
29.	A & N Islands	5	—	5	5	—	5	527	429	26391	5719	32110
30.	Chandigarh	3	—	3	3	—	3	300	300	30395	6553	36948
31.	Delhi	29	—	29	28	—	28	3842	3842	416124	69548	485672
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	1	1	—	1	138	138	11221	1878	13099
33.	Daman & Diu	2	—	2	2	—	2	87	87	8502	1917	10419
34.	Lakshadweep	1	—	1	1	—	1	74	74	3877	986	4863
35.	Pondicherry	5	—	5	5	—	5	677	677	35681	10942	46623
	All India	4730	922	5652	3982	921	4903	646045	600391	32210555	6573205	38783760

* As on 31.3.2003.

$ As on 30.9.2002.

Infant/Mother Mortality Rate

*251. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) the details of child birth and infant/mother mortality rate and malnutrition among children and pregnant women in the country for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to check malnutrition and mother/child mortality rate during the last three years till date and achievements made by each State during the said period;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any effective programme for the current Five Year Plan particularly for those States where malnutrition and mother/child mortality rate is high;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any State has sought additional funds to combat the same;

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

(g) whether the deaths of women due to pregnancy related complications have increased; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures being taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) of the Registrar General of India, the crude birth rate (CBR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) as per State-wise for the period 1999-2001 is at Statement-I and Statement-II enclosed. Estimates of maternal mortality rate are available only for the years 1997 and 1998. These are enclosed at Statement-III. State-wise information on nutritional status for children and pregnant women during the last three years is not available. A statement showing the nutritional status of children below three years of age as available from National Family Survey (NFHS 1992-1993 and NFHS 1998-1999) is at Statement IVa and IVb. For pregnant mothers, information is available only on prevalence of anaemia from NFHS (1998-1999). A statement showing prevalence of anaemia among pregnant mothers and children less than three years of age is at Statement-V enclosed.

(b) A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and National Plan of Action on nutrition is being implemented through various Departments of Government of India. The Department of Women & Child Development has been implementing the Integrated Child Development Services, nutrition component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and Nutrition Education programmes of Food and Nutrition Board to improve the overall nutritional status of young children and pregnant and nursing women. Under the National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme of the Government of India, Iron Folic Acid tablets are distributed to high risk groups such as pregnant women, lactating women, women using IUDs and pre-school children between 1 to 5 years. Government is also implementing the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) since 1995, primarily to improve nutritional intake of pregnant women belonging to BPL families.

For bringing down child, infant and maternal mortality rates, various interventions are being implemented as part of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme in all districts of the country. For reducing child and infant mortality, the interventions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency and essential new born care.

The interventions for reducing maternal mortality and improving safe motherhood include essential obstetric care; emergency obstetric care; provision of referral transport through Panchayats, provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse and Mid-wives; staff nurses, doctors and anaesthetists. Funds are also being provided for schemes to improve outreach of services like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centers and community health centers; training of Dais in 156 districts and holding of Reproductive and Child Health camps in 178 districts and RCH Outreach Scheme in 151 districts with adverse health indicators. The implementation of these interventions will be further strengthened during the second phase of RCH Programme.

Over the three-year period (1999-2001) for which the details of crude birth rate and infant mortality rate are available, the CBR has declined from 26.1 to 25.4 and infant mortality rate from 70 per thousand births to 66. The State-wise figures during this period are at Statement-I and Statement-II. Proportion of underweight children, less than three years of age has also shown a decline from 53 percent as per National Family Health Survey (1992-1993) to 47 percent in NFHS (1998-1999).

(c) and (d) The programmes and interventions listed above will continue and new interventions included as per the needs of the programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan. As part of the initiatives taken under the National Population Policy—2000, an Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. A new budget head of EAG Schemes has been approved for the Tenth Plan at an outlay of Rs. 250 crores to address the unmet needs of 8 EAG States either under ongoing schemes or through new initiatives. In order to strengthen the delivery of services, 8669 new sub centers are to set up during the 10th Plan. 5176 of these will be in the EAG States.

(e) and (f) Under the RCH programme, grants are released regularly to the States/UTs to implement various interventions, which are aimed primarily to reduce maternal, and child mortality keeping in view state's requirement as per their annual action plans. A statement showing funds released to the states and UTs in the last three years under the RCH Programme is at Statement-VI.

(g) and (h) As per the Survey of Causes of Death (Rural) conducted by the office of the Registrar General of India, the contribution of deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium to overall deaths has declined from 0.9 percent in 1994 to 0.6 percent in 1998. Information for subsequent years is not available.

In order to accelerate the decline, there is proposal to introduce a centrally sponsored scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme and other ongoing maternal health schemes, but will also introduce new initiatives. The scheme primarily aims at improving institutional deliveries and nutrition of lactating mothers belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) so as to reduce maternal, neo-natal and infant mortality.

Statement I

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	1999	2000	2001*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.7	21.3	20.8
2.	Assam	27.0	26.9	26.8
3.	Bihar	30.4	31.9	31.2
4.	Chhattisgarh	26.9	26.7	26.3
5.	Gujarat	25.4	25.2	24.9
6.	Haryana	26.8	26.9	26.7
7.	Jharkhand	26.3	26.5	26.3
8.	Karnataka	22.3	22 0	22.2
9.	Kerala	18.0	17.9	17.2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	30.7	31.4	30.8
11.	Maharashtra	21.1	21.0	20.6
12.	Orissa	24.1	24.3	23.4
13.	Punjab	21.5	21.6	21.2
14.	Rajasthan	31.1	31.4	31.0
15.	Tamil Nadu	19.3	19.3	19.0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	32.1	32.8	32.1
17.	West Bengal	20.7	20.7	20.5
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.3	22.3	22.0
19.	Delhi	20.3	20.3	18.7
20.	Goa	14.3	14.3	39.0
21.	Himachal Pradesh	23.8	22.1	21.0
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.9	19.7	20.1
23.	Manipur	18.6	18.3	18.2
24.	Meghalaya	28.7	28.5	28.3
25.	Mizoram	17.0	16.0	15.7
26.	Nagaland	11.8	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	21.6	21.8	21.6
28.	Tripura	17.0	16.5	16.1

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Uttaranchal	19.6	20.2	18.5
30.	A&N Islands	18.1	19.1	16.8
31.	Chandigarh	17.9	17.5	16.1
32.	D&N Haveli	34.2	34.9	29.3
33.	Daman & Diu	26.9	23.7	22.3
34.	Lakshadweep	25.1	26.1	20.4
35.	Pondicherry	17.7	17.8	17.9
	All India	26.1	25.8	25.4

Source: Sample registration system

Statement II

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

Sl. No.	State	1999	2000	2001 (Prov)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66	65	66
2.	Assam	76	75	73
3.	Bihar	63	62	62
4.	Chhattisgarh	78	79	76
5.	Gujarat	63	62	60
6.	Haryana	68	67	65
7.	Jharkhand	71	70	62
8.	Karnataka	58	57	58
9.	Kerala	14	14	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	90	88	86
11.	Maharashtra	48	48	45
12.	Orissa	97	95	90
13.	Punjab	53	52	51
14.	Rajasthan	81	79	79
15.	Tamil Nadu	52	51	49
16.	Uttar Pradesh	84	83	82
17.	West Bengal	52	51	51
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	44	39
19.	Delhi	31	32	29
20.	Goa	21	23	19
21.	Himachal Pradesh	62	60	54
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	52	50	48
23.	Manipur	25	23	20
24.	Meghalaya	56	58	56
25.	Mizoram	19	21	19
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	49	49	42
28.	Tripura	42	41	39
29.	Uttaranchal	52	50	48
30.	A&N Islands	25	23	18
31.	Chandigarh	28	28	24
32.	D&N Haveli	56	58	58
33.	Daman & Diu	35	48	40
34.	Lakshadweep	32	27	33
35.	Pondicherry	22	23	22
	All India*	70	68	66

NA — Not Available

Source: SRS

Statement III

Maternal Mortality Rate
(per 1,00,000 live births)
India and bigger states

	1997	1998
1	2	3
INDIA	408	407
Andhra Pradesh	154	159
Assam	401	409
Bihar	451	452

1	2	3
Gujarat	29	28
Haryana	105	103
Karnataka	195	195
Kerala	195	198
Madhya Pradesh	498	498
Maharashtra	135	135
Orissa	361	367
Punjab	196	199
Rajasthan	677	670
Tamil Nadu	76	79
Uttar Pradesh	707	707
West Bengal	264	266

Source: SRS

Note: (i) Due to small sample size, the estimates for smaller States are not reliable.

(ii) Registrar General India discontinued the release of this data beyond 1998.

Statement IV-a

Nutritional status of children by State

Percentage of children under age 4 years classified as under nourished on three anthropometric indices of nutritional status, according to state, India, 1992-93

Sl. No.	State	Weight for age		Height for age		Weight for height	
		% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*	% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*	% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA		20.6	53.4	28.9	52.0	3.2	17.5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.6	49.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.	Assam	18.7	50.4	26.3	52.2	1.7	10.8
3.	Bihar	31.1	62.6	39.5	60.9	4.1	21.8
4.	Gujarat	17.6	50.1	25.3	48.2	3.7	18.9
5.	Haryana	9.0	37.9	19.3	46.7	0.6	5.9
6.	Karnataka	19.4	54.3	22.7	47.6	2.6	17.4
7.	Kerala	6.1	28.5	9.0	27.4	1.3	11.6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	22.3	57.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
9.	Maharashtra	21.3	54.2	23.5	48.5	4.2	20.2
10.	Orissa	22.7	53.3	25.2	48.2	3.6	21.3
11.	Punjab	14.2	45.9	15.7	40.0	2.8	19.9
12.	Rajasthan	19.2	41.6	26.6	43.1	5.2	19.5
13.	Tamil Nadu	13.3	4.2	NA	NA	NA	NA
14.	Uttar Pradesh	24.6	59.0	35.6	59.5	2.7	16.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	West Bengal	18.4	56.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.5	39.7	27.9	53.9	3.6	11.2
17.	Delhi	12.0	41.6	19.3	43.2	2.7	11.9
18.	Goa	8.9	35.0	11.0	32.5	2.4	15.3
19.	Himachal Pradesh	12.9	47.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	13.8	44.5	18.6	40.8	3.4	14.8
21.	Manipur	7.2	30.1	16.0	33.6	1.2	8.8
22.	Meghalaya	17.2	45.5	38.4	50.8	4.8	18.9
23.	Mizoram	5.3	28.1	16.0	41.3	0.6	2.2
24.	Nagaland	7.6	28.7	13.2	32.4	2.3	12.7
25.	Tripura	18.6	48.8	21.3	46.0	0.7	17.5

* Includes children who are below-3 SD from the International Reference Population median

Source: NFHS-I; 1992-93 NA–Not Available

Statement IV-b

Nutritional status of children by state

Percentage of children under age 3 years classified as under nourished on three anthropometric indices of nutritional status, according to state, India, 1998-99

Sl. No.	State	Weight for age		Height for age		Weight for height	
		% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*	% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*	% below-3 SD	% below-2 SD*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
INDIA		18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7	14.2	38.6	1.6	9.1
2.	Assam	13.3	36.0	33.7	50.2	3.3	13.3
3.	Bihar	25.5	54.4	33.6	53.7	5.5	21.0
4.	Chhattisgarh	25.9	60.8	35.1	57.9	3.5	18.5
5.	Gujarat	16.2	45.1	23.3	43.6	2.4	16.2
6.	Haryana	10.1	34.6	24.3	50.0	0.8	5.3
7.	Jharkhand	26.8	54.3	29.4	49.0	4.6	25.4
8.	Karnataka	16.5	43.9	15.9	36.6	3.9	20.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Kerala	4.7	26.9	7.3	21.9	0.7	11.1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1	28.3	51.0	4.3	19.8
11.	Maharashtra	17.6	49.6	14.1	39.9	2.5	21.2
12.	Orissa	20.7	54.4	17.6	44.0	3.9	24.3
13.	Punjab	8.8	28.7	17.2	39.2	0.8	7.1
14.	Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7
15.	Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7	12.0	29.4	3.8	19.9
16.	Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7	31.0	55.5	2.1	11.1
17.	West Bengal	16.3	48.7	19.2	41.5	1.6	13.6
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3	11.9	26.5	2.0	7.9
19.	Delhi	10.1	34.7	18.0	36.8	4.1	12.5
20.	Goa	4.7	28.6	4.8	18.1	0.7	13.1
21.	Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6	18.1	41.3	3.3	16.9
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.3	34.5	17.3	38.8	1.2	11.8
23.	Manipur	5.3	27.5	11.2	31.3	1.8	8.2
24.	Meghalaya	11.3	37.9	24.5	44.9	1.0	13.3
25.	Mizoram	5.0	27.7	13.9	34.6	2.8	10.2
26.	Nagaland	7.4	24.1	11.7	33.0	2.4	10.4
27.	Sikkim	4.2	20.6	9.7	31.7	0.8	4.8
28.	Tripura	14.4	42.6	22.0	40.4	1.9	13.1
29.	Uttaranchal	16.0	41.8	5.7	46.6	1.1	7.6

* Includes children who are below-3 SD from the International Reference Population median.

Source: NFHS-I; 1998-99

Statement V

Anaemia among Pregnant Women & Children

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	% of Pregnant Women With Anaemia	% of Children with Anaemia
1	2	3	4
INDIA		49.7	74.3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.8	72.3
2.	Assam	62.3	63.2
3.	Bihar	49.8	81.3
4.	Chhattisgarh	68.3	87.7
5.	Gujarat	47.4	74.5
6.	Haryana	55.5	83.9
7.	Jharkhand	64.0	82.4
8.	Karnataka	48.6	70.6
9.	Kerala	20.3	43.9
10.	Madhya Pradesh	53.8	75.0

1	2	3	4
11.	Maharashtra	52.6	76.0
12.	Orissa	60.5	72.3
13.	Punjab	37.1	80.0
14.	Rajasthan	51.4	82.3
15.	Tamil Nadu	57.1	69.0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	46.0	73.9
17.	West Bengal	56.9	78.3
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	49.2	54.5
19.	Delhi	44.7	69.0
20.	Goa	35.0	53.4
21.	Himachal Pradesh	31.8	69.9
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	56.3	71.1
23.	Manipur	36.7	45.2
24.	Meghalaya	58.6	67.6
25.	Mizoram	45.7	57.2
26.	Nagaland	38.2	43.7
27.	Sikkim	47.6	76.5
28.	Tripura	53.6	61.8
29.	Uttaranchal	49.8	77.4

Source: National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99)

Statement VI

Fund Released under RCH Programme

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Funds Release during the year			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1662.15	2021.72	720.92	4404.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	175.72	153.26	34.04	363.02
3.	Assam	474.86	1244.53	312.90	2032.29
4.	Bihar	2711.64	1676.45	2388.13	6776.22
5.	Jharkhand	37.00	515.35	374.01	926.36
6.	Goa	13.40	22.08	9.26	44.74
7.	Gujarat	983.39	7776.26	500.36	9260.00
8.	Haryana	1664.30	1236.25	496.38	3396.93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	427.02	249.07	71.33	747.43
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	555.39	297.90	164.04	1017.33
11.	Karnataka	1671.15	1782.66	488.07	3941.87
12.	Kerala	1165.32	768.03	201.28	2134.63
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3553.34	137796	702.09	5633.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Chhattisgarh	314.10	880.07	223.99	1418.16
15.	Maharashtra	1256.71	3195.03	926.14	5377.88
16.	Manipur	421.71	860.86	59.70	1342.27
17.	Meghalaya	67.61	146.28	64.40	278.30
18.	Mizoram	729.58	747.62	22.23	1499.44
19.	Nagaland	146.96	116.51	41.61	305.07
20.	Orissa	1524.79	1930.77	327.76	3783.32
21.	Punjab	686.25	621.10	249.77	1557.13
22.	Rajasthan	2313.58	3954.41	757.10	7025.10
23.	Sikkim	43.07	69.30	13.68	126.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	2373.39	541.25	515.71	3430.35
25.	Tripura	166.18	446.87	70.35	683.40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4654.45	7567.00	4390.66	16612.11
27.	Uttaranchal	208.59	440.98	132.80	782.37
28.	West Bengal	2073.46	1949.32	749.10	4771.87
29.	A&N Islands	31.04	134.89	7.36	173.29
30.	Chandigarh	117.61	23.20	8.59	149.40
31.	D&N Haveli	3.88	14.02	2.64	20.53
32.	Daman & Diu	4.87	8.66	2.09	15.61
33.	Delhi	311.22	297.60	338.97	947.79
34.	Lakshadweep	21.44	11.42	1.55	34.41
35.	Pondicherry	21.79	21.58	8.54	51.91
	Total	32586.94	43100.26	15377.55	91064.76

Figures provisional.

National Commission for Women

*252. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 12 years, eight States and six Union Territories have yet to constitute Women's Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the National Commission for Women Act to make it mandatory for the States to constitute Women Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which such law is likely to be enacted;

(e) whether it is a fact that the States which have constituted such Commissions have not been provided with sufficient funds and infrastructural facilities;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that each State/Union Territory constitutes such commission and they function smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (g) The setting up of State Women Commissions comes within the purview of the State Governments. The responsibility in respect of funding of the women commissions and providing infrastructural facilities for them is also that of the respective State Governments. As a result of continuous persuasion by the Central Government, all the States except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttaranchal have constituted state level women commissions. The Government of Meghalaya has informed that as the women enjoy equal and respectable status in the society, it does not consider it necessary to constitute state women commission.

In respect of the Union Territories, Delhi and Pondicherry have set up women commissions. Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have stated that given the small size of the UT an independent commission would not be justified.

It is expected that the process of persuasion will make the remaining few states also to set up women commissions. It is also expected that the States and Union Territories will provide the women commissions with funds considered fit for being utilized for the purposes of the commissions.

[Translation]

NCERT Books

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

(a) the classes for which courses have been changed and new text books introduced by the NCERT during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Under the Programme of Action (POA) 1992 of the National Educational Policy 1986, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was advised 'to initiate necessary changes' before 1997. The 'Council' did initiate this work but it cought momentum only in 1999. The National Curriculum Framework for Secondary Education was published in the year 2000 and the syllabi were accordingly improved thereafter. The 'Council' has introduced new text books in phased manner w.e.f. 2002-03 session.

Prices of N.C.E.R.T. Books

*254. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the NCERT books have become unaffordably costly for the common students;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide text books to the common students at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Inspite of high quality and multi-coloured printing, prices of NCERT text books are reasonable. In fact, a comparison of prices of NCERT text books with those published by private publishers shows that the prices of NCERT books are much lower than those of private publishers.

[English]

Disinvestment of PSUs

*255. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings proposed to be disinvested during the current financial year (2003-04);

(b) the progress and status of each of the PSUs to be disinvested during the said period;

(c) the financial position of such PSUs;

(d) the names/number of companies in the race for acquiring controlling stake of these PSUs, PSU-wise; and

(e) the manner in which the amount realized therefrom would be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Implementation of the disinvestment programme depends on a variety of factors including market conditions, industry wise business cycle fluctuations, interest of the prospective bidders and adequacy of the price bid. Moreover, Government does not sell its equity holding in distress. In view of this, the PSUs in which disinvestment process will be completed during 2003-04 cannot be identified. Names of the PSUs in which disinvestment decision has been taken and disinvestment is in progress are at Statement-I. The procedure followed for disinvestment is well defined and has been refined over the years. It involves multiple stages of consultation and decision making in the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) formulated specifically for each case, the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD) and the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD). The procedure is followed in all cases However, the current status of process of each case can be potentially, commercially sensitive information which is therefore not disclosed

(c) The financial position of the PSUs under disinvestment is at Statement-II enclosed.

(d) The names of bidders in a transaction are not disclosed since this is commercially sensitive information.

(e) The amount realised from disinvestment is presently credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The annual provisions in the Budget for generating investment and employment, restructuring Public Sector Undertakings and retiring public debt have exceeded the proceeds from disinvestment.

Statement I

Cases in which disinvestment decision has been taken and strategic sale is in progress

1. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
2. National Fertiliser Ltd.
3. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
4. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
5. Burn Standard & Co.
6. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.
7. Engineering Projects India Ltd.
8. Fertiliser and Chemiclas Travancore Ltd.
9. Hindusan Copper Ltd.
10. Madras Fertilisers Ltd.
11. MECON Ltd.
12. MSTC Ltd.
13. National Aluminium Company Ltd. (Not being pursued at present)
14. National Instruments Ltd.
15. NEPA Ltd.
16. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
17. Shipping Corporation of India
18. Tyre Corporation of India
19. Tungabhadara Steel Products Ltd.
20. Engineers India Ltd.
21. Manganese Ore India Ltd.
22. Sponge Iron India Ltd.
23. Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd.
24. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit)
25. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.
26. Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCI)
    (i) Centaur Hotel Airport, Delhi (including Chefair Delhi)
    (ii) Chefair Mumbai
27. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
    (i) Hotel Samrat; New Delhi (Lease-cum-management contract)
    (ii) Hotel Jaipur Ashok

(iii) Hotel Patlipura Ashok

(iv) Hotel Kalinga Ashok

(v) Hotel Jammu Ashok

28. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.

29. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

30. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilises Ltd.

31. National Building Construction Copn. Ltd.

32. Mineral Exploration Corpon. Ltd.

33. Hotel Neelanchal Ashok, Puri

34. Hotel Lakeview Ashok, Bhopal

35. Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi

36. Hotel Bramputra Ashok, Guwahati

37. Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry

38. Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar

39. Hotel Punjab Ashok, Anandpur Sahib

II. Through Offer for Sale

40. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

41. Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.

III. For residual shares of Government through Offer for Sale route

42. CMC Ltd.

43. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)

44. IBP Ltd.

45. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)

46. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)

IV. Disinvestment completed but pending decisions of Courts/BIFR

47. Jessop & Co. Ltd.

48. Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd., Palakkad

Statement II

Name of PSU	Profit after Tax (Rs. in crores)
1	2
Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	(-)62.68
National Fertiliser Ltd.	40.61
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	8.01
Braithwaite & Co.	(-)33.55
Burn Standard & Co.	(-)78.35
Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	1.46
Engineering Projects India Ltd.	9.43
Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	0.57
Hindustan Copper Ltd.	(-)184.04
Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	(-)70.31
MECON Ltd.	(-)112.68
MSTC Ltd.	4.54
National Aluminium Company Ltd.	409.35
National Instruments Ltd.	(-)5.90
NEPA Ltd.	(-)35.16
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	(-)40.79
Shipping Corporation of India	241.56
Tyre Corporation of India	(-)67.41
Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	(-)20.03
Engineers India Ltd.	24.71
Manganese Ore India Ltd.	19.52
Sponge Iron India Ltd.	0.55
Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd.	(-)37.69
Instrumentation Ltd., Koa (Mother Unit) Includes Palakkad unit which is disinvested separately.	(-)30.49
Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	436.00
Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (Note1)	(-)35.66
India Tourism Development Corporation (Note 2)	(-)32.86
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	849.83
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	787.98
Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	(-)0.21
Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri	(-)0.98
Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal	(-)0.51

1	2
Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	0.16
Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	(-)0.25
Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar	0.05
National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.	3.70
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	24.21
Central Inland Water Corporation Ltd.	431.28
Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	(-)0.57
Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.	101.55
Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	18.76
CMC Ltd.	37.05
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	589.00
IBP Ltd.	87.00
Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	204.00

Note 1. Data is given for HCI as a whole. However, 2 units of HCI at Centaur Hotel Airport, Delhi (Including Chefair Delhi), Chefair Mumbai are being disinvested.

Note 2. Data is given for ITDC as a whole. However, 5 units of ITDC at Hotel Samrat; New Delhi, Jaipur Patliputra, Bhubaneswar and Jammu are being disinvested, Hotel Punjab Ashok, Anandpur Sahib is under construction.

Note 3. Financial Data is for 2001-02 except in the case of CMC, IBP and IPCL where 2002-03 results have been used. For VSNL data for nine months ending December 2002 has been used.

Eradication of Kala Azar

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

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to Kala Azar disease a large number of persons have been affected in the country recently particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether any Central team has been sent to the affected States to assess the situation;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to provide financial assistance and relief for the eradication of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Kala-azar is endemic in Bihar and a few districts of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. As per reports received from State Health Authorities, number of Kala-azar Cases, State-wise during the last three years and the current year (upto June, 2003) have been as under:

Affected States	2000 No. of Cases	2001 No. of Cases	2002 No. of cases	2003* No. of Cases
Bihar	12909	10327	9389	5050
Jharkhand	469	589	758	1059
West Bengal	1244	1238	1592	635
Uttar Pradesh	47	22	32	2
Imported Cases treated in Delhi	84	63**	74	7

* As per reports received upto June, 2003

** One imported cases treated in Gujarat.

(c) to (e) The problem of control of Kala-azar is addressed under the Centrally Sponsored Kala-azar control Programme. The Central Government provides anti-Kala-azar drugs and insecticides for Kala-azar control. The concerned State Governments bear the cost of transportation, spray wages etc. However, it is now proposed to meet this expenditure also from the Central Budget so as to facilitate better implementation.

The strategy for Kala-azar control adopted under the programme includes:—

- Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas.
- Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System.
- Health Education and Community Participation.

Situation is monitored through regular reports/returns and periodic visits by Officers from the Centre.

Disinvestment of Profit Earning PSUs

*257. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Sector Undertakings brought under the purview of disinvestment, unit-wise;

(b) the extent of disinvestments already taken place out of the total number, State-wise; and

(c) the details in respect of whom the Government have decided to part with the controlling share and the number out of them which is profit earning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) All non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) whether they are profit making or loss incurring are to be disinvested. The following industries have been identified as strategic and therefore are not to be disinvested:—

(i) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence air-crafts and warships;

(ii) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries);

(iii) Railway transport Government has also decided that in the case of Indian Oil Company (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) Government shareholding would not be reduced below 51%. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is also not to be disinvested. All other non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises can be disinvested.

(b) During the period 1991-92 to 1999-2000, Government had disinvested a minority stake in 39 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through market sale of shares, out of which 4 PSUs were subsequently disinvested through a process of Strategic Sale alongwith transfer of management control to a Strategic Partner. In addition to these 4 PSUs, since 1999-2000, 7 PSUs, 19 hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and 3 hotel properties of Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) were disinvested through the process of Strategic Sale. The details of PSUs disinvested through Strategic Sale are at Statement-I enclosed alongwith the name of the states where there are registered.

(c) The list of PSUs which are being disinvested is at Statement-II enclosed. Out of these 48 PSUs, 26 are profit making.

Statement I

Name of PSUs which have been disinvested through Strategic Sale since 1999-2000 till date

Sl. No.	Name	State in which Registered Office is located
1.	Modern Food Industries Ltd. (MFIL)	New Delhi
2.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	New Delhi
3.	CMC	Andhra Pradesh
4.	HTL	Tamil Nadu
5.	Lagan Jute Machinery Corporation	West Bengal
6.	IBP	West Bengal
7.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	Maharashtra
8.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Orissa
9.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)	Rajasthan
10.	Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL)	New Delhi
11.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	Gujarat
12.	Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)—19 Hotels	New Delhi
13.	Hotel Corporation of India (HCI)—3 Hotels	Maharashtra

Note: 1. The following hotel properties of ITDC were disinvested; Agra Ashok, Bodhgaya Ashok, Hassan Ashok, TBABR Mamallapuram, Madurai Ashok, Bangalore Ashok, Qutab, New Delhi, Lodhi, New Delhi, LVPH, Udaipur, Manali Ashok, KABR Kovalam, Aurangabad Ashok, Airport Kolkata Ashok, Khajuraho Ashok, Varanasi Ashok, Kanishka, New Delhi, Indraprastha, New Delhi, Chandigarh Hotel project, and Ranjit, New Delhi.

Note: 2. The following hotel properties of Hotel Corporation of India were disinvested; Centaur Hotel Juhu, Bombay, Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd., Rajgir and Centaur Hotel Airport, Mumbai.

Statement II

Cases where disinvestment is in progress

I.	**Strategic Sale**		
1.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	—	Loss-making
2.	National Fertiliser Ltd.	—	Profit-making
3.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	—	Profit-making
4.	Braithwaite & Ltd.	—	Loss-making
5.	Burn Standard & Co.	—	Loss-making
6.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	—	Profit-making
7.	Engineering Projects India Ltd.	—	Profit-making
8.	Fertiliser and Chemiclas Travancore Ltd.	—	Profit-making
9.	Hindusan Copper Ltd.	—	Loss-making
10.	Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	—	Loss-making
11.	MECON Ltd.	—	Loss-making
12.	MSTC Ltd.	—	Profit-making
13.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	—	Profit-making
14.	National Instruments Ltd.	—	Loss-making
15.	NEPA Ltd.	—	Loss-making
16.	State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	—	Loss-making
17.	Shipping Corporation of India	—	Profit-making
18.	Tyre Corporation of India	—	Loss-making
19.	Tungabahadra Steel Products Ltd.	—	Loss-making
20.	Engineers India Ltd.	—	Profit-making
21.	Manganese Ore India Ltd.	—	Profit-making
22.	Sponge Iron India Ltd.	—	Profit-making
23.	Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd.	—	Loss-making
24.	Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit)	—	Loss-making
25.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	—	Profit-making
26.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCI):		
	(i) Centaur Hotel (including Chefair Delhi) at Airport, Delhi	—	Loss-making
	(ii) Chefair Mumbai	—	Loss-making

27.	India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC):		
	(i) Hotel Samrat; New Delhi (Lease-cum-management contract)	—	Loss-making
	(ii) Hotel Jaipur Ashok	—	Loss-making
	(iii) Hotel Patlipura Ashok	—	Loss-making
	(iv) Hotel Kalinga Ashok	—	Loss-making
	(v) Hotel Jammu Ashok	—	Loss-making
28.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	—	Profit-making
29.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	—	Profit-making
30.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilises Ltd.	—	Profit-making
31.	National Building Construction Copn. Ltd.	—	Profit-making
32.	Mineral Exploration Corpon. Ltd.	—	Loss-making
33.	Hotel Neelanchal Ashok; Puri	—	Loss-making
34.	Hotel Lakeview Ashok; Bhopal	—	Loss-making
35.	Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	—	Loss-making
36.	Hotel Bramputra Ashok; Guwahati	—	Profit-making
37.	Hotel Pondicherry Ashok; Pondicherry	—	Loss-making
38.	Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar	—	Profit-making
39.	Hotel Punjab Ashok, Anandpur Sahib	—	Loss-making
II.	**Through Offer for Sale**		
40.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	—	Profit-making
41.	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.	—	Profit-making
III.	**For residual shares of Government through Offer for Sale route**		
42.	CMC Ltd.	—	Profit-making
43.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	—	Profit-making
44.	IBP Ltd.	—	Profit-making
45.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	—	Profit-making
46.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)	—	Profit-making
IV.	**Disinvestment completed but pending decisions of Courts/BIFR**		
47.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	—	Loss-making
48.	Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd., Palakkad	—	Profit-making

Note: Financial Data is for 2001-02 except in the case of CMC, IBP and IPCL where 2002-03 results have been used. For VSNL data for nine months ending December 2002 has been used.

[Translation]

Speed Post Service

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

(a) whether the Speed Post Service is not available even in certain State capitals and major cities of the country;

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

(c) the year-wise details of increase in business of the Speed Post Service during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide Speed Post Service in more and more towns of the country, making it compete with other private courier services in respect of rates and ensure better functioning of the Speed Post Centres?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Speed Post Service is available in all the States and has a network linking 140 major cities as well as 762 towns and district headquarters.

(c) Year	Traffic (in lakhs)	Revenue (in crores)
2000-01	377.77	151.44
2001-02	527.97	196.53
2002-03	634.07	243.01

(d) Speed Post services are extended to more and more towns of the country based on business and operational parameters. This is an ongoing process.

In order to compete with private courier services in respect of rates, the Department offers structured volume based discounts and credit facilities to bulk customers as also larger discounts to commercially Very Important Customers. For ensuring better functioning of Speed Post Centres, the Department has drawn up plans for upgradation and computerization of booking and delivery offices and strengthening of the Track and Trace (Speed Net) facilities.

[English]

Breast Cancer

*259. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether breast cancer cases are reported more in urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lack of awareness is one of the main reasons for the growing incidence of breast cancer in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Breast cancer is one of the commonest cancers in women in India. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) maintains 6 population-based Cancer Registries; one in a rural area of Maharahstra and Barshi and five in the urban areas of Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai. While the incidence of breast cancer is registered as 24.7 in Mumbai in 1997-98, the corresponding incidence in the rural areas of Barshi is 15.1. Rural data on other population-based sites is not available. ICMR has started five population-based registry sites at Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Delhi to get comparative data on the incidence of breast cancer between rural and urban areas. The study would be completed by September, 2003.

Increased awareness about breast cancer will definitely have an impact on the incidence and effective treatment in early stages. Delayed approach to health services resulting in detection of breast cancer at advanced stages of the disease makes it difficult to treat.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme, this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and also for facilitating treatment of various types of cancer including breast cancer. The total outlay for the programme in the 10th Five Year Plan is Rs. 285.00 crores. Electronic and print media are being used to spread awareness among the general population about cancers including cost effective detection of breast cancer (by self-examination).

The Ministry supports 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States and Union Territories which act as referral centers for treatment of cancer cases in those regions. The Ministry also funds setting up of Oncology wings in medical colleges and Cobalt Theraphy Units in Government and NGO-run institution.

The ICMR, in partnership with the Himachal Pradesh Government, is running a programme for awareness and early detection of breast cancer in three districts of HP, namely, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Mandi. This scheme aims at spreading awareness among the people and facilitate early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

Education for Disabled Students

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Comprehensive Education Policy for the Disabled Students has totally failed to achieve its objectives;

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

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has ordered the Union and the Delhi Governments to prepare a Comprehensive Education Scheme and ensure transport facilities and supply of books to such students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide requisite benefits to the disabled children studying in various schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a), (b) and (e) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) which has the primary objective of integration of mild to moderately disabled child in regular school has been providing the requisite facilities to such children. The response to the scheme has been encouraging. Under IEDC scheme, benefits of transport allowances, expenses on books, stationery and uniforms, readers allowance in case of blind children after Class V, escort allowance, cost of equipment, attendant for severely orthopaedically handicapped children, boarding and lodging charges for disabled children residing in school hostels are extended to disabled children.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Disinvestment of Brahmputra Ashok

2202. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has offered to buy the Indian Tourism Development Corporation's Stake in the three Star Hotel Brahmputra Ashok;

(b) if so, the details of the Stake and the cost offered by Assam Government; and

(c) the manner in which the process of sale has since proceeded?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) M/s Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, a Joint Venture Company (JVC) between India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) and Government of Assam (GoA) operates Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok. The share capital of the JVC is Rs. 100 lakhs and the shareholding pattern is ITDC51% and GoA49%. While indicating its intention to buy out ITDC's equity in the JVC, GoA has not offered any specific value. In response, Government of India (GoI) has proposed that the State Government may take over ITDC's equity after determination of the value of the property, as had been done for the purpose of fixing the reserve price of other ITDC properties disinvested so far. GoI's proposal also envisages that the reserve price would be apportioned on the basis of passing on 100% unearned increase in the value of the leased land to GoA and the State Government would settle all outstanding liabilities, including outstanding loans of ITDC, and take over the staff of the hotel.

BSNL Board

2203. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute full-time board for BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) BSNL already has a full time Board. Process for filling up the vacancies at the Board level has already been initiated. The Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended a panel of persons for appointment. Further action for filling up the posts is in process as per the prescribed procedure.

New Alternative Tariff

2204. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether expressing concern over the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the new tariff package of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Government have decided to evolve an alternative tariff plan;

(b) if so, the details of the alternative tariff plan; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to TRAI only and Government has no role in the matter. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is free to fix its tariffs for its customers within the limits prescribed by TRAI.

(b) BSNL has implemented a tariff package w.e.f. 1.5.2003. The details are given in statement enclosed.

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

Statement

Details of BSNL tariffs for Basic Services effective from 1.5.2003

Rental: No increase in monthly rental for any class of subscribers.

Rural Rental (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of Local Exchange (No. of lines)	(In Rs.)
Upto 999	50
1000–29,999	110
30,000–99,999	150
1 lakh and above	210

Urban Rental (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of Local Exchange (No. of lines)	(In Rs.)
Upto 29,999	120
30,000–99,999	180
1 lakh and above	250

Free Calls (Per month)

	Number of Calls
Rural	75
Urban	50

Unit Call Charges (In Rupee, per metered call)

Made effective from 1.5.2003

Rural	Urban
1–75 free	1–50 free
76-300@.80	51–300@1.00
Above 300 @ 1.20	Above 300 @ 1.20

Local Calls (Pulse Rate): No change in local call pulse rate (180 seconds to continue) for fixed network

	(in seconds)
Basic to basic	180
Basic to WLL (M)	90
Basic to Cell (Metro)	60
(Circle)	60

STD Rates:

Distance slabs	Charges per minute (Rs.)
0-50 kms	0.80
>50–200 kms.	2.40
>200 kms.	4.80

ISD Rates

Calls made in the countries	Charges per minute (in Rs.)	
	Peak	Off-peak
SAARC and other neighbouring countries	Rs. 21.18	Rs. 18.00
Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	Rs. 24.00	Rs. 21.18
American continent and in Western Hemisphere	Rs. 24.00	Rs. 21.18

Health Mela

2205. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government organize Health Melas to create awareness and provide Health Services to the needy people;

(b) if so, the details of the Health Melas organized during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the concept and mechanism of Health Mela;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Governments to organize Health Mela in October, 2003; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A Statement showing State-wise location of Health Melas held during the last three years is at Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The guidelines for holding Health Melas are at statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) A request has been received for holding Health Mela at Chembur, Mumbai from 3rd–5th October, 2003.

Statement I

State-wise location of Health Melas held during last three years

Sl. No.	Place	State	No. of days	Dates
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	5	17th to 19th September, 2000
2.	Kargil	J&K	3	21st to 23rd October, 2000
3.	Perfect Health Mela	Delhi	10	16th to 25th October, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Patna	Bihar	3	19th to 21st November, 2000
5.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	5	31st Jan. to 4th Feb. 2001
6.	Perambur	Tamil Nadu	1	4th March, 2001
7.	Badal	Punjab	3	September 15-17, 2001
8.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	5	September 30-October 4, 2001
9.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	3	October 30-November 01, 2001
10.	Najafgarh	Delhi	4	November 21-24, 2001
11.	Rabongla	Sikkim	3	Febraury 8-10, 2002.
12.	Baldev (Mathura)	Uttar Pradesh	3	March, 15-17, 2002
13.	Srinagar (Pauri)	Uttaranchal	3	March 23-25, 2002.
14.	Reasi (Jammu)	J&K	3	March, 8-10, 2002.
15.	Rajnandgoan	Chhattisgarh	5	Febraury 17-21, 2002.
16.	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	3	Febraury 24-26, 2002.
17.	Marwahi	Chhattisgarh	3	March 3-5, 2002.
18.	Yamuna Nagar	Haryana	3	March 20-23, 2002
19.	Madhubani	Bihar	3	May 4-6, 2002
20.	Phulwari Sharif	Bihar	5	June, 15-19th 2002
21.	Katihar	Bihar	3	April 7-9, 2002.
22.	Silchar	Assam	3	March 19–21, 2002
23.	Guwahati	Assam	3	March 23-25, 2002
24.	Swadeshi Aarogya Mela	New Delhi	5	February 7-12, 2002
25.	Dharmshala	H.P.	3	31st May to 2nd June 2002
26.	Chamba	H.P.	3	7th to 9th June 2002
27.	Kolkata	West Bengal	3	6th to 8th July, 2002
28.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	3	20th-22nd September, 2002
29.	Sambalpur	Orissa	3	18th-20th April, 2002
30.	Koraput	Orissa	3	15th-17th December, 2002
31.	Shillong	Meghalaya	3	9th-11th December, 2002
32.	Khurja	Uttar Pradesh	3	16th-20th August, 2002
33.	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	3	26th-28th December, 2002
34.	Aizwal	Mizoram	3	22nd to 25th October, 2002.

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Talkatora	Delhi	3	14th-16th November 2002
36.	Motihari	Bihar	3	25th-27th January 2003
37.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	3	29th-31st January 2003
38.	Jehanabad	Bihar	3	8th-10th February 2003
39.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh	3	28th-30th March 2003
40.	Dharavi, Mumbai	Maharashtra	3	29th-31st March 2003
41.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh	3	28th-30th March 2003
42.	Bhoodkalan, Yamunagar	Haryana	3	19th-21st April 2003
43.	Dhindori	Madhya Pradesh	3	12th-14th June 2003
44.	Lunglei	Mizoram	3	11th-13th June 2003
45.	Sohna	Haryana	3	17th-19th July 2003

Statement II

Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Sub: "Parivar Kalyan Avam Swasthya Mela"—Guidelines

"Parivar Kalyan Avam Swasthya Mela" — aims to demonstrate the need for quality services, with convergence and integrated delivery for all segments of population. People become aware of a number of options before them in terms of the different systems of medicine (allopathy, homoeopathy, ayurveda an unani). People begin to comprehend the linkages between preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care as well as between the primary, secondary—tertiary health sectors. They get sensitised to the role of Central Government, State Government, elected local bodies, NGOs and professional organisations. The pre-mela demographic and epidemiological surveys provide vast amounts of data about a given city and its rural hinterland.

The general plan of action for these Melas has been as under:

1. A pre-Mela sample health survey of at least 1000 families to be conducted to prepare the health profile of each individual in the family and also to get the feed back of the status of various programmes being implemented in the area.

2. For each health Mela publicity starts at least 15 days in advance so that there is proper turn out.

3. Health Melas are to be used as a forum to give publicity to the various programmes being run by the Central and State Governments. The occasion is to be used to announce various programmes, which are planned during the year.

4. The venue of the Health Mela should be selected so as it is in the vicinity of a Medical College/Civil Hospital in order to provide facilities of ultra-sound, pathological tests, operations—tubal litigation, NSV, cataract etc.

5. The venue should be centrally located which is easily accessible to the general public.

6. All the services and medicine are to be provided free of costs.

7. All referral cases must be entered into a register indicating name of the patient, complete address and the hospital where the patient has been referred to. The district CMO must follow up these cases.

8. The venue should be divided into stalls, with clear indication of location of each services like maternal care, child care, family planning, NSV, RCH, blindness control etc. There should be a printed map-indicating layout of the stalls at the mela venue.

9. The Health Melas in addition to generating health awareness and health promotion to also have the following components:

(i) Complete physical check-up of all those who report at the Mela/Camp especially eye, ENT, dental, CSRS, CNS, abdomen etc. Health record of each person to be kept and a health card are given to each person attending the health camps.

(ii) Investigations like urine, sugar, blood sugar, Hb, ECG, sputum test, PAP smear.

(iii) If the person suffers from any illness, drugs lasting for complete course of treatment are given. Those requiring further investigations, specialist opinion, admission and reference for surgery need to be referred to higher institutions.

(iv) All those referred to such institutions entered into computer and shall be followed up.

(v) A health promotion and health education campaign by way of health exhibition to be held in the Mela. Evaluation of the impact of Mela on the health of public and to improve it further may be undertaken.

(vi) For each of the Melas/Camps adequate number of medical specialists, surgical specialists, gynecologists, ENT surgeon, eye surgeon, skin specialists, dental surgeon, child specialist, drawn from Central governmental/ local government hospitals, primary health centers, private doctors and IMA doctors and other willing doctors from voluntary agencies are made available. Basic medicines are supplied for complete course of treatment free of cost.

(vii) Women having symptoms of erosion cervix to be subjected to PAP smear test in the Camp. Those who have complaints to have their sputum test for AFB. Ultra sonogram also is done in the camp for cases where required and X-ray test done by the referral hospitals. Names of those who need referral to other hospitals should be entered in the computer for record and follow up.

(viii) In each Mela the following subjects are taken up for publicity and counselling:

- Family Welfare (including immunisation & contraceptive services)
- Counselling for RTI/STI
- Prevention of Blindness
- Rehabilitation of the disabled
- Leprosy control
- TB control
- Nutrition
- Bad effects of smoking
- Cancer control
- Personal hygiene, environmental hygiene
- Diabetes control
- Illicit liquor/poisoning
- Indian Systems of Medicines etc.

10. IMA local branch, voluntary health Association of India and other National NGOs put up stalls for family welfare and RCH programmes with IEC back up.

11. No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) stall is put up and NSV conducted with complete arrangements in consultation with local hospitals.

12. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) sets up a stall in the Health Mela displaying audio/visual and printed materials for health awareness.

13. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) division arranges publicity with Media units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting e.g. Song and Drama Division, Dte. of Field Publicity and DAVP for local specific programmes at the Melas. Dte. of Field Publicity screens films produced by Department of Family Welfare (Kairi, Hari Bhari). Films Division is requested to prepare a short film on each Mela.

14. Nehru Yuvak Kendras and NSS volunteers also are involved.

15. There is a post Mela evaluation. Items like the conduct of the Mela, response of the public, the benefits, the referral system and steps to improve the camps is undertaken by the evaluating team.

16. For each Mela, the State Government is given Grants-in-aid by the Central Government for making arrangements on receipt of proposals giving break-up of likely expenditure.

The Melas held so far have been very successful. These Melas have provided a comprehensive service on health and family welfare issues ranging from blindness, tuberculosis, and family planning methods, maternal and child health to heart ailments and HIV/AIDS. People can

voluntarily avail themselves of contraceptive services like sterilisation and IUD insertions during the Melas. The opportunities provided by the Mela were successfully utilized also for the purpose of counselling and dissemination of information relating to healthcare to the local people. A substantial quantum of medicines was also distributed. Cases of TB, cataract and other ailments were also detected during the Mela.

Important Items of Work to be attended for the Parivar Kalyan Avam Swasthya Mela

1. Pre-mela survey to be coordinated by NIHFW, New Delhi
2. Publicity—at least from 15 days before the start of mela through leaflets, hoarding, posters, wall writings, banners, film slides video-vans, advertisements in newspapers.
3. Health cards to be printed locally.
4. Duty Chart of Doctors and other staff.
5. An enquiry office, with duty chart of doctors and other staff with layout map should be functional at least from 3 days before start of the mela.
6. Registration counters—at least 25 so that the crowd is spread.
7. At least 40 stalls for different diseases/disciplines/ exhibitions listed below. If the stalls are in the open space, each stall may be of size 18'X15' and should be ready with all furniture, fixtures, posters, equipment etc. one day before the start of the mela.
   - (i) General Medicine (at least 4 stalls)
   - (ii) Maternal Health
   - (iii) Child Health
   - (iv) Immunisation
   - (v) Family Planning counselling arrangement for sterilisation
   - (vi) NSV arrangement for operation
   - (vii) Hindustan Latex Limited
   - (viii) IEC—Family Welfare
   - (ix) ENT check up
   - (x) Dental Check up
   - (xi) Cardiac check up
   - (xii) Skin
   - (xiii) Counselling for Nutrition
   - (xiv) Counselling for RTI/STI
   - (xv) AIDS Control
   - (xvi) Leprosy Control
   - (xvii) TB Control
   - (xviii) Malaria
   - (xix) Prevention of blindness (eye check up) with arrangement for cataract operation
   - (xx) Bad effects of smoking
   - (xxi) Cancer control
   - (xxii) Personal/environmental hygiene
   - (xxiii) Diabetics control
   - (xxiv) Rehabilitation
   - (xxv) Indian Systems of Medicine—Ayurveda
   - (xxvi) Indian Systems of Medicine—Unani
   - (xxvii) Indian Systems of Medicine—Homoeopathy
   - (xxviii) Pathological investigation (urine, blood sugar, Hb, BCG, Sputum test PAP smear test)
   - (xxix) Arrangement forests (X-ray Ultrasound, ECG etc.)
   - (xxx) Song and Drama Division programmes
   - (xxxi) Dte. of Field Publicity programmes
   - (xxxii) DAVP exhibition
   - (xxxiii) CHEB exhibition
   - (xxxiv) Indian Medical Association—local branch
8. One page site map showing location of stalls for different disciplines with numbers may be got printed in sufficient number for distribution among volunteers and doctors to guide patients.
9. Adequate number of volunteers for guiding the people to the concerned stall.
10. Adequate number of Resident Doctors and Medical Students for manning these stalls
11. Medicines for 5 days for full course will be distributed by pharmacists posted at each stall. Adequate store and distribution facility should be arranged.
12. Allocation of stalls and duty should be fully explained to the Doctors/pharmacists/ANMs and other health staff. A detailed briefing may be given to them about their role/duties.
13. Adequate arrangement for drinking water, toilets, litter boxes etc.
14. Security and fire brigade arrangements.

[Translation]

PCOs in Purulia

2206. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is taking place in allotting PCOs in Purulia district of West Bengal;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the number of people who applied for PCO but not allotted the same as on date; and

(e) since when such cases are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Sir, there has been some delay in allotment of PCOs, due to non-availability of spare capacity in the exchanges in Purulia district of West Bengal where 524 applications are pending for allotment at present. It is planned to clear the waiting list by expanding the capacity of the exchange during the next year. The oldest application is pending since 29.3.2001.

[English]

Chennai Atomic Power Station

2207. SHRI M. DURAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chennai Atomic Power Station Unit-II is likely to be synchoronised to the grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said synchronisation process will result in an additional 50 MW of power to the grid; 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) and (b) The second Unit of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS-2) was synchronised to the Southern Electricity Grid on 23.7.03.

(c) and (d) With the synchornisation of MAPS-2, the capacity of the Unit is planned to be restored to about 220 MWe from the present rating of 170 MWe.

Government Ayurvedic College in Kerala

2208. PROF. A.K PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has proposed to declare Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, as a Centre of Excellence;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified this institution as a Centre to be developed as Centre of Excellence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no scheme for providing assistance for developing Centre for Excellence.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of Siddha Dispensaries

2209. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a only one Siddha Dispensary in Delhi under CGHS;

(b) if so, the fund allocated and utilized by the Dispensary during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more Siddha Dispensaries in Delhi and some other parts of the country for the benefit of CGHS beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Yes, Sir. There is only one Siddha Unit functioning under CGHS Delhi.

(b) The fund allocated and utilised for the above Siddha Unit during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Fund allocated	Fund utilised
2000-2001	3,00,000	2,25,420
2001-2002	3,00,000	2,95,704
2002-2003	3,00,000	3,00,000

(c) and (d) The proposal of open a Siddha Unit under CGHS Chennai during the Tenth Plan would be subject to availability of funds, resources and *inter-se* priorities.

Laying of Roads in Afghanistan

2210. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to take up the work of laying of roads in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether any request has been received in this connection from the Afghan Government; and

(c) if so, the time by when the work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. As part of India's extensive humanitarian, financial and project assistance to Afghanistan, it is proposed to undertake road construction in Afghanistan. During several bilateral interactions with Afghanistan, the Afghan government has urged India to provide assistance in infrastructure sector, including laying of roads.

In a trilateral meeting held between India, Afghanistan and Iran on 4-5 January 2003 at Tehran to discuss the development of transit and transport between the three countries, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Construction of Transit and Transport Infrastructures in Chabahar-Milak-Zaranj-Delaram route had been signed between the three countries aimed at improving access to Afghanistan, and upgrading the infrastructure at Chabahar port and relevant road segments. During the visit of President of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai to India, in March this year, Prime Minister announced a financial commitment of US$ 70 million for the construction of Zaranj-Delaaram road in Afghanistan.

A detailed technical survey of the Zaranj-Delaram road stretch has been completed by Border Roads Organization Implementation will commence after the report on the execution of the project has been approved by the Government from the technical and financial angles.

[Translation]

Control of Infectious Diseases

2211. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan for the control of infectious diseases in on between India and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to accrue thereby to both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A Joint Statement on Expansion of Indo-US Cooperation on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and diseases surveillance was signed on 27th November, 1997. This Joint Statement was regarding collaboration between both the countries for an initial period of five years. This Statement is likely to be extended for an extension of another five years.

The areas of collaboration identified were:

1. Training of surveillance officers and other critical personnel.
2. Expert consultation.
3. Laboratory strengthening.
4. Collaborative research.
5. Collaboration on disease outbreak response.

(c) The benefits expected to accrue to both the countries are improved technical assistance and training as well as increased collaboration in the fields of outbreak investigations, training, laboratory strengthening and research.

WLL in Jharkhand

2212. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Government for providing communication facilities in the rural areas;

(b) the total number of villages in Godda, Dumka and Deoghar districts of Jharkhand wherein wireless and local loop service has been provided and the number of villages in which the same communication facility has not been provided; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):

Telecom facilities:

(a) The scheme of the government is to provide one Village Public Telephone (VPT) in each inhabited revenue village of the country.

(b) The number of villages in Godda, Dumka and Deoghar districts of Jharkhand wherein wireless and local loop service has been provided and yet to be provided with telecom facility are as under:

District	No. of inhabited villages	No. of VPT on WLL	No. of villages yet to be provided with telecom facility
Godda	1599	914	543
Dumka	2649	2298	202
Deoghar	2327	2109	10

(c) All the uncovered villages in these districts are very remote and inaccessible which can not be provided VPTs on land line or WLL, and hence are planned to be provided VPTs on satellite media subject to the availability of resources and funds.

Postal facilities:

(a) Communication facilities are provided by the Department of Posts through Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in rural areas. Where required, Post Offices are opened on fulfilling the prescribed norms to augment the postal communication facilities in rural areas.

During the year 2002-03, the number of Post Offices/ PSSKs opened in rural area of Jharkhand are as under:

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	Departmental Sub Post Offices	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras
8	Nil	49

The target set for opening new Post Offices/PSSKs for the year 2003-04 is given below:

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	Departmental Sub Post Offices	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras
6	1	48

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

[English]

Treatment of Accident Victims

2213. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5633 dated April 30, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide immediate first aid to the accident victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade the medical facilities in all the Government hospitals to meet any exigency in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the Government hospitals in Delhi which have all the required medical facilities for the purpose;

(e) the reasons for all the other Government hospitals not fully equipped for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) With a view to ensure that accident victims get

immediate first aid, instructions, based on the Supreme Court directive were issued by this Ministry to all the States/Union Territories/Central Government Hospitals/ Institutions to the effect that all patients whose condition is morbid/serious should be admitted even if beds are not available and have to be paid all necessary attention and in no case the patient will be left unattended for want of vacant beds in the emergency/casualty department.

(c) to (f) Upgradation of medical facilities in Central Government Hospitals is a continuous process and it has been a constant endeavour of the Government to provide the best possible medical facilities within the available resources. A Trauma Centre namely Jai Prakash Narayan Trauma Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences is being set up and its construction work is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. A proposal for expansion and upgradation of existing casualty and emergency services of Dr. RML Hospital has also been approved. Apart from this, all Central Government Hospitals are well equipped to attend the accident and trauma cases. In addition, Central Government is also providing financial assistance upto Rs. 1.5 crore to the State Governments under the pilot project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways.

[Translation]

Category-wise Personnel in the Ministry

2214. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in group A, B, C and D in different departments and undertakings under the 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 (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Agreements between India and Israel in Telecom Sector

2215. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreements have been signed between India and Israel in the telecommunication sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grounds on the basis of which mutual understanding was arrived at between the two countries in the telecommunication sector?

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

(b) An Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Israel was signed at the Ministerial level on 29.11.1994 for furthering cooperation in the fields of Posts & Telecommunications.

The Agreement was to be ratified in accordance with the legal procedures of the contracting parties, whereafter it would come into force from the date of exchange of the documents.

Accordingly, the Agreement was ratified by both the parties and came into force w.e.f. 9.11.1998.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Israel on Economic co-operation was signed in New Delhi on 17.5.1993 during the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Israel.

With the desire to promote and expand mutually beneficial co-operation in the fields of trade, economic and technical spheres, both the Governments agreed to encourage establishment of Joint Ventures and projects in various areas, where telecommunication was considered as one of the area.

Local Call Rates

2216. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the rate of local call of MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, whether the Government are deliberately benefiting the private sector companies by raising the call rates of MTNL and BSNL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have announced a new policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act, 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs is vested with the TRAI only. The telecom operators, including BSNL & MTNL, are free to fix their tariffs for their customers within the limits prescribed by TRAI. The Government has, thus, no role to play in fixing telecom tariffs.

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

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas

2217. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the amount spent on setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last three years and till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): The information regarding the amount spent on setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last three years and till date, State-wise is enclosed as statement. As regards Navodaya Vidyalayas, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Amount spent on setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last 3 years and till date state-wise

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 till July 2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh		9.73	24.72	17.08
2.	Assam				51.90
3.	Bihar				40.85
4.	Chhattisgarh				23.55
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.60	12.68	20.16	10.14
6.	Daman & Diu				06.25
7.	Delhi				40.85
8.	Gujarat				17.30
9.	Haryana				23.55
10.	Himachal Pradesh				06.25
11.	Jammu and Kashmir				81.70
12.	Jharkhand				26.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Lakshadweep				06.25
14.	Madhya Pradesh		7.74	16.62	24.09
15.	Mizoram				06.25
16.	Orissa		1.28	16.42	13.31
17.	Rajastahn				12.40
18.	Tamil Nadu				06.25
19.	Uttar Pradesh				69.20
20.	Uttaranchal				40.85
21.	West Bengal				06.25

[English]

Procurement of Stationery Items

2218. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Immunology (IIM), New Delhi, invited a tender last year for the procurement of stationery items;

(b) if so, whether the IIM collected lakhs of rupees as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) but the institute has not yet returned the EMC despite having inviting a fresh tender recently;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the EMD is likely to be returned and the action to be taken against the concerned officials; and

(e) the reasons for not making purchases of stationery items from either the NCCFI or the Kendriya Bhandar on competitive prices and quality?

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 National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, an autonomous institution under the Department of Biotechnology, invited tenders by release of tender notice in the leading national dailies namely, 'The Times of India' and 'The Hindustan Times' on 2nd June 2002.

(b) to (d) The total Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) collected from the bidders who responded to the tender invitation was Rs. 75,000. Out of this, the Institute has already refunded EMD amounting to Rs. 30,000 to unsuccessful bidders in the month of September 2002. No amount is due to the unsuccessful bidders. At the same time, EMD of successful bidders (Rs. 45,000) was converted into security deposit.

(e) The Kendriya Bhandar participated in the tenders for the stationery items and was successful in getting contract for one year ending 31st August, 2003 alongwith eight other firms.

Purchase of Copper T

2219. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether last year Copper T 380A was purchased by the Department of Family Welfare for the first time for the National Family Welfare Programme at a high rate of Rs. 28.15 per set;

(b) if so, whether the department had verified the prevailing prices in the international markets and those being quoted by the Indian firms in the international markets for the items as per standard purchase norms before placing the orders;

(c) whether the Hindustan Latex Limited has also been quoted prices in the range of Rs. 15.20 internationally and has quoted Rs. 13.17 per set in the current year;

(d) if so, the reasons for it quoting to the department at substantially higher price of Rs. 31.25 last year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Department to recover the excess prices charged by these suppliers last year and to ensure that fair and transparent purchase policies are laid and publicized to ensure genuine competition amongst the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During 2002-2003, Copper-T 380A was purchased for the first time under the National Family Welfare Programme at a price of Rs. 28.15 per piece of Cu-T 380A. It has been ascertained that the international price of this item was $0.52 to $0.65 per piece, which is comparable.

(c) to (e) The procurement of Copper-T is done through open tender so as to maintain healthy and genuine competition among the manufacturers. All the manufacturers including Public Sector Undertakings are free to participate. As such the procedure adopted for the procurement of Copper-T is fully transparent and one in which all eligible manufacturers can participate. All bidders including the Hindustan Latex Limited, have quoted lower rates in this year's tender. The variation in the rates quoted by the manufacturers seems to be a result of increased competition.

Setting up of Sub-Regional Office of AICTE

2220. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a sub-regional office of AICTE in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) There are seven Regional Offices of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) located at Kanpur, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Bangalore. The South Western Regional office at Bangalore caters to the technical institutes in Kerala and Karnataka without any difficulty and hence, at present, there is no need for setting up of any Sub-Regional office of AICTE in the State of Kerala.

[Translation]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

2221. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai during the last three years;

(b) the norms adopted by the department in these cases; and

(c) the time by which all the pending cases of appointment on compassionate ground are likely to be disposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai during the last three years is given below:

Year	Delhi		Mumbai	
	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
2000	75	119	114	195
2001	49	68	75	113
2002	48	38	44	91
Total	172	225	233	399

(b) Norms prescribed by Department of Personnel & Training are adopted in MTNL for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(c) At present there are no vacant post available in Group 'C' and 'D'. However, the recruitment of the dependents of the deceased employees is a continuous process and appointments are made as and when vacancies arise.

[English]

Telephone Connections in U.P.

2222. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants registered for telephone connections in Tonk area of Uttar Pradesh till date;

(b) the date since when these applications are pending;

(c) the reasons for not providing telephone connections so far; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of applicants registered for new telephone connections in respect of town area of Lakhimpur in UP (East) Telecom Circle 67 (Sixty seven).

(b) These applications are pending since December, 2002.

(c) The connections are pending due to non-feasibility on underground cable as the locations of the subscriber are quite away from the nearest exchange.

(d) The applicants have been offered Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connection and the same shall be provided by March, 2004 subject to their willingness.

Quality of Medical Education

2223. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to upgrade the quality of medical education and teaching skills in the Government colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is good scope for India becoming a center of medical education in Asia;

(d) whether any discussions have been held with State Governments in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of such discussions; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to improve the medical education facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) There are Regulations already in place framed by Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government to ensure the quality of medical education and teaching skills in medical colleges. The Undergraduate and Postgraduate curricula in medical sciences are reviewed from time to time keep pace with the developments in the field of medicine. In order to facilitate improvement in the quality of education imparted in the Government Medical Colleges, recently the Government have initiated a scheme to inter-link the medical libraries in the Government Medical colleges to the National Medical Library to make available the desired information to the teachers, medical students, research scholars etc. In addition, Government is also providing funds through the Medical Council of India for the Continuing Medical Education Programme which can be availed by the professionals in the medical institutions for upgrading their knowledge and teaching skill. The medical colleges in India are already attracting number of foreign and NRI students each year. As such there is good scope for India becoming a centre of medical education. There has however, been no specific discussion in this regard with the State Governments.

Emergency Service to Accident Patients

2224. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the proper and immediate attention is not being paid to accident victims in AIIMS and other Government Hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Accident victim cases are being given due attention at AIIMS and other Central Government Hospitals. At present the Emergency Services of AIIMS are adequately staffed and properly equipped to provide medical care including life saving measures to all accident and emergency patients round the clock. However, exclusively for such victims, the Government has approved a proposal to set up an Apex Trauma Centre at AIIMS, New Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 54.00 crore and construction work is near completion.

Appointment of Area Welfare Officers for CGHS Dispensaries

2225. PROF. I.G. SANADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has been instrumental in appointing non-Central Government servants as Area Welfare Officers for certain CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the number of such dispensaries and the details of the considerations due to which such appointments have been made;

(c) whether such appointments are in violation of the CAT judgement which categorized certain persons as non-Central Government servants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not appoint Area Welfare Officers (AWO) for CGHS dispensaries. The AWOs are appointed by the Welfare Division of the Department of Personnel and Training, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.

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

(c) and (d) The Department of Personnel and Training nominates AWOs for residential colonies to look after the welfare and related problems of Central Government employees and their families residing in that colony. Area Welfare Officer is not an appointment under the Government of India but is only a functional arrangement to provide a link between the Central Government employees residing in various colonies and the concerned civic and other agencies providing service to them. These functions are performed by them on honorary and voluntary basis. Normally Government Officers are nominated as Area Welfare Officer, as far as practicable.

Patent Applications Filed by CSIR

2226. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CSIR has filed a number of patent applications with the World Intellectual Property Organisation during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patents granted by WIPO to CSIR during the said period;

(d) the number of applications still pending;

(e) whether any such applications have been filed by CSIR in the current financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. CSIR has filed 166 PCT Patent Applications during 2002-03. CSIR was the number one entity from all the developing countries in PCT filings during the year 2002.

(c) PCT, WIPO is not a patent granting authority. Based upon the patent examination report of PCT, WIPO individual member countries grant patents.

(d) Around 250 PCT applications are still under consideration of WIPO.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) CSIR has filed 10 PCT patent applications during the current financial year.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

2227. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deficiencies in the implementation of Mid-day meal scheme in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to bring about improvements in the implementation of the Mid-day meal scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, A&N Islands, D&N

Haveli, Daman & Diu & Pondicherry are providing meals across the respective States/UTs. Haryana is implementing a meal programme in 6 blocks, Goa in 1 block, Madhya Pradesh across the state except 23 blocks, Mizoram in 546 schools, Orissa in Rural areas of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawapara, Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Sonepur & Boudh districts and in Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) blocks, Punjab in 17 blocks, Uttaranchal in 26 blocks, West Bengal in 1100 schools and Delhi in MCD Schools. In Chandigarh ready to eat food is being distributed. Other States/UTs are distributing foodgrains under the scheme.

(c) The Government has been constantly urging the States/UTs not providing cooked meals, to implement the cooked meal programme.

NRDMS Project

2228. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology has submitted any proposal for the third phase of NRDMS Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal includes the activity of setting up NRDMS Centres in certain districts of the States; and

(d) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

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) to (d) A proposal was received in September, 2002 from the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology to establish NRDMS centres in all districts of Karnataka to form a state-wide network. These centres will serve as hubs for management of geographic information for decision making needs at the district level. The centres will be modeled on NRDMS centres already working in the State. The Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology has been directed to route the proposal through the Government of Karnataka to ensure the commitment of the state government for the long term sustainability of the programme.

Landline Telephone Service in U.P.

2229. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the landline telephones of BSNL in Suryanagar and Chander Nagar area in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, are lying out of order and the complaints lodged remain unattended for a long period and employees are prompt in attending to those who pay them illegally;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, there is slight increase in faults in Surya Nagar and Chander Nagar area of Ghaziabad due to heavy rains but the faults are attended promptly. No complaint against employees attending the faults has been received regarding illegal payment.

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

Allocation of Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2230. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have requested for funds under the Sarva Shika Abhiyan and the amount requested for;

(b) the details of States whose request for funds is still pending with the Union Government;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to speed up the process of approval of funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details of funds approved to States who had submitted requests for funds through their Annual Plan proposals to the Union Government are as per Statement enclosed. Plans of States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim,

Chandigarh, D & N Haveli and Pondicherry are being appraised prior to meeting of the Project Approval Board.

(b) to (d) The Project Approval Board of the Government of India which accords approval to the State's Annual Plan for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, has been meeting regularly to clear the State proposals.

Statement

Allocation of Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

State-wise outlay Approved during 2003-04 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Rupees in lakhs

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

S. No.	States/UTs	Total Annual Plan Approved 2003-04
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37905.77
2.	Assam	42072.13
3.	Bihar	76476.6
4.	Gujarat	22774.43
5.	Haryana	14978.28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10976.61
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	16291.91
8.	Jharkhand	32125.06
9.	Karnataka	33605.55
10.	Kerala	12742.87
11.	Madhya Pradesh	76842.42
12.	Maharashtra	62000
13.	Mizoram	3152.79
14.	Punjab	20057.82
15.	Tamil Nadu	40183.77
16.	Uttar Pradesh	105884.29
17.	Uttaranchal	12488.28
18.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	757.23
19.	Delhi*	5225.65
		626541.46

* Annual Plan for 2003-04 of Delhi was approved during 2002-03.

Global Fund for Combating Diseases

2231. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned by the Global Fund to combat Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria in both phases;

(b) the quantum of funds out of its received so far;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize the funds; and

(d) the status of Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of AIDS Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) In the first round of funding (April, 2002), the Global Fund has sanctioned a grant of US $ 8.783 million (Rs. 42.15 crores) for TB Programme. In the second round of funding (January 2003), the Global fund Sanctioned a grant of US$ 100.081 million (Rs. 480.38 crores) for HIV/AIDS Programme, and a grant of US $ 29.11 million (Rs.139.68 crores) for T.B. Programme.

(b) No, Sir. No funds have been received from the Global Fund so far;

(c) The Government of India proposes to utilize the funds through the States and District Tuberculosis Control Societies established under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme. The funds for HIV/AIDS shall be utilized through the State AIDS Control Societies established under the National AIDS Control Programme and through NGOs.

(d) In order to prevent transmission of HIV from an infected mother to her child, Government of India is in the process of up-scaling prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT) programme. The programme has already covered 224 medical colleges and districts hospitals in six high prevalence States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu, and States with concentrated epidemic, Goa, Pondicherry, Gujarat and Delhi. The programme will provide a package of voluntary counseling and testing for HIV, primary prevention, counselling on Infant feeding and ARV prophylaxis to reduce the incidence of HIV among infants of HIV positive mothers.

CAG Report on Irregularities

2232. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:
DR. (MRS.) RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lower staff in various Indian missions abroad especially in Europe, are given bonus and other perks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for granting extra privileges to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Local staff in 161 Indian Missions & Posts abroad are being given bonus and other perquisites as per local entitlements. These perquisites include bonus, gratuity, medical insurance and social security.

(c) Payments in this regard are made on the basis of the mandatory local labour laws of the concerned countries or local traditions where it is customary to pay these perquisites.

[Translation]

Railway Overbridge on National Highway No. 7

2233. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of Railway Overbridge on National Highway No. 7 on BoT basis on the recommendation of Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department;

(b) if so, whether tenders have been invited for the construction of this overbridge; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction of this overbridge is likely to be begun and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Ministry on recommendation of Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department has sanctioned proposal for construction of Katni bypass on NH-7 on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, which includes construction of a Road Over Bridge (ROB). Work on the bypass has been awarded.

(c) The Bypass including the ROB is targeted to be completed by the end of 2004.

Expenditure on Non-Developmental Projects

2234. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of amount spent on developmental and non-developmental projects out of the total budget allocation for Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of budget allocation spent on development and non-developmental projects at present;

(c) whether the expenditure on non-developmental projects has increased during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which it is proposed to be reduced?

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 (e) A Table showing developmental and non-developmental expenditure of the Centre, States and UTs during 1997-98 to 2002-03 is enclosed as statement. It shows that the share of developmental expenditure in the total expenditure of Centre, States and UTs was 54% in 1997-98 and came down to 52.2% in 2001-02. There has been a corresponding increase in the share of non-developmental expenditure. The share of developmental and non-developmental expenditure for 2002-03 is estimated to be 50.6% and 49.4% respectively.

Non-developmental expenditure mainly comprises of interest payments, debt servicing, defence expenditure, pension administrative and miscellaneous services. A major reason for rise in the share of non-developmental expenditure in the recent years has been the steep increase in interest liabilities especially in the States and considerable step up in salary and pension burden consequent to the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission.

The Planning Commission has been expressing its concern on the high proportion of non-developmental expenditure. The Tenth Plan document contains a list of measures that need to be taken to reduce non-developmental expenditure. These include, reducing budget based subsidies by raising user charges, cutting administrative and establishment costs and improving internal resources of Central and State Public Sector undertakings. The Tenth Plan document also highlights the need to take measures to reduce the burden of interest payments.

Statement

Development and Non Developmental Expenditure of Centre, States and UTs

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Developmental	Non-Developmental	Total
1997-98	228119	194631	422750
1998-99	258993	245336	504329
1999-2000	291435	280816	572251
2000-2001	331959	312275	644234
2001-2002	342127	313724	655851
2002-2003	369266	360549	729815
Percentage share in Total Expenditure			
1997-98	54.0	46.0	100
1998-99	51.4	48.6	100
1999-2000	50.9	49.1	100
2000-2001	51.5	48.5	100
2001-2002	52.2	47.8	100
2002-2003	50.6	49.4	100

Source: Economic Survey 2002-03.

[English]

Introduction of New Courses by C.B.S.E.

2235. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced recently two new courses in the current academic session;

(b) if so, whether Multimedia and Web Technology has been introduced as a main elective subject in Class 11 and Disaster Management has been introduced in Class 8 as a compulsory component;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits to accrue to the individual student and the society as a whole with the introduction of these courses?

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

(b) and (c) As per the information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the subject of Multimedia & Web Technology has been introduced as one of the elective subject at class XI & XII level and Disaster Management has been introduced as an integral component of social sciences in class VIII. Multimedia and Web Technology course covers Web Development, writing server & client scripts, proficiency in Web Management/creating web-sites, designing graphical images, audio & video capture etc.

The subject Disaster Management acquaint students about various disasters that India is vulnerable to, hazard maps visualizing such vulnerabilities and tips for preparedness to reduce vulnerability and impact of disaster on lives, livelihood & property.

(d) The Multimedia and Web Technology course has been introduced as a response to the impact of technology in the society and the students opting for the subject are expected to acquire practical competencies in web design and management of Multimedia tools.

The students studying Disaster Management would acquire competencies which are crucial for the disaster preparedness, do's and don'ts during disasters and also reduction of vulnerabilities.

Bacteria in Packaged Water

2236. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent study conducted by the Environment Department of the Ministry has revealed an alarming rate of bacteria in the packaged water;

(b) if so, whether the manufactures of the packaged water are the same whose mineral water products were found containing pesticides;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Department of Consumer Affairs, Govrnment of West Bengal, Kolkata in collaboration of West Bengal Pollution Control Board has drawn 314 samples of different brands of Packaged Drinking water and tested at the laboratory of Pollution Control Board, Kolkata. Out of 314 samples, 46 samples of different brands were found to contain coliform group of bacteria.

(b) and (c) Some of the brands namely, Aquafina, Bailly, Bisleri, Kinley and Prime are common in both the studies.

(d) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) who are the licencing authority have also analysed around 100 samples of the same brands in Kolkata but according to their report none of the brands stated in the report were found failing in coliform count.

BIS has also stated that now they have introduced stricter control over the licencees of food products including packaged drinking water and these measures include suspension of marketing, cancellation of licence and stoppage marking of BIS logo in different conditions.

[Translation]

Poisonous Wheat

2237. SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 32 children from North India have been admitted in Apollo Hospital after consuming poisonous wheat as reported in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated July 5, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether according to the child specialist of Apollo Hospital, the wheat consumed by the people in North India is working as poison due to genetic reasons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether consumption of wheat has stunned the development of the children and they are falling prey to several diseases;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) As per the information provided by Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi, 32 children from North India have been diagnosed to have wheat allergy known as Celiac Disease during the last four years. Celiac Disease is a condition characterized by permanent intolerance to gluten which is a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. Children with Celiac Disease show symptoms of irritability, loose motions and weakness. Consumption of wheat causes growth failure only in children with Celiac Disease. For everyone else wheat is a healthy cereal.

Grant of Dual Citizenship

2238. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary modalities in regard to grant of dual citizenship have been worked out;

(b) whether the Government have received several representations from Non-Resident Indians for dual citizenship;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(d) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2003 containing inter alia provisions for the registration of persons of Indian origin belonging to eight specified countries as overseas citizens of India, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9 May, 2003.

(b) and (c) Non-Resident Indians have evinced interest in dual citizenship for practical convenience, to take foreign nationality without losing their Indian citizenship, to maintain strong bonds with India and to forge emotional and culture bonds with India by their future generations.

[English]

Opening of New Post Offices

2239. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for opening of new post offices pending with the Government, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any target to open new post offices during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Details of proposals pending for opening of new post offices during 2002-03 in each Postal Circle, majority of which are coterminous with the States concerned, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) During the Tenth Five Year Plan a total of 1000 EDBOs (Extra Departmental Branch Offices), 100 DSOs (Department Sub Offices) and 5000 PSSKs (Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras) are proposed to be opened in the country. These targets are distributed on an annual basis to Circles, keeping in view their requirement and availability of resources. Post Offices are thereafter opened by the Circles, prioritising need and subject to fulfilment of norms in this regard.

Statement

Circle-wise Information of Pending Proposals for Opening of Post Offices

Sl. No.	Circles	2002-2003	
		EDBOs	DSOs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	11
2.	Assam	19	1
3.	Bihar	74	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	62	39
5.	Delhi	Nil	4
6.	Gujarat(i)	5	5
7.	Haryana	3	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	14	1
11.	Karnataka	2	2
12.	Kerala(ii)	5	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
14.	Maharashtra(iii)	14	12
15.	North East(iv)	5	Nil
16.	Orissa	32	2
17.	Punjab(v)	4	3
18.	Rajasthan	1	4
19.	Tamil Nadu(vi)	14	8
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil
21.	Uttaranchal	Nil	2
22.	West Bengal(vii)	48	8
	Total	329	103

Legend:

(i) includes Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli
(ii) includes Lakshadweep
(iii) includes Goa
(iv) includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura
(v) includes Chandigarh
(vi) includes Pondicherry
(vii) includes Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Sikkim

Colleges Blacklisted by AICTE

2240. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the All India Council for Technical Education has blacklisted some colleges during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, college-wise and location-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme

2241. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) the State-wise funds allocated by the Government under ICDS scheme during the year 2003-04 and also during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the financial assistance provided by the World Bank under the scheme during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) State-wise details of funds released by the Central Government under the ICDS Scheme are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The financial assistance provided by the World Bank for the Scheme is given below:

Year	(U.S. $ Million)
2000-01	70.96
2001-02	66.24
2002-03	115.20
2003-04 (till July)	4.16

Statement

I. State-wise details of funds released under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (General)

(Rupees in lakh)

S.No.	State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (till 31st July)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6229.00	6580.61	8564.65	1862.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	681.00	1895.39	2522.72	512.61
3.	Assam	5070.97	6188.61	7988.33	1383.99
4.	Bihar	3756.00	2145.11	1934.97	278.22
5.	Goa	284.13	339.35	430.75	99.66
6.	Gujarat	3726.01	8070.09	6905.28	2063.01
7.	Haryana	3593.61	3660.50	4297.19	1075.53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1764.28	1984.42	2133.77	655.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2266.00	2739.16	3666.22	1084.26
10.	Karnataka	7466.18	7660.68	10541.29	1683.09
11.	Kerala	3101.90	3516.30	5895.08	1087.89
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5590.00	3771.08	6040.51	1440.75
13.	Maharashtra	6688.62	10193.48	12199.16	2325.96
14.	Manipur	1254.75	901.07	2360.06	311.64
15.	Meghalaya	664.97	1060.15	1156.87	296.55
16.	Mizoram	868.85	572.95	1139.16	196.89
17.	Nagaland	1941.60	1907.00	2376.47	483.09
18.	Orissa	6133.71	6881.86	8676.42	2818.20
19.	Punjab	3759.46	3730.77	3677.09	1297.77
20.	Rajasthan	5954.43	5947.07	7324.27	1779.18
21.	Sikkim	156.01	192.35	280.97	45.48
22.	Tamil Nadu	10286.90	9289.80	13410.76	3904.14
23.	Tripura	630.98	1481.36	1333.21	357.45
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11519.28	12696.42	9249.89	3841.89
25.	West Bengal	8047.13	12650.02	16229.63	3079.98
26.	Chhattisgarh	625.61	1800.79	2934.24	690.87
27.	Jharkhand	865.57	1961.66	4767.38	500.82
28.	Uttaranchal	462.78	1246.76	836.21	933.81
Union Territory					
1.	Delhi	808.47	796.41	986.18	253.83
2.	Pondicherry	154.85	154.85	237.09	45.48
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	107.88	154.85	164.32	45.48
4.	Chandigarh	88.04	93.35	121.50	27.42
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.83	31.85	42.00	9.36
6.	Daman & Diu	52.56	37.45	43.24	18.39
7.	Lakshadweep	25.43	31.63	30.83	9.36
	Total	104653.79	122365.19	150497.71	36500.07

II. State-wise details of funds released under World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (excluding Training Programme UDISHA)

(Rupees in lakh)

S.No.	State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (till 31st July)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2000.00	5000.00	5540.00	
2.	Bihar	0.00	1000.00	5251.00	3600.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	400.00	1432.00	1200.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	600.00	3764.00	1800.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4712.00	6000.00	7886.00	4400.00
6.	Kerala	1000.00	2900.00	426.00	
7.	Maharashtra	700.00	0.00	6124.00	
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	1000.00	
9.	Rajasthan	1500.00	3500.00	3355.00	1700.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	3000.00	2526.00	4053.00	
12.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
	Total	13912.00	21926.00	38831.00	13700.00

III. State-wise details of funds released under World Bank assisted ICDS Training Programme (UDISHA)

(Rupees in lakh)

S.No.	State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (till 31st July)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200.00	950.00	780.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	75.00	8.00	0.00
3.	Assam	125.00	55.00	132.75	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00		78.77	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.00	300.00	250.00	0.00
6.	Goa	6.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	100.00	100.00	150.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	45.00	60.63	0.00
9.	Haryana	30.00	70.00	52.22	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.00	85.00	62.53	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	20.00	100.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	150.00	50.00	158.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.00	250.00	300.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	400.00	575.00	744.17	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	50.00	450.00	611.93	0.00
16.	Manipur	33.00	60.00		0.00
17.	Meghalaya	40.00	45.00	25.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	20.00	45.00	10.28	
19.	Nagaland	50.00	50.00	40.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	50.00	250.00	50.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	0.00		100.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	550.00	946.27	0.00
23.	Sikkim	0.00			0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00		48.42	0.00
25.	Tripura	5.00	40.00	70.73	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	750.00	356.15	0.00
27.	Uttaranchal	20.00		110.94	0.00
28.	West Bengal	175.00	150.00	400.00	0.00
29.	A & N Islands	0.00			0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	4.00		0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	0.00			0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	2.00		0.00
33.	Delhi	50.00	25.00	28.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.51	1.50	1.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	5.00	3.96	0.00
	Sub-Total (1)	1849.51	5007.50	5684.75	0.00
36.	ICCW, New Delhi	0.00	0.00	41.24	0.00
37.	NIPCCD, New Delhi	70.92	272.41	25.00	0.00
38.	FNB, New Delhi	—	—	146.03	0.00
39.	CPMU	73.67	9.44	17.99	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	APES, New Delhi	0.00	0.00		0.00
41.	HEES, New Delhi	0.00	0.00		0.00
	Sub-Total (2)	144.59	281.85	230.26	0.00
	Grand Total	1994.10	5289.35	5915.01	0.00

[English]

Creation of Independent Telecom Districts

2242. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department has drawn any guidelines for the creation of independent Telecom Districts;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of creation of an independent telecom district for Udupi in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. In 1985 Department of Telecom issued guidelines for creation of Telecom Districts in organisational restructuring of the Telecom Circles.

(b) The Organisational restructuring of all Telecom Circles in the country was done on the SSA concept as under:

(i) The SSA will constitute the basic management/ operative unit for the circles which will be called Telecom Districts.

(ii) The Telecom Districts covering a SSA was not to be bifurcated due to increase in work load. Instead, periodical upgradation of management level was to be done on the basis of norms.

(iii) Entire operation, planning and management was to be done by treating SSA as a single entity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Udupi district is a part of Dakshina Kannada (Mangalore) SSA. General Manager Telecom is the head of Dakshina Kannada SSA. According to the SSA concept, it was not found feasible to bifurcate SSA Dakshina Kannada for creating an independent Telecom District for Udupi.

Financial Assistance for Medical Colleges and Hospitals

2243. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Karnataka for financial assistance for the extension and development of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Tribal and Backward areas during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Proposal for strengthening and improving physical infrastructure of Medical Colleges and attached hospitals with funding from World Bank assistance with an estimated cost of Rs. 30.59 crores was received in August, 2002 from Government of Karnataka. The proposal is under consideration.

Fund for Communication Facilities

2244. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation for the current financial year for Orissa for the enhancement of communication facilities is very low in comparison to other States;

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

(c) the number of sub-divisions connected with the mobile service and the number of sub-divisions likely to connect during the current financial year in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Of the various plan schemes that are being implemented by the Department of Posts, some are implemented centrally, while for some funds are allocated to Circles for implementation. Thus, the budgetary allocation for a state does not give a clear picture of the total magnitude of the implementation of plan activities in a state. Further, the budgetary allocations to Postal Circles are dependent upon the need and requirement. The status of provision of postal facilities in the state of Orissa is reasonable as compared to other states of the country and this can be seen by the fact that average area served by a post office in Orissa is 19.12 sq.km. as compared to all India Average of 21.17 sq.km. and population served by a post office is 4499 in Orissa compared to all India average of 6613 (as on 31.3.02).

As amount of Rs. 190.85 crores has been earmarked by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to Orissa circle during the year 2003-04 for the enhancement of communication facilities based on the targets assigned to the circle which vary from circle to circle. This allocation is not low compared to other states with similar growth.

(c) Mobile services have been provided in 31 sub-divisions and 25 more sub-divisions are likely to be connected with the mobile services during the current financial year, in Orissa.

National Council for Teachers' Education

2245. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

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

(a) the number of Teacher Training Institutes recognised by NCTE in Tamil Nadu so far;

(b) the number of aided & non-aided Teacher Training Institutes and B.Ed. colleges functioning in the States, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have conducted an inquiry regarding favourable and adverse impact of the functioning of existing system of National Council for Teachers' Education in the country (except Jammu & Kashmir) in future with reference to primary education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) 130 teacher training courses in Tamil Nadu have been granted recognition by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) as on 31.3.2003.

(b) State-wise number of B.Ed. courses and other teacher training courses as on 31.3.2003 are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The General Body of NCTE has recently reviewed and liberalized norms relating to teacher availability and training programmes in the Elementary Education sector.

Statement

State	No. of recognized B.Ed. courses as on 31st March, 2003	No. of other recognized teacher training courses as on 31st March, 2003
1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
Assam	32	3
Bihar	5	21
Jharkhand	7	8
Manipur	3	1
Meghalaya	3	5
Mizoram	1	3
Nagaland	3	4
Orissa	15	77

1	2	3
Sikkim	1	1
Tripura	2	4
West Bengal	21	19
Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	270	147
Punjab	31	26
Rajasthan	55	86
Haryana	27	77
Himachal Pradesh	18	16
Chandigarh	2	7
Delhi	26	39
Goa	2	2
Gujarat	72	174
Chhattisgarh	8	27
Daman & Diu	1	1
Maharashtra	140	415
Madhya Pradesh	37	83
Andhra Pradesh	184	111
Karnataka	77	241
Kerala	51	116
Pondicherry	6	5
Tamil Nadu	26	104
A&N Island	1	1
Total	1128	1825

Permanent Candidature to India in UNSC

2246. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to European countries, United States, UK and China etc. India's claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council was discussed with the respective Governments and their representatives;

(b) if so, the response of these countries thereto;

(c) whether any global consensus has been brought about in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue of UN Reforms and, *inter alia*, India's claim to be a permanent member of the UNSC came up for discussions during the visits of Prime Minister and Deputy PM in the recent past. Our point of view was noted and there were clear expressions of support in some countries.

(c) and (d) Several countries—permanent members as well as others—have openly expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. However, it is difficult to anticipate any specific timeframe for reform or expansion of the UNSC, in view of the diverse perceptions of various countries on the specifics of such reforms.

[Translation]

Twenty Year Plan for Space Discoveries

2247. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate second/third twenty year plan of Space discoveries in the light of the achievements of the first twenty year plan of space discoveries; and

(b) if so, the outline 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) The Government have drawn up a long term plan for the Space Research Programme identifying the goals, programme directions and technology requirements for the next two decades (upto 2020).

(b) The overall thrust of the Space Programme during the next two decades will be to sustain and strengthen the space based services in self-reliant manner towards socio-economic development of the country and develop the space technology capabilities in the areas of Satellites, Launch Vehicles and associated ground segments for national development. The programme envisaged encompasses development of advanced launch vehicle systems including re-usable launch vehicles; developing capabilities in space communications towards meeting the developmental needs in the areas of education and literacy, health-care, rural development and disaster management support; maintain the leadership in earth observation systems with enhanced imaging capabilities for natural resource management applications; and undertake front ranking research in the areas of Space science, Astronomy and planetary exploration.

[English]

Establishment of National Patent Regime

2248. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to establish a National Patent regime which will enable affordable access to the latest medical and therapeutic discoveries;

(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) The Patent Act in India presently follows the process patent system for pharmaceuticals, and the question of more liberal uses of safeguards will be more relevant under the product patent system, when it is introduced. The Patent Act in India has a number of safeguards, such as, compulsory licensing covering a wide range of situations and parallel imports, which can be used to protect public health and affordable access to medicines.

Ban on Private Blood Banks

2249. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to ban blood banks in the private sector in the country and restrict operation of blood banks in Government sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of blood banks operating in private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure higher operational standards in the blood banks with private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The position is that the National Blood Policy, 2002 stipulates that "fresh licences to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector shall not be granted. Renewal of such blood banks shall be subjected to thorough scrutiny and shall not be renewed in case of non-compliance of any condition of licence".

In pursuance of this stipulation, we would need to now amend the relevant provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. After the amendment fresh licences will perhaps not be granted to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector.

The stipulation does not apply to the existing blood banks holding valid licences and complying with the conditions of licence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As on 31.12.2002, out of a total of 1832 blood banks in the country, there were 410 blood banks in private hospitals. It is mandatory for all blood banks, including those with private hospitals, to adhere to the standards stipulated in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules (D&C Rules) *vis-a-vis* equipment, personnel, premises, operational standards, etc. and to be licenced. Licence is issued only after joint inspection by the Central and State Drug Control authorities. After issue of licence, periodic monitoring is done by the Drug Controllers to ensure that the blood banks continue to adhere to the standards stipulated in D&C Rules.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections from MP Quota

2250. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections from MP's quota have been sanctioned in Jaunpur, Varanasi and Ghazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of such telephone connections sanctioned from the year 2000 to June, 2003;

(c) whether all the telephone connections sanctioned from MP quota have been provided to consumers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the telephone connections would be provided to the consumers?

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

(b) Year-wise details of the number of telephone connections sanctioned from MP's quota from the year 2000 to June, 2003 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The remaining connections could not be provided due to the areas being technically non-feasible.

(e) All out efforts are being made to provide the remaining connections by 31.3.2004 progressively subject to availability of equipment.

Statement

Year-wise details of the number of telephone connections sanctioned from MP's quota from the year 2000 to June, 2003

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Number of telephones sanctioned under MP's Quota			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
1.	Ghazipur	100	157	139	49
2.	Jaunpur	275	331	549	373
3.	Varanasi	142	91	34	20
	Total	517	579	722	442

[English]

Upgradation of Hospitals

2251. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for allocation of more funds for the upgradation of hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

[Translation]

Disinvestment of PSUs in Bihar

2252. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings based in Bihar sold to private companies so far under the disinvestment process and the amount received by the Government, undertaking-wise;

(b) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to disinvestment of these PSUs, undertaking-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of workers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, a unit of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Indo-Hokke Hotels Ltd., Rajgir, a subsidiary of Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCI) located in the State of Bihar were disinvested through Strategic Sale for an amount of Rs. 1.81 crores and Rs. 6.51 crores respectively.

(b) There has been no retrenchment in these cases. However, as intimated by the new management, in the case of Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, out of 36 employees at the time of disinvestment, 14 have taken Voluntary Retirement, 1 has resigned and 4 new employees have been recruited. In the case of Hotel Indo Hokke, Rajgir, out of 18 employees, 8 have taken Voluntary Retirement.

(c) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transactions Agreements entered into at the time of Strategic Sale, to ensure that there is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and where necessary, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is implemented only in accordance with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines or the VRS which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment, whichever is more beneficial for the employees.

Alternative Routes for Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage

2253. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion had been held with China with regard to providing alternative routes for Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage during the recent visit of Prime Minister to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of China in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, the issue of additional routes for the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra was discussed with the Chinese side. The Chinese side conveyed that they would consider the request according to conditions in Tibet.

[English]

Removal of Novel from CBSE Syllabus

2254. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) the criteria for selecting literary works to be included in the school syllabus;

(b) whether the CBSE has decided to remove the novel by the legendary litterateur Premchand from the class XII syllabus; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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), the textual/support material for various subjects are considered and selected by the concerned Subject Committee of courses.

(b) The CBSE has provided an alternate to 'Nirmala' by Premchand in Hindi (elective) in class XII for the examination to be held in 2004 and has introduced 'Rangbhoomi' by Premchand for the March 2005 examinations.

(c) The revision of curriculum and textual/support materials is an on-going process.

Establishment of National Medicinal Plants Board

2255. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a National Medicinal Plants Board to promote the conservation, cultivation propagation of medicines plants and export of herbs;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned by the said board for conservation and propagation of medicinal plants, State-wise; and

(c) the Central assistance provided to the State Governments during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise?

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

(b) Total number of projects sanctioned by the Board are:

(i) 2001-2002 — 144

(ii) 2002-2003 — 180, details are given at Statement enclosed.

(c) Total assistance provided to the State Governments are:

(i) 2001-2002 — Rs. 930.00 lacs

(ii) 2002-2003 — Rs. 1332.46 lacs details are given at Statement.

Statement

Project Sanctioned by National Medicinal Plants Board

S. No.	State	No. of Projects (2001-2002)	Amount (Rs. in lacs)	No. of Projects (2002-2003)	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	4	32.00	—	28.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7	54.00	15	102.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	16.00	4	16.50
4.	Bihar	1	Sanctioned to NGO	1	Sanctioned to NGO
5.	Chandigarh	1	10.00	—	6.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	9	78.00	4	121.40
7.	Goa	2	18.00	—	16.00
8.	Gujarat	3	14.00	5	68.00
9.	Haryana	1	9.00	3	43.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8	58.00	3	58.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	6.00	7	59.00
12.	Jharkhand	3	30.00	—	16.00
13.	Karnataka	9	48.00	14	91.00
14.	Kerala	1	5.00	9	91.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8	57.00	47	63.00
16.	Maharashtra	8	24.00	7	19.80
17.	Manipur	3	20.00	1	15.00
18.	Meghalaya	3	10.00	—	6.50
19.	Mizoram	5	35.00	2	45.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Nagaland	4	17.00	1	26.00
21.	New Delhi	2	12.00	5	71.80
22.	Orissa	10	88.00	4	55.00
23.	Punjab	—	—	1	4.00
24.	Rajasthan	5	31.00	6	20.50
25.	Sikkim	13	115.00	—	84.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	1	5.00	4	16.50
27.	Tripura	1	9.00	1	10.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	10	34.00	9	19.00
29.	Uttaranchal	13	86.00	23	146.96
30.	West Bengal	1	9.00	4	18.00
	Total	144	930.00	180	1332.46

[Translation]

Video Conferencing Facility

2256. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to connect the famous Badrinath and Kedarnath temples with Video Conferencing facility is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely 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.

(c) At present there is no proposal to connect Badrinath and Kedarnath temples with Video Conferencing facility and no proposal has so far been received in this connection from any quarter.

[English]

Losses to Indian Shipping Company

2257. SHRI B. VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian shipping companies suffered losses as a result of outbreak of SARS in far Eastern countries;

(b) if so, whether these shipping companies had to curtail their voyages to ports in far Eastern Region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Government and Semi-Government Institutions

2258. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Government and semi-Government institutions in which private investment has been made from 1991 to 2002;

(b) the economic and physical condition of the above institutions as on 2002;

(c) the economic and physical condition of the workers and employees working in them after the privatisation of the above institutions;

(d) whether there has been any increase in the monetary benefits to the employees after privatisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The list of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in which minority shareholding of the Government was sold to the public is at Statement-I enclosed. The list of CPSUs sold through a process of Strategic Sale alongwith the transfer of management control is at Statement-II enclosed.

(b) There has been improvement in the performance of most PSUs post-disinvestment. Information provided on their performance by some disinvested PSUs is at Statement-III enclosed.

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 the capacity. These examples show that efficiency enhancement has been achieved by disinvested PSUs.

(c) to (e) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transaction Agreements entered into at the Strategic Sale with the Strategic Partner to ensure that there is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and where necessary, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is implemented only in accordance with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines or the VRS which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment, whichever is more beneficial for the employees. As per the information provided by the companies, there have been no cases of retrenchment. The wages of the workers have been increased and allowances enhanced in some of the disinvested PSUs viz., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), Modern Food Industries Ltd. (MFIL), Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi, Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd. Rajgir and BALCO.

Statement I

List of PSUs which were disinvested through sale of minority shares

S. No.	Name of PSUs
1	2
1.	Andrew Yule
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochem. Ltd.
7.	CMC Ltd.
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.
9.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.
10.	Fertilisers Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.
11.	HMT Ltd.
12.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.
13.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd.
15.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.
16.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.
17.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
18.	Indian Petrochemicals Mfg. Co. Ltd.

1	2
19.	Indian Railway Contt. Company Ltd.
20.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.
21.	Madras Refineries Ltd. (Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd.)
22.	Mahangar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
23.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. Ltd.
24.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.
25.	National Fertilisers Ltd.
26.	National Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.
27.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.
29.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.
30.	State Trading Corp.
31.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
32.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
33.	Container Corp. of India
34.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.
35.	Oil and Natural Gas Corp.
36.	Engineers India Ltd.
37.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
38.	India Tourism Dev. Corp.
39.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Comp. Ltd.

Statement II

Disinvestment through strategic sale since 1999-2000 till date

S. No.	Name of PSUs/unit
1	2
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) @ (Lease cum Management Contract)
Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. Hotels Located at	
31.	Juhu-Mumbai
32.	Rajgir
33.	Airport Mumbai

Statement III

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

[English]

WLL Service in the Country

2259. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the faulty functioning of the Wireless in Local Loop technology in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the problem;

(c) the number of WLL phones provided to consumers in the country till 31st March, 2003;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list till date;

(e) whether the BSNL has decided as a matter of policy to provide WLL phones in the rural areas only; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In the initial phase of deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service, there were certain network constraints and coverage problems in the network at few places.

(b) WLL networks are upgraded and number of BTSs (Base Trans-receiver Stations) are increased to overcome such problems.

(c) Number of WLL phones provided by Government PSU's as well as private operators as on 31-03-2003 as under:

MTNL	72,759
BSNL	5,15,919
Private Operators	13,91,752
Total	19,80,430

(d) Number of persons on the waiting list of BSNL & MTNL as on 30.6.2003 for fixed connections were 18,93,188.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Doctoral Engineering Degrees

2260. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of doctoral engineering degrees awarded in 1996 and 3861 which according to the All India Council of Technical Education has declined and only 298 scientists were awarded the PHD degrees in 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage our scientists and to provide them the desired facilities and incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Ph. D Degrees are awarded by various Universities across the country, the record of which is not maintained centrally by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). However, as per the information furnished by the AICTE, on an average about 250 to 400 Ph.D Degrees are awarded in a year in the country in Engineering discipline. AICTE is not aware that during the year 1996, 3861 Ph. D. Degrees in Engineering were awarded.

(c) The Government have taken several measures such as creation of necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science; S&T based training for entreprenurial development under National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board; setting up of Centres of Excellence/ Advanced Studies in Universities and academic institutions; creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations; Provisions for temporary placement of Scientists and Technocrats under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

Opening of Ayurvedic/Unani CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

2261. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether very few Unani and Ayurvedic CGHS Dispensaries functioning in Delhi are at far off places;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open more such dispensaries in the capital;

(c) if so, whether any such proposal has been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are 13 Ayurvedic dispensaries/units and four Unani dispensary/Units functioning in Delhi. These dispensaries/ units are evenly spread in Delhi so that the beneficiaries are not put to inconvenience. The zone-wise distribution is as under:—

AYURVEDIC:

South Zone	(1)	Kidwai Nagar Dispensary
	(2)	R.K. Puram Sector-XII Dispensary
	(3)	Jungpura Unit
	(4)	M.B. Road
North Zone	(1)	Janakpuri Dispensary
	(2)	Dev Nagar Unit
	(3)	Paschim Vihar Unit
	(4)	Delhi Cantonment Unit
Central Zone	(1)	Gole Market Dispensary
	(2)	North Avenue Dispensary
	(3)	Gurgaon Unit
East Zone	(1)	Laxmi Nagar Unit
	(2)	Kingsway Camp Unit

UNANI:

South Zone	Sarojini Nagar dispensary
North Zone	Naraina Unit
East Zone	Darya Ganj
Central Zone	South Avenue Unit

(b) to (d) The proposal to open new ISM&H dispensaries would be subject to availability of funds, resources and *inter-se* priorities.

Shortage of SIM Cards

2262. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of SIM Cards to meet the demand of BSNL mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any Indian company competent enough to produce SIM Cards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the demand of SIM Cards of BSNL mobile service?

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) and (d) Yes, Sir. BSNL is not aware of any other Indian company other than M/s ITI Limited producing SIM cards at present.

(e) Adequate supplies of SIM cards is there, however, distribution is restricted at some places owing to capacity constraints. Further action for capacity expansion alongwith SIM card procurement is in progress.

Indigenous System of Medicine

2263. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Reiki, acupuncture and other methods of therapy in the list of indigenous system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that a large number of persons are practicing these systems of medicine in the country; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the success rate in curing the diseases by these systems is assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) A Standing Committee of experts constituted by the Governments examined various streams of alternative medicines including Reiki, acupuncture etc. In its recommendations made to the Government, the Committee did not recommend recognition to any stream of Alternative Medicine except traditional systems of medicines viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga/Naturopathy and Homoeopathy.

[Translation]

Achievements of N.C.T.E.

2264. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no worthwhile achievements have been registered by the National Council of Teachers' Education despite spending crores crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total amount spent on it during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has been set up with a view to achieving planned and coordinated development of Teacher Education system through-out the country, and for the proper maintenance of norms and standards in the Teacher Education system. As on 31.3.2003, a total of 2501 institutions have been granted recognition by NCTE for conducting various teacher training programs.

An expenditure of Rs. 9 crore has been incurred by NCTE during the last two years.

[English]

Setting up of Research and Development Centres

2265. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has any proposal to set up Research and Development Centres in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government 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.

Polio Cases in Karnataka

2266. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some polio cases have been reported in Karnataka which were confirmed by the National Virology Institute, Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sent a special team to Karnataka to assess the situation;

(d) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned additional funds to Karnataka for immunization programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Information is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The first case of polio in Karnataka was detected in Hospet block of Bellary district with the date of onset of paralysis on 3rd May, 2003. Subsequent investigation around the case indicated the possibility of some more cases of paralysis in the neighbourhood. In view of this finding and also because of a large number of under protected children in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh more so in Northern Karnataka and Western Andhra Pradesh, a mop-up operation covering 10 districts in Karnataka and 3 districts in Andhra Pradesh was planned. These cases of paralysis have now been confirmed as polio cases by the laboratory report. These cases (five in number in Bellary district of which 2 in Hospet block and 3 in Siruguppa block) validate the earlier investigation and the decision to undertake the mop-up. Officials from Government of India, WHO as well as State Government visited the area and had a meeting with districts officials including Districts Collectors. In the meeting it was decided to implement quality mop-up round of PPI in the vulnerable districts. The first round of the mop-up started on 27th July, 2003 while the second round is planned to be conducted on 7th September, 2003.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 14,40,921/- has already been advanced to Karnataka for conducting two round of mop-up activities on 29th June, and 3rd August 2003 in Bidar district, in response to the wild poliovirus reported from Nanded district of Maharashtra.

Statement

Five Polio cases have been reported from Karnataka during 2003. The details of the cases are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Child	Father's Name	District	Block	Date of onset of paralysis
1.	Basavraj	Virpanna Hosmani	Bellary	Hospet	3.5.2003
2.	Kalpana	T. Eramma	Bellary	Siruguppa	15.6.2003
3.	Manjuntha	Uchappa	Bellary	Siruguppa	28.6.2003
4.	Shanmukha	Karililngappa	Bellary	Siruguppa	7.7.2003
5.	Lakshmi	Nayakara Narasadah	Bellary	Hospet	11.7.2003

Developing Salt Land in Mumbai

2267. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry and their PSUs have taken interest in making available of Salt Land, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Urban Development Ministry is proposing to develop 5400 acres of salt land in Mumbai;

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

(d) whether various proposals are being considered for making this land available to the different departments under the Government of India; and

(e) if so, the status of progress of the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (e) Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 9.5.2001 agreed in principle for transfer of Salt Pan land from Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion of Ministry of Urban Development and also decided that a Group of Ministers may examine issues relating to utilization of surplus salt land. A Group of Ministers headed by the then Urban Development Minister, Government of India has visited some salt pan lands at Mumbai some time ago to examine the possibility of development of immediately available Salt Pan Lands, which may help rehabilitation of slums on lands of Central Government agencies such as Railways, Airports, Mumbai Port Trust, etc. Further action would depend on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers constituted for this purpose.

Report of National Commission for Women

2268. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has given some suggestions on subjects like the rape, child abuse and sexual harassment of women workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Women has made recommendations on laws concerning rape, mainly to widen the scope of definition of rape and to enhance the penalties. The Government is obtaining views of the States with regard to replacement of the existing definition of rape with 'sexual assault' as recommended by the Law Commission.

The National Commission for Women is in the process of drafting a Bill on sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

[Translation]

Relaxation of Norms for Opening of Post Offices

2269. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether specified norms are relaxed for opening branch post offices in remote, hilly, border areas such as in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of conditions which have been relaxed;

(c) the target fixed with regard to the number of branch post offices to be opened as also to be upgraded in the Tenth Plan; and

(d) the efforts being made to achieve the fixed target alongwith the action plan made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) There are specific norms for opening Post Offices in remote, hilly and desert areas of the country, including Himachal Pradesh in which, all the three parameters *viz.* Distance, population and income, have been relaxed *vis-a-vis* those prescribed for normal areas. A comparative chart in this regard is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) During the 10th Five Year Plan, 1000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs), 100 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) and 5000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) are proposed to be opened, country-wide, subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources. The targets for opening of Post Offices in Circles/States are fixed year-wise.

For the Plan year 2002-03, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 54 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened in Himachal Pradesh. For the Plan year 2003-04, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 1 Departmental Sub Post Office and 40 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are targeted in Himachal Pradesh. However, opening of Post Office is subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of norms.

Efforts are also made to ensure full achievement of targets through regular monitoring, both at the Circle level and centrally.

Statement

Conditions for Opening Branch Post Offices

Sl. No.	The details of Norms	Specific condition for opening of a BO in normal area	Relaxed conditions for opening of BO in remote, hilly, tribal and desert areas
1.	Population	The population of the proposed village for opening of a BO, or in a group of villages to be attached should not be less than 3000.	The population condition is relaxed to be 500 of the proposed village or 1000 population in a group of villages.
2.	Distance	The minimum distance from the nearest existing PO should be 3 kms.	The distance limit will be the same as for normal areas, except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases of special circumstances, explained clearly while submitting the proposals.
3.	Anticipated Income	The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33% of the cost.	The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

[English]

Setting up of Campus in Sri Lanka by IIT, Chennai

2270. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, propose to set up a Campus in Sri Lanka to train and offer technical assistance for establishment of an institute at a par with IITs in that country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have contributed for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount given for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amravati Bypass on National Highway No. 6

2271. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Amravati Bypass Project on National Highway No. 6 in Maharashtra has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total cost of the project; and

(c) by when the project is likely to become functional?

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

(b) This two lane bypass pass having a total length of 17.42 km has been completed at a cost of Rs. 43.60 cr.

(c) The Amravati Bypass has been opened to traffic on 8th July, 2003.

Quacks

2272. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Health Services has recently asked the Medical Councils to take strict action against quacks;

(b) if so, whether due to quacks a large number of people lose their lives every year;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government and State Governments have failed to check the mushrooming of Quacks in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi have informed that their Directorate of Health Services have issued such instructions.

(b) and (c) No such statistics are available.

(d) and (e) NO survey has been conducted about prevalence and mushrooming of quacks.

(f) According to provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts.

Global Long Distance Plan

2273. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL, MTNL and two other PSUs have dropped global long distance plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. State owned telecom service providers namely BSNL and MTNL have not dropped global long distance plans.

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

PCOs In Andhra Pradesh

2274. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD PCOs running in the district of Mahaboob Nagar in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of booths Proposed to be installed in the current year;

(c) quantum of amount earmarked for this purpose and the amount released so far;

(d) whether the waiting list for PCOs is still increasing; and

(e) if so, by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, at present 2612 STD/ ISD PCOs are running in the Mahaboob Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) According to the present policy PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis. The number of booths to be installed in the current year depends on the availability of applicants.

(c) No amount is earmarked for this purpose as the existing capacity is sufficient to meet the demand of PCOs in near future.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The existing wait listed applicants can be provided with PCOs on completion of commercial formalities by the applicants.

Appointments in Delhi University

2275. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Departments under Delhi University where teaching appointments have not been made due to expiry of term of visitors' nominees to the selection Committee alongwith dates from which the term expired;

(b) the names of the departments of the University of Delhi facing difficulties in organizing teaching in new

academic term particularly after their requests to engage teachers on deputation basis from colleges have declined; and

(c) the date by which the names of the visitors' nominees for the faculty of Commerce and Business will be sent to the University of Delhi and the date by which selection for teaching vacancies is likely to be held by the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The term of three years of Visitor's nominees on the Selection Committees for appointment of teachers has expired in respect of all Faculties of the University of Delhi as on 11.7.2003. The process of appointment of fresh nominees of the Visitor on these Committees has already been set in motion. It is, however, not possible to indicate a definite timeframe for completion of this process.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

2276. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exchanges in Bihar especially Teliahat, Simaribakhitiyarpar and Haripur exchanges under Saharsa SSA have failed to provide satisfactory telephone services to the telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the complaints of subscribers are not being attended to promptly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. These exchanges in Bihar are working satisfactorily.

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

[English]

Bail Out Package for BSNL

2277. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a bail out package of more than Rs. 18,515 crore for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

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

(c) whether package is likely to spread over a period of 5 years which includes reimbursement of licence fees, spectrum charges and extension of moratorium on repayment of principal and interest on Government loans; 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 financial support to BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) to the tune of Rs. 18,515 crores for a period of 5 years i.e. upto the end of 10th Five Year Plan for providing services in rural areas is under consideration of the Government. The financial support includes reimbursement of licences fees, spectrum charges and extension of moratorium on repayment of principal and interest on Government loans beyond 2004.

Girls Dropout Rate

2278. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 30th June, 2003 regarding survey about Girls dropout rate;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the survey;

(c) if so, the dropout rates as per the Government estimates and as per the survey;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct any independent survey on this at some selected places;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government of India has come to know of the survey only through the newspaper. The droupout rate of girls in Rajasthan, as per statistics given in the Selected Educational Statistics 2000-2001 of the Ministry of Human Resource Development is 60.93% for Class I–VIII.

(d) to (f) Government of India is carrying out a study on dropouts in DPEP districts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal to find out the reasons for dropouts. Governments of Rajasthan has carried out a study in 1999-2000 according to which the dropout rate for girls for classes I–V is 62.5% and for classes VI–VIII it is 18.73%.

National Drug Authority

2279. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to form the National Drug Authority (NDA), as a Centralised establishment with inclusive powers of drug regulation as reported in the *Economic Times* dated March 12, 2003;

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

(c) the time by when the National Drug Authority would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has constituted an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and Secretary to Government of India to look into various drug regulatory issues. One of the terms of reference of the committee is to recommend a new structure of the drug regulatory system in the country including the setting up of a National Drug Authority.

The Mashelkar Committee is expected to submit its report with recommendations within another three months.

Setting up of District Passport Offices

2280. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up District Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such offices which have been set up/likely to be set up and the time by which they are likely to start functioning; and

(c) the time scheduled laid down for issuance of Passports by these passport offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Government has decided to decentralise the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells. The forms will be scrutinised and documents checked by the District Passport Cells and then forwarded to the Passport office who will issue the passports. The scheme has been launched in twenty three States and one Union Territory of the country. State-wise number of District Passport cells are shown in the enclosed statement.

(b) As of now, partly or fully, all States have implemented the decentralisation scheme except the States of Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. While Goa is a small state with only two districts and their needs are fully addressed by a full-fledged Passport Office in Panaji and the State Government of Karnataka has decided to implement the scheme w.e.f. 1.9.2003, there is no indication from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal as to the date of implementation of the scheme.

(c) Since the passport application is accepted at the district offices and sent to the concerned passport office along with the clear police verification report, it is envisaged that the time taken to issue a passport will be reduced and a passport could be issued in about 4 to 5 weeks time.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of District Passport Cells

State or UT Name	Total No. of Districts	No. of Districts having DPCs	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	2	0	+
Andhra Pradesh	23	20	x
Arunachal Pradesh	13	2 PACC	@
Assam	23	9	$
Bihar	37	37	—
Chandigarh (UT)	1	—	x
Chhattisgarh	16	16	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	1	0	No date notified
Daman and Diu (UT)	2	0	No date notified
Delhi	9	—	To be inaugurated in two districts during August, 03
Goa	2	—	x
Gujarat	25	25	—
Haryana	19	19	—
Himachal Pradesh	12	9+1 PACC in Shimla	$
Jammu and Kashmir	14	12	x
Jharkhand	22	22	—
Karnataka	27	—	To be implemented from 1.9.2003
Kerala	14	4	$
Lakshadweep (UT)	1	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	45	10	$
Maharashtra	35	21	x
Manipur	9	1 PACC	@
Meghalaya	7	1 PACC	@
Mizoram	8	1 PACC	@

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	8	1 PACC	@
Orissa	30	30	—
Pondicherry (UT)	4	0	x
Punjab	17	17	—
Rajasthan	32	—	No date notified
Sikkim	4	1 PACC	@
Tamil Nadu	29	28	x
Tripura	4	4	—
Uttar Pradesh	70	68	x
Uttaranchal	13	—	No date notified
West Bengal	19	—	No date notified
Total Number	597	360	

(+) Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been delegated powers to issue passports. It has its office at Port Blair in the Secretariat.

(x) No need felt as there is a passport office/Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC) to look after the passport work in the district not covered.

(@) Number of passport applications received from these North Eastern States is so negligible that the PACCs at the State Capitals is sufficient to look after the passport work.

($) No date has been notified for implementation in the rest of the districts.

Prevalence of Leptosphyrosis

2281. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mysterious disease, Leptospyrosis, prevailing in Northern part of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Karnataka for the financial assistance to combat it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per information received from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, Leptosphyrosis is not prevalent in Northern Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for financial assistance to combat Leptosphyrosis.

Upgradation of Telecom Office

2282. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the office of District Manager Telecom, Santhal Pargana to that of General Manager, Telecom, Santhal Pargana;

(b) whether the Government also propose to set up the office of the General Manager Telecom, Santhal Pargana; and

(c) if so, by when office of General Manager, Telecom, Santhal Pargana is likely to be set up?

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

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

[Translation]

Complaints against BSNL in Madhya Pradesh

2283. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by the Government against the functioning of BSNL in Madhya Pradesh since 2002 till date; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, a total of 1010 complaints have been received by the Government against functioning of B.S.N.L. in Madhya Pradesh since 2002 till date.

(b) The complaints are redressed timely. Special attention is given on the following:

(i) Opening more and more Customer service Centres.

(ii) Providing internal D.Ps

(iii) Replacing old instruments by new instruments.

(iv) Improving the switching technology.

(v) Monitoring the complaints in PG Cell on daily basis and strengthening the Public Grievances redressal machinery.

(vi) Increased Customer Care.

Modernisation of Telegraph Services

2284. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative for the modenrisation of telegraph services in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for this purpose during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which modernisations of the telegraph services is likely to be done in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) the works relating to modernisation done in the Banaskantha district during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. District-wise details are given in Statement I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) No separate budget allocations have been made. However, the demands for such programmes are met in the developmental funds allotted for Telex and Telegraph works in the year.

(e) Modernisation is an ongoing process and is done on need/feasibility basis.

(f) No works relating to modernisation have been done in the Banaskantha district during the last three years.

Statement I

District-wise details of modernisation of telegraph service in Gujarat

Name of Distt. HQ.	SFMSS Ports	BFAS Stn.	No. of EKBC/FTC	EKB/CFTC Ports	FT	ETP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ahmedabad	43	11	3	29	30	74
Amreli	2	1	0	2	0	2
Anand	2	1	1	2	0	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ahwa	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bharauch	3	4	1	8	4	5
Bhavnagar	3	1	2	5	10	10
Bhuj (Kutch)	5	2	0	3	0	8
Dahod	1	1	0	2	0	1
Gandhinagar	2	1	0	1	2	2
Godhra	1	2	1	5	0	3
Himmatnagar	1	1	0	4	0	2
Jamnagar	3	1	1	8	0	5
Junagadh	3	2	1	3	1	13
Kheda	1	3	0	3	0	4
Mehsana	6	2	1	6	0	4
Narmada	0	0	0	2	0	1
Navsari	2	2	0	3	2	3
Palanpur	2	1	0	1	0	4
Patan	2	0	0	3	0	3
Porbandar	1	1	0	1	1	4
Rajkot	4	2	3	23	10	20
Surat	13	2	3	21	6	8
Surender Nagar	2	1	1	4	0	2
Vadodara	6	4	2	13	5	20
Valsad	6	2	2	12	2	4
U.T. (Diu & Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	0	0	0	0	0	2

Note: SFMSS 128 Lines system in available at CTO Ahmedabad

Legends:

SFMSS: Store and Forward Massage Switching System

EKBC: Electronic Keyboard Concentrator

B/FAX STN: Bureau Fax Station

FTC: Formated Terminal Concentrator

FT: Formated Terminal

ETP: Electronic Teleprinter

Statement II

District-wise details of modernization of telegraph service in Uttar Pradesh

Name of Distt. HQ.	SFMSS Ports	BFAS Stn.	FTC/EKBC	ETP	FT
1	2	3	4	5	6
Agra	8	5	0	18	3
Aligarh	4	2	0	16	4
Baghpat	0	2	0	0	0
Bareilly	6	5	0	12	3
Bijnore	2	3	0	4	1
Budaun	1	1	0	1	1
Bulandshahar	2	1	0	2	1
Etah	2	2	0	5	2
Firozabad	1	1	0	2	1
Gautambudhnagar	2	1	0	2	2
Ghaziabad	8	4	0	4	3
Hathras	2	1	0	2	1
Jyotibaphulenagar	0	1	0	2	0
Mathura	2	1	0	3	1
Meerut	8	3	1	16	5
Moradabad	4	3	0	5	1
Muzaffarnagar	4	4	0	7	1
Pilibhit	1	1	0	1	1
Rampur UP	2	1	0	2	1
Saharanpur	3	2	0	10	1
Allahabad	8	4	1	20	6
Ahmedkarnagar	0	3	0	0	0
Auraiya	0	1	0	0	0
Azamgarh	2	2	1	2	0
Bahraich	1	1	0	2	0
Ballia	1	1	1	1	1
Balrampur	0	1	0	0	0
Banda	1	2	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Barabanki	1	1	0	1	0
Basti	1	3	0	1	1
Bhadohi	0	1	0	2	0
Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharajnagar	0	1	0	0	0
Chandauli	0	0	0	0	0
Deoria	2	1	0	2	0
Etawah	2	1	0	2	0
Faizabad	3	3	1	4	0
Farrukhabad	1	1	0	2	0
Fatehpur	1	1	0	1	0
Ghazipur	1	1	1	2	0
Gonda	2	1	0	2	0
Gorakhpur	3	1	1	9	0
Hamirpur	1	1	0	2	0
Hardoi	2	1	0	2	0
Jaunpur	1	1	1	2	0
Jalaun	1	1	0	2	0
Jhansi	1	1	1	4	0
Karvi	0	1	0	0	0
Kannauj	0	1	0	0	0
Kanpur	15	4	0	22	1
Kaushambi	0	1	0	0	0
Kushinagar	0	2	0	0	0
Lakhimpur	1	1	0	2	0
Lalitpur	1	1	0	1	0
Lucknow	16	7	0	10	4
Maharajganj	1	1	0	0	0
Mahoba	0	1	0	0	0
Mainpuri	1	2	0	2	0
Mau	1	1	1	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mirzapur	1	4	0	4	0
Pratapgarh	1	1	1	2	0
Raebareli	1	1	0	2	0
Shahajanpur	2	1	0	2	0
Shrawasti	0	1	0	0	0
Siddharthnagar	1	1	0	0	0
Sitapur	1	2	1	2	0
Sonbhadra	0	1	0	2	0
Sultanpur	2	2	0	4	2
Unnao	1	1	0	2	0
Varanasi	10	4	1	10	0

Note: SFMSS 128 Lines system in available at Lucknow and 32 Lines at Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra and Bareilly

Legends:

SFMSS: Store and Forward Massage Switching System

EKBC: Electronic Keyboard Concentrator

B/FAX STN: Bureau Fax Station

FT: Formated Terminal

ETP: Electronic Teleprinter

FTC: Formated Terminal Concentrator

VRS Scheme in PSUs

2285. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that irregularities have been committed in the matter of implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the public undertakings disinvested to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities noticed; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check the irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) 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/ retrenched without a fair deal. In view of this, a decision was taken 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 Dhave, 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. The report of the Committee shall be finalized as soon as the factory visits are completed.

(c) In the case of BALCO, the company has informed that it has given VRS in five, six-monthly instalments instead of a single instalments after consultation with

employees since the company faced a financial crunch subsequent to the two months strike immediately after disinvestment. The employees had subsequently raised the issue that interest should be paid on the portion of VRS paid through instalments. This has been agreed to by BALCO and is being implemented. Protection of the interests of employees is one of the key concerns during disinvestment. Government introduces adequate provisions in the Transaction Agreements entered into with a strategic partner at the time of strategic sale to protect the interests of employees. Typical provisions related to protection of employees' interest are given in the Statement.

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/Schedules 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 even 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 its sole discretion, have the option of the 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 ("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.

[English]

Installation of Incinerators

2286. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu for installation of incinerators for bio-chemical waste disposal in hospitals of the State under Indo-Italian Cooperation has been cleared by the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

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 laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Category-wise Personnel

2287. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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

(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) The details of category-wise personnel in Department of Space (including Antrix Corporation, the marketing arm of Department of Space) as on January 2003 are as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
6564	3081	3861	1155

(b)	OBC	ST	SC
	332	512	1749

(c)	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
OBC	108	35	144	45
ST	50	133	231	98
SC	268	465	675	341

Expenditure on Landline Facility

2288. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on land line facility provided by the public sector telephone companies is very less in comparison to WLL telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provided WLL telephone to all its landline subscribers in future keeping in view the increasing expenditure on landline telephones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(e) Huge infrastructure created over the years can not be written off. However, the WLL connections are provided whenever provision of landlines is not feasible/ economical.

Funds for the Development of Science and Technology

2289. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Five Year Plan has a provision to provide additional funds for the development of science and technology in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) The Government has placed an outlay of Rs. 25,243.00 crores in the Tenth

Five Year Plan for the Central Scientific Departments namely Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Ocean Development, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and Department of Space, as against an outlay of Rs. 12,022.17 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The allocation for the Tenth Five Year Plan is more than double the allotment made during the Ninth Five Year Plan, which indicates government's commitment to development of science and technology.

Foreign Service by MTNL

2290. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow MTNL to start services in foreign countries with a view to augment its income; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries where MTNL has signed agreement to start its services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, MTNL as Navratna Company is permitted to enter into Joint Ventures both in India and abroad.

(b) The details of Overseas Ventures of MTNL are as under:—

(i) MTNL has formed a joint venture company in the name of the United Telecom Limited with Telecom Consultants India Limited (TCIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Nepal Ventures (P) Ltd. (NVPL—a Nepalese Company). The Company is operational since 10th October, 2001 for providing WLL based basis services in Nepal.

(ii) MTNL is in the process of getting feasibility and due diligence for a second Telecom operator is Mauritius.

(iii) MTNL also plans to operate in Kenya as a Second Telecom Operator.

(iv) MTNL has joined a consortium of TCIL India, alongwith a local partner in Malawi and has bid for buying equity stake during privatization process of Malawi Telecom Limited (MTL).

[English]

Curtailment of Engineering Seats

2291. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AICTE has curtailed engineering seats in various engineering colleges in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the AICTE has decided to reconsider this decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the approved total intake for undergraduate level Engineering seats in the country has increased from 359721 in 2002-2003 to 380803 in 2003-2004. In the State of Kerala, the intake in Engineering seats has increased from 17858 in 2002-03 to 19868 in 2003-04.

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

2292. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the new post offices proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2003-2004, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of existing post offices in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) During the year 2003-2004, a target for opening of 20 EDBOs (Extra Department Branch Offices) and 1 DSO (Departmental Sub Office) has been allotted to Uttar Pradesh Circle which will be utilized to open justified Post Offices in the needy districts of the Circle.

(b) Yes Sir, from the beginning of the VIII Five Year Plan the Department has taken up the initiative under each Plan year, for modernizing post offices by way of improving ergonomics and also by computerization.

(c) Upto IX Plan, 198 Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh were modernized. During the Xth Plan, it is proposed to modernise 140 Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh. In addition 170 Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh have been provided with computers and peripherals till date. In the Xth Plan, there is a proposal to computerize all large Post Offices subject to availability of funds.

Mobile Service of BSNL in Bihar

2293. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that BSNL mobile service in Gopalganj, Shivhari, Sitamarhi districts is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring about improvement in the service; and

(c) the total number of persons using mobile telephone service of BSNL in Bihar as on March 31, 2003, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, BSNL Mobile Service in Gopalganj, Sheohar, Sitamarhi districts is working properly.

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

(c) The total number of mobile connections of BSNL as on 31.3.2003 is 44572 covering 35 districts in Bihar.

Pre-Paid Excel Sim Cards

2294. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-paid Excel SIM cards have been introduced by BSNL in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the number of pre-paid Excel SIM cards distributed in Bangalore;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the distribution of pre-paid Excel SIM cards has been temporarily suspended;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be resumed;

(f) whether re-charge coupons of Rs. 300/- have also been released in Bangalore;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that pre-paid Excel SIM cards are made available in plenty?

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

(b) About 60,000 Pre-paid Excel SIM cards have so far been distributed in Bangalore.

(c) to (e) Due to constraints in available capacity, SIM cards distribution has been temporarily suspended at present. The same is expected to be available in next 3 (three) months time.

(f) Yes, Sir.

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

(h) BSNL is already in the process of expanding the capacity and SIMs would also be available on capacity expansion.

CGHS Dispensary No. 73 in Gurgaon

2295. PROF. I.G. SANADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of card holders and corresponding beneficiaries registered with CGHS Dispensary No. 73, Gurgaon;

(b) whether the doctors and para-medical staff posted with the dispensary are sufficient to cater to card holders/ beneficiaries;

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether evening facility in this dispensary has been suspended;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to restore the said facility; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of CGHS cardholders and corresponding beneficiaries registered with CGHS dispensary No. 73, Gurgaon are 7376 and 32486 respectively.

(b) The available strength of doctors and para-medical staff posted at CGHS dispensary, Gurgaon is adequate to cater to the day-to-day OPD needs of the CGHS beneficiaries attending the said dispensary.

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

(d) to (f) The evening emergency services at the above dispensary were suspended for some time which have since been restored.

Mobile Phone Service in N.E.

2296. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several districts and vast areas of Assam and other North-eastern States are so far devoid of Mobile phone connectivity;

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

(c) the steps taken to provide such connectivity so far?

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

(b) and (c) Licences for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in North East and Assam Telecom Circle Service Areas which cover the North Eastern Region have been granted to M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); CMTS Licence has also been granted to M/s Hexacom India Limited for North East Telecom Circle Service Area. CMTS is being presently provided by M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited in Shilling and Guwahati. Other operators have yet to start the service in these Areas. Expansion as well as fresh start of CMTS was stopped for some time in the North Eastern Region on security considerations. The said ban has since been lifted and Operators have accordingly been intimated by a Government Order dated 21.08.2002. BSNL have made plans for providing a total of 95,350 CMTS connections in these two Service Areas. Expansion of CMTS in these two Service Areas is expected after clearance of Radio Transmission sites of Licensees from SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) angle.

Establishment of Dental Colleges

2297. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dental colleges (both Government and Private) separately at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposal received by the Union Government from the State for the establishment of new dental colleges during the year 2002-2003;

(c) the number of such proposals got permission in 2002-2003;

(d) the number of such proposals pending as on date with the concerned councils; and

(e) the details of the system of scrutiny and inspection being done to grant permission to dental colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A statement containing the details of the Dental Colleges (both Government and Private) separately at present in the country, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) to (d) During the year 2002-03, only one proposal has been received from State Government of Chhattisgarh for establishment of a new Dental College at Raipur. The proposal has been referred to Dental Council of India (DCI) on 11.10.2002 for evaluation and recommendations. The DCI has not sent its recommendations so far.

(e) Eligible organisations desirous to establish a new Dental College has to submit an application in the form of scheme to the Central Government along with a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2 lakhs. The scheme is examined from the point of view of the qualifying criteria mentioned in regulations called, 'Establishment of a new dental college, opening of higher courses of study and increase

of admission capacity in dental colleges Regulations, 1993'. The qualifying criteria interalia includes Essentiality certificate from the State Government/UT Administration regarding desirability and feasibility of having the proposed dental college at the proposed location, Permission letter of the University's affiliation for the proposed dental college.

On being found complete, the scheme is referred to DCI for evaluation and recommendation. The DCI gets a physical verification of the infrastructural and other facilities available with the college authorities If the college meets the criteria of the aforementioned regulations the DCI sends its recommendations to the Government to grant its permission. The Central Government on recommendations of the DCI grants the permission to establish a new Dental College.

This permission is initially granted for one year and subsequently it is renewed on yearly basis till recognition is granted when the first batch of students admitted to the colleges appears in the final year BDS examination.

Statement

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Dental Colleges		
		Government	Private	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	12	14
2.	Assam	1	Nil	1
3.	Bihar	1	6	7
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	1	1
5.	Delhi	1	Nil	1
6.	Goa	1	Nil	1
7.	Gujarat	2	3	5
8.	Haryana	1	5	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Nil	1
11.	Karnataka	1	40	41
12.	Kerala	3	4	7
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	3	4
14.	Maharashtra	4	18	22
15.	Orissa	1	1	2
16.	Pondicherry	1	Nil	1
17.	Punjab	2	9	11
18.	Rajasthan	1	3	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	13	14
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2	16	18
21.	Uttaranchal	Nil	1	1
22.	West Bengal	2	Nil	2
	Total	30	138	168

National Open Schools

2298. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students who appeared in National Open Schools in 2002-2003.

(b) whether the Government have any system to ensure that affiliated schools have adequate buildings and maintain high standards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRA): (a) As per the information received from National Open School (now known as National Institute of Open Schooling) the total number of students who appeared in October 2002 and April 2003 were 1,31,536 & 3,03,467 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Accreditation is granted to recognized formal schools, reputed educational Institutions & philanthropic organisations in the field of education. While granting accreditation certain procedural steps are followed by the National Institute of Open Schooling to ensure that prescribed standards are met & infrastructure facilities are available with such Institutions.

Allocation and Utilization for HIV/AIDS

2299. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the budget allocation/utilization for prevention as against the expenditure for care and support of those living with HIV/AIDS under the present National AIDS Control Programme (Phase-II), State-wise;

(b) whether a legislation is being drafted for the legal rights of PLAs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have any system to monitor the functions of the AIDS control societies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the status of the AIDS control societies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy States that the government will strengthen anti-discrimination and other protective laws that protect vulnerable groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities from discrimination in both the private and public sectors. Deliberations with the diverse stakeholders are under way to develop a framework for comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. For monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the programme at the national and state levels, several measures have been introduced namely. Behavioral Sentinel Surveillance, HIV sentinel surveillance, Computerized information system and Concurrent supervisory visits by the officers from NACO and Societies. Financial statements of expenditures made by the State/UT AIDS Control Societies are audited each year by Chartered Accountants approved by Government of India.

(f) The AIDS Control Societies have been established and are functional in all the States and Union Territories in the country and in three Municipal Corporations, namely, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Mumbai cities.

Statement

National AIDS Control Programme

Component-wise Allocation/Utilisation 2002-03

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT/MC	Prevention		Care and Support	
		Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A & N Island	46.23	22.66	5.00	83.59
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1503.60	1019.45	150.00	56.33
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	70.66	80.65	1.00	2.00
4.	Assam	528.55	534.28	17.35	10.43
5.	Bihar	580.22	47.21	7.00	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	106.11	89.59	5.00	4.11
7.	D & N Haveli	19.53	1.17	1.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Daman & Diu	40.28	9.94	1.00	0.00
9.	Delhi	325.70	164.11	20.00	1.07
10.	Goa	142.49	45.90	12.00	0.65
11.	Gujarat	389.94	46.97	22.00	0.80
12.	Ahmedabad MC	115.28	82.84	9.00	1.50
13.	Haryana	355.83	135.71	5.00	3.11
14.	Himachal Pradesh	216.00	150.39	9.00	3.63
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	265.00	16.91	6.00	0.00
16.	Karnataka	829.58	207.44	115.00	79.35
17.	Kerala	446.79	201.30	13.00	5.30
18.	Lakshadweep (U.T.)	23.52	4.14	1.00	0.00
19.	Madhya Pradesh	760.70	59.93	11.00	0.00
20.	Maharashtra	1131.81	396.14	189.05	1.89
21.	Mumbai MC	666.42	415.68	112.05	54.25
22.	Manipur	477.28	312.61	155.00	42.59
23.	Meghalaya	102.00	33.14	2.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	228.00	238.27	10.00	10.00
25.	Nagaland	505.05	452.84	77.50	71.91
26.	Orissa	305.70	56.16	5.00	0.02
27.	Pondicherry	70.00	36.38	3.00	0.00
28.	Punjab	293.32	147.51	5.00	0.49
29.	Rajasthan	506.17	114.69	10.00	0.46
30	Sikkim	58.31	33.20	1.00	0.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	1116.51	1015.79	214.05	134.64
32.	Chennai MC	312.64	103.33	60.00	0.14
33.	Tripura	120.00	32.18	1.00	0.00
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1373.75	679.57	22.00	26.09
35.	West Bengal	793.62	614.22	45.00	19.01
36.	Chhattisgarh	240.00	25.23	5.00	0.00
37.	Uttaranchal	192.29	80.12	2.00	0.00
38.	Jharkhand	160.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
	Total	15418.88	7707.65	1331.00	613.36

Rail Link between India and South East Asian Countries

2300. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a discussion between India and the South Eastern Asian countries on laying a rail link from New Delhi to South East Asian Countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) At the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20th June 2003, a proposal was made that MGC should study the feasibility of a rail link between New Delhi and Hanoi. India offered to depute a technical team to carry out a preliminary study in this regard, which was accepted by MGC countries. Government will take further action in this matter with regard to the feasibility study in consultation with the other MGC member countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).

Ban on Ayurvedic Medicines in European Countries

2301. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union contemplates to ban Ayurvedic medicines of India in the European countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to safeguard the interests of Ayurvedic firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The European Union are proposing to introduce regulation procedure for the import of Ayurvedic drugs for which intending exporters have to provide information on safety etc. Different parameters are being worked out depending upon the use of these drugs in European Union or outside.

(c) The following steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the Ayurvedic firms:

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

[Translation]

Hike in Fees

2302. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether fees for correspondence courses have been increased recently by the universities and colleges particularly by the Delhi University;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the increase in fee in each category of correspondence courses;

(d) whether consent of UGC has been taken in this regard;

(e) if so, whether some members have opposed the hike in fees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, in view of the revenues of the School of Correspondence Courses & Continuing Education falling short of the expenditure during the past few years, the fees in the School have been increased during the current academic session. This increase has been from Rs. 1285 to Rs. 2000 per annum for undergraduate courses and from Rs. 1515 to Rs. 3500 per annum for postgraduate courses. Though the decision to increase the fees has been taken on the basis of recommendations of a Committee constituted for the purpose and with the consent of the University Grants Commission, two members of the Managing Committee of the School had submitted a note of dissent on the proposal.

[English]

Assessment of Talent in Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas

2303. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have arranged for assessment of merit/talent of students studying in Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, whether records of talented students/ students getting highest marks and students selected for higher posts in Government services/private services are being kept by each Navodaya Vidyalaya/Kendriya Vidyalaya;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) have informed that records of students selected under National Talent Search Examination and students getting highest marks in CBSE examinations are maintained in schools.

As regards keeping records of students selected in Government/private services, KVS and NVS have informed that the students leaving school get into jobs several years after leaving the school. By then they are not in touch with the school which get no information about their jobs. Therefore, no records are kept about their jobs.

Indian Language Promotion Council

2304. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Language Promotion Council was set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to advise the Government on measures to be taken for the promotion, development and propagation of all the Indian languages;

(b) if so, the composition of the Council and the recommendations made by the council so far;

(c) the steps taken for the promotion, development and propagation of Telugu, the second widely spoken language in the country, in the Hindi speaking States and UTs; and

(d) the details of the States, number of schools which introduced Telugu and number of students who opted to learn this language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far no meeting of the Council for the Promotion of Languages has taken place. The composition of the Council is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Primarily, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to promote the regional languages in the State. The Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Financial Assistance for Appointment of Modern Indian Language Teachers (other than Hindi) preferably a South Indian Language in Hindi Speaking States/UTs. under which 100% financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for the appointment of Modern Indian Language Teachers (other than Hindi). No details regarding teachers appointed & number of schools teaching a particular language is maintained centrally.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Secondary & Higher Education
(LANGUAGE DIVISION)

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 21st March, 2001

Resolution

The Government of India in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary & Higher Education has decided to set up a Council for the promotion of Languages with the following composition:—

(i)	Prime Minister	Chairman
(ii)	Minister of Human Resource Development	Deputy Chairman
(iii)	Dr. Vidya Niwas Mishra M-3D, Badshah Bagh, Varanasi-221002 (UP)	Member
(iv)	Dr. U.R. Anantha Murthy Extra-849, Avhaya, New Kanta Raja, URS Road, Sarawatipura, Mysore	Member
(v)	Dr. Nabonita Deb Sen Calcutta	Member
(vi)	Dr. L.M. Singhvi, B-8, South Extn-II, New Delhi	Member
(vii)	Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Ex-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi National Hindi University, New Delhi	Member
(viii)	Dr. Gopichand Narang, D-252, Sarvodya Enclave, New Delhi-110001	Member
(ix)	Dr. C. Narayan Reddy M.P., 21, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001	Member
(x)	Dr. Hari Chandran, Head of Oriya Department, Viswa Bharati, Shantiniketan, Calcutta-1	Member
(xi)	Shri Prem Shankar Bhatt, H-108, Shivaji Park, New Delhi-110026	Member
(xii)	Prof. Olivette Gomes, Head Department of Konkani, Goa University, Telegao, Goa	Member
(xiii)	Prof. P.C. Nair, Prasadam, Planchery Lane, Thiruvananthapuram-695008 (Kerala)	Member
(xiv)	Prof. M.S. Ningonwa, Chief Investigator, DOE Manipur Language Project, Manipur University, Imphal-795003	Member
(xv)	Prof. Nar Bahadur Rai, Head, Nepali Department, Shillong College, Shillong-793008	Member
(xvi)	Prof. C.J. Daswani, UNESCO Consultant, UNESCO House, 8, Purvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110058	Member
(xvii)	Prof. Annamalai, 1047, Panchamantra Road, Mysore-570023	Member
(xviii)	Prof. Chandrakant Bandivadekar, 7, Shakuntal Sahitya Sahavas, Bandra (East, Mumbai-40005)	Member
(xix)	Prof. Sailen Bharti, 80, Guwahati University Campus, Guwahati-58	Member
(xx)	Prof. Maheep Singh, H-108, Shivaji Park, New Delhi-110026	Member
(xxi)	Prof. H.K. Kaul, 6, New Delhi Apartments, Vasundara Enclave, Delhi-110096	Member
(xxii)	Dr. Dharampal Singhal, 466, Mota Singh Nagar, Jalandhar-144001	Member
(xxiii)	Shri Brij Kishore Sharma, N-103, Dharm Apartments, 2, Indraprastha Extension, New Delhi-110092	Member
(xxiv)	Education Secretary,	Member Secretary

The Council will advise the Government on measures to be taken for the development, propagation and promotion of the Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Council will

meet from time to time in consultation with the Chairman of the Council. It will function for a period of two years.

Sd/-
(Bela Banerjee)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
F. No. 11-2/2000. D.II (L)

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to the Members of the Council; Director, Central Hindi Directorate; Chairman, Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology; Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages; Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language; Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan; Director, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages; National Council for Educational Research and Training; Prime Minister's Office, Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Lok Sabha Secretariat. Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

Ordered that this Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-
(Bela Banerjee)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Fight against Global Terrorism

2305. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have praised India's commitment in fighting terrorism globally;

(b) whether the Ambassdor Cofer Black, a co-ordinator, for counter terrorism presented the State Department's 2002 report on pattern of Global Terrorism;

(c) if so, the details of the main points mentioned in the report;

(d) whether the Government have examined these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The international community, including the United States, recognises that India is one of the main targets of terrorism and has shown unwaring commitment to fighting international terrorism.

(b) Yes. The U.S. State Department's annual report for 2002 on Patterns of Global Terrorism was presented in April 2003.

(c) The report presents U.S. assessment of international terrorism in 2002, the progress made in combating it, its cooperation with other countries in this process, and the action that it has taken against terrorist organisations and their members under U.S. domestic laws and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

(d) Government has seen the report.

(e) Government has noted that the report recognises that the extremist violence in Jammu and Kashmir is fuelled by infiltration across the Line of Control. Besides retaining the designation of groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba, Harkat-ul Mujahideen and Jaish-e-Mohammed as terrorist organisations, the United States has, in the 2002 report, added others, such as Al Badr Mujahideen, Hizb-ul Mujahideen and Jamiat ul-Mujahideen, to its lists of terrorist organisations.

Planning Commission Report

2306. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission has submitted reports to the Prime Minister recently on development of bio-fuels and technology and trade development for bamboo;

(b) if so, the main points/recommendations made in the reports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the same at the earliest?

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 Report on Development of Bio-fuel has proposed to undertake plantation of Jatropha on 4 lac hectares of waste land, collect seed and process it at a cost of Rs. 1496 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The oil generated will be blended with diesel after trans-esterification to substitute imported diesel. The Report envisaged creation of 124.4 million person days of employment in plantation and seed collection and reclaiming of 4 lac hectares of waste land particularly in the areas dominated by tribals.

Major recommendations of the Report on Bamboo Technology include, inter alia, coverage of 2 million hectares of land during the Tenth Five Year Plan at total envisaged cost of Rs. 2608 Crore resulting in generation of employment opportunities for 8.6 million people which, in turn, is expected to bring more than 5 million families above poverty line etc.

(c) Subsequent to the presentation of the 2 Reports to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture has been designated to act as a Nodal Ministry for the Project on Technology & Trade Development for Bamboo and Ministry of Rural Development has been designed to act as the Nodal Ministry for the Project on Development of Bio-fuel for processing and for taking further action on these Reports. Both the Projects would have to be processed for obtaining approval of CCEA.

[Translation]

Area Intensive Programme

2307. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether each Tehsil having 25,000 minority population is required to obtain approval from the Union Government for implementing the area intensive programme for the educationally backward minorities;

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

(c) the details of schemes fulfilling the aforesaid criterion submitted by the State Governments pending with the Union Government particularly from Maharashtra;

(d) the reasons for their pendency; and

(e) the details of the amount and the time by which the same would be made available by the Government under the area-intensive during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Area Intensive Programme is being implemented in educationally backward minority concentration blocks identified by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Criterion for identification of such blocks is that the Blocks should have 20% or more Muslim population.

(c) and (d) One proposal each from Haryana, Karnataka & Rajasthan and that 10 proposals from Uttar Pradesh are awaiting consideration by the Grant-in-Aid Committee of the Department in its next meeting. In addition to the above one proposal each from Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal approved by the GIAC in its meeting held on 22.11.2001 could not be processed for release of grants due to pending utilization certificate/ physical progress of work from these States. No proposal from Maharashtra is pending at present.

(e) The Grant-in-Aid Committee determines the amount of grant to be released for the proposed work. The release of funds depends on submission of Utilization certificate as well as the physical progress of work against the funds released to the State Government in the earlier years.

[English]

Ban of Foreign Tankers

2308. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned all foreign flagged crude, petroleum products and chemical tankers older than 25 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have decided to restrict the entry of single hull foreign oil tankers, which are older than 25 years, into the Indian waters from 1st

September, 2003. A circular specifying the following detailed guide lines, to be adhered to by the oil tankers charterers and oil terminal operators while in-chartering of foreign flag oil tankers, has been issued on 11th June, 2003 by the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai:—

(i) Crude oil carriers with SBT/PL, below 25 years of age

(ii) All products tankers with SBT/PL below 25 years of age

(iii) Chemical tankers below 25 years of age

(iv) Gas tankers to fully comply with GC/IGC Code below 30 years of age

(v) All tankers must be classed with major IACS Society or the Indian Register of Shipping.

(vi) All tanker above 20 yeas must have at least CAP 2 rating (for hull, machinery and cargo equipment) from IACS.

(vii) Tanker charters and Oil Terminals shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of tankers in-chartered.

(c) The in-chartering of sub-standard oil tankers from other countries especially from European countries, where most of the single hull oil tankers above 25 years have been banned, for operating in Indian waters, has caused a potential threat to the marine environment from oil pollution. Therefore, with a view to prevent any possible hazards to the marine environment, the Maritime Administration has been compelled to issue these guide-lines as a precautionary measure. Owing to amendments to MARPOL 73/78 Convention (Regulation 13G) as approved by the International Maritime Organisation and the recent measures imposed by the European Union countries, world's most single hull tankers of 20,000 Deadweight (DWT) are to be phased out from 2003 onwards depending upon their age.

Failure of WLL in Orissa

2309. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many villages in Bolangir district in Orissa remain unconnected by telephone facility due to the failure of the WLL system whereas they are being shown as connected in the records;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the data and correct it; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide proper telephone facilities to unconnected villages in the said district?

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

(b) The connectivity through WLL system is working satisfactorily as fault rate of WLL connections in Bolangir District is only about 1%. In addition, out of 1761 villages in Bolangir District, 169 villages have been provided services with Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) as on 31.7.2003. In total 1647 villages have been provided with telephone facility and only 114 villages are un-connected.

(c) The above said information regarding connected and unconnected villages is correct.

(d) The remaining 114 unconnected villages are planned to be covered progressively with satellite systems, subject to availability of funds.

Approval to Foreign District Investment Proposals

2310. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Ministry has approved 21 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals worth Rs. 35.5 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons and details of proposals cleared so far, company-wise;

(c) whether by this step small and medium companies are likely to lose their grip on domestic retail market;

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of small retailers; and

(e) the manner in which the industry would be benefited by FDI inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Disinvestment does not approve any Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Science and Technology Infrastructure in Educational Institutions

2311. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to strengthen science and technology infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of Universities/Academic Departments identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage young scientists to pursue serious scientific work across 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) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WLL Facility in Rural Areas

2312. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to provide WLL facilities to villages devoid of telecom facilities through rural postmen carrying WLL mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the postmen are to be paid commission from the earning of the rural mobile phone facility;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme indicating the cost involved therein; and

(e) the step taken to implement the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) A Pilot scheme has been implemented through Grameen Dak Sewak Delivery Agents (GDSDAs) of the Department of Posts (DOP) to be called as "Grameen Sanchar Sewak (GSS)" who were willing to work as franchisee for BSNL attached to the rural Post Offices. The telephone facility has been provided to the villages through the GSSs who carry a Mobile Fixed Wireless Terminal (FWT) with display unit facility in a carry bag and visits door-to-door to provide telephone facility to the rural population in his routine beat in the villages. The FWT costing around Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) has been supplied by the BSNL. In this pilot scheme 1800 GSSs have been selected to extend telephone facility in about 8000 villages of the country. The scheme has been implemented in all the telecom circles, except Andaman & Nicobar, Haryana and Punjab. The scheme is applicable on the existing STD/ISD PCO franchisee basis. The GSS is entitled to 20% commission on all outgoing calls whereas DOP is entitled to 5% commission. The GSS can charge Rs. 5/- for passing on the message to the concerned persons in the village.

Telecom Fund

2313. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up a separate telecommunication fund for the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it will be set up and the details of the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A bill to amend Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 4th August, 2003 to establish Universal Service Obligation Fund to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Post Offices

2314. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices located in the villages of Shaikhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui, Begusarai and Munger districts of Bihar;

(b) the number of Post Offices targeted to be upgraded in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the budgetary allocation made for this purpose;

(c) the actual number of post offices upgraded during the said period in the State and the district-wise expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to modernise/upgrade the remaining post offices of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The number of Post Offices located in the villages of Shaikhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui, Begusarai and Munger districts are as under:

Shaikhpura	-	90
Lakhisarai	-	87
Jamui	-	147
Begusarai	-	230
Munger	-	83

(b) and (c) No Post Office was targeted to be upgraded during the 9th Five Year Plan and no budget was allocated for that purpose.

(d) During IX Plan, 71 Post Offices in Bihar were modernized by improving their ergonomics. During the X Plan, the target is to modernize 70 Post Offices by 2007, of which 15 Post Offices are to be taken up in the current year. In addition, 33 Post Offices in Bihar have been computerised under the Plan scheme for computerization of post offices. Upgradation of 16 Departmental Sub Offices as Mukhya Dak Ghar is also under consideration.

[English]

Yellow Fever Vaccine

2315. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Yellow Fever vaccine is not available in the country in sufficient quantity particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide the vaccine in sufficient quantity to various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Non-availability of Yellow Fever Vaccine has not been reported from any part of the country, including Maharashtra. Sufficient quantity of Yellow Fever Vaccine is available at Central Research Institute, Kasauli.

Laying of Ducts for Fibre Optic Cables

2316. SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to some private companies to carry out surveys for lying ducts for fibre optic cables in the most sensitive areas around Defence establishments in the country;

(b) if so, the number of companies who have applied and permitted to survey and lay ducts around Defence establishments in the country;

(c) whether proper scrutiny of the companies were undertaken by the Cabinet Committee on Security before granting permission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has authorized private companies to seek way-leave from local authority to place and maintain telephone lines under, over, along or across and post or upon property vested in or under the control or management of concerned local authority.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The permission to place and maintain telephone lines is for seeking way-leave from local authority and local authority is authorized to get it removed or its position altered.

[Translation]

Flyovers on National Highways

2317. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the flyovers constructed over various National Highways during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise number of flyovers proposed to be constructed during the current financial year and the amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) State-wise details of Flyovers including Road Over Bridges (ROB's) constructed over various National Highways during last three years are given at enclosed Statement-I.

(b) State-wise details of Flyovers/ROB's to be constructed during the current year are given at enclosed Statement-II. The allocation of funds for construction of Flyovers/Road Over Bridges are not made separately. These amounts are included in the overall allocation of the states.

Statement I

State-wise details of Flyovers/ROB's Constructed during last three years

S. No.	Name of State	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		NH No.	No. of Flyovers constructed	NH No.	No. of Flyovers constructed	NH No.	No. of Flyovers constructed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	9	5	1		Nil
2.	Bihar	19	1	30	1	31	1
		30-84 Junction	1	30A	1		
3.	Haryana	8	2	1	3		Nil
				8	1		
4.	Jharkhand		Nil		Nil	32	1
5.	Karnataka		Nil		Nil	4	1
6.	Kerala		Nil		Nil	17	1
						47	1
7.	Maharashtra	4	3				
		6	1	4	2	50	1
		7	1				
8.	Orissa		Nil	6	1	6	1
9.	Punjab		Nil		Nil	1	2
						22	1
10.	Rajasthan	11	1	12	1	12	1
11.	Uttar Pradesh		Nil		Nil	244	2
						58	1
12.	West Bengal		Nil	2	2	2	1
				34	1		

Note: The information in respect of all other states is Nil.

Statement II

The details of Flyovers/ROB's to be constructed during current year

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Flyovers/ ROBs proposed to be constructed in 2003-2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Bihar	6
3.	Delhi	1
4.	Gujarat	8
5.	Haryana	2
6.	J & K	1
7.	Jharkhand	2
8.	Karnataka	29
9.	Kerala	8
10.	Maharashtra	12
11.	Orissa	14
12.	Rajasthan	5
13.	Tamil Nadu	14
14.	Uttaranchal	2
15.	Uttar Pradesh	6
16.	West Bengal	10

Note: The information in respect of other states is Nil

STD/ISD/PCO Booths to Handicapped

2318. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have detected instances in Delhi where STD/ISD/PCO booths were allotted in the names of physically challenged persons but these are being run by others;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last two years; and

(c) the action 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) 16 cases have been detected wherein STD/ISD PCO booths were allocated in the name of physically handicapped persons and the same were being operated by other private persons but there was no nexus of MTNL officials.

(c) All the 16 PCOs have been disconnected.

[English]

Disinvestment of Instrumentation Limited

2319. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest their shares of the Instrumentation Limited and its subsidiary unit, Instrumentation Control Walve Systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the time of approving the Turnaround Plan of Instrumentation Limited (IL) in October 1998, Government decided inter alia on the conversion of Palghat, DDC (Kota) and Jaipur units of IL as separate subsidiaries of IL and formation of joint ventures for these subsidiaries. Subsequently, Government decided in September 2001 to undertake steps for Joint Venture formation of the Kota Unit (Mother Unit) of Instrumentation Limited. Government have, in April 2003, approved the sale of 51% of the equity of Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd. (ICVL) held by IL to Larsen & Toubro Ltd. subject to the approval of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

Eradication of Leprosy

2320. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leprosy cases detected in the country during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of leprosy hospitals in the country as on date and the number of hospitals opened during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 till date;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government during 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the current year so far, State-wise;

(d) the details of the foreign assistance provided to these hospitals during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(e) whether these hospitals received assistance from International Organisations during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the eradication of leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (c) The State-wise number of leprosy cases detected in the country during each of the last three years as per records received from states till date is at Statement-I enclosed.

The details of amount provided by the Union Government during 2001-02 and 2002-2003, state-wise under National Leprosy Eradication programme is at Statement-II enclosed. The amount for the current year is being processed for release based on availability of funds with the various State Governments utilization of funds released in last years and the need of various states.

(b), (d), (e) and (f) The Central Leprosy Teaching & Research Institute, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu and the Regional Training & Research Institute at Raipur (Chhattisgarh), at Aska (Orissa) and at Gouripur (West Bengal) are under Directorate General of Health Services, Govt. of India are having attached hospitals at present. In addition the Central Jalma Institute, Agra under ICMR is having a leprosy hospital. No leprosy hospitals were opened during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04. No foreign assistance has been provided to these hospitals during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. The information in respect of State Leprosy Hospitals under the State Govt. is not centrally maintained.

(g) For the elimination of leprosy from the country, the Government is implementing National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), a 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of bringing the prevalence of leprosy to less than 1 case per 10,000 population at National Level by the year 2005.

Statement I

State-wise New Cases Detected in Last Three Years & till date

Sl. No.	State/UT	New Cases Detected			
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67230	54019	39115	10038
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	130	120	126	31
3.	Assam	1968	2485	1570	285
4.	Bihar	101607	120080	94561	15634
5.	Chhattisgarh	22343	28230	18468	3273
6.	Goa	419	351	294	53
7.	Gujarat	15666	11995	11564	2437
8.	Haryana	950	768	718	49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	335	263	280	47

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jharkhand	35565	45602	28982	2759
11.	Jammu Divn.	796	638	480	92
12.	Kashmir Divn.	101	85	92	8
13.	Karnataka	17842	20182	13071	3199
14.	Kerala	2381	2420	2512	334
15.	Madhya Pradesh	19256	18842	16570	737
16.	Maharashtra	44209	49263	48549	9576
17.	Manipur	214	166	108	22
18.	Meghalaya	59	48	78	4
19.	Mizoram	22	24	23	8
20.	Nagaland	68	73	58	3
21.	Orissa	45216	48144	38349	1999
22.	Punjab	1496	1457	1356	275
23.	Rajasthan	2033	2051	2212	458
24.	Sikkim	46	73	46	16
25.	Tamil Nadu	47064	42101	24767	2777
26.	Tripura	112	110	80	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	86304	112089	90586	10929
28.	Uttaranchal	1894	2541	2246	212
29.	West Bengal	35666	46620	32243	N.R.
30.	A & N Islands	113	67	60	26
31.	Chandigarh	364	350	323	65
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	217	365	268	51
33.	Daman & Diu	32	44	18	2
34.	Delhi	7191	5593	5975	1020
35.	Lakshadweep	32	13	27	0
36.	Pondicherry	997	721	225	58
	Total	559938	617993	476000	66458

*Reports received to CLD from States/UTs to till date.

N.R. Not Received

Statement II

The Amount provided by the Union Government during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.83	179.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.09	115.96
3.	Assam	153.85	97.48
4.	Bihar	663.94	885.85
5.	Chhattisgarh	378.34	354.41
6.	Goa	11.52	8.10
7.	Gujarat	61.97	99.65
8.	Haryana	61.94	43.89
9.	Himachal Pradesh	49.69	30.45
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	100.55	96.39
11.	Jharkhand	356.23	257.46
12.	Karnataka	196.05	122.66
13.	Kerala	74.61	69.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	395.32	676.61
15.	Maharashtra	435.99	263.14
16.	Manipur	71.02	101.25
17.	Meghalaya	46.94	46.24
18.	Mizoram	60.51	76.50
19.	Nagaland	89.22	112.44
20.	Orissa	540.77	478.63
21.	Punjab	32.30	40.27
22.	Rajasthan	123.07	52.32
23.	Sikkim	34.87	39.36
24.	Tamil Nadu	413.04	240.63
25.	Tripura	46.47	33.60
26.	Uttaranchal	129.01	120.01
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1282.50	1508.04
28.	West Bengal	574.66	599.55
29.	A & N Islands	18.30	20.22
30.	Chandigarh	5.50	10.13
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.00	6.00
32.	Daman & Diu	18.40	14.50
33.	Delhi	48.36	93.42
34.	Lakshadweep	6.00	7.26
35.	Pondicherry	2.00	6.00
	HKNS, Delhi		22.00
	Total	6774.86	6899.00

Export of IT

2321. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

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

(a) whether exports are being constantly promoted by the Information Technology Industry in the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the State-wise value of exports made during the last three years and current year so far;

(c) whether the Union Government are providing any incentives to States for the development of IT industry;

(d) if so, the assistance provided to Maharashtra therefor during the last three years and current year;

(e) the share of Maharashtra in the export of Computer Software and services; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to promote IT export by States?

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

(b) The available information on State-wise exports of Software and Services during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government has a scheme of development of Software Technology Parks jointly with the State Governments.

(d) The financial assistance provided in respect of Software Technology Parks in Maharashtra during the last three years is as under:

Year	STP Centre	Grant-in-aid (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	Nagpur	50.00
	Aurangabad	50.00
2001-02	Nasik	50.00
	Kolhapur	50.00
2002-03		Nil

(e) The share of Maharashtra in the export of Computer Software and Services during the year 2002-03 is around 15%.

(f) Government has the following two schemes, supplementing each other, for promoting exports by States:

(i) The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry is providing assistance to State Governments for development of export infrastructure. Under this scheme, 80% of the funds are allocated to State Governments on the basis of exports made by the units in the State.

(ii) Support for setting up Software Technology Parks infrastructure with a contribution of Rs. 50 lakh by Department of Information Technology.

Statement

Exports of Computer Software and Services during the years 2000-01 to 2002-03

Contribution of States/Union Territories

Region	States/Union Territories	Exports in 2002-03		Exports in 2001-02		Exports in 2000-01	
		Rs. Cr.	US $ MLN.	Rs. Cr.	US $ MLN.	Rs. Cr.	US $ MLN.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
East	West Bengal	1300.00	268.60	705.80	147.97	350.00	76.09
	Orissa	300.00	61.98	250.00	52.41	200.00	43.48
	Region Total	1600.00	330.58	955.80	200.38	550.00	119.57
North	Uttar Pradesh	4500.00	929.75	4500.00	943.40	3652.00	793.91
	Delhi	4372.00	903.31	4000.00	838.57	4090.00	889.13
	Haryana	2734.00	564.88	750.00	157.23	1000.00	217.39
	Madhya Pradesh	107.00	22.11	88.00	18.45	1.00	0.22
	Punjab	70.00	14.46	70.00	14.68	52.00	11.30
	Chandigarh	31.00	6.40				
	Rajasthan	47.00	9.71	45.00	9.43	30.00	6.52
	Himachal Pradesh	3.00	0.62				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Uttaranchal	0.50	0.10	0.10	0.02		0.00
	Jammu & Kashmir	0.40	0.08				
	Region Total	11864.90	2451.43	9453.10	1981.78	8825.00	1918.48
South	Karnataka	14100.00	2913.22	10500.00	2201.26	7750.00	1684.78
	Tamil Nadu	7500.00	1549.59	5875.00	1231.66	3890.00	845.65
	Andhra Pradesh	4100.00	847.11	2925.00	613.21	2000.00	434.78
	Kerala	205.00	42.36	201.00	42.14	100.00	21.74
	Pondicherry	15.00	3.10	0.45	0.09	2.00	0.43
	Regional Total	25920.00	5355.37	19501.45	4088.35	13742.00	2987.39
West	Maharashtra	7000.00	1446.28	6456.00	1353.46	4275.00	929.35
	Gujarat	115.00	23.76	133.65	28.02	108.00	23.48
	Region Total	7115.00	1470.04	6589.65	1381.48	4383.00	952.83
	Total	46499.90	9607.42	36500.00	7651.99	27500.00	5978.26

New Post Offices in A.P.

2322. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish any new post offices in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Mahaboob Nagar and Vanaparthy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any requests/recommendations from the State Government have been received and pending with the Government for clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the new post offices likely to be established in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been allotted targets for opening of two Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs), one Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) and fifteen Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) during the current financial year. There is a proposal to open one EDBO in Mahaboob Nagar district subject to fulfillment of norms.

(c) and (d) There is no request/recommendation from State Government, received and pending with the Department of Posts (Government of India), for opening of new Post Offices.

(e) During the financial year 2002-03, three EDBOs and 30 PSSKs were opened while 2 EDBOs, one DSO and 15 PSSKs are targeted in Andhra Pradesh for the current financial year, subject to availability of resources and fulfillment of norms.

Computer and Internet Facility

2323. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States and villages of the country where the Government have provided computer and internet facility as on 30 June, 2003;

(b) the names of the States and villages of the country where this facility has not been provided; and

(c) by when this facility would be made available in such States/villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The network of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) extends to 586 district headquarters out of the 601 district in the country. The District Informatics Centre are equipped with computers. The Department of Information Technology has also set up 483 Community Information Centres (CICs) in 483 Block Head Quarters (BHQs) in eight North East States. The CICs have been provided with computers and Internet connections through V-SATs.

The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is setting up Internet Dhabas with a set up of computers in each of the rural and urban BHQs in the country through franchisees. So far, 3884 Internet Dhabas have been set up, covering 3535 BHQs out of 6308. State-wise details have been furnished in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Network of NIC is proposed to be extended to the 15 uncovered district headquarters in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the end of the current year.

Statement

Status of Block Head Quarters covered with Internet Dhabas as on 30.6.2003

Sl. No.	Name of State	Target BHQs	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	5	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1104	1096
3.	Assam	219	35
4.	Bihar	533	78
5.	Chhattisgarh	146	96
6.	Gujarat	228	148
7.	Haryana	111	68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	75	58
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	119	2
10.	Jharkhand	211	21
11.	Karnataka	175	175
12.	Kerala	152	152
13.	Madhya Pradesh	313	194
14.	Maharashtra+Goa	358	357
15.	North East-I*	99	6
16.	North East-II**	120	1
17.	Orissa	314	26
18.	Punjab	140	139
19.	Rajasthan	237	199
20.	Tamil Nadu	397	359
21.	Uttar Pradesh	806	187
22.	Uttaranchal	95	23
23.	West Bengal+Sikkim	351	115
	Total	6308	3535

* Includes states of Meghalaya, Tripura, & Mizoram

** Includes states of Manipur, Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh

Images Magazines on Employment Opportunities

2324. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The information has to be collected from various sources which is a time consuming process.

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

Functioning of DGHS and ICMR

2325. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

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

(a) the details of the differences in the functioning of the DGHS and the ICMR and the administrative and financial power enjoyed by each of them;

(b) whether the Government have made any exercise to critically examine the constraints in the working of the DGHS vis-a-vis ICMR;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Dte. G.H.S. is an attached office of the Department of Health and is governed in accordance with the "Rules and Regulations" applicable to any attached office of the Government. Whereas, ICMR is an autonomous organization under the Department of Health and draws its financial and administrative powers from the "bye-laws" and "Memorandum of Association". No comparison can therefore, be made between the administrative and financial powers of Dte. G.H.S. and ICMR.

MOU with Rail Tel

2326. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has signed an MoU with Rail Tel;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement signed by BSNL with Rail Tel; and

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

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

(b) To explore new business opportunities in the field of Telecommunications by sharing infrastructure and services to achieve synergies of operation.

(c) The MOU is effective from 9th July, 2003, the date of signing MOU.

Launching of PSLV (C-5)

2327. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSLV (C-5) is proposed to be launched in September 2003;

(b) if so, whether all arrangements have been made for the launch;

(c) whether any fire had broken out in the cable trench near the rocket launch pad;

(d) if so, whether the same has been rectified; 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) The PSLV (C-5) mission is planned to be launched during the first half of October 2003 and will carry the 1360 kg. IRS-P6 (Resources at-1) satelite.

(b) The launch campaign has commenced at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The data cables are laid in a concrete trench connecting the launch complex to with various facilities located in SDSC SHAR. The fire which broke out in one of the cable wells on 1st July, 2003 at around 0345 hrs was immediately put off and the damaged cables have been replaced and tested.

Penicillin G

2328. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturers of bulk drugs have made representation to Drug Controller General of India to exempt Pencillin G and its salts from Registration requirements as it is used as an intermediate; and

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

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

(b) The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

Defaulting PCO Operators

2329. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the defaulting local PCO operators to resume operating their PCOs even as their allotments were cancelled by the department;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials in this regard?

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

[English]

Mobile Connection in Kerala

2330. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) number of mobile connection provided by BSNL in Kerala;

(b) whether there is too much delay in getting pre paid cards of BSNL in Kerala circle;

(c) if so, the total area of coverage in Kerala through BSNL mobile; and

(d) the steps taken to provide more mobile connections by BSNL in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of Mobile connections provided by BSNL in Kerala is 264945 (as on 30.6.2003).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 127 towns are covered in Kerala including Kavarathi of Lakshadweep and Mahe of Pondicherry. Apart from the towns, coverages have also been provided to all national highways & two state highways in the state.

(d) BSNL has set a target of 2,20,000 Cellular connections to be provided in Kerala during 2003-04.

National Drug Authority and Lentin Commission

2331. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress with regard to the formation and functioning of the National Drug Authority;

(b) whether stringent measures have been taken to stop production, prescription and sales of unethical and hazardous drugs;

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

(d) whether the Lentin Commission have been set up;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference and the recommendations made by the Commission;

(f) whether the said recommendations have been implemented by the Government; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, CSIR, to look into the various issues of drug control and give its recommendations. One of terms of reference is to recommend new structure for the Drug Regulatory System

in the country including setting up of National Drug Authority.

(b) and (c) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended in 1982 to prohibit the manufacture and sale of drugs considered harmful or irrational by the Govt. of India throughout the country. The formulations reported to be unethical, hazardous or irrational are examined by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board through its expert committees and the formulation considered harmful or irrational are prohibited throughout the country through a Gazette Notification. 74 categories of drug formulations have since been prohibited.

(d) to (g) The Lentin Commission was set up by Govt. of Maharashtra in 1986 and it submitted its report to the State Govt. for its consideration.

Nutritional Levels in Drought Affected States

2332. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has conducted any survey to assess the nutritional levels in drought affected States;

(b) if so, the States covered under the survey;

(c) the findings thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent the under nutrition in drought affected regions particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Medical Research's National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (with the Central Reference Laboratory at the National Institution of Nutrition at Hyderabad) has undertaken a survey during May-July, 2003 to assess the diet and nutritional status of population in the drought affected areas of the nine States namely Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Based on preliminary findings, it has been reported that there have been no starvation deaths in these States. However, several nutrition intervention programmes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), distribution of massive dose of vitamin A and Iron folic acid are being implemented in all the affected States including Andhra Pradesh. In addition, the programmes such as widow/old age pension, Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Food for Work Programme are being implemented which are targeted towards the poor socio-economic group of people to improve their nutritional status.

National Commission for Children

2333. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Children has been constituted and started functioning;

(b) if so, the main aims and objects of this Commission;

(c) whether the Commission has certain judicial powers and is mandated to safeguard the interests of children, guide Government policy on child-related issues and review the laws and programmes for the survival, development and protection of children;

(d) if so, whether the Commission will visit States also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (e) The proposal to set up a National Commission for Children is under consideration of the Government.

Assistance for Women Welfare Schemes

2334. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is provided to social Organisations and Institutions which are engaged in women's welfare works in the country;

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

(c) the assistance received so far by each of them during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(d) whether an evaluation of work of each of them has been made; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marine Educational Institute

2335. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of huge coastal area and number of ports in Gujarat, there is no Marine Educational Institute in the State to impart training in Marine Engineering; and

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

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

(b) Following the change in the policy of Government enunciated in 1997, new training institutes are to be set up in the private sector only. The role of the Government is only to ensure maintenance of standards. In case any proposal is received for setting up maritime training institute in the State of Gujarat, the same shall be considered in accordance with the guidelines.

[Translation]

Mobile Service in Jharkhand and Bihar

2336. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of sub-divisions and districts in Jharkhand and Bihar are deprived of Mobile/Cellular service of BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the existing norms for starting cellular mobile service and selection of areas for the purpose by BSNL;

(d) whether the BSNL propose to connect various blocks/sub-divisions and districts in Jharkhand and Bihar by mobile telephone service during the year 2003-2004;

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

(f) the time by which this service is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) plans to provide Cellular Mobile Service in the country had envisaged coverage of District Head Quarters, Important Tourist and Important Pilgrimage Centres, Important National Highways etc. The service has already been provided in all DHQs in Jharkhand and in Bihar except Buxar which will be launched during 2nd quarter of current financial year.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir. The list of additional towns proposed for coverage with Cellular service by BSNL during 2003-04 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of proposed Towns to be covered by Cellular Service of BSNL during 2003-04

New Cities

Jharkhand

1. Piparwar
2. Dakra
3. Sukurthuttu
4. Pithoria City
5. Khunti
6. Muri
7. Khelari
8. Ghatshila
9. Gamharia
10. Chakradharpur
11. Noamundi
12. Jagudora
13. Koderma
14. Ghato Tand
15. Bhurkunda
16. CFRI
17. Kartras
18. Bermo

19. Tenughat
20. Gomia
21. Balidih
22. Nirsa
23. Mugma

Bihar

1. Dumraon
2. Brahmpur
3. Bihia
4. Piro
5. Bikramganj
6. Kochas
7. Nokha
8. Dinara
9. Bihta
10. Bikram
11. Mokamah
12. Masaurhi
13. Punpun
14. Harnaut
15. Hilsa
16. Buxar
17. Dalmianagar

[English]

Teledensity

2337. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the teledensity in rural and urban areas in 1991-92 and 1999-2000, State-wise;

(b) whether teledensity in some States has been low;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to increase teledensity in rural areas especially in Hilly and Tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The overall tele density for the year 1991-92, state-wise and the rural-urban tele density for the year 1999-2000 state-wise are given in Statement-I and II respectively. The break up data for the 1991-92 is not available because of the absence of Rural-Urban classification of the telephone connections during that period.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Teledensity in some states like Assam, Bihar, J&K, Madhya Pradesh, North East, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are lower as compared to national average of tele-density. However, it may be worth mentioning that the tele-density is dependent upon demand for telephones in the state and its different in different states due to the following reasons:—

1. Economic condition of the state i.e. per capita income.
2. Literacy rate.
3. Business and commercial interest

(d) The steps taken to increase the tele-density in rural especially in Hilly and Tribal areas are as given below:—

1. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system inducted into rural network
2. To create more capacity in exchanges so as to provide telephone connections on demand.

Statement I

State-wise Tele-density as on 31.3.1992

Name of the Circles	Overall Tele-density
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.56
Assam	0.21
Bihar	0.15
Gujarat	1.17
Haryana	0.77

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	0.77
Jammu & Kashmir	0.40
Karnataka	0.82
Kerala	1.04
Madhya Pradesh	0.41
Maharashtra	1.50
North East	0.35
Orissa	0.25
Punjab	1.10
Rajasthan	0.41
Tamil Nadu	0.87
Uttar Pradesh	0.27
West Bengal	0.49
Delhi	6.19
All India	0.67

Note: West Bengal includes state of Sikkim and Union Territory A & N
Kerala includes Lakshadweep
North East includes Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh
Tamil Nadu includes Pondicherry.
Maharashtra includes Goa
Gujarat includes Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli.

Statement II

State-wise Urban & Rural Teledensity as on 31.3.2000

Name of the Circles	Urban Teledensity	Rural Teledensity
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	11.65	4.71
Andhra Pradesh	9.05	0.98
Assam	6.99	0.20
Bihar	3.62	0.13
Gujarat	9.22	1.09
Haryana	8.76	0.95
Himachal Pradesh	21.93	3.00
Jammu & Kashmir	4.96	0.10
Karnataka	8.61	1.28
Kerala	11.08	3.90
Madhya Pradesh	5.02	0.37
Maharashtra	8.00	0.97
North East	6.14	0.44
Orissa	5.95	0.36
Punjab	12.15	1.91
Rajasthan	6.71	0.60
Tamil Nadu	9.70	0.51
Uttar Pradesh	5.52	0.20
West Bengal	6.61	0.34
Delhi	15.40	0.00
Total	7.98	0.66

Note: West Bengal includes state of Sikkim and Union Territory A & N
Kerala includes Lakshadweep
North East includes Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh
Tamil Nadu includes Pondicherry.
Maharashtra includes Goa
Gujarat includes Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli.

[Translation]

Mumbai-Pune Express Highway

2338. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai-Pune Express Highway has been covered under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) if so, whether under the prescribed rules the Union Government provide 40 per cent grant to the States;

(c) if so, whether 40 per cent amount of the total budget spent on Mumbai-Pune Express Highway has been paid to Maharashtra Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Mumbai-Pune Expressway is being treated as part of Mumbai-Chennai arm of Golden Quadrilateral.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Prior concurrence of Central Government was not obtained for this project for the payment of grant.

[Translation]

Condition of National Highways in Maharashtra

2339. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bad condition of National Highways in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent during the year 2002-03 on the maintenance and upkeep of National Highways in State alongwith the names of places where the said amount has been spent;

(d) whether the said amount has been spent properly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) National Highways in Maharashtra are maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Total amount spent during the year 2002-03 on maintenance and development on National Highways of Maharashtra is Rs. 167.03 crore. This amount has been spent on different National Highways in Maharashtra.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Health in the Concurrent List

2340. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to poor health care services in various parts of the country many precious lives are lost every year;

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

(c) whether there are persistent demands to include 'Health' in the concurrent list to monitor the Health services in various States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored National Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness Leprosy AIDS and Cancer. As a result of implementation of National Health Programmes, morbidity and mortality due to various diseases has reduced considerably. Central and State Governments are making every effort for providing better health care services particularly for the poor and disadvantaged. To enable the States to fill critical gaps in providing health services to the people, external assistance has been availed of by the Central Government for National Health Programmes. Further, Secondary health facilities are being upgraded in 7 selected States to improve delivery of health care services with World Bank assistance. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for improving the functional status of the rural primary health care institutions.

(c) and (d) No such specific demand has been made. Monitoring of the Centrally Sponsored National Health Programme is done through regular performance reports, review meeting both at the Centre and States, audit reports and utilization certificates.

Indian Missions in Hired Buildings

2341. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Government on the rent of hired buildings for Indian Missions during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries where Indian Missions are working in hired accommodation; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to construct its own buildings for Indian Missions in all the countries in order to save huge expenditure incurred on rent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The latest, comprehensive figures are being collated and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) As per Statement enclosed.

(c) It may be mentioned that out of about 160 Missions/Posts functioning abroad, Government of India already owns 72 Chancery buildings, 78 Embassy Residences and over 600 other residences. A comprehensive plan for purchase/construction of properties abroad, to be implemented over a 5-year period from 2001 has been drawn up by the Ministry of External Affairs. This plan is periodically reviewed keeping in view the changing market conditions, political environment, economic viability, functional requirements and availability of funds. The Ministry has also constituted a Monitoring Committee headed by Foreign Secretary to take follow-up action on property construction and purchase proposals.

Statement

Name of countries where Indian Missions are working in hired accommodation

S. No.	Name of country	Name of Missions/Posts
1	2	3
1.	Ivory Coast	Abidjan
2.	Nigeria	Abuja
3.	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
4.	Algeria	Algiers
5.	Kazakhstan	Almaty
6.	Turkmenistan	Ashgabat
7.	Iraq	Baghdad
8.	Bahrain	Bahrain
9.	Azerbaijan	Baku
10.	Iran	Bandar Abbas
11.	Lebanon	Beirut
12.	Yogoslavia	Belgrade
13.	Switzerland	Berne
14.	UK	Birmingham
15.	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
16.	Colombia	Bogota
17.	Brazil	Brasilia
18.	Slovak Rep.	Bratislava
19.	Brunei	Brunei
20.	Romania	Bucharest
21.	South Africa	Cape Town
22.	Thailand	Chiangmai
23.	U.S.A.	Chicago
24.	Bangladesh	Chittagong
25.	Senegal	Dakar
26.	Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam
27.	Bangladesh	Dhaka
28.	Qatar	Doha
29.	South Africa	Durban
30.	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
31.	Botswana	Gaborone
32.	Palestine	Gaza
33.	Guyana	Georgetown
34.	Germany	Hamburg
35.	Afghanistan	Herat
36.	Vietnam	Hanoi
37.	Cuba	Havana

1	2	3
38.	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City
39.	China	Hong Kong **
40.	U.S.A.	Houston
41.	Turkey	Istanbul
42.	Afghanistan	Jalahabad
43.	Saudi Arabia	Jeddah
44.	Afghanistan	Kabul
45.	Afghanistan	Kandahar
46.	Sri Lanka	Kandy
47.	Jamaica	Kingston
48.	Japan	Kobe
49.	Angola	Luanda
50.	Afghanistan	Mazar-e-Sharif
51.	Maldives	Male
52.	Myanmar	Mandalay
53.	Mozambique	Maputo
54.	Italy	Milan
55.	Belarus	Minsk
56.	Kenya	Mombasa
57.	Germany	Munich
58.	Oman	Muscat
59.	Kenya	Nairobi
60.	USA	Office of Amb-at-large, NY
61.	Suriname	Paramaribo
62.	France	E/I Paris (Space wing) **
63.	France	Paris (PDI UNESCO)
64.	Cambodia	Phnom Penh
65.	Mauritius	Port Louis
66.	Papua New Guin	Port Moresby
67.	Czech Republic	Prague
68.	DPR Korea	Pyongyang
69.	Bangladesh	Rajshahi
70.	Italy	Rome
71.	Yemen	Sanaa
72.	Bulgaria	Sofia
73.	Sweden	Stockholm
74.	Reunion Island	St. Denis
75.	Fiji	Suva
76.	Australia	Sydney
77.	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
78.	Israel	Tele Aviv
79.	Canada	Toronto
80.	Libya	Tripoli
81.	Mongolia	Ulan Bator
82.	Canada	Vancouver
83.	Austria	Vienna (Annexe Only) **
84.	Lao PDR	Vientiane
85.	Russia	Viadivostok
86.	Poland	Warsaw
87.	New Zealand	Wellington
88.	Armenia	Yerevan
89.	Croatia	Zagreb
90.	Iran	Zahidan
91.	Tanzania	Zanzibar

** Partly rented.

Conference on International Dialogue among Civilisation

2342. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day conference on international dialogue among civilisation was recently organised by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features and outcome of the conference; and

(c) the number of countries that participated in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India organised in Cooperation with UNESCO, an International Ministerial Conference on "Dialogue Among Civilisation—Quest for New Perspective", on July 9th and 10th, 2003 at New Delhi, India.

(b) and (c) Representatives of 85 countries participated in the Conference. Following the inaugural plenary session, Ministers, Deputy/Vice Ministers, Ambassadors and UNESCO representatives addressed the plenary sessions on 9 July, 2003. On 10 July, 2003, three thematic discussions were held in parallel sessions.

Thereafter, following a plenary session in which the reports of the thematic groups were received, the Conference unanimously adopted the "New Delhi Declaration" in the concluding plenary session.

Contract for Rebuilding Iraq

2343. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of business delegations from India visited Iraq, Jordan and New York to secure contracts for works concerning rebuilding of War-torn Iraq;

(b) if so, whether success has evaded all these attempts to secure a share in the process for rebuilding Iraq;

(c) the reasons for failure of the these delegations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to secure a share in the rebuilding of Iraq?

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

(b) to (d) These business contacts with concerned parties are still continuing and therefore their respective results are yet to emerge. The Government is giving all possible support, within its policy parameters, to these endeavours.

[Translation]

Speed Post Centres

2344. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) the number of speed centres functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more centres in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) the time by which all the district headquarters are likely to be covered under speed post network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) As on date there are 140 National Speed Post Centres and 762 State Speed Post Centres in the country. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Opening of speed post centre is an on going process. Speed post services are extended to more and more towns of the country based on business and operational parameters. Whenever there is demand from public for providing speed post facility in a particular city/ town the cases are examined in the light of prescribed norms and the facility is provided wherever it is found justified.

Statement

Number of National Speed Post Centres and State Speed Post Centres State-wise

Sl. No.	State	No. of National Speed Post Centres	No. of Speed Post Centres	Total Nos. of Speed Post Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	79	85
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	1	1
3.	Assam	4	18	22
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	2
5.	Bihar	2	31	33
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	30	32
7.	Delhi	1	0	1
8.	Gujarat	4	49	53
9.	Haryana	10	8	18
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	17	22
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	14	16
12.	Jharkhand	3	73	76
13.	Karnataka	14	19	33
14.	Kerala	8	33	41
15.	Maharashtra	7	76	83
16	Meghalaya	1	1	2
17.	Mizoram	1	9	10
18.	Manipur	1	1	2
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4	90	94
20.	Nagaland	2	5	7
21.	Orissa	5	32	37
22.	Punjab	11	18	29
23.	Rajasthan	4	34	38
24.	Sikkim	1	7	8
25.	Tripura	1	4	5
26.	Tamil Nadu	15	24	39
27.	Uttaranchal	4	21	25
28.	Uttar Pradesh	15	35	50
29.	W. Bengal	4	32	36
	Total	138*	762	900*

*This does not include two speed post centers under control of Army Post Service situated in Delhi & Kolkata.

[English]

Computerisation Network

2345. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate funds for development of information technology, Computer Programme, Computerisation of Medical Universities and State Laboratories all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated therefor during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nasik, seeking financial assistance for this purpose; and

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

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

Awarding of Degrees by IGNOU

2346. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who have received degrees from IGNOU since its inception;

(b) the number of students who graduated or received a post-graduate degree from IGNOU in 2002-2003;

(c) whether it is a fact that IGNOU proposes an expansion of its activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) 3,93,506 students have been awarded Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates since the inception of the University. In the year 2002-2003, 7785 students graduated and 5015 students received post graduate degrees.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The expansion activities of IGNOU include, inter-alia, development of new academic programmes, particularly in socially relevant and emerging disciplines, opening of two new Schools, viz. School of Law and School of Agriculture and expansion of basic computer literacy programme in low literacy areas to accomplish its mandate to reach the unreached.

[Translation]

National Commission for Women

2347. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) the functions and responsibilities of the National Commission for Women;

(b) the cases of the atrocities on the women and children living abroad highlighted by the Commission during the last three years and the names of the States to which these women and children belong to and the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken in this regard;

(d) the year-wise total funds spent on the National Commission for Women during the last three years; and

(e) the funds allocated and utilised by the Commission during the last three years?

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 given as statement enclosed.

(b) NCW has informed that the cases of atrocities on women and children living abroad are not registered in the Commission separately.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The grants released to the NCW during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and the funds utilised by the Commission are as follows:

Year	Grants released	Funds utilized by NCW*
2000-2001	350.00	348.53
2001-2002	417.00	443.24
2002-2003	370.00	344.07

*Includes unspent balances from the grants released during the previous years.

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 and 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 impending 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.

[English]

Pending Passport Applications In UP

2348. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken by Regional Passport Office (RPO) Uttar Pradesh to issue passports after police verification;

(b) the number of passport applications complete in all respects pending with R.P.O., Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The average time taken to issue passports after police verification by Passport Offices in UP is as follows: Lucknow and Bareilly—two weeks and Ghaziabad—four weeks.

(b) The number of passport applications complete in all respects pending with Passport Offices in UP is as follows: Lucknow—2251 (as on 1.8.03), Bareilly—250 (as on 31.7.03) and Ghaziabad—2578 (as on 4.8.03).

(c) The applications are pending because the files are being processed.

(d) The time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared is as follows: Lucknow—one week, Bareilly-two weeks and Ghaziabad-four weeks.

Patients of General Ward at AIIMS

2349. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients admitted in General Ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines;

(b) if so, whether patients of General Ward are given prescriptions for purchasing each and every medicine including cotton gauge and syringes from the market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a number of patients are waiting for a life saving surgery at the AIIMS and other Government hospitals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General Ward during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In AIIMS, New Delhi, patients admitted in general ward are provided with all basic medicines listed in the Hospital Drug test free of cost. The patients requiring high cost antibiotics, nutritional supplements, anti-cancer drugs, dialysis fluids etc. have to procure them themselves. However, the poor and indigent patients who cannot afford these medicines are provided such medicines free of cost under recommendation of the treating physicians and Medical Social Services Officer.

(d) and (e) No patient is kept in waiting in AIIMS for emergency operation. Efforts are made to admit such patients and undertake emergency operations when indicated within available beds in the Hospital. There is however a waiting list of different specialist procedures for elective surgery for a period ranging from six months to three years. In other Central Government Hospitals also, the patients requiring life saving surgeries are taken up on priority basis.

(f) The expenditure incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in patients care areas is as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

2000-2001	591.00
2001-2002	882.66
2002-2003	1266.10

[Translation]

Providing of Garuda Phone

2350. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is now ready to provide its Garuda phone for Rs. 200/- only;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions under which service would be provide;

(c) whether the MTNL proposes to make its Garuda service roaming on the lines of Reliance WLL services; 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) Yes, Sir. MTNL was providing Garuda Phone for an initial deposit of Rs. 200/- as promotional offer. The balance of Rs. 4800/- are payable in 24 equal interest free instalments of Rs. 200/- each. The promotional scheme has been closed on 23.7.2003.

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

[English]

Amendment in Organ Donation Act

2351. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are loopholes in the present organ donation Act;

(b) if so, the loopholes detected by the Government while implementing the Act;

(c) whether the Government propose to make changes in the Act; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government has received certain suggestions to improve the legal framework in respect of organ transplantation. The Government is committed to effective implementation of the various provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and would address any impediment in the way of effective implementation of the Act.

Alleged Corruption Cases in S.J. Hospital

2352. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the Orthopaedic Centre of the Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, hefty amounts are taken by doctors from the patients as reported in 'Nav Bharat' dated July 20, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry into it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Alleged Racket in Hospitals

2353. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that patients at AIIMS, Safdarjung and R.M.L. Hospitals are allegedly paying huge amounts to doctors for their surgeries through touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of doctors and staff involved in the racket;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the rules framed to penalize the accused doctors and the concerned staff; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to curb such practice?

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.

[English]

WLL Connections in Kerala

2354. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of WLL connections provided in Kerala circle, SSA-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in Kerala there are many complaints from subscribers regarding the WLL connections not working properly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 28552 WLL connections have been provided as on 30.6.2003 in Kerala State. SSA-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The WLL system is working properly. However a few complaints from individual subscribers have been received about the working of their telephones.

(c) Prompt action is taken by the field unit for their redressal.

Statement

Details of SSA-wise WLL connections provided in Kerala State as on 30.6.2003

Sl. No.	Secondary Switching Area	No. of WLL connections provided
1.	Alleppey	1790
2.	Calicut	1513
3.	Cannanore	3306
4.	Ernakulam	6171
5.	Kottayam	1621
6.	Malappuram	2776
7.	Palghat	2640
8.	Pathanamthitta	1245
9.	Quilon	2807
10.	Trichur	1551
11.	Trivandrum	3132
	Total	28552

Abnormal Increase in Temperature

2355. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of the country particularly Andhra Pradesh recorded unprecedented high temperature during the summer of 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the finding 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The normal maximum temperature over northwest and central India and parts of peninsula during May ranges from 41^0 C to 43^0 C. When the actual maximum temperatures are above normal by 40^0 C or more, they are referred to as "heat wave". Spells of such abnormally high maximum temperatures occur during summer months in different parts of the country. They develop generally when strong northerly/northwesterly dry winds blow over a place. Regions extending from Rajasthan to coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are prone to heat waves. During 2003 heat waves conditions in Andhra Pradesh prevailed for a longer duration of 27 days from 16th May to 11th June, whereas in normal cases, it last only for about a week or so. A cyclonic storm developed over the Bay of Bengal and remained over the sea for about 10 days (10-19 May). It had a prolonged influence on the flow pattern over the country even after its dissipation. This caused the dry and hot northwesterly winds to blow over the peninsula leading to heat wave conditions over Andhra Pradesh and its prevalence for unusually longer duration. The highest maximum temperature recorded in Andhra Pradesh this year during summer was 48.7^0 C recorded on 30th May at Vijayawada (Airport).

Indo-China Cooperation in IT Sector

2356. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while addressing a large gathering of industry and IT professionals in China had proposed that the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing could provide a good opportunity for Indian and Chinese companies to work together;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands at present; and

(c) the man points of discussion and agreements reached between the two countries for cooperation in IT sector?

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

(b) The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) sees a business opportunity in the Beijing Olympic Hightech Action Plan, which provides for optimization of a batch of projects in the field of traffic and transport, clean energy, environment, protection of the Olympic sports ground and gymnasia, opening and closing ceremonies, science and technology for sports and development of Zhongguancon Science and Technology Park Zone. NASSCOM is exploring the feasibility of cooperation between Indian and Chinese companies for the IT requirements of the 2008 Olympic games.

(c) The opening up of service sector, especially with reference to the movement of professionals and natural persons was discussed and it was agreed to adopt a coordinated approach in the forthcoming round of WTO negotiations in this regard.

Treatment/Rehabilitation of Mental Patients

2357. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of mental health status of the people in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the treatment and rehabilitation of mental patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Epidemilogical studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population has major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) Treatment for mental disorders is given through the existing mental hospitals, Psychiatric department attached to Medical Colleges and District General Hospitals. The District Mental Health Programme is implemented with the aim to identify persons sufferings from various mental disorders and manage them at the primary health care center and district level by trained doctors, with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. The programme is presently being implemented in 27 districts covering 22 States and Union Territories. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, it is envisaged to expand the District Mental Health programme to more districts, upgrade the facilities in the mental hospitals/medical colleges and increase awareness amongst, the people. The Government through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been undertaking various schemes for rehabilitation of persons suffering from disabilities, including mentally ill patients.

Deposit Amount for Second Telephone

2358. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) propose to issue second telephone for Re. 1 specially to senior citizens and existing telephone owners immediately;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 1440/- as a deposit amount has to be remitted for such telephones as per BSNL latest order which causes various problems to the consumers viz. non-availability of adequate counters for depositing the same at collection centres; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not mentioning about the deposit amount at the time of issuing advertisement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) There is no such proposal with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, at present.

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

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of Hospital/Nursing Home

2359. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present norms for opening dental hospital, nursing home and general hospital;

(b) whether any special concession is given to the voluntary organizations for opening a hospital;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether land is allotted at concessional rates to private/individuals for opening a hospital; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) As Health is a State subject, setting up of norms for opening of dental hospital, nursing home and general hospital etc. and allotment of land at concessional rates to private/individuals for opening of a hospital come under the purview of respective State Governments.

[English]

Per Capita Plan Outlay

2360. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita plan outlay for 2001-02, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for low per capita plan outlay for Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to increase the flow of finances to Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The per capita Plan outlay for States for 2001-02 is given in a statement enclosed.

(b) Annual Plan Outlays of States are jointly funded by the States (States' Own Resources) and the Central Government (Central Assistance). Central Assistance to the States consists of Normal Central Assistance, Assistance for Externally Aided Projects, Special Central Assistance for specific projects/programmes, Special Plan Assistance and Additional Central Assistance. Population is not the only criterion for allocation of Central Assistance, and the determination of the size of States' Own Resources does not depend on the State's population, but on its financial position. Therefore, for populous States like Tamil Nadu, plan outlay expressed in terms of per capita tends to be lower than for other less populous States.

(c) Planning Commission has been impressing upon the States, including Tamil Nadu, to generate higher levels of own resources, inter alia by improving the performance of States level enterprises, increasing tax and non-tax revenue and also by curtailing non-Plan expenditure to enable greater flow of finances for increasing the plan outlay in the State Plans.

Statement

Per Capita Plan Outlays for States for 2001-02

(Figure in Rs.)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan 2001-02
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,032
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6,058
3.	Assam	642
4.	Bihar	319
5.	Chhattisgarh	631
6.	Goa	3,423
7.	Gujarat	1,285
8.	Haryana	860
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2,871
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,036
11.	Jharkhand	985
12.	Karnataka	1,499
13.	Kerala	710
14.	Madhya Pradesh	652
15.	Maharashtra	1,120
16.	Manipur	1,476
17.	Meghalaya	2,050
18.	Mizoram	4,955
19.	Nagaland	2,069
20.	Orissa	627
21.	Punjab	1,244
22.	Rajasthan	822
23.	Sikkim	5,560

1	2	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	837
25.	Tripura	1,755
26.	Uttar Pradesh	293
27.	Uttaranchal	1,238
28.	West Bengal	710
	Total (States)	1,032

Note: Census 2001 figures have been used for calculating per capita Outlays.

[Translation]

Drug Scam

2361. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medicines meant for the Government hospitals in Delhi are being sold in open market as reported in the 'Punjab Kesari' dated June 13, 2003; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that information was received by the officers of Drugs Control Department, Delhi that one Mr. Pradeep Kumar Bhargava was dealing in drugs and surgical items without having requisite drug licence from the premises situated at 2186, 2nd Floor, Chah Indara Fountain, Delhi and is also indulging in the trading of various items of drugs pilfered from various Government Institute. A joint raid was carried out by the officers of Drugs Control Department, Delhi along with the officers Crime Branch, Delhi Police, at the premises of Pradeep Bhargava on 7.6.2003.

Drugs and Surgical items bearing markings of "Government Supply, Not for Sale" worth Rs. 30 lakhs approximately, were seized by the Drugs Inspector, Government of Delhi, and non drug items worth Rs. 50,000/- were seized by Delhi Police. A total number of 4 samples were collected for test/analysis by the Drugs Inspector. An FIR was registered against the said Pradeep Bhargava under Section 18/27 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and IPC with P.S Kotwali, New Delhi and investigation is in progress.

Whenever any drugs meant for Government supply are detected in the market, attempts are made to trace out the source to curb such incidents—the medical stores/ procurement agencies are contacted and requested to find out the person responsible for the pilferage from the stores. It is the continuous endeavour of the Government for better management of stores and strengthening of Inventory Control Systems.

Computerisaton of Post Offices

2362. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) the State-wise number of post-offices in the country alongwith the number of post-offices out of them which has been computerised;

(b) the number of post offices to be computerised during 2003-04, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the slow pace of the computerisation of post-offices; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to computerise all post offices particularly in Maharashtra at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The State-wise details of departmental Post Offices and the number of Post Offices that have been provided with computers till date are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) In the year 2003-2004, the proposal is to provide computers to remaining Head Post Offices which were not covered earlier. The number of Head Post Offices to be provided with computers, State-wise during 2003-2004 subject to necessary clearances and availability of funds are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) The Department began computerising its Post Offices, from Eighth Five Year Plan onwards. Upto Ninth Five Year Plan 2427 Post Offices have been provided

with computers with resources that was made availability to the Department.

(d) In the Tenth Plan, additional 5349 Post Offices are proposed for computerisation subject to required clearances and availability of funds. This would involve computerising all the remaining Head Post Offices and large Sub-Post Offices in the country, including those in Maharashtra.

Statement I

State-wise details of Post Offices provided with Computers till date

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Departmental Post Offices	Total No. of such Post Offices provided with computers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2467	144
2.	Assam	621	73
3.	Bihar	1041	33
4.	Chhattisgarh	660	80
5.	Delhi	431	84
6.	Gujarat	1417	149
7.	Haryana	484	54
8.	Himachal Pradesh	462	62
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	257	31
10.	Jharkhand	448	13
11.	Karnataka	1852	208
12.	Kerala	1513	206
13.	Madhya Pradesh	776	69
14.	Maharashtra*	2267	315
15.	North East**	332	30
16.	Orissa	1205	64
17.	Punjab	839	95
18.	Rajasthan	1451	84
19.	Tamil Nadu***	2858	212
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2540	170
21.	Uttaranchal	393	33
22.	West Bengal#	1750	218
	Total	26064	2427

*Includes Goa

**Consists of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

***Includes Pondicherry

#Includes Sikkim

Statement II

State-wise details of Post Offices provided with Computers 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of remaining Head Post Offices proposed to be computerised
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	12
4.	Chhattisgarh	9
5.	Delhi	0
6.	Gujarat	16
7.	Haryana	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
10.	Jharkhand	4
11.	Karnataka	27
12.	Kerala	26
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14
14.	Maharashtra*	32
15.	North East**	0

1	2	3
16.	Orissa	16
17.	Punjab	0
18.	Rajasthan	26
19.	Tamil Nadu***	41
20.	Uttar Pradesh	39
21.	Uttaranchal	6
22.	West Bengal#	21
	Total	339

* Includes Goa

Consists of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

*** Includes Pondicherry

\# Includes Sikkim

[English]

Workshops and Seminars on PFA Act

2363. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a number of workshops and seminars to familiarize traders and retailers with various and diverse provisions of the PFA Act;

(b) the number of sensitization workshops held in 2002-2003, State-wise;

(c) the number of retailers and consumers reached through such workshops;

(d) whether the State Government officers were also sensitized on this Act; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to involve more retailers and consumers in order to make them familiar with PFA Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (PFA Division), in collaboration with VOICE (a Consumer Organization), New Delhi and Consumer Coordination Council, New Delhi, as well as the State Government's have conducted sensitization programmes and training-cum-workshops for consumers, retailers, traders and industries on implementation of PFA Act, 1994 and Rules made thereunder, as follows:

Name of the Station	Dates of the training cum Workshop for sensitization	No. of persons trained (Retailers/Consumers/ Traders and Manufacturers)
Mumbai	10th January, 2002	27
Mumbai	11th January, 2002	23
Kolkata	20th February, 2002	45
Kolkata	21st February, 2002	39
New Delhi	13th March, 2002	33
New Delhi	14th March, 2002	31
Lucknow	20th December, 2002	95
Bhopal	11th February, 2003	65
Chennai	4th April, 2003	65

This activity will continue.

Revision in Rates

2364. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and MTNL have rolled back the call charges from landline phones to mobile cell phones, the monthly rent and other tariff rates after May 1, this year when the rates were abruptly raised; and

(b) if so, the details of the revision in rates and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No Sir, there were no abrupt increase of rates.

In the tariff packages of BSNL and MTNL effective from May, 2003, there was no proposal to increase the monthly rental. Certain adjustments/rationalization of call charges and pulse rates from land line phones to cellular phones were proposed.

(b) These proposals were later revised taking note of public resentment and feelings of the Hon'ble Members of the House. The details of the revisions made by BSNL and MTNL are in the Statement.

Statement

Details of revisions made by BSNL/MTNL

BSNL

A. Free-call limit (per month)

	Applicable as on 30.4.2003	Applicable w.e.f. 1.5.2003	After revision
Urban subscribers	125	30	50
Rural subscribers	75	50	75

B. Call duration for local calls from land line to Cellphone in a Circle

Applicable as on 30.4.2003		Applicable w.e.f. 1.5.2003		After revision	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
180 sec.	180 sec.	30 sec.	30 sec.	60 sec*	60 sec.*

*Where Point of Interconnect (POI) is working.

MTNL

Free-call limit (per month)

	Applicable as on 30.4.2003	Applicable w.e.f. 1.5.2003	After revision
Urban subscribers	75	30	60

Vocationalization of Secondary Education

2365. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments seeking central assistance under the centrally sponsored scheme of vocationalization of the secondary education;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received during the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on each of the these proposal; and

(d) the number of unemployed youths targeted to be benefited under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at+2 level grants are being released to the State Governments for conducting vocational courses based on the proposals received from them, considering the admissibility and availability of funds. A statement showing the proposals received from the State Governments and grants released is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Number of proposals received from State Governments under the Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education+2 level during the following years

	No. of proposals received from State Governments	No. of State Governments who have been released Grants-in-aid
2000-01	15	11
2001-02	11	08
2002-03	07	04
2003-04 (current year)	07	Proposals under consideration
Total	40	23

Status of Proposals Received from State Governments:

Name of the State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	Proposal not received	As State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 1211.07 lakhs, further Grant not released.	As State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 1211.07 lakhs, further Grant not released.	The proposal for expansion of the scheme is under consideration
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
3. Assam	Rs. 28.57 lakh was released.	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
4. Bihar	As State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 171.16 lakhs no grant was released.	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
5. Chhattisgarh	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
6. Delhi	As State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 47.91 lakhs further grant not released.	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
7. Goa	Rs. 10.00 lakhs was released.	Proposal not received	As State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 10.52 lakhs, further grant not released.	Proposal not received
8. Gujarat	Deficient proposal received.	A sum of Rs. 2370.30 lakhs was sanctioned but Rs. 1902.72 lakh was released due to inadequate funds.	The balance amount of Rs. 467.58 lakhs was released out of Rs. 2370.30 sanctioned during 2001-02.	Proposal not received
9. Haryana	Rs. 94.28 lakh released	Rs. 212.10 lakhs released	Rs. 329.00 lakhs released	Proposal not received
10. H.P.	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
11. Jharkhand	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
12. J&K	Rs. 916.55 lakhs released	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
13. Karnataka	Rs. 263.25 lakhs released	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
14. Kerala	Rs. 1362.22 lakhs released.	As the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 1598.65 lakhs (including Rs. 1362.22	As the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 1598.65 lakhs (including Rs. 1362.22	Proposal received. Certain clarification sought from State Government which is awaited.

1	2	3	4	5
		lakhs released during 2000-01) lying with them, no grant was released.	lakhs released during 2000-01) lying with them, no grant was released.	
15. M.P.	Rs. 467.80 lakhs released.	Rs. 31.90 lakhs was released	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
16. Maharashtra	At the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 414.50 lakhs, further grant not released.	As the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 414.50 lakhs, further grant not released	As the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 414.50 lakhs, further grant not released	As the State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 414.50 lakhs, further grant not released
17. Manipur	Rs. 98.32 lakhs was released.	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
18. Meghalaya	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
19. Mizoram	The State Government had diverted the grant to other head, hence the fresh grant was not received.	The State Government had diverted the grant to other head, hence the fresh grant was not considered.	The State Government was asked to intimate the date of Aptt. of teachers and scale of pay. Information still awaited.	Proposal received and is being examined.
20. Nagaland	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
21. Orissa	Proposal not received	Rs. 284.83 lakh was released.	The proposal did not fall under the purview of the scheme.	Proposal not received
22. Punjab	As the State Government had unspent balance of Rs. 142.18 lakhs, hence no grant released.	Out of sanctioned amount of Rs. 626.05 lakhs, Rs. 313.00 lakhs was released as first installment.	The State Government has not utilized the grant released in 2001-02, hence no grant released.	The proposal is being examined.
23. Rajasthan	The State Government had incurred an excess expenditure of Rs. 238.66 lakhs. The information regarding date of creation/filling up of the posts of Vocational Teachers is not being furnished by the State Government.	The State Government had incurred an excess expenditure of Rs. 238.66 lakhs. The information regarding date of creation/ filling up of the posts of Vocational Teachers is not being furnished by the State Government.	The State Government had incurred an excess expenditure of Rs. 238.66 lakhs. The information regarding date of creation/ filling up of the posts of Vocational Teachers is not being furnished by the State Government.	The State Government had incurred an excess expenditure of Rs. 238.66 lakhs. The information regarding date of creation/ filling up of posts of Vocational Teachers is not being furnished by the State Government.
24. Sikkim	Proposal not received.	Rs. 3.00 lakh was released.	Rs. 291.48 lakhs was released	Proposal not received
25. Tamil Nadu	The proposal had discrepancies which has	The proposal had discrepancies which has	The proposal had discrepancies which has	The proposal had discrepancies which has

1	2	3	4	5
	not been removed by the State Government so far.	not been removed by the State Government so far.	not been removed by the State Government so far.	not been removed by the State Government so far.
26. Tripura	Proposal not received (State Government had unspent balance of Rs. 21.34 lakhs)	Proposal not received (State Government had unspent balance of Rs. 21.34 lakhs)	Proposal not received (State Government had unspent balance of Rs. 21.34 lakhs)	Proposal not received (State Government had unspent balance of Rs. 21.34 lakhs)
27. Uttaranchal	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	The proposal received but IFD did not approve the proposal.	Proposal not received
28. Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 808.96 lakhs was released	Rs. 907.45 lakhs 2001-2002 was released	Rs. 375.00 lakh was released	The proposal received. Is being processed.
29. West Bengal	The State Government had been asked to give utilization position. No reply received.	The State Government had been asked to give utilization position. No reply received.	The State Government had been asked to give utilization position. No reply received.	The State Government had been asked to give utilization position. No reply received.
U.T.				
30. A & N Island	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
31. Chandigarh	Rs. 22.00 lakhs was released	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
33. Daman & Diu	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
34. Lakshadweep	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal not received
35. Pondicherry	Rs. 22.05 lakhs was released.	Rs. 25.00 lakhs was released	Proposal not received	Proposal not received

Declaration of Theni-Kollam as a National Highway

2366. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had declared Theni-Kollam Road as a National Highway last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the required work in this regard is in progress; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The highway starting from its junction near Kollam on National Highway No. 47 in the State of Kerala and terminating as its junction near Theni on National Highway No. 49 in the State of Tamil Nadu was declared in October 2000 as National Highway No. 220.

(c) and (d) The Section of this National Highway from km. 0/00 (Kollam) to 106/700 is being developed by

the Government of Kerala with external assistance. The work of improvement of riding quality of 39.7 km. of this National Highway is in progress.

Child Marriage

2367. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether there are number of States where thousands of children aged two and above are married in spite of prohibition on these marriages;

(b) if so, the State where marriages of children are taking place;

(c) whether no action is being taken against them;

(d) whether Supreme Court in the month of May 2003 issued notices to the Centre and 10 States on a petition seeking the Court's direction to them to prevent child marriages;

(e) if so, the reply given by the Centre and States in this regard; and

(f) the efforts being made to check the child marriages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 were 89(1996), 78(1997), 56(1998), 58(1999), 92(2000) and 85(2001).

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The National Commission for Women launched a campaign in May 2003 against child marriage in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh through the respective State Commissions for Women. Awareness programmes were held and the Chief Secretaries alerted and requested to take preventive steps. An advertisement was also placed in the national dailies during Akha Teej.

Announcement of Joint Tariffs

2368. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly set up alliance of some cellular operators with a number of subscribers in a number of cities has announced new joint tariffs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of subscribers and cities as well as its impact on STD rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in terms of TRAI Act, is, inter-alia, mandated for fixation of tariffs for telecom services including Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS). As intimated by TRAI, each operator is required to report tariff to TRAI for his licensed Service Area in terms of Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 of TRAI. There is no provision for reporting of joint tariffs and TRAI has not received any joint tariffs from any alliance of cellular operators.

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

Under-Nutrition in the Country

2369. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ongoing efforts have failed to eliminate the under-nutrition in the country;

(b) whether the Government have ever felt the need to have an universal screening of vulnerable groups and initiate targeted food supplementation and health care for the under-nourished as observed by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission in April, 2003;

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

(d) the present level of under-nutrition in various States of country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the nutritional levels of poor or vulnerable groups in the last five years and the results achieved State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The National Family Health Survey

(NFHS-2) conducted in 1998-99 revealed that the prevalance of under-weight children (0-3 years) came down to 47% as compare to 53.40% (0-4 years) as the time of NFHS-I conducted in 1992-93.

(b) and (c) As per information received from the Planning Commission, the Tenth Plan has envisaged that in order to achieve the goal of 50% reduction in severe under-nutrition by 2007, it is imperative to operationalize universal screening of pregnant women, infants and pre-school and school children for under-nutrition and operationlize health and nutrition intervention for management of identified under-nourished persons through targeted food supplementation and health care, coupled with effective monitoring of these individuals and their families.

(d) State-wise data on under-nutrition as per NFHS-2 is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(e) Implementation of programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Nutrition Component of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana, National Programme for Nutrition Support to Prime Education (Mid-Day Meal Scheme), Targeted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc., aiming, inter-alia, at improving the nutritional level of vulnerable groups are being continued. State-wise changes in nutrition status based on NFHS-I and NFHS-2 are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise percentage of Women and Children suffering from malnutrition as per NFHS 2 (1998-99)

S.No.	State	Women* (CED)	Under weight Children (0-3 years of age)	
			Moderate & Severe	Severe
1	2	3	4	5
	India	35.8	47.0	18.0
1.	Delhi	12.0	34.7	10.1
2.	Haryana	25.9	34.6	10.1
3.	Himachal Pradesh	29.7	43.6	12.1
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.4	34.5	8.3
5.	Punjab	16.9	28.7	8.8
6.	Rajasthan	36.1	50.6	20.8
7.	Madhya Pradesh	38.2	55.1	24.3
8.	Uttar Pradesh	35.8	51.7	21.9
9.	Bihar	39.3	54.4	25.5
10.	Orissa	48.0	54.4	20.7
11.	West Bengal	43.7	48.7	16.3
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.7	24.3	7.8
13.	Assam	27.1	36.0	13.3
14.	Manipur	18.8	27.5	5.3

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	25.8	37.9	11.3
16.	Mizoram	22.6	27.7	5.0
17.	Nagaland	18.4	24.1	7.4
18.	Sikkim	11.2	20.6	4.2
19.	Goa	27.1	28.6	4.7
20.	Gujarat	37.0	45.1	16.2
21.	Maharashtra	39.7	49.6	17.6
22.	Andhra Pradesh	37.4	37.7	10.3
23.	Karnataka	38.8	43.9	16.5
24.	Kerala	18.7	26.9	4.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	29.0	36.7	10.6

' Excludes women who were pregnant and women with a birth in the preceding two months.

• Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED): CED is usually indicated by a Body Mass Index (BMI) of less than 18.5. The BMI is defined as weight in Kilograms divided by the height in metres squared (Kg/m²).

• Moderate & Severe: Children who are more than two standard deviation below the reference median on any of the indices are considered to be undernourished.

• Severe: Children who fall more than three standard deviation below the reference median are considered to be severely undernourished.

Statement II

Women & Child Nutrition Indicators—State-wise Comparative Statement

S. No.	State	IMR (per 1000 live births)		Percent of Children underweight		Percent of women with anaemia		Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) for women	
		NFHS-I (92-93)	NFHS-II (98-99)	NFHS-I (92-93) 0-4 yrs	NFHS-II (98-99) 0-3 yrs	NFHS-I (92-93)	NFHS-II (98-99)	NFHS-I (92-93)	NFHS-II (98-99)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.4	65.8	49.1	37.7	Not Available	49.8	Not Available	37.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.0	63.1	39.7	24.3		62.5		10.7
3.	Assam	88.7	69.5	50.4	36.0		69.7		27.1
4.	Bihar	89.2	72.9	62.6	54.4		63.4		39.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	80.9	NA	60.8		68.7		NA
6.	Goa	31.9	36.7	35.0	28.6		36.4		27.1
7.	Gujarat	68.7	62.6	50.1	45.1		46.3		37.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55.8	34.4	47.0	43.6		40.5		29.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Haryana	73.3	56.8	37.9	34.6		47.0		25.9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.4	65.0	44.5	34.5		58.7		26.4
11.	Jharkhand	NA	54.3	NA	54.3		72.9		NA
12.	Karnataka	65.4	51.5	54.3	43.9		42.4		38.8
13.	Kerala	23.8	16.3	28.5	26.9		22.7		18.7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85.2	86.1	57.4	55.1		54.3		38.2
15.	Maharashtra	50.5	43.7	54.2	49.6		48.5		39.7
16.	Manipur	42.4	37.0	30.1	27.5		28.9		18.8
17.	Meghalaya	64.2	89.0	45.5	37.9	Not Available	63.3	Not Available	25.8
18.	Mizoram	14.6	37.0	28.1	27.7		48.0		22.6
19.	Nagaland	17.2	42.1	28.7	24.1		38.4		18.4
20.	Orissa	112.1	81.0	53.3	54.4		63.0		48.0
21.	Punjab	53.7	57.1	45.9	28.7		41.4		16.9
22.	Rajasthan	72.6	80.4	41.6	50.6		48.5		36.1
23.	Sikkim	NA	43.9	NA	20.6		61.1		11.2
24.	Tamil Nadu	67.7	48.2	48.2	36.7		56.5		29.0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	99.9	86.7	59.0	51.7		48.7		35.8
26.	West Bengal	75.3	48.7	56.8	48.7		62.7		43.7
27.	Delhi	65.4	46.8	41.6	34.7		40.5		12.0
	All India	78.5	67.6	53.4	47.0		51.8		35.8

Setting up of Maths Corners by NCERT

2370. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT had stated in the National Curriculum Framework that all schools should set up Maths Corners;

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

(c) the number of schools that has so far set up Maths Corners as suggested by the NCERT;

(d) whether CBSE and NCERT have discussed the concept of maths Corners;

(e) if so, whether CBSE and NCERT have decided to launch a joint programme to encourage schools to set up Maths Corners; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NCERT has recommended the setting up of Maths corners in Schools in the National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2000. Maths Corner means space for setting Mathematical activities. Maths Corners are to be established in schools either at a suitable place in the existing Science laboratories or in a separate room if the school can arrange for it, to help exploration of Mathematical concepts/facts through experimentation. This

will help in learning Mathematics through activities from the beginning of school education, i.e., from the Primary Stage itself. These activities may involve the use of concrete learning materials such as charts, pictures, posters, games, puzzles, models and experiments. These 'Maths Corners' will gradually culminate in Mathematics laboratory.

(c) The NCERT/CBSE has no information in this regard but many schools affiliated with CBSE have already set up Maths Laboratory.

(d) While discussing the concepts of Maths Corners in Schools in the NCFSE-2000, representatives and nominees from various Boards of Secondary Education in the country including CBSE, were consulted. CBSE is continuously interacting with NCERT with regard to issues in Mathematics education.

(e) So far, there is no proposal to launch a joint programme of NCERT and CBSE for the setting up of Maths Corners in Schools.

(f) Does not arise.

Posting of Officials in Embassies

2371. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint Malayalam speaking officials at senior levels in Embassies/ Consulates to handle large number of queries coming from the people who know no other language other than Malayalam;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are no specific proposals to appoint Malayalam-speaking officials at senior levels in our Embassies/Consulates.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry is sensitive to the needs of the Indian community living in foreign countries. Wherever possible, the Ministry tries to post officials particularly those who are likely to work in Consular Section, who are proficient in a specific Indian language. Moreover, the Indian Embassies have facilities for interpretation when the officials are interacting with the members of the Indian community in cases where this may be necessitated.

Container Terminals

2372. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the construction of new Container Terminals in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the time likely to be taken to complete the construction of these terminals by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Construction of container terminals in major ports is part of an ongoing process of development of these ports to meet the demands of maritime trade, particularly, in the context of increasing trend towards containerization of cargo. At present, no new container terminal is under construction in any of the 12 major ports which are under the administrative control of the Government of India. However, Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Navi Mumbai and Mumbai Port at Mumbai in Maharashtra, Cochin Port in Kerala, Kandla Port in Gujarat, Mormugao Port in Goa and Tuticorin Port in Tamil Nadu have plans to create additional capacities for container handling on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Ports other than major ports are under the administrative control of the respective State Governments where they are located.

(b) Since the process involves selection of private operators through open competitive bidding, it would not be possible to indicate the timeframes for completion of the projects for creation of these additional capacities with certainty.

Annual Plan Outlay

2373. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the sanctioned amount of annual plan outlay for the year 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(b) the details of the targets set for agro-industrial production and employment opportunities in the annual plan, State-wise?

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) Statement showing Approved Annual Plan Outlays, State-wise, for the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 is enclosed.

(b) Targets for agro-industrial production and employment opportunities are not set in the Annual Plan for the States.

Statement

Approved Annual Plan Outlays of States—2001-02 to 2002-03

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan-2001-02 Approved Outlay	Annual Plan 2002-03 Approved Outlay
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,816.48	8,553.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	660.91	676.00
3.	Assam	1,710.00	1,750.00
4.	Bihar	2,644.00	2,314.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,312.00	1,774.45
6.	Goa	460.00	586.00
7.	Gujarat	6,500.00	7,600.00
8.	Haryana	1,814.17	1,819.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1,744.51	2,041.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,050.00	2,200.00
11.	Jharkhand	2,650.00	2,652.00
12.	Karnataka	7,903.79	8,420.63
13.	Kerala	2,260.00	3,425.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,937.76	5,597.65
15.	Maharashtra	10,834.00	11,562.00
16.	Manipur	352.68	550.00
17.	Meghalaya	472.82	480.43
18.	Mizoram	441.52	489.25
19.	Nagaland	411.47	427.30
20.	Orissa	2,300.00	2,550.00
21.	Punjab	3,021.00	2,793.00
22.	Rajasthan	4,642.35	4,370.78
23.	Sikkim	300.22	370.12
24.	Tamil Nadu	5,200.00	5,754.13
25.	Tripura	560.00	625.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4,872.77	6,393.31
27.	Uttaranchal	1,050.00	1,534.13
28.	West Bengal	5,693.31	3,682.50
	Total (States)	83615.76	90992.14

Accreditation to Educational Institutes/Universities

2374. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of educational Institutions/ Universities granted accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Committee, (NAAC) as on date;

(b) whether the NAAC received any grants or financial assistance from the foreign institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per information received from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), a total of 94 Universities and 418 colleges have been accredited by NAAC so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Family Counselling Centres

2375. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to open Family Counseling Centres in Police Stations for women victims of domestic violence;

(b) whether the Government plan to open such centres at taluka level also;

(c) if so, whether the non-Governmental organisations working for women would be given responsibility in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (d) The Government has sanctioned grants, in few States, for setting up of Family Counselling Centres in Police Stations/Mahila Jails for Women victims of domestic violence; through, there is no specific plan to open such centres at taluka level. However, whenever any proposal is received, the same is considered on merit. Some of the Voluntary Organisations for women are already running FCC's in Police Stations. Voluntary Organisations submit their proposals through the State Boards with the consent of respective Police Authorities. At present 19 FCC's are working in Police Stations/Mahila Jails.

Per-Capita Income for Determination of Poverty Line

2376. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income fixed for each State/Union Territory for determination of poverty line;

(b) the facts taken into consideration in arriving at the figure;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit to realistic levels to enable the deserving people to avail of the benefit of various schemes meant for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(d) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(e) if not, 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) and (b) The Planning Commission had adopted per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The state specific poverty lines, in rural and urban areas separately, for the year 1999-2000 are given in statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The criteria for identification of people living below poverty line (BPL) for the purpose of providing assistance under poverty alleviation programmes has been revised under the Tenth Five Year Plan. In BPL Census 2002, poverty line does not appear directly. It is now proposed to adopt a normative approach for identification of the rural poor by introducing a "Score Based Ranking" based on relative deprivations revealed by certain socio-economic indicators in contrast to the 'income' and 'expenditure' approach adopted in the BPL Census, 1992 and 1997 respectively.

Statement

State-specific Poverty Lines in 1999-2000

(Rs. per capita per month)

No.	State	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2.	Assam	365.43	343.99
3.	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4.	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5.	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20

1	2	3	4
7.	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8.	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9.	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10.	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11.	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12.	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13.	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14.	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
16.	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
17.	Delhi	362.68	505.45
	All India#	327.56	454.11

#The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.

Railway Overbridge at Chackai

2377. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the new Railway Overbridge at Chackai on National Highway 47 by-pass under construction is scheduled to be completed and commissioned for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): The Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Chackai on Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara Bypass on NH-47 is scheduled to be completed by December, 2003.

Anganwadi Programme

2378. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Anganwadi Programme has been successful all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to make the programme more effective and to ensure its wide coverage; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is the world's largest community based child development programme. The Scheme is sanctioned for 5652 Projects, of which 4903 Projects became operational as on 31.3.2003, providing services to about 388 lakh beneficiaries, comprising of about 322 lakh children below 6 years and about 66 lakh expectant & nursing mothers through a network of about 6 lakh Anganwadi Centres. The remaining 749 pending projects are envisaged to be operationalised during the X Plan period.

A nationwise evaluation of the ICDS Scheme conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1998-99 revealed significant impact of the Scheme:

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1000 live births was lower in ICDS areas as compared to ICDS plus Non-ICDS areas (NFHS-I & II) in all States, except Bihar.
- More than 74% of the children were immunized against the six major diseases, namely, polio, diphtheria, pertusis, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis.
- On an average about 90% of women who had reported child birth during last one year had received Tetanus Toxoid vaccination.
- Anganwadi Centres have played a significant role in creating awareness about ante-natal care.
- Nearly 43% of beneficiary women had availed of health checkup and 24% of women had availed of referral services.
- Community leaders were generally satisfied about the functioning of the Anganwadi Centres and found the programme beneficial to the community.

The Scheme has been continued in the Xth Plan with no expansion activity in view of resource constraints. However, with a view to optimising coverage of beneficiaries within the available resources, States have been requested to review and reallocate Anganwadi

Centres, wherever appropriate, within the overall ceiling of existing Projects and Centres.

Improvement is a continuous process. Several measures have been taken during the past few years to make the delivery of services under the Scheme more effective and result oriented. With concerted efforts, the supplementary nutrition beneficiaries have increased from about 290 lakh in March 2001 to about 388 lakh in March 2003 with beneficiaries per Anganwadi Centres increasing from 70 in March 2001 to 83 in March 2003.

[Translation]

Pending Road Projects

2379. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road projects pertaining to Maharashtra and Gujarat are lying pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details of these projects separately;

(c) the date from which these projects are lying pending for clearance; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to accord approval to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) 19 numbers of estimates figuring in Annual Plan 2003-04 have been recently received in June/July, 2003 from Maharashtra. These are being processed. 30 No of NH works pertaining to Annual Plan 2003-04 in Gujarat have been received in June/July 2003.

(d) The estimates as per details above may be considered for sanction subject to availability of funds.

Development of Hilly and Backward Areas

2380. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide/propose to provide some additional funds to hilly and undeveloped region besides providing financial assistance to the States for the proper implementation of various development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are providing/proposing to provide some additional funds for new developmental schemes for the undeveloped region like Bundelkhand under the bigger State category like Uttar Pradesh besides providing funds for development projects of the Central Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide funds under any special package meant for development of Hamirpur and Mahoba, the most backward district under the Bundelkhand region; and

(f) 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 Special Area Programmes under which additional funds are being provided to hilly and undeveloped regions of the country are:—

(i) Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

(ii) Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP)

(iii) Border Areas Development Programme (BADP)

(iv) Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RAVY)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Deaths Caused by T.B.

2381. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of T.B. patients have lost their lives due to inadequate facilities and inappropriate medication in various Government Hospitals in Delhi during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of patients died in various hospitals in Delhi during the period; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to provide treatment of international standard to T.B patients in various hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Deaths of TB patients are more in hospitals. It is not due to inadequate facilities and improper medication but because of the fact that majority of the patients admitted for treatment in hospitals are in advanced stages of tuberculosis with complications like damaged lungs, TB meningitis, miliary tuberculosis and associated diseases i.e. Diabetes, HIV etc. Under the programme, hospital wise details of patients and deaths are not maintained. In Delhi under RNTCP during year 2001-02 out of 25533 TB patients put on treatment, 600 died which comes to 2.34%. This is much less than the estimated death rate of 29% in the earlier programme. In case of Rajan Babu TB Hospital and LRS Institute of TB & Allied Diseases, Delhi death rate has been 16.34% and 13.06% respectively due to reasons stated above.

(c) With an objective to achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum cases and to detect atleast 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is a WHO recommended DOTs strategy is being implemented in the country since 1997 in a phased manner. The State of Delhi is fully covered under revised strategy since year 2001. RNTCP project in Delhi has reported treatment success rate of more than 80% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients detected and put on treatment on the revised strategy are successfully treated as against less than 4 in the earlier programme. The best possible treatment is being provided under the programme.

Submissions of Projects by West Bengal

2382. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Works Department of Government of West Bengal submitted a set of proposals on four projects, seeking full financial support from the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether the new Rs. 1,000 crore road net work project is meant to link the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport to Haldia Port;

(c) whether this network project will work as a part of National Highway Development Programme aiming at better road connectivity with major ports of the country,

(d) if so, whether the other projects include a new 82.4 km link road between NH-34 and Kolkata Port, Rehabilitation and widening of a 52.7 km stretch of NH-41 to four lane and a new 59 km Uluberia-Haldia express way; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far for release of funds for the projects?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Rural Areas

2383. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has been assigned the work of providing telephone service in rural areas as private sector organisations have failed to fulfil their responsibility;

(b) if so, the names of the States alongwith the number of villages therein where the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited propose to install telephones;

(c) the amount likely to be spent in each State for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

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

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

[English]

Renovation of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

2384. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether renovation of National Highways have been proposed to be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary allocation made for this renovation and the amount released so far; and

(d) the time by which this renovation will be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Rs. 1464.07 crore has been earmarked for development and maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh in the current financial year out of which Rs. 363.60 crore has been spent so far.

(d) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process.

Introduction of Broadband Services

2385. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the BSNL is introducing broadband services on commercial lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target set by BSNL to provide cellphone and internet connections separately, during the 2003-04; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is already providing High Speed Internet Access to its Basic phone Subscribers through Direct Internet Access System (DIAS). Further, a franchisee agreement has been signed by BSNL to provide Broad band Services like High Speed Internet Access, Video-On-Demand, Video-broadcast etc. in cities of Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh.

(c) and (d) The target set by BSNL to provide cellphone and Internet connections during 2003-04 is 3 million and 8 lacs respectively. Out of these set targets 9,36,514 cellular connections and 1.5 lacs Internet connections have been provide upto 30.6.2003.

[Translation]

Pending Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

2386. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of the applications in the waiting list for rural and urban telephone connections in Maharashtra;

(b) the district-wise telephone connections provided in the rural as well as urban areas during each of the last two years are the number of applications in the waiting list; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):

Reply in respect of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)

(a) The district-wise number of applications in the waiting list of rural and urban telephone connections in Maharashtra as on 30.6.2003 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The district-wise rural and urban telephone connections provided during last two years in Maharashtra is given in the Statement.

(c) A target of providing 296000 new telephone connections is taken up during 2003-04. The details are given below:—

Landline	-	75000 lines
WLL	-	221000 lines

Reply in respect of MTNL (Mahanager Telephone Nigam Limited)

(a) There is no waiting list in MTNL Mumbai. However, 8409 OBs are pending as on 30.6.2003 due to areas being TNF (Technically not feasible).

(b) Total telephone connections provided during 2001-02 and 2002-03 are 31275 and 83400 respectively. Number of pending TNF OBs during the period 2001-02 and 2002-03 are 26121 and 2463 respectively.

(c) Action is already being taken to clear all the pending TNF OBs by laying additional cables, cable arrangement work, retrieval of faulty cable pairs and installation of DLCs (Digital Loop Carrier). In addition to above, TNF cases are also cleared by installing FWT (Fixed Wire Terminal) connections.

Statement

Maharashtra Telecom Circle

District-wise waiting list as on date & telephone connections provided in the rural and urban areas during last two years

S. No.	District	Waiting list as on 30.6.2003		Telephone connections provided				waiting list (As on 31st March)			
				Dur. 2001-02		Dur. 2002-03		Dur. 2001-02		Dur. 2002-03	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Ahmednagar	1057	20647	11462	26175	16025	16343	954	19891	807	18671
2.	Akola	295	2143	6212	3020	2004	6294	299	1992	141	2226
3.	Amravati	313	4627	6737	6970	6192	6215	205	1478	175	4172
4.	Auranbabad	1107	7279	18157	6350	15876	7915	888	5146	549	7443
5.	Beed	459	5727	4706	5475	5866	8113	272	3921	157	4948
6.	Bhandara	128	1302	1832	4088	6380	33	102	998	159	1280
7.	Buldana	295	3617	6415	3636	5440	1560	133	386	762	2336
8.	Chandrapur	503	645	4133	-957	6643	1773	148	530	523	455
9.	Dhule	107	1720	3723	7026	8470	2227	989	1036	100	1297
10.	Gadchiroli	35	65	3846	6912	2295	1048	68	113	23	37
11.	Gonad	100	1011	1633	1963	1023	147	84	451	115	1011
12.	Hingoli	0	1361	3001	1381	443	577	0	1051	0	1113
13.	Jalgaon	1287	5258	12284	16000	10967	12555	633	3662	1304	4828
14.	Jalna	148	5099	4197	5318	4419	3726	118	2897	66	5114
15.	Kalyan	1546	2145	64621	6033	27594	8195	2408	2240	123	1120

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	Kolhapur	621	5316	27944	17319	15538	18550	1466	6365	325	2738
17.	Latur	0	1688	7431	11759	5426	7941	65	1683	9	1349
18.	Nagpur	1527	2495	20393	6672	38341	-9985	373	4031	651	882
19.	Nanded	459	2643	10580	9425	11324	3510	300	1763	564	2388
20.	Nandurbar	270	803	1723	3547	1911	1116	776	1234	34	1103
21.	Nasik	1196	10388	2172	27297	22122	7333	169	5809	919	8335
22.	Osmanabad	62	3973	4559	5155	3972	3677	18	4313	195	4074
23.	Parbhani	0	1223	4633	3706	5235	1721	0	2007	0	1348
24.	Pune	6833	22568	61851	24467	95488	5774	3403	16547	6267	17981
25.	Raigad	373	2521	12398	3673	4413	3095	98	677	176	1919
26.	Ratnagiri	598	5023	2750	10261	4416	7328	533	2606	418	4946
27.	Sangli	3	5401	4323	25449	4395	10465	1	3544	0	4224
28.	Satara	495	11439	3666	21545	-2982	19978	617	4581	350	10079
29.	Sindhudurg	328	6169	2244	4275	-123	7569	928	4904	358	6262
30.	Solapur	624	11964	11132	28490	8478	7876	558	5355	308	10263
31.	Wardha	299	1830	1754	6459	9584	-3550	134	1050	226	1606
32.	Washim	115	1783	2014	1046	-83	4001	93	996	98	1239
33.	Yeotmal	163	1935	6318	5207	7519	3315	469	1184	124	1888
	Total	21346	161808	336500	315142	355331	176435	17303	114471	16026	138675

Figures are excluding MTNL Mumbai.

[English]

Primary Health Centres

2387. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt a scheme for involving private medical colleges and Government organizations in the management of primary health centres in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are established and maintained by the respective State Governments out of their own resources under the State's health sector outlay. Certain States like Karnataka have formulated a scheme for involving private medical colleges and other agencies in the management of low performing PHCs. As per this scheme Private Medical and Dental Colleges, Non-Governmental organizations, Trusts and other charitable institutions may either directly manage the PHCs or contribute to the improvement of the facilities. Private medical colleges or NGOs would be handed over the PHCs for implementation of all National and State Health & Family Welfare Programmes. Under this Scheme, the private agencies will be eligible for financial support from the State Government towards recurring expenditures subject to conditions, such as providing services to patients as per State policy; furnishing of returns and audited statements etc. Private Trusts, charitable

institutions and others, may also adopt PHCs etc. for providing contributions of Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000 to a PHC.

Funds Allocated to Mormugao Port Trust

2388. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last five years, out of an approved outlay of Rs. 169.20 crore, Mormugao Port Trust spent only 85.65 crore;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether this fund was allocated during the Ninth Plan period for implementing the projects;

(d) if so, the number of projects implemented during the Ninth Plan period and deferred for Tenth Plan and the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that projects not implemented or deferred are executed without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The aggregate of five approved Annual Plan outlays for Murmugao Port Trust during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002) was Rs. 169.29 crore, against which the total expenditure during the said Plan period was Rs. 104.52 crores.

(b) Shortfall in expenditure was mainly due to deferement/spilling over certain schemes to 10th Plan period. Further, a few plan schemes were transferred to Non-Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) All projects of 9th Plan, which spilled over to 10th Plan, have been completed or are in the advance stage of completion. Schedules have been drawn up for implementation of these projects during the 10th Plan which are under execution.

Statement

1. 9th Plan Schemes already implemented/under implementation

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme
1.	Deepening of approaches to Berth No. 10.
2.	Dredging area for mooring buoys.
3.	Construction of survey launch.
4.	Construction of new administrative office building at Headland.
5.	Construction of sheds/Warehouses.
6.	Modification to shipping and receiving system conveyors.
7.	Modification to yard for accommodating broad gauge railway connection.
8.	Provision of Vessel Traffic Management System.
9.	Purchase of land.
10.	Construction of 4-lane Road. (Scheme taken over by National Highways Authority of India for implementation).
11.	Acquisition of two tugs (under implementation during 10th Plan).
12.	Replacement of barge unloaders (under implementation during 10th Plan).
13.	Construction of 100 bedded hospital (under implementation during 10th Plan).
14.	Construction of 3 nos. mooring dolphins (implementing during 10th Plan).

2. 9th Plan Schemes deferred for implementation during 10th Plan.

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Reasons for deferment
1	2	3
1.	Acquisition of staker-cum-reclaimer.	To be taken up along with the wagon tippler scheme.
2.	Modification to existing Mechanised Ore Handling Plant.	To be taken up after completion of feasibility studies.

1	2	3
3.	Providing broad gauge railway connection and marshalling yard at harbour.	To be completed along with the completion of berths 5A & 6A.
4.	Strengthening of breakwater.	To be taken up after undertaking detailed studies.
5.	Deepening of navigational channel.	To be taken up after proper studies and evaluating the viability of the project.
6.	Replacement of two nos. stakers.	To be taken up after completion of studies.

Upgradation of Health Care Services

2389. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 5725 dated April 30, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has agreed to extend financial assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra for upgrading the health care services in the Government medical colleges/hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchirolli and Amravati;

(b) if so, the financial assistance expected to be received from the Government of Japan as a result thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Union Government propose to request the Government of Japan for the early release of the assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The proposal of Government of Maharashtra seeking financial assistance of Rs. 21.45 crore from Japan for Upgradation of Health Care Services at Government Medical Colleges and Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Gaddchiroli, Chandrapur and Amravati to make them regional referral centres continues was posed to the Government of Japan. A priority list of Grant-in-aid including the above proposals has been submitted to Embassy of Japan in April, 2003.

[Translation]

Uniform Scam

2390. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry report against some leaders of the officers' and employees union of MTNL, Delhi has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the officers and employees found guilty in the uniform scam; and

(d) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The investigation report is awaited from CBI in respect of following two FIRs:—

(1) FIR No. RC-DAI-2001-A-0070 DLI

(2) FIR No. RC-DAI-2001-A-0073

(c) and (d) The case is still under investigation by CBI and appropriate disciplinary action will be initiated on completion of the investigation.

[English]

Delay in Clearance of Mails

2391. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Branch Post Offices under operation in the official premises in New Delhi are making unnecessary delay in the clearance of money orders, registered letters and other mails;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether these Post Offices are keeping the mails pending and are clearing only once in a day or two;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the clearance process and to ensure better postal service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. No Branch Post Office in New Delhi is delaying money orders, registered letters and other mails. All accountable as well as ordinary articles are cleared on the date of their receipt.

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

(c) No, Sir. All the mails are cleared on the same day and there is no pendency of mails there.

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

(e) Regular visits are made by the field officers to ensure prompt and better services.

Global Dharma Conference

2392. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the foreign visit of Union Minister of Human Resource Development to attend the Global Dharma Conference being organised by the New Jersey based Dharma Conference Committee;

(b) if so, the significance of this Conference;

(c) whether this Conference is a Ministerial level Conference; and

(d) if not, the reasons for clearance of this visit of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development?

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

(b) to (d) The Global Dharma Conference was said to be a gathering of students, youth and scholars from around the world, including Indian students and youth outside of India and sought to convey to the youth and students living in the West, the philosophical and practical aspects of Dharma. The Conference had relevance to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Conference was expected to be addressed by the Dalai Lama, Jagatguru Sri Shankaracharya, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Pramaukh Swamiji through video conference. Other invitees mentioned by the organisers were Senator Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Governor McGreevy of New Jersey, Senator Frank Pallone and a former Canadian Prime Minister. Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development was the Chief Guest in the Conference.

Infotech Pact with China

2393. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to China the issues relating to professional services, including Technocrats and information technology professionals were discussed;

(b) whether joint institutional mechanism with China to compete jointly for international software contracts was taken up for discussion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Chinese Government to this proposal?

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

(b) In the conference on 'India and China challenges and opportunity in the IT Sector' held on 26.6.2003, certain areas of convergence of commercial interest between India and China in the IT Sector were suggested, including development of a joint institutional mechanism to provide state-of-the-art solutions at cost effective prices aimed at cutting out the middlemen.

(c) The suggestions, inter-alia included the following:—

(i) Respective crore competence in hardware and software as a natural ground of alliance in IT industry.

(ii) Profiles of software industries of both countries being complementary, there is scope for cooperation.

(iii) Strong international brand recognition of Indian IT firms is an asset that can enrich Indo-China partnership, specially in higher end of value chain.

(iv) India-China could concentrate on specific areas of their technological advantage and derive

greater benefit than by competing across the spectrum.

(v) Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 provide a good opportunity for Indian and Chinese firms to work together.

The Chinese Government is yet to respond to these suggestions.

Establishment of Self-Financing Medical Colleges

2394. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether self-financing medical, dental and physiotheraphy colleges have been working successfully in the country;

(b) whether the Government have received proposal from State Governments to open such colleges;

(c) if so, the number of pending applications for new colleges, State-wise; and

(d) the time by when the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Medical Council of India and Dental Council of India has prescribed minimum standards of medical/dental education and all the medical/dental colleges in the country including self financing medical/dental colleges have to fulfill these norms. According to the respective professional Councils, the policy on allowing self financing medical/dental colleges has worked successfully. As regards Physiotheraphy colleges, there is no such policy for setting up self financing Physiotheprahy colleges with Central Government.

(b) to (d) Two proposals of Government of West Bengal for establishment of new medical colleges one each at Kolkata and Midnapore, one proposal from Government of Maharashtra for medical college at Akola and one proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh for establishment of dental college at Raipur are pending with the Government/respective professional Councils. No time frame can be given as clearance of these proposals will depend upon fulfillment of qualifying criteria, the availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of the respective professional Councils.

Ban on the use of Chewing Tobacco

2395. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether addiction to chewing tobacco popularly known as chuna can lead to blindness;

(b) whether several children with severe burns in the eyes caused due to this addition have been admitted to AIIMS recently; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control these cases and create awareness among general public about this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) India has a large population of oral Tobacco users. These people commonly use Chuna as an additive. Chuna consists of calcium hydroxide paste and is being sold in the form of plastic pouches. Children view these pouches as toys. When squeezed hard they end to burst and the chuna gets sprayed around. Once it gets into the eyes, it damages the cornea This can lead to corneal blindness.

(b) Recently, several children have been admitted in R.P. Centre with varying degrees of ocular burns caused by chuna. Most of these cases are severe in nature. A few adults have also been seen with similar ocular burns.

(c) The Govt. has been undertaking awareness programmes to discourage use of tobacco products through IEC activities. Recently a comprehensive legislation namely "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade & Commerce, Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 2003" has been enacted, which inter-alia discourages tobacco use through various control measures namely ban of sale to minors below 18 years and ban on sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

[Translation]

Annual Report on Trafficking in Persons

2396. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether America's Foreign Department have released its annual report titled "Trafficking in Persons" in

which has been named as a safe haven of illegal flesh trade;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government to this report;

(c) whether it has also been mentioned in this report that India has acquired the dubious distinction as a favourite destination of flesh trade among the European and American Tourists;

(d) if so, the facts related to the said matter; and

(e) the category in which India has been classified in this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (e) The U.S. State Department read its annual report titled "Trafficking in Persons" on 11th June 2003. The Union Government considers the report to be an internal exercise of the U.S. Administration under its domestic law and rejects the report. The report has made a number of unwarranted and exaggerated references to the situation in India. India has been designated as a tier II country.

Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

2397. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether it has been provided under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 that registration letters should be in English and numerals in Arabic;

(b) whether the said provision tantamounts to step motherly treatment with the official language, Hindi and local languages as well; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the efforts to amend the said provision alongwith the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Vehicles registered in a State/UT can ply throughout the country. Due to diversity of languages in the country and also the fact that the working language in different States/UTs is different, the existing system of writing letters of registration mark in English and the figures in Arabic numerals is the best possible option. Use of an additional registration plate displaying letters in any other Indian language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution has already been permitted by the Government vide notification No. S.O. 827(E) dated 11.11.1992.

[English]

Disease in Rainy Season

2398. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

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

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to counter the possibility of out-break of some common diseases which recur every year in the rainy season;

(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) Seasonal rise of water and vector borne diseases is normally observed with the start of rainy season. For prevention and control of various Vector Borne Diseases like Malaria, Filaria etc., National Anti-Malaria Programme has been in operation in the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. In order to identify the early warning signals of outbreaks of these diseases, National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases is in operation in 101 districts. Under the Tenth Five Year Plan, an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme is envisaged to strengthen the mechanism of surveillance of various diseases in the country.

Improvement of National Highways

2399. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have envisaged a project called 'Improvement in Riding Quality Programme' (IRQP) to improve the National Highways in the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details of fund provided, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years;

(c) the details of the length of National Highways (NH) thus improved since its inception, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the length of NHs proposed to be improved during 2003-2004, State-wise?

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

(b) to (d) The details of the amount sanctioned during the last three years, (year wise), length sanctioned for improvement of National Highways since the inception of programme and length of National Highways proposed to be sanctioned during 2003-2004, State-wise are enclosed as statement.

Statement

S.No.	State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)			Length sanctioned since inception*	Length proposed to be sanctioned during 2003-2004
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.97	116.30	75.51	1620	200
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	57	0
3.	Assam	35.51	26.00	64.17	1195	404
4.	Bihar	40.51	99.76	80.79	1850	1042
5.	Chandigarh	4.91	0.48	0.00	24	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	39.23	48.35	82.01	1328	578
7.	Delhi	2.09	0.00	1.32	53	5
8.	Goa	10.34	4.53	7.62	299	0
9.	Gujarat	60.53	55.91	9.82	1266	50
10.	Haryana	25.71	45.90	69.17	987	0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	8.29	10.44	49.25	1004	150
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	3.59	2.21	411	6
13.	Jharkhand	29.45	37.42	35.16	861	567
14.	Karnataka	54.00	65.68	69.86	2162	586
15.	Kerala	39.89	52.18	64.00	1020	250
16.	Madhya Pradesh	131.64	100.98	130.18	2196	1786
17.	Maharashtra	122.36	138.28	119.78	2713	125
18.	Manipur	6.74	8.26	2.84	343	100
19.	Meghalaya	10.25	12.72	21.14	571	157
20.	Mizoram	12.96	10.30	17.25	416	35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Nagaland	8.16	11.22	1.59	184	57
22.	Orissa	44.56	35.01	105.16	2186	121
23.	Pondicherry	2.00	1.58	0.44	43	0
24.	Punjab	10.63	20.76	23.56	1081	200
25.	Rajasthan	141.04	94.89	45.13	3378	300
26.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	63	0
27.	Tamil Nadu	78.78	75.23	65.60	2181	200
28.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	205	0
29.	Uttaranchal	5.81	22.04	0.00	293	100
30.	Uttar Pradesh	56.43	80.55	110.83	2332	800
31.	West Bengal	45.25	45.11	40.38	1066	64
	Total	1102.04	1223.47	1294.77	33389	7884

*As on 31.7.2003

Assistance from W.B. and ADB for National Highway Projects

2400 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have borrowed a large sum of amount from World Bank and Asian Development Bank for National Highway Development Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to borrow money from domestic banks for BOT projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present progress of the various NHDP and BOT projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The loan assistance obtained from World Bank and Asian Development Bank for National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is as below:

1.	World Bank	(i) Third National Highways Project for NH-2 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand for US $ 516 M
		(ii) Grand Trunk Improvement Project for NH-2 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand for US $ 589 M
2.	Asian Development Bank	(i) Surat-Manor Tollway for NH-8 in Gujarat, Maharashtra for US $ 180 M
		(ii) Western Transport Corridor Project for NH-4 in Karnataka for US $ 240 M
		(iii) East-West Corridor project on NHs 8A, 8B, 14 and 15 in Gujarat for US $ 320 M

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The present progress on National Highways Development Project is as below:

Golden Quadrilateral (GQ):

Total	-	5846 km.
4 lane component	-	1408 km.
Under Implementation	-	4354 km.
Work to be awarded	-	84 km.

North-South and East-West Corridor (NS & EW):

Total Length	-	7300
4 lane component	-	557 km.
Under Implementation	-	423 km.
Work to be awarded	-	6294 km.

The work on 10 Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects for 507 km. is in progress at present, out of which six projects of 436 km length are in the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ).

[Translation]

Sanction of Funds to Schemes

2401. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and year-wise details of the schemes sanctioned by the Planning Commission from the year 2000-03;

(b) the details of spending the amounts sanctioned by the Planning Commission as above, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the States which failed to spend the amounts sanctioned by the Planning Commission alongwith reasons therefor and 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) Statement showing details of the Approved Plan Outlays, State-wise and year-wise, for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Statement showing Plan Expenditure of States during the Annual Plans 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is attached as Statement-II.

(c) The States which reported shortfall in Plan Expenditure against the approved Outlays are indicated in Statement-III. The inability of the States to mobilize adequate resources is the main reason for shortfall in expenditure. The relatively high growth in non-plan revenue expenditure as compared to the revenue receipts and the declining and even negative contribution of State Level Public Sector undertakings (particularly power and transport) are the major factors that have contributed to the decline in States Own Funds.

Statement I

Approved Plan Outlays of States from 2001-02 to 2002-03

(Rs. Crore)

S. No.	States	Annual Plan 2000-01	Annual Plan 2001-02	Annual Plan 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6660.14	7,816.48	8553.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	599.41	660.91	676.00
3.	Assam	1520.00	1,710.00	1750.00
4.	Bihar	1736.72	2,644.00	2314.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	1,312.00	1774.45
6.	Goa	347.00	460.00	586.00
7.	Gujarat	7010.00	6,500.00	7600.00
8.	Haryana	1825.20	1,814.17	1819.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1720.00	1,744.51	2041.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1753.00	2,050.00	2200.00
11.	Jharkhand	NA	2,650.00	2652.00
12.	Karnataka	6785.37	7,903.79	8420.63
13.	Kerala	2493.25	2,260.00	3425.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3300.58	3,937.76	5597.65

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	11500.00	10,834.00	11562.00
16.	Manipur	429.57	352.68	550.00
17.	Meghalaya	467.00	472.82	480.43
18.	Mizoram	396.71	441.52	489.25
19.	Nagaland	326.16	411.47	427.30
20.	Orissa	2550.25	2,300.00	2550.00
21.	Punjab	2147.14	3,021.00	2793.00
22.	Rajasthan	4247.94	4,642.35	4370.78
23.	Sikkim	250.22	300.22	370.12
24.	Tamil Nadu	5700.30	5,200.00	5754.43
25.	Tripura	422.60	560.00	625.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6751.79	4,872.77	6393.31
27.	Uttaranchal	NA	1,050.00	1534.13
28.	West Bengal	4026.59	5,693.31	3682.50
	Total (States)	74966.94	83615.76	90992.14

Notes:

1. The State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal came into existence in November, 2000.
2. Revised Outlays have been shown as actual expenditure for the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir for 2001-02
3. Expenditure for 2002-03 are estimates/anticipated.

Statement II

Plan Expenditure of States from 2001-02 to 2002-03

(Rs. Crore)

S. No.	States	Annual Plan 2000-2001	Annual Plan 2001-2002	Annual Plan 2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7035.29	7,968.95	8,553.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	510.92	555.41	676.00
3.	Assam	1481.38	1,678.21	1,750.00
4.	Bihar	1638.22	1,471.39	2,314.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	469.69	1,312.00	1,774.45
6.	Goa	360.78	372.72	586.00
7.	Gujarat	4964.59	6,500.00	6,000.00
8.	Haryana	1718.31	1,765.76	1,819.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1722.66	1720.00	2041.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1537.90	2,050.00	2,200.00
11.	Jharkhand	NA	2,650.00	2,652.00
12.	Karnataka	6785.37	7,903.79	8,420.63
13.	Kerala	2953.60	2,397.72	3,425.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3177.38	3,170.70	5,597.65
15.	Maharashtra	9586.00	8,256.08	11,562.00
16.	Manipur	247.92	228.76	550.00
17.	Meghalaya	462.84	470.21	480.43
18.	Mizoram	371.93	402.41	489.25
19.	Nagaland	317.70	400.08	427.30
20.	Orissa	2562.07	2,450.44	2,550.00
21.	Punjab	1876.77	2,171.04	2,793.00
22.	Rajasthan	3772.90	4,338.29	4,370.78
23.	Sikkim	218.39	281.58	370.12
24.	Tamil Nadu	5,776.52	5,318.90	5,754.43
25.	Tripura	474.12	522.67	625.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5,956.40	5,965.36	6,393.31
27.	Uttaranchal	820.57	1,729.19	1,534.13
28.	West Bengal	5631.04	4,594.52	3,682.50
	Total (States)	72431.26	78596.18	89392.14

Notes:

1. The State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal came into existence in November, 2000.
2. Revised Outlays have been shown as actual expenditure for the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir for 2001-02
3. Expenditure for 2002-03 are estimates/anticipated.

Statement III

Shortfall in Plan Expenditure Compared to Approved outlays from 2001-02 to 2002-03

Annual Plan 2000-01

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh.

Annual Plan 2001-02

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura Uttaranchal.

Annual Plan 2002-03:

Gujarat

Notes:

1. The State Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal came into existence in November, 2000.
2. Revised Outlays have been shown as actual expenditure for the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir for 2001-02
3. Expenditure for 2002-03 are estimates/anticipated.

Reorientation of N.C.T.E.

2402. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in view of the difficulties being faced in adhering to the rules and Act of the National Council of Teachers' Education (N.C.T.E.) have decided for reorientation of NCTE;

(b) if so, the details of the concrete steps to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether due to inadequate information in regard to NCTE, the issues relating to NCTE have become a matter of serious concern; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenges relating to NCTE and bring about improvement in its standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Government of India had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Kaul to review the working of NCTE and make recommendations on streamlining its activities and making it more effective. The Committee has since submitted its final report to the Government.

[English]

Best Governance Practices

2403. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission and UNDP have brought out a document titled "Successful Governance Initiations and Best Practices Experience from Indian States";

(b) if so, the highlights of this document;

(c) whether the document identifies 10 best governance practices from all the Indian States; and

(d) if so, the position of various States particularly Tamil Nadu so far as adoption of maximum best governance practices are concerned?

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 document entitled "Successful Governance Initiatives and Best Practices: Experiences from Indian States" highlights models of effective implementation and delivery of public services in the Government Sector in three key areas, viz., human development and social services, land and water management and areas of major public interface with Government, and aims at documenting success stories for sharing both at the National level as well as between State Governments.

(c) No Sir. Initiatives from fourteen States have been incorporated into the document mainly based on their relevance to the poor, benefits to maximum number of people, quantum of funds being deployed, potential for productivity enhancement of the participating population, viability, level of community participation and commitment, sustainability of interventions, potential for replicability and the level of documentation of the initiatives.

(d) The document incorporates three Initiatives from Tamil Nadu viz. Involvement of Women in Agriculture, Identification of Destitute Women and Children, and Women's Empowerment through Self-House Groups. It also covers Initiatives from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Remote Areas

2404. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the conversion of the department of telecommunication into corporation by the Government there has been a lot of deficiency in extending telecommunication facility in rural areas especially in remote and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the corporation officers are giving directions for not installing telephone exchanges in such inaccessible areas where there is less income despite prior approval given by the Department of telecommunications to its schemes for opening of these telephone exchanges in the said areas;

(d) if so, whether the target fixed by the Government for providing cent percent telecommunication facility to all the villages by the year 2004 would be achieved in such circumstances; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the target would be achieved?

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) Guidelines for installation of new telephone exchanges have been revised by BSNL keeping in view the techno-economic aspect. The revised guidelines states that:

(i) The planning of rural area should be first with WLL solution.

(ii) If WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons, a new exchange could be planned with approval of the Head of the Circle.

(d) and (e) The telecom facilities in the rural areas of the country is measured in terms of provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs). It is targeted to provide VPTs to all villages by year 2004, except for villages which are depopulated, naxalite infested and villages falling under thick forest.

Telephone Connections on Demand

2405. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are being provided on demand in Bihar;

(b) if so, the areas where telephone connections are being provided on demand;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the exchange-wise details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the capacity of telephone exchanges so that telephone connections are provided on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Telephone connections are being provided on demand in Bihar in a few telephone exchanges. The details of which are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Waiting list is continuing due to non feasibility of land line connections mainly in far flung rural areas. Further, many applicants in these places are not willing to take connections on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).

(d) There is a plan to increase wired line switching capacity by 1,30,000 lines and WLL capacity by 73,000 lines during 2003-04. In addition, the capacity of urban WLL in Patna is also being inreased by 10,000 Lines.

Statement

List of Exchanges where telephone connections are provided on demand

Sl. No.	Name of SSAs	Telephone exchanges where connections are on demand		Capacity
1.	Patna	1.	Govind Mira Road	4000
		2.	Gulzarbag	3000
		3.	Rajiv Nagar	2000
		4.	S.K. Puri	2000
		5.	Rajgir	1000
2.	Munger	1.	Chewara	304
		2.	Bamda	152
		3.	Malda	152
		4.	Ghuskhuri	152
3.	Kishanganj	1.	Kishanganj	5000
		2.	Kishanganj (RSU)	1500
		3.	Thakurganj	1000
		4.	Belwa	336
		5.	Dighal Bank	336
		6.	Janta Hat	320
		7.	Tulsia	336
		8.	Chattargarh	152
		9.	Kothia	320
		10.	Kadogaon	152
4.	Gaya	1.	ANMCH (RSU)	2000

[English]

Expenditure on National Highways

2406. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

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

(a) the number of National Highways which passes through Karnataka;

(b) the number of districts that is covered by the National Highways;

(c) whether the Government propose to cover the remaining districts of Karnataka with the National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have plans to convert more State highways into National Highways in the coming years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the expenditure incurred for the conversion and maintenance of State Highways into National Highways in the country especially in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) 13 number of National Highways pass through Karnataka.

(b) 24 districts are covered by National Highways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. Presently, new National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The expenditure on conversion and maintenance of newly declared National Highways depends upon a number of factors viz. width and condition of the road at the time of declaration, terrain, type of soil, number and condition of existing cross drainage structures, traffic intensity etc. An expenditure of Rs. 270.00 Crore and Rs. 117.00 Crore respectively has been incurred for development and maintenance of National Highways in Karnataka during the last three years.

Development of Backward Areas in Orissa

2407. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the backward areas of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sandargarh in Orissa like the KBK districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF 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) There is no special proposal at present for the development of backward areas of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sandargarh in Orissa like the KBK districts.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Conditions of NIMHANS

2408. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients treated by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether the Government are aware that NIMHANS is facing an acute financial crisis;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount spent on medicines during the year 2002-2003;

(e) the amount proposed to be spent on medicines during the year 2003-04;

(f) whether poor patients who do not possess Below Poverty Line cards had been denied medical treatment;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the budgetary allocation of NIMHANS in order to enable it to provide proper medicines to poor patients; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (i) Patients totalling 3,68,871 were treated by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) during the year 2002-03. The Institute has spent an amount of Rs. 292.11 lakhs on medicines during the year 2002-03. An amount of Rs. 2 to 3 crores is earmarked towards medicines during the year 2003-04. Poor patients who do not possess Below Poverty Line cards are not denied medical treatment.

Adequate budgetary support is provided to NIMHANS by the Government of India.

University Status to Institutions of Higher Education

2409. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of institutions of higher education other than the Universities which are doing work of very high standard and are being given non-Plan Assistance and Plan grants by the Government; but they have only been given the status of deemed University and not that of a University;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such institutions, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for giving such institutions the status of University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) There are three categories of universities (i) Central Universities established by the Central Government under the Central Act; (ii) State Universities established by the State Government under the State Act; and (iii) Deemed Universities notified under Section 3 of the UGC Act. 83 institutions of higher learning have been so far granted Deemed University status. UGC is providing development and maintenance grants to 12 Deemed Universities and development grant to 8 Deemed Universities. State-wise number of such institutions is enclosed as statement.

(c) Deemed Universities already enjoy the status of University under UGC Act.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise number of deemed Universities getting grants from UGC

S. No.	Name of the state	Total number of deemed universities	Number of of deemed universities receiving maintenance and development grants from UGC	Number of deemed universities receiving development grants from UGC
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	2	1
2.	Assam	1	—	—
3.	Bihar	1	—	—
4.	Gujarat	3	1	—
5.	Haryana	3	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—
7.	Jharkhand	3	—	—
8.	Karnataka	6	—	—
9.	Kerala	1	—	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3	—	—
11.	Maharashtra	15	1	4
12.	Orissa	1	—	—
13.	Punjab	2	—	—
14.	Rajasthan	6	1	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	13	3	—
16.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1	1
17.	Uttaranchal	2	1	—
18.	West Bengal	2	—	—
19.	New Delhi	8	2	—

Second Diplomatic Enclave

2410. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken 32 years ago to establish a Second Diplomatic Enclave but the same has not yet been established;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to establish the said Enclave without further delay?

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

(b) The area to be earmarked for the Second Diplomatic Enclave depends on availability of adequate land, its access, provision of utility services, cost, pricing, security and acceptability to foreign Diplomatic Missions.

(c) The External Affairs Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

Construction of Embassy Complex in Brazil

2411. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its report No. 2 of 2001 has indicated his Ministry for not taking any decision in regard to the construction of the Embassy complex on a plot gifted by Brazil in 1965;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total rent so far paid by the Ministry for running its embassy in Brazil;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up a time frame for construction of Embassy in Brazil; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Implementation of the construction project has been affected due to various reasons over the years. These include the economy drive of the Government of India in the aftermath of the Bangladesh war, the oil crisis, freeze on construction after the Gulf war, etc. Owing to the high cost of land development, it was also not possible to establish the economic viability of the construction project.

(c) A sum of Rs. 13.85 crores has been paid in rentals for the Chancery, Embassy Residence and other residences from 1982 till date.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has drawn up a time-frame for the construction project and is conscious of the need to ensure speedy completion of the project. Three Brasilia-based architects have submitted concept designs and models for the construction project, out of which one will be selected for implementation.

[Translation]

TB Control Programme

2412. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the targets fixed for the National Tuberculosis Control Programme have not been achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds provided by the Government for the treatment of tuberculosis during the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have also allocated funds to voluntary organizations during the said period;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor including the funds provided to various voluntary organizations alongwith the names of such organizations, State-wise during the aforesaid period; and

(f) the action plan of the Government to encourage such voluntary organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is an adoption in India of the WHO recommended DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) strategy, was launched in 1997 with the objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect atleast 70% of such cases. The present coverage under (RNTCP) is about 700 million population and it is envisaged to cover 850 million by 2004 and the entire country by 2005. The project districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 80%, which means that 8 out of every 10 TB patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated as against less than 4 in the previous Programme. State-wise performance under (RNTCP) as per latest quarterly performance report (1st quarter 2003) is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Statement indicating State-wise details of funds released under the Programme during last three years and current year is at Statement-II enclosed.

(d) to (f) Involvement of NGOs in RNTCP is of vital importance. The Programme encourage them to participate in any of the five schemes given below:

Scheme 1. Health education and community outreach.

Scheme 2. Provision of directly observed treatment.

Scheme 3. In-hospital care for tuberculosis disease

Scheme 4. Microscopy and treatment center

Scheme 5. TB Unit Model

Depending upon the capacity of the NGOs, they can adopt any of the above.

A list of NGOs involved under the Programme is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

Involvement of NGOs has been decentralized to the district level and no cash grant is given directly to NGOs from the Centre. A Statement indicating State-wise information received from the State TB Societies on the amount given to NGOs for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03 is given at Statement III. Many NGOs also participate without any assistance. Drugs are provided free under the Programme.

Statement I

Performance under RNTCP Case Detection (2003, first quarter) and Treatment Outcome (2002, first quarter)

State	Population (in lakh)	Total no. of districts/DTCs	No. of Districts/DTCs implementing RNTCP	Annualized new smear positive case detection rate(%)	Cure rate of new smear positive patients
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	557	23	17	67	84%
Arunachal Pradesh	11	6	6	84	*
Assam	12	23	1	74	87%
Bihar	117	37	3	44	91%
Chandigarh	9.6	1	1	88	68%
Chhattisgarh	94	16	4	44	*
Delhi	149	20	20	86	80%
Gujarat	502	27	26	56	83%
Haryana	66	19	4	54	78%
Himachal Pradesh	63	12	12	66	88%
Jharkhand	79	22	3	43	92%
Karnataka	445	28	22	57	84%
Kerala	324	14	14	66	88%
Madhya Pradesh	153	45	13	53	83%
Maharashtra	964	48	44	52	84%
Manipur	25	9	9	61	84%
Nagaland	19	8	7	43	*
Orissa	143	30	14	81	87%
Punjab	154	17	9	44	85%

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	594	32	32	66	86%
Sikkim	5.7	4	4	106	80%
Tamil Nadu	634	29	29	63	85%
Uttar Pradesh	492	70	19	62	88%
Uttaranchal	20	13	2	40	*
West Bengal	812	19	18	50	85%
Total	6444	572	333	58	85%

*Treatment outcome becomes due after 12-15 months of start of service delivery.

Statement II

Details of funds released under the Programme during last three years and current year

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State Name	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	405.61	203.47	250.00	0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	46.57	62.28	37.50	20.00
4.	Assam	8.09	35.05	185.22	162.00
5.	Bihar	17.98	88.75	85.05	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	18.05	8.39	16.00	15.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	36.22	136.36	0.00
8.	Delhi	111.06	100.00	301.00	125.00
9.	Goa	0.00	7.82	10.00	0.00
10.	Gujarat	275.53	285.67	0.00	60.00
11.	Haryana	16.47	54.42	45.28	0.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	233.29	113.50	35.00	43.00
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	54.37	25.30	0.00	55.00
14.	Jharkhand	5.10	54.65	73.05	0.00
15.	Karnataka	173.68	232.63	269.00	130.00
16.	Kerala	83.02	324.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	9.25	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	89.30	202.60	496.25	157.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Maharashtra	765.97	919.51	203.43	250.00
20.	Manipur	125.85	81.90	50.00	37.00
21.	Meghalaya	0.00	7.82	70.10	40.00
22.	Mizoram	0.00	9.60	83.15	35.00
23.	Nagaland	49.99	90.39	22.50	32.00
24.	Orissa	156.76	245.00	331.84	0.00
25.	Pondicherry	0.00	2.40	0.00	0.00
26.	Punjab	49.77	145.34	85.10	83.00
27.	Rajasthan	627.64	478.47	82.50	248.81
28.	Sikkim	46.61	28.94	27.10	11.00
29.	Tamil Nadu	617.24	324.77	20.00	130.00
30.	Tripura	0.00	12.47	40.90	0.00
31.	Uttar Pradesh	156.37	393.89	604.20	250.00
32.	Uttaranchal	0.00	15.42	68.18	0.00
33.	West Bengal	330.78	428.41	375.00	172.00
	Grand Total	4465.10	5019.08	4025.96	2055.81

•In addition to above, drugs, Binocular Microscopes and X-ray films rolls are supplied to the States as commodity assistance.

Statement III

A statement indicating State-wise details of funds spent under NGO head for the year 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State Name	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	4.36	4.07
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.05
4.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Bihar	0.00	2.76	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.18	0.15
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Delhi	0.00	0.05	3.98
9.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Gujarat	0.60	2.86	3.46
11.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.09
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.13
14.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.50	3.10
15.	Karnataka	0.97	2.21	2.48
16.	Kerala	0.32	0.56	3.91
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.50	1.67
19.	Maharashtra	0.16	6.62	20.58
20.	Manipur	0.20	1.65	1.12
21.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	1.10
24.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Rajasthan	0.00	1.58	4.67
28.	Sikkim	0.00	0.30	0.44
29.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	2.45	3.44
30.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Uttar Pradesh	0.25	0.75	1.51
32.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	West Bengal	0.29	15.90	6.00
	Grand Total	2.79	43.23	62.95

Computer Education

2413. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from State Governments for providing funds for introduction of computer education in the Government schools in the States in the ratio of one high school in each district;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the financial assistance sought for by the State Government has been provided by the Union Government during he current financial year;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRA): (a) to (e) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education had launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (Class) in 2001-2002 to promote computer literacy in schools in the country. Under the revised CLASS scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/Union Territories on the basis of Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by the States/UTs. Grant-in-aid is provided to only Govt. and Government-aided schools. Union Government provides 75% of the total sanctioned amount, subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 5.00 Lakhs per school. The balance 25% is borne by the State Government/ UTs. The scheme also provides for 25% of funds from MPLADs in addition or as an alternative to State Govt. contribution.

So far, 19 States/UTs have been released funds under the scheme during 2001-2002, on the basis of the CEPs submitted by them. The names of States/UTs and the number of schools which have been granted financial assistance during 2001-2002 under the revised CLASS scheme is at statement-I.

Moreover, 6 States have been released 2nd installment during 2002-2003 as per statement at Statement-II.

During the current financial year, the revised CLASS scheme is being merged in the new scheme of 'Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools'. Financial assistance would be released to States/ UTs during the current financial year after approval of the 'ICT in Schools' scheme by the competent authority.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount sanctioned as 75% Union Govt.'s Share (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount released as 1st Installment (Rs. in Lakhs)—50% of sanctioned amount	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	900.00	450.00	180
2.	Tripura	250.00	125.00	50
3.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	250.00	100
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	70.00	35.00	14
5.	Haryana	500.00	250.00	100
6.	West Bengal	1114.7625	557.38125	300
7.	Punjab	997.50	498.75	200
8.	Andhra Pradesh	1401.1875	700.59375	500
9.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	500.00	200
10.	Manipur	250.00	125.00	50
11.	Goa	250.00	125.00	50
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1500.00	750.00	300
13.	Himachal Pradesh	500.00	250.00	100

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Mizoram	200.00	100.00	40
15.	Sikkim	145.00	72.5	29
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1950.00	975.00	390
17.	Gujarat	1500.00	750.00	300
18.	Meghalaya	295.00	147.5	59
19.	Karnataka	750.00	360.475	150
	Total	14073.45	7022.20	3112

Statement II

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	West Bengal	4,69,84,125
2.	Chhattisgarh	2,50,00,000
3.	Sikkim	72,50,000
4.	Goa	1,25,00,000
5.	Tamil Nadu	72,65,875
6.	Haryana	39,30,000
	Total	10,29,30,000

Maintenance of Telephone Connections

2414. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the separate number of telephone connections working under each Regional General Manager under the Delhi and Mumbai Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. as on October 31, 1998 and the number of Group A, B, C and D officers and staff working for the maintenance and upkeep of the said telephone connections;

(b) the separate details of connections under each of the Regional General manager in the aforesaid Metropolises as on June 30, 2003 alongwith the Group A, B, C and D officers/officials working for the maintenance and upkeep of these connections;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the work of maintenance and upkeep is not being executed properly in the Nigam due to the lack of Group C and D officials;

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details in respect of MTNL Delhi and Mumbai units are given in Statement 'A' and 'B' respectively.

(c) No, Sir, Neither there is any shortage in Group 'C' and 'D' cadre nor maintenance or upkeep of system is suffering as technology is getting upgraded.

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

Statement I

Separate Number of Telephone Connections working under each Regional General Manager in Delhi

Area	No. of DELs as on 31.10.1998	Employees				
		Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	127197	32	133	1358	748	2271
East	202229	31	211	1632	1170	3044

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T/Yamuna	242267	24	103	1185	706	2018
North	236096	34	222	1294	784	2334
South-I	156851	23	148	916	650	1737
South-II	213262	42	186	1113	655	1996
West-I	205675	41	211	1358	933	2543
West-II	180386	15	102	769	678	1564
G. Total	1564003	242	1316	9615	6324	17507

Area	No. of DELs as on 30.6.2003	Employees				
		Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D	Total
Central	153682	37	198	1163	607	2005
East	230770	29	163	1619	866	2677
T/Yamuna	353684	40	239	1313	688	2280
North-I	182136	27	147	820	426	1420
North-II	156284	28	117	733	242	1120
South-I	225570	32	130	947	526	1635
South-II	282520	37	184	1267	595	2083
West-I	186909	20	118	770	348	1256
West-II	232213	17	101	790	593	1501
West-III	146608	19	87	693	537	1336
G. Total	2150376	286	1484	10115	5428	17313

Statement II

Separate Number of Telephone Connections working under each Regional General Manager in Mumbai

As on 31.10.98

Area	No. of DELs as on 31.10.1998	Employees				
		Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South	181378	30	185	1358	511	2084
Central	203004	30	100	1528	828	2486
North	280682	34	137	2196	1015	3382
West-I	288916	48	132	2047	991	3218

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
West-II	207064	35	150	1106	412	1703
West-III	289414	30	129	1717	497	2373
East-I	181576	27	160	1489	766	2442
East-II	194940	26	126	1678	506	2336
N/MBI	106440	22	97	643	322	1084
Total	1933414	282	1216	13762	5848	21108

As on 30.6.03

Area	No. of DELs as on 30.6.2003	Employees				
		Gr. A	Gr. B	Gr. C	Gr. D	Total
South	187161	30	143	1215	483	1871
Central	205779	34	147	1364	628	2173
North	328150	40	187	1891	761	2879
West-I	332655	46	181	1832	631	2690
West-II	278384	42	161	1246	362	1811
West-III	384792	40	190	1728	385	2343
East-I	252796	36	167	1474	622	2299
East-II	265029	34	113	1541	460	2148
N/MBI	169918	24	113	679	290	1106
Total	2404664	326	1402	12970	4622	19320

NET/SAT

2415. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a discussion in June 2003 for relaxing NET/SAT rules between the Chairman of UGC and Chairman of NET/SAT Committee of all States;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to grant relaxation to the present teaching staff and also to the new recruit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC Regulations, 2002 concerning minimum qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in universities and institutions affiliated to it, *inter alia*, provide that NET shall remain the compulsory requirement for appointment as Lecturer. However, the candidates who have completed M. Phil degree by 31st December 1993 or have submitted Ph.D. thesis to the university in the concerned subject on or before 31st December 2002 are exempted from appearing

in the NET. In case, such candidates fail to obtain Ph.D. degree, they shall have to pass the NET. This condition has been considered necessary to ensure uniformity in the standard of education.

The UGC has now constituted a Committee to review the scheme of NET/SLET for suggesting improvement in the Scheme. The Committee is yet to finalize its recommendations.

[English]

Disinvestment of BSNL and MTNL

2416. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to go for disinvestment of BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to transform the two companies from Ministry managed companies to Board managed ones;

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

(e) whether BSNL has been playing a crucial role in extending telephone services in rural areas while other private players are reluctant to do the same; and

(f) if so, whether the Government are considering reimbursing expenditure incurred towards rural telephony by BSNL to protect it from becoming sick as well as to achieve the target of rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No decision for disinvestment in BSNL or MTNL has been taken.

(c) M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are already Board managed companies.

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

(e) Yes, Sir. As on 30.6.2003, 516,182 out of 6,07,491 villages have been provided connectivity. Circle-wise coverage of village by various operators through village public telephones is given in the Statement. BSNL has provided VPTs in 5,05,381 villages as against only 10801 villages covered by all other private operators.

(f) To compensate for losses on account of rural telephone operators and other socially desirable projects, BSNL has been so far given some concessions by way of reimbursement of licence and spectrum fee and waival of payments of interest on loan and dividend. For 2002-03, BSNL received Rs. 297.23 crores from the USO fund for maintenance of rural telephones.

Statement

Circle-wise Coverage of VPTs

Sl.No.	Circle	VPTs provided as on 30.6.2003 by BSNL	VPTs provided as on 30.6.2003 by private operators	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	198	0	198
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23419	1314	24733
3.	Assam	18034	0	18034
4.	Bihar	38475	0	38475
5.	Jharkhand	26270	0	26270
6.	Gujarat	11214	4114	15328

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	6811	0	6811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16585	0	16585
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4502	0	4502
10.	Karnataka	27066	0	27066
11.	Kerala	1468	0	1468
12.	Madhya Pradesh	37597	465	38062
13.	Chhattisgarh	14665	0	14665
14.	Maharashtra	31541	2318	33859
15.	North East I	3408	0	3408
16.	North East II	2452	0	2452
17.	Orissa	40435	0	40435
18.	Punjab	12687	0	12687
19.	Rajasthan	23858	2590	26448
20.	Tamil Nadu	17899	0	17899
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	75965	0	75965
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	21268	0	21268
23.	Uttaranchal	11630	0	11630
24.	West Bengal	37306	0	37306
25.	Calcutta	437	0	437
26.	Delhi	191	0	191
	Total	505381	10801	516182

Non-Implementation of MPLAD Scheme

2417. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding non-implementation of MPLADS in Gujarat particularly Districts Surendra Nagar and Rajkot have been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government 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) Yes, Sir. Four complaints have been received in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation regarding implementation of MPLADS in the State of Gujarat, including one for Surendranagar district, since March 2001.

(b) As and when complaints are received from Members of Parliament, the matters taken up with the concerned District Administration/State Government for remedial action and replies are sent to the MPs concerned. Particularly for Surendranagar district the

recommendation from the Hon'ble M.P. for construction of 'seeds godown wall' could not be implemented as the work is not permissible under MPLAD Scheme.

[Translation]

PCO Facility in Post Offices

2418. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PCO facility has been provided in all post offices of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all post offices are likely to be equipped with the aforesaid facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, out of a total of 9039 post offices in Bihar 2205 post offices have been provided with PCO facility.

(c) and (d) There is no policy to provide PCOs in all the post offices. Such PCOs can be provided as and when justified request is received from the public and the postal authorities.

[English]

Relevance of HSCC (India) Ltd.

2419. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey on the relevance and need for Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Ltd.;

(b) whether the dividend paid by HSCC is declared according to the guidelines issued by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the costs of having too many entities and Corporations and Institutions which might have become redundant and irrelevant; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to assess the need and relevance of such Corporations?

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

[Translation]

SARS Cases

2420. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the SARS cases in several parts of the country;

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

(c) whether hospitals in the country are well equipped to tackle the disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per World Health Organisation definition, three probable cases of SARS, one each in West Bengal, Karnataka and Gujarat have been reported in India. The Central and State Governments identified hospitals are equipped to treat SARS cases (list enclosed as a statement).

Statement

List of Identified Hospitals in the States

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the identified hospital
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	1. Safdarjung Hospital
		2. Dr. RML Hospital
		3. LHMC & SSK Hospital
		4. AIIMS
		5. Infectious Diseases Hospital
		6. Hindu Rao Hospital
		7. L.N. Hospital
		8. G.T.B. Hospital

1	2	3
		9. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital
2.	Maharashtra	1. Kasturba Infectious disease Hospital, Mumbai
		2. V.N. Desai Hospital, Mumbai
		3. Naidu Hospital, Pune
3.	West Bengal	Infectious Disease Hospital, Kolkata
4.	Tamil Nadu	1. Madras Medical College Hospital, Chennai
		2. Communicable Disease Hospital, Tondiarpet, Chennai
		3. Coimbatore Medical College Hospital
		4. Tuticorin Medical College Hospital, Tuticorin
		5. Trichy Medical College Hospital, Trichy.
5.	Kerala	1. General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram
		2. Calicut Medical College Hospital
		3. General Hospital, Ernakulam
6.	Gujarat	1. New Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad
		2. V.S. General Hospital, Ahmedabad
		3. Govt. Hospital, Bhuj
7.	Karnataka	1. Epidemic Disease Hospital, Bangalore
		2. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases
		3. District Govt. Wenlokc Hospital, Mangalore
8.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Govt. General & Chest Hospital, Hyderabad
		2. Govt. Hospital for Chest & Communicable Diseases Hospital, Vishakapatnam
9.	Punjab	Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, Amritsar
10.	Goa	Goa Medical College, Panaji
11.	Rajasthan	SMS Medical College Hospital, Jaipur
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Balram Hospital, Lucknow
		2. SSPG District Hospital, Varanasi
		3. Deen Dayal Hospital, Varanasi
13.	Bihar	Infectious Diseases Hospital, Gaya
14.	Assam	Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati
15.	Orissa	SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack
16.	Chandigarh	PGI, Chandigarh
17.	Pondicherry	JIPMER, Pondicherry
18.	Manipur	1. J.N. Hospital, Prompat
		2. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal
19.	Sikkim	STNM Hospital, Gangtok
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	Sher-i-Kashmir Hospital, Srinagar
21.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Kangra.
		2. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Hamirpur.
		3. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Mandi.
		4. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Shimla.

Telephone Directories

2421. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone directories have not been published in several States for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the same situation persists in other cities of the country where telephone directories have not been published for several years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely publication of telephone directories and also issuance of corrigenda thereto?

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

[English]

MTNL Bill

2422. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL Bills used to carry the details of STD/ISD calls made by the subscriber for easy check and verification;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this system has been withdrawn;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to restore the earlier arrangements to prevent mass exodus of subscribers to new private agencies?

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

(b) The MTNL bill used to carry details of International Long Distance (ILD)/National Long Distance (NLD) calls indicating called number and duration of each call.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It was observed that many customers did not want the details of bill. Further large volume of data led to delay in printing as well as avoidable expenditure on printing and billing stationery.

(e) There is no proposal to restore the earlier arrangement.

[Translation]

Industry Status to Education

2423. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the World Trade Organization has given the status of a major industry to education and valued it as Rs. 47,000,00 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are considering establishment of Indian Universities in the foreign countries;

(c) if so, the policy formulated alongwith the details of the progress made in this regard; and

(d) the places where the Government propose to set up such universities and the justification for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) administered by World Trade Organization (WTO) has classified services into 12 (twelve) sectors and Education is one among them. There is no WTO Document in the notice of the Government, which grants a major industry status to Education and pegs its value at Rs. 47,000,00 crore.

(b) At present there is no proposal under consideration with Government to establish Indian Universities abroad.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Central Assistance to States

2424. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance for the Ninth and the Tenth Plan projected with increase in each case, State-wise;

(b) whether there is no increase in the Central Plan assistance so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned;

(c) if so, 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) and (b) The details of Central Plan Assistant to State Plans for the Ninth and the Tenth Plan (Projected) with increase in each case, State-wise is indicated in the Statement enclosed as statement.

As indicated in the statement enclosed, Central Plan Assistance to Tamil Nadu is projected to increase, from Rs. 6013.03 Crores (Actual) in the Ninth Plan to 15006.13 Crore in the Tenth Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Central Assistance during Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	States	Ninth Plan Central Assistance (Actual)	Tenth Plan Central Assistance (Projected)	Increase in Rs. Crore
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,611.62	22241.89	9,630.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,270,79	3396.25	1,125.46
3.	Assam	6,085.20	9527.60	3,442.40
4.	Bihar	7,924.11	11721.41	3,797.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	274.25	4103.57	3,829.32
6.	Goa	396.26	652.40	256.14
7.	Gujarat	7,822.55	13156.34	5,333.79
8.	Haryana	2,090.38	3180.00	1,089.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3643.72	5540.00	1,896.28
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9,504.91	11,820.55	2,315.64
11.	Jharkhand	312.90	4066.41	3,753.51
12.	Karnataka	6,284.97	17992.82	11,707.85
13.	Kerala	2701.31	10838.55	8,137.24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6,756.93	10168.13	3,411.20

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	6970.81	9770.39	2,799.58
16.	Manipur	2,044.48	3166.42	1,121.94
17.	Meghalaya	1468.83	2323.15	854.32
18.	Mizoram	1505.77	2646.94	1,141.17
19.	Nagaland	1,603.38	2594.47	991.09
20.	Orissa	6508.06	14607.72	8,099.66
21.	Punjab	2,552.27	3979.00	1,426.73
22.	Rajasthan	4956.91	9640.56	4,683.65
23.	Sikkim	1,142.39	1560.24	417.85
24.	Tamil Nadu	6,013.03	15006.13	8,993.10
25.	Tripura	2362.70	4008.45	1,645.75
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15,717.12	35410.12	19,693.00
27.	Uttaranchal	475.78	6626.50	6,150.72
28.	West Bengal	8,729.05	14345.50	5,616.45
	Total (States)	130,730.48	254,091.51	123,361.03

Note: 1. The State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal came into existence in November, 2000. Therefore, Ninth Plan figures for these States relate to the year 2001-02 only.

2. Figures in column 3 & 4 are at Current Prices.

Proliferation of WMD by India

2425. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Director of Central Intelligence has remarked that India "continues" to develop weapons of mass destruction as reported in the Hindu dated April 21, 2003;

(b) whether the Pakistan Information and Media Development Minister also reiterated the claims and stated that the weapons are being kept in some neighbouring countries;

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

(d) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has seen an Unclassified Report of the CIA to the United States Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions, posted on the CIA website in April 2003 which has referred to India along with other countries including Pakistan. During its interactions with US interlocutors, Government has made known its position to them.

(b) The allegations made by the Pakistan Information and Media Development Minister are absolutely unfounded.

(c) and (d) India's policies are dictated by its security environment. India sees its nuclear weapons as a deterrent and has subscribed to a doctrine of no-first use. India has also affirmed that it will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons States. India remains committed to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and stands for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons world-

wide. As regards chemical and biological weapons, India is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and has been observing all its obligations under these Conventions.

Assistance for Modernisation of Food Laboratories

2426. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any plans to assist State Governments to set up Laboratories in all the States to detect food adulteration; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided to the State Governments to modernize, upgrade and make more efficient their State Laboratories involved in checking food adulteration during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Commodity and monetary assistance provided to the States for strengthening their food laboratories during 2000-01 and 2001-02. The details of assistance provided to the States is given at statement enclosed.

Under the World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project on Food and Drugs, State Food Laboratories are being set up in the three newly created States and Sikkim, while laboratories in the other States are being strengthened.

Statement

Financial/Commodity Assistance given to State/UT Governments for strengthening Food Laboratories under Centrally Sponsored during 2000-2001 and 2001-02

Name of the State/UTs		Financial/Commodity Assistance
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	Atomic Absorption Spectro-photometer (AAS)
2.	Meghalaya	AAS
3.	Orissa	AAS
4.	Rajasthan	High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC)
5.	Uttar Pradesh	HPLC
6.	Kerala	HPLC
7.	West Bengal	HPLC
8.	Gujarat	HPLC and Rs. 9.00 lakhs
9.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	HPLC
10.	Manipur	HPLC
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	HPLC
12.	Himachal Pradesh	High Performance Thin Layer Chromatograph (HPTLC)
13.	Karnataka	HPTLC
14.	Delhi	HPTLC and Rs. 9.00 Lakhs
15.	Maharashtra	Rs. 9.00 lakhs
16.	Nagaland	Rs. 9.00 lakhs
17.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 9.00 lakhs

Code of Professional Ethics

2427. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to formulate a code of professional ethics in Medical Practice in the country order to check certain unethical practices like removal of organs, sale of infants, sophisticated machines in hospitals lying out of order etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government have notified the Indian Medical

Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 in the Official Gazette dated 6th April, 2002. These Regulations prescribe the various acts of commission and omission on the part of a physician which are constructed as misconducted and unethical. These Regulations also make it mandatory for a physician to observe the various Acts like Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, Transplantation of Human Organ, Act, 1994, Pre-natal Sex Determination Test, 1994 or any Act or regulations of the State Govts., Local bodies etc. The Medical Council of India or the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action against a physician for violation of the provisions of the Regulations. Such erring physician may be awarded punishment as deemed fit which may include removal of his name from the register permanently or for a limited period after conducting an enquiry.

[Translation]

Assistance for Abroad to Indian Institutes of Technology

2428. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Indian Institutes of Technology in the country have received financial assistance from abroad during the last three years and till June, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and IIT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have not received financial assistance from abroad during the period. However, IITs do receive funds from abroad in the form of fees from foreign students enrolled, scholarship, donations from alumni, grants for research & consultancy projects etc.

[English]

Increase in Rural Poverty

2429. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty has increased in rural areas, particularly in backward and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard recently;

(d) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate poverty in these areas?

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 Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey has been conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round).

The separate estimates for backward and tribal areas are not available. However, incidence of poverty for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe population in rural areas is available. On the basis of data of latest two rounds of NSSO, it has been estimated that the poverty ratio has decliened by 11.86 percentage points for Scheduled castes and 6.08 for Scheduled Tribes and 10.18 percentage points for the all population in rural areas of the country during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Poverty ratio has declined during this period in all major states except for SCs/STs population in Orissa. The state–wise estimates of poverty for SCs/STs and for all population in rural areas for the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given in Statement enclosed.

(e) Government has been implementing number of poverty alleviation programmes throughout the country for the people living below poverty line. Within the below poverty line population special safeguards have been provided reserving benefits for SCs/STs. Besides this, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) proposed in the Tenth Five Year Plan aims at focussed development programmes for backward areas, primarily to fill critical gaps, which would help reduce imbalances, speed up development and help these areas to overcome poverty.

Statement

Table: Reduction in % of people living below Poverty Line from 1993-94 to 1999-2000—Rural Areas

S. No.	States	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes			All Population		
		Poverty Ratio		Reduction	Poverty Ratio		Reduction	Poverty Ratio		Reduction
		1993-1994	1999-2000	in Pov. ratio	1993-1994	1999-2000	in Pov. ratio	1993-1994	1999-2000	in Pov. ratio
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.02	16.49	9.53	25.66	23.82	1.84	15.92	11.05	4.87
2.	Assam	45.38	44.00	1.38	41.44	38.73	2.71	45.01	40.04	4.97
3.	Bihar	70.66	59.81	10.85	69.75	59.68	10.07	58.21	44.30	13.91
4.	Gujarat	32.26	17.77	14.49	31.20	29.11	2.09	22.18	13.17	9.01
5.	Haryana	46.56	19.03	27.53	41.55	—	—	28.02	8.27	19.75
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36.89	13.15	23.74	63.94	5.73	58.21	30.34	7.94	22.40
7.	Karnataka	46.36	26.22	20.14	37.33	25.49	11.84	29.88	17.38	12.50
8.	Kerala	36.43	14.64	21.79	37.34	24.20	13.14	25.76	9.38	16.38
9.	Madhya Pradesh	45.83	41.29	4.54	56.69	56.26	0.43	40.64	37.06	3.58
10.	Maharashtra	51.64	33.27	18.37	50.38	43.56	6.82	37.93	23.72	14.21
11.	Orissa	48.85	51.83	-2.88	71.26	73.93	-2.67	49.72	48.01	1.71
12.	Punjab	22.08	12.39	9.69	27.00	17.99	9.01	11.95	6.35	5.60
13.	Rajasthan	38.38	19.62	18.76	46.23	25.27	20.96	26.46	13.74	12.72
14.	Tamil Nadu	44.05	32.59	11.46	44.37	43.20	1.17	32.48	20.55	11.93
15.	Uttar Pradesh	58.99	43.65	15.34	37.11	34.06	3.05	42.28	31.22	11.06
16.	West Bengal	45.29	35.10	10.19	61.95	50.02	11.93	40.8	31.85	8.95
	All India	48.11	36.25	11.86	51.94	45.86	6.08	37.27	27.09	10.18

N.B.

1 The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

2. The poverty line for all population is used for SC's and ST's.

3. All India poverty ratio is worked out from the NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line.

Establishment of Monitoring Committee

2430. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Monitoring Committee to keep track of timely implementation of the supportive measures suggested by various bodies including Planning Commission in the context of globalization;

(b) whether globalization has simultaneously resulted in employment generation and loss of employment;

(c) whether a committee of implementation in the process of restructuring and development has been formed;

(d) if so, whether any concrete efforts in this regard have been made; and

(e) if so, the time by which the committee for implementation in the process of restructuring and development is likely to be constituted?

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 keep track of timely implementation of various measures including schemes, projects and programmes during the Tenth Plan Period.

(i) Regular monitoring by every Ministry/Department of all schemes/projects/programmes implemented by it.

(ii) Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) by the Planning Commission to monitor progress of both physical and financial performance of schemes and implementation of policy initiatives of each Ministry/Department.

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

(b) No direct link can be drawn between globalization and the creation or loss of employment.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to constitute a Committee for Implementation in the process of restructuring and development.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats

2431. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided to all Gram Panchayats in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of the Gram Panchayats which had been provided telephone facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats which telephone facilities are proposed to be provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the time by which telephone facilities are likely to be provided to all Gram Panchayats in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. All the Gram Panchayats in Bihar have already been provided with telephone facilities.

(b) 5463 Gram Panchayats in Bihar were provided with telephone facilities during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) 587 Gram Panchayats were planned to be provided with telephone facilities during 10th Five Year Plan and have been provided during 2002-03.

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

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7885/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, 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 Management, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7886/2003]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Open School, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Open School, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7887/2003]

(7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Educational Consultants India Limited and the Department of the Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7888/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7889/2003]

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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) Copy of the Seventh Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7890/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) (First Amendment) Regulation, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 311-1/2003-Econ. dated the 27th March, 2003 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7891/2003]

[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. 434(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of Shaktigarh Bypass on National Highway No. 2 (Panagarh-Palsit section) in the State of West Bengal.

(ii) S.O. 440(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 79A (Kishangarh to Nasirabad and Nasirabad to Baral section) in Ajmer district in the State of Rajasthan.

(iii) S.O. 441(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for realignment on four lanes of National Highway No. 79 (Gulabpura to Station Nagar) in Bhilwara district in the State of Rajasthan.

(iv) S.O. 475(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangla to Tumkur section) in Tumkur district in the State of Karnataka.

(v) S.O. 476(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 367(E) dated the 26th April, 2001.

(vi) S.O. 477(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 1060(E) dated the 3rd October, 2002.

(vii) S.O. 795(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2003 regarding collection of toll fee on new Nethravathi Bridge on National Highway No. 48 (Bangalore-Mangalore section) in the State of Karnataka.

(viii) S.O. 558(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 141(E) dated the 4th March, 1999.

(ix) S.O. 559(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(x) S.O. 567(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xi) S.O. 568(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xii) S.O. 569(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 1337 (E) dated the 19th December, 2002.

(xiii) S.O. 570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xiv) S.O. 619(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the mechanical vehicle users of National Highway No. 45 (Chennai bypass Phase-I) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xv) S.O. 712(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch-Surat section) in the State of Gujarat.

(xvi) S.O. 713(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 8 (Vadodara-Bharuch section) in the State of Gujarat.

(xvii) S.O. 728(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (Realignment on four lanes) on National Highway No. 79 (Chittorgarh-Bhilwara section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xviii) S.O. 743(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Delhi-Kanpur section Kanpur-Varanasi section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xix) S.O. 759(E) to S.O. 761(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 on various stretches (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xx) S.O. 790(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Harihar-Maharashtra Border) in the State of Karnataka.

(xxi) S.O. 794(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 6 (Dankuni-Kolaghat section) in the State of West Bengal.

(xxii) S.O. 800(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxiii) S.O. 801(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 365(E) dated the 26th April, 2001.

(xxiv) S.O. 802(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxv) S.O. 803(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2003 acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxvi) S.O. 804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxvii) S.O. 710(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. S.R.O. 1181(E) dated the 4th April, 1957.

(xxviii) S.O. 711(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2003 regarding entrusting the stretches as mentioned in the Notification of National Highway No. 24 to the National Highways Authority of India.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to vi) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7892/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7893/2003]

(3) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993:—

(i) The National Council for Teacher Education (Recruitment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. F.No. 9-12-2002/NCTE (36) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2003.

(ii) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Contribution Provident Fund Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. F.No. 9-12-2002/NCTE (37) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7894/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, 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 Calcutta Dock Labour Board, 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. L.T. 7895/2003]

12.03 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 4th August, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2003."

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirty-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): I beg to present the Thirty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I have a point of procedure on item no. 11. Sir, it is mentioned at item no. 11 in today's List of Business- Report of Public Accounts Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not announced Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, item no. 11—Report of Public Accounts Committee. Sardar Buta Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am on a point of procedure. I have given my submission in writing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): There is no rule in the Rules of Procedure which prevents the laying of the Report of the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Sardar Buta Singh to lay it on the Table of the House.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fifty-fourth Report

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): I beg to present the Fifty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2003-2004) on Report of the C&AG of India for the year ended March 2001 (No. 7A of 2001) Union Government (Defence Services) relating to "Review of Procurement for OP Vijay (Army)".

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I would like to quote paragraph 11.5, Chapter XI of the Procure and Practice of Lok Sabha. It says that there should be a gap of two clear working days...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, do you have any objection on laying this Report on the Table of the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Yes, certainly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, how can a member of the same Committee raise the issue after the Report is laid? Under what rule?...*(Interruptions)* I want to know the rule...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am a member of the Committee on Public Accounts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the rule?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, there is a procedural defect, which I am pointing out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Under what rule? Please show me the rule.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Report is laid on the Table of the House, you are raising a point of order. Under what rule?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, how can he object to it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am hearing his point of order. Thereafter, I will hear your point of order. Let me listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am listening to the point of order raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya. After he finishes his point of order, you can raise another point of order. Please sit down. Let me conduct the Business of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not do injustice to you. I will also permit you to raise your point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am quoting paragraph 11.5, Chapter XI of the Procure and Practice, as mentioned in Appendix II, rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure. It says:

> "There should be a gap of at least two clear working days between the date of adoption/circulations of the minutes of the sitting and the presentation of the Report to the House, so that the Members may have adequate time to bring any fact or point, which they desire, to the notice of the Chairman/Committee before the Report is presented to the House."

...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the minutes have been circulated only yesterday. It is clearly mentioned that a Member has a right to give his objections and that is why two clear working days' time has been provided under the rule...*(Interruptions)* I have submitted my objections yesterday in writing....*(Interruptions)* The minutes have been circulated yesterday, I have given my objections yesterday and now the Report is being submitted to the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, I will refer this to the Chairman of the Committee. After I get his remarks, I will get back to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, the Report cannot be presented in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I has been already presented.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: How can it be tabled?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, it has already been placed on the Table. Please take your seat. I have disposed of your point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, if the Report is found defective, can it be withdrawn?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

Whether a report can be leaked to the press before laying it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)* I am raising a point of order...*(Interruptions)* Whether a report can be given to the press or leaked before laying on the table of the House...*(Interruptions)* Please conduct a enquiry into it. Yesterday, evening such a report, which was not passed was given by T.V. and Press.

[English]

I want your ruling whether it could be given to the media before it is laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The rule is clear the any Report of this type has to come to the House first and then it could be published by the media. The question is whether the hon. Chairman or an hon. Member had given it to the media.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your point of order is incomplete. You have not said anything about that. It is the privilege of the House but at the same time let me make it clear that if there is a feeling that a Member has leaked it, you can give a privilege notice and I will consider it on merit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker Sir, how a report can be leaked before laying it

on the table of the House?...*(Interruptions)* Today they did it and earlier Shri Somnathji also did the same thing...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us listen to the point of order of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I have heard your point of order and the point of order raised by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Now, I am listening to his point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am on a point of order under rule 278. This rule says:

"A Committee may, if it thinks fit, make available to Government any completed part of its report before presentation to the House. Such reports shall be treated as confidential until presented to the House."

Rule 279 says:

"(1) The report of a Committee shall be presented to the House by the Chairman or in his absence by any member of the Committee.

(2) In presenting the report the Chairman or, in his absence, the member presenting the report shall, if he makes any remarks, confine himself to a brief statement of fact, but there shall be no debate on that statement at this stage."

MR. SPEAKER: Your point of order is correct. I have stopped the hon. Member from making it a debating point because he is a Member of the Committee. I did it in the interest of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am quoting the rule to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, I have not permitted you. Please allow me to conduct the business of the House. I heard you because I wanted to know what your point of order was. I permitted Dr. Malhotra also. I have given a ruling on both of your points of order. Now, the point of order raised by Shri Dasmunsi is a correct point of order. Therefore, I am not permitting a debate on the issue. I now go to the next item. Points of order cannot be raised just for the sake of raising them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to the next item. I am sorry, I cannot allow a debate on this issue. I am allowing Shri Ramji Lal Suman to raise a very important issue on pesticides residues in the soft drinks.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of Members who have given notices on this very important issue. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.10 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Arun Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice of privilege for it. Please all of you take your seats....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important issue on pesticides residues in the soft drinks. Shri Ramji Lal Suman will raise this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Arun Kumar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunathji, I will hear you if there is a point of order, but I will not listen your comments on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is that, let it be known to us also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already disposed it of. I have already given my ruling on the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened to all the points of orders and gave my ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what is your ruling?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling was that if it is against a particular Member that he has gone to television and said anything, then he can bring a Privilege Motion against the hon. Member. That was my ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I may be permitted to speak on the pesticides issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is the rule? Please tell us the rule...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharaganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make a submission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There would be no submission in this matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, he should quote the rule. Let me know the rule. Under what rule is he speaking? I would like to know about the rule.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to know whether it is really a point of order or not. That is all I want to know.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, under what rule he wants to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you have already given your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule your point of order comes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I want to quote from Page No. 166.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide it. You are not telling any point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER He is on Appendix-II, General Purposes Committee on No. 3, page. 166. Please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. I have allowed Shri Prabhunath Singh ji to speak on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, never in the history of Parliament a report of Public Accounts Committee or any other Committee has been throttled by the Member of the same Committee, who has given the consent...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You continue to speak, it is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The conduct of Shri Kirit Somaiya is against the privilege of

*Not recorded.

the House. He is committing a breach of privilege. He is a Member of the Committee. How can he raise this issue?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am raising a point of procedure. It is provided under the rules. It is a procedural point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Are you not a Member of this Committee?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the House is to be conducted by the rules...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, under what rule is he raising it? He has to give the rule number...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has shown me a particular rule. Let me listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have quoted the rule and I have given the number also...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please all of you sit down. Sunil Khanji please sit down.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What is going on here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh told me and requested me that he wanted to raise a point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: That is over...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him to raise a point of order. Unless I listen to him, how can I decide? Let me listen to him as to what is point of order. I can throw it at any point if it is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has quoted a rule. He has sent me the rule also. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, my point of order is that any paper before laying on the Table of the House should be circulated among all the members. Another fact is that the report which was not laid on the table of the house, was shown yesterday on a T.V. Channel 'Aaj Tak'. Prior to 'this it had been published in the Times of India also. It is a matter of privilege of the House. So a motion of breach of privilege should be brought against the Chairman and the report should not be laid till the action is taken in this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no substance in the point of order. You can bring a privilege notice. Shri Ramjilal Suman to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to nobody else except Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

Please sit down. Your speech on this subject is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I have given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

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

MR. SPEAKER: I am reading the names of all the hon. Members who have given the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me read the names of he hon. Members who have given me the notice on an important issue on which the hon. Members expect the reaction of the Government. I have also requested the Government to respond to this issue. I have received, on this particular issue, notices from the following hon. Members:

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Basu Deb Acharia

Shri Hannan Mollah

Shri Rupchand Pal

Shri Ajoy Chakraborty

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi

Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal

Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy

Shri Ramesh Chennithala

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

Shri Ramji Lal Suman

Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav

Shri Prabodh Panda

Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav

Shri Lakshman Seth

Shri Anil Basu

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai

Shri K. Malaisamy

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, my name is not there. I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will include your name also.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): I have also given a notice for zero hour.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I too gave a notice.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, I have given a notice...*(Interruptions)* Nearly 165 farmers in Karnataka have committed suicide...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since this issue is very important, I am sure the entire country must be interested in knowing what this matter is because it has been reported in the Press throughout. Let us have some serious discussion.

[Translation]

I have requested seriously so please listen to me seriously.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is it all going on? Madam, please take your seat. If this is really an important issue, then we will have a serious discussion for a few minutes and thereafter the hon. Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj will respond to it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, 165 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. I have given a notice to speak on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take it up at the proper time, positively.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got all notices, there is no need to mention it again and again. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji will speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important issue. Centre for Science and Environment has revealed a sensational fact which has bee published in many newspapers that big multinational companies are selling poisonous drinks to the people of the country in the name of cold drinks. This is the same institution who tested the quality of bottled mineral water earlier. Mr. Speaker sir this issue is in the news for a long time...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, this is some other issue. It is not the issue on which I have given notice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Sir, we have given notices on the issue of unemployment only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Members whose names I read first have given notices on the issue of unemployment, on which I had allowed Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak. So, he started it. After the names of Members who have given notices on this subject are over, I will take that subject also. I have few names on this subject.

[Translation]

Likewise I will give permission to speak on unemployment also. Ram Vilas Paswan Ji your name will be figured first in the list.

12.21 hrs.

(i) Re: Reported Detection of Certain Toxic Pesticides Residues in Soft Drinks

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am submitting through you that these companies have been engaged in such a malpractice since long. However, Indian Standard Bureau has not taken any action in this regard. These multinational companies are playing with the lives of common men. According to Sunita Narayan, Director, CSE though we have law for bottled water but there is no law for cold drinks. So the silence of Government of India on the matter creates some doubts. As per European norms, in India, coca cola has 45 times, Fanta 43 times, Mirinda and orange 30 times, Pepsi 37 times. Seven up 37 times. Limca 30 times, Blue Pepsi 29 times. Mount and dew 28 times, Thums Up 32 times. Diet Pepsi 14 times and sprite 11 times arsenic contents, which are much higher than European standards. These pesticides elements cause dangerous diseases. This is very serious matter. Multinational companies have been given a free hand in this country because we don't have penal provisions. So they are exploiting the country without any check. Though these cold drinks don't cause direct deaths but they can cause the onset of cancer like disease gradually. Taking no effective action against these companies is really a matter of concern. This testing was done by picking three samples of each brand. How the mixing of lead, arsenic elements and heavy metals up to 50% was permitted in bottled cold drinks?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, we want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall not allow you to speak for more than two minutes. Discussion has not yet been started. Jhadavji, you please speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What kind of penal provisions are being formulated by Government of India for these multinational companies? This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received the notices and I am going to permit only those, who have given the notices.

[Translation]

But please do not take more than two minutes. Prabodh Pandaji, prior to you I have the name of Suresh Jadhavji with me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, there is a plant of Coca-Cola in Plachimada which is in Palghat district of Kerala. The management has given the waste of that Coca-Cola plant as manure to the farmers. It is very dangerous to the cultivation in that area because they are using ground water. That area is an agricultural area and due to their using ground water, farmers are finding it very difficult to cultivate that area of Palghat district. There is no water for agriculture purpose. Due to this reason, I demand a ban on Coca-Cola company in our country.

Sir, I demand, through you, that the Government should ban Coca-Cola. It is very dangerous that Pepsi and Coca-Cola are making soft drinks which contain high level of pesticides. So, I demand a ban on them.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Coca Cola company has been allowed in West Bengal and members of that region have raised this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of adjournment motion on this subject. These multinational companies producing cold drinks like. Coca Cola, Pepsi, Mirinda etc. are feeding poison to our kids and adolescents. These cold drinks have more pesticides than those served in USA and European countries. This has been proved that these cold drinks are dangerous. But it is a matter of concern that Indian Standard Bureau has not set any standard for them so far. I would like to make a request to the Central Government through you, Sir, that action should be taken against these poisonous cold drinks that are being served. There are 11 to 70% pesticides in these poisonous cold drinks. These multinational companies are looting the country and serving poisonous cold drinks to our children. I want to make a request to the Central Government through you, Sir to set standards for pesticides in these cold drinks. I demand to put a ban on this on behalf of my party Shiv Sena also.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Today, all over the country, 'water marches' are being observed. Even in Delhi, near India Gate, one 'march' is being observed under the leadership of the Water Resources Minister of our country.

What is most alarming is that today, most of the newspapers published the most alarming news in regard to soft-drinks. The Centre for Science and Environment has announced in a Press Conference that the samples of 12 soft-drinks brands collected for testing contained residues of pesticides and insectitides that are far extremely toxic, that is, Lindane, DDT, Malathion and Chlorpyrifos. The Director stated that in all these samples, the levels of pesticides far exceeded the maximum residue limits. He further stated that each sample has enough poison to cause long-term cancer, damage to the nervous and reproductive system, birth defects and severe disruption of bone mineral density.

I urge the Government to respond to this and ban all these soft-drinks to protect the citizens of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Each Member should take only two minutes time because a number of other notices are to be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV (Purnia): Even before this incident, the Government of India had stated that strict action would be taken against these cold drink companies. Now it is only after six months that Centre for Science and Environment has raised the issue of Mirinda, Coca-Cola, Pepsi and other cold drinks. It is not a matter of discussion only, rather it calls for due contemplation. This matter is concerned with our future generations and these take into account the future of the country. It will not be proper if this matter is finished during discussion in Zero Hour itself. These cold drinks contain 50 to 70% or more pesticides as per CSE. This is not a matter only for discussion. Such type of cold drinks do not contain even one percent pesticides in USA. What is the reason for this? The Capitalists of India are encouraging foreign companies. Which power is backing them? These cold drinks, though poisonous are being sold openly despite a decision taken by the Parliament in this regard. I want to know from the Government which power is behind all this? This is not matter only for discussion. It is an important and very serious matter. Hon'ble Minister should talk about banning Coca Cola, Pepsi and likewise cold drinks, the Government must put immediate ban on such foreign companies which sell these cold drinks and which affect the children as well as millions of other people. Government should not give priority to those things which do not protect human interest. I want a reply from the Government in this regard. This is very serious matter. The Government should appoint a commission to probe in the matter. I demand a probe in this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I give you a chance to speak, but you do not conclude in time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can give two minutes to each of the Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a reply from the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will reply when other members have concluded.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise this matter of urgent public

importance which is affecting millions of our children and youngsters. After detailed investigation, the Centre for Science and Environment found high residues of individual pesticides in samples of soft drinks collected in Delhi. An average of 15 times higher DDT, 21 times higher lindane, 2 times higher chlorpyrifos, and 87 times higher malathion were found in those samples. The presence of various pesticides and insecticides in the soft drinks has exceeded the EEC limits by 70 times in Mirinda Lemon, by 40 times in Coke, by 37 times in Pepsi, and by 22 times in Thums Up.

Sir, it is alarming that though certification is mandatory, there is nothing to ensure it in the food industry. There are no norms at all for an industry which is established here. The arsenic content found in soft drinks is about 0.5 parts per million (ppm). The Bureau of Indian Standards says it should be 0.25 ppm. The upper limit for bottled water is 0.05 ppm. It is surprising that the Government of India is allowing 50 times more arsenic in soft drinks. These multinational companies are following the norms strictly in America and European countries but they are killing our children in the Third world countries like India.

These multinational companies must be dealt with strongly. We have the sad experience of Bhopal. After Bhopal gas tragedy, we could not do anything against the multinational company which caused it...*(Interruptions)* The multinational companies are feeding arsenic to our young children....*(Interruptions)* This is a dangerous thing. The Government of India is allowing all this to happen. The Government of India is playing with millions of our young children. The Government must address this issue now to the satisfaction of the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, this is a very serious issue. Every section of this House is very much concerned about it. The entire country is concerned about it.

A news-item has appeared in all the newspapers today regarding the Pepsi, Coca Cola and other soft drinks in the country. We do not know about the details. But a panic has been spread all over the country. Some institute has come out with certain findings. We do not know whether they are correct or not. But it has been widely publicised in the country.

Sir, the alarming thing is that if people consume these items, they will get cancer and other diseases. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health to come out with the facts because people are consuming these drinks in a large number, especially children. Even the school-going children and youngsters are consuming them. So, this is a very serious issue. People are complaining about these multinational companies.

Sir, Shri Krishnadas has rightly pointed out about a Coca Cola plant in Plachimada. The drinking water is an acute problem in Palakkad district. Plachimada is an area where a new Coca Cola plant has been set up. The State Government has also shown a serious concern about it. Drinking water is a great problem there. Farmers are affected there. The wastes of the company are also creating pollution problem there. So, all these kinds of activities by this multinational company have to be stopped.

So, once again I would request the hon. Minister of Health to come out with a proper explanation after finding out all the facts and details. Thank you.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, this is an alarming problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathpuram): Sir, would you give me an opportunity?

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling the names as per the list only.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of country's anxiety about pesticides residue found in 12 brands of cold drinks as published in newspapers in the country recently. The hon. Members have mentioned the names of Coca Cola, Pepsi, Fanta, Thumps Up etc. out of these 12 cold drinks producing companies. Such news has appeared in all newspapers and electronic media. The country is worried over this issue that where the pesticides residue should have been one percent, the same has gone up 70 times. It has been said in the survey report that it's intake for a long time may cause serious diseases like cancer. Today, 100 crore people of the country are in danger. I want to submit through you, sir that for years cold drinks are being sold on a large scale by foreign cold drink companies. The people of this country are suffering from many deadly diseases for which these foreign companies are responsible. It should be investigated as since how long these soft drinks have been affecting the people.

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second submission is this about the beverages of foreign cold drink companies are sold in other countries also but pesticide residue found in them is in very little quantity there. It is a serious conspiracy which should be investigated. I have moved Adjournment Motion through you Sir. It is a very serious issue. A debate should be held in the House over this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am calling the name of Shri Malaisamy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing else will go on record except the submission by Shri Malaisamy.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) published in every newspaper today in clear and unequivocal terms that the soft drinks made by the companies, namely, Coca Cola/Pepsi etc. contain pesticides and insecticides which are mainly used to kill pests and insects. Now, they have started killing the small children, in a sense, that these soft drinks are working as a slow poison and a silent killer.

Sir, it has been very widely reported that these drinks contain toxic pesticides and insecticides. It has been said that the Indianised products of these soft drinks contain these things.

They cannot equate what is produced in other countries. We are not concerned about what is produced there. We are concerned with what is produced in India which contains these kinds of insecticides, pesticides, etc. I will read out a small portion of test report which will explain the harmful effects of those drinks. It says that consuming those drinks would cause long-term cancer; it would cause damage to nervous and reproductive systems; it would cause birth defects; it would cause severe disruption to immune system.

I was told that if an extracted tooth is dipped into Pepsi or Coca Cola, after 48 hours the tooth would vanish. This is the effect of Coca Cola and Pepsi. I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister as to what she proposes to do. The Minister may try to say that it would create problems legally and all other things. We are not concerned about the reasons. So, pending all the formalities, we need a total ban on those soft drinks.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, a news about cold drinks has been published in all newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow one Member to speak. I will not allow two or three Members of a party to speak. I have got several names.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Sir, while associating myself with all hon. Members who have spoken before me on this issue. I want to say in few words that it has harmed the people of this country a lot and the most important thing is that Centre for Science and Environment has revealed that huge quantity of pesticide has been found in cold drinks. Reacting to this revelation, the owners of Coca Cola India and Pepsi India have said that they would take legal action against this Centre. This is very tragic and it is embarrassing for our country. I want to submit that the Government should throw such companies out of the country and should give them severe punishment.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as who took the samples, what kind of samples were taken and from where they were taken and whether there is any arrangement in the Ministry of Health to check these samples? I also want to know what action and decision would be taken by the Government in case any defect is found in these samples.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker sir, some NGO after testing Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola has revealed that they contain high level of pesticides and their intake cause harm. I want to know whether there is any testing authority in the Government or this Government will always get active after it has

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been tested by an NGO. I have got this report that one member of his Cabinet was very much against Coca Cola and now it is he who has become the ardent advocate of the same. Therefore, I request the Government that Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola should be banned and Mathha Cola and Sattu Cola and indigenous drinks like dudhwala and Chhachh wala should be begun. Mathha Cola and Sattu Cola are found in my State that should be begun.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Thank you very much. I will only give extra points. The global giants Coca Cola and Pepsi are actually following double standards—one for the European Union and USA, and another for the developing countries.

Alarming reports have come in newspapers—almost all national dailies have them today—about these drinks. There are dangerous findings that those drinks contain toxic elements like pesticides. In Plachimada of Kerala, there is a Coca Coal factory, where it is already found that the entire atmosphere including water is polluted by these products and also because of the effluents which are discarded by that factory.

I would like to know what are the regulatory measures undertaken by the Government of India to test and control these drinks...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Due to paucity of time. I will not be able to give two minutes for each hon. Member, I can only give one minute each.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker Sir, is it not just. Please do justice with us...*(Interruptions)* The issue of unemployment is very important. The entire country is in trouble because of it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on this issue?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Yes, I do want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the media of the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am speaking about unemployment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That issue is not under discussion now. That will follow this one.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is very serious matter. The entire country is in trouble. It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir 165 persons have committed suicide...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, I have given you the opportunity to speak first. I had also said that discussion might be held on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is true. I thank you for this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been given notice on the problems of unemployment for three days. It is the most serious problems of the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to listen to Paswanji as to what he has to say?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir. We want to speak on the issue of unemployment because much discussion has been held on Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola. Please close this issue soon so that hon. Minister may reply. Thereafter I will raise the issue of unemployment...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I have given a notice to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I try to close this issue soon.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I have given a notice to speak on unemployment...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Hundreds and thousands of people have been thrown out of job...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am to take up this issue just after this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is concerned about the issue of Pepsi Cola and other drinks. It is true that Pepsi Cola and other cold drinks...*(Interruptions)* I have sealed bottles of Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola in my possession...*(Interruptions)* There are pouches of Pan Parag in both the bottles...*(Interruptions)* It is a poisonous substance which is very dangerous for the coming generation, especially for the children...*(Interruptions)* Action should be taken against those companies without any delay...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker Sir, today a serious problem of having pesticides in soft drinks like Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola have come to light...*(Interruptions)* 30 per cent to 70 per cent pesticides have been found in these soft drinks. All the newspapers have written about it and it is being shown on T.V. and all people might have seen it...*(Interruptions)* The multinational companies Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola spend eight rupees out of the cost of ten rupees per bottle on promotion campaign. They have the capacity to influence the officials, politicians or people from any other area by using money power. I want to ask the Government whether it recognizes C.E.S. and respect its credibility? If so, the matter should be taken as a criminal case of Attempt to Murder under section 307...*(Interruptions)* It is a case under section 302. Does the government agree to it? Does the Government consider it true; what the NGO's have said in this regard. If not, the reasons therefor? I want to know whether there is any committee or institutions which can solve this problem.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, much has been talked about it. We seek intervention of the Government and also request to take some action against it. It is a very alarming news. It is nothing but an adverse impact of globalisation. The multinationals are exporting it to our country and killing our people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The same thing is being repeated by everybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: A case should be registered against these companies...*(Interruptions)* We want some action to this regard.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): As Chairman of the Joint Committee on Food Management in the Parliament Complex, I would like to say that taking into account the sentiments being expressed by the hon. Members, the supply of Coke and Pepsi in the Parliament House Canteen will be discontinued.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Speaker Sir, cold drinks are being taken by the children as well as the young ones and the content of pesticides is very high in them which cause so many diseases...*(Interruptions)* it should be studied minutely. Its content causes cancer also. All the cold drinks produced by multi-nationals should be banned by the government at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, the news published in the newspapers projects a grave and serious problem. Alongwith Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola, there is adulteration in milk also. They are playing with the health of the people of the country. I want to clarify that Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola were invited in the country by the previous government, not by the present government...*(Interruptions)* I want to give a suggestion...*(Interruptions)* whether the government would think about putting a ban on Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given permission to speak to all those Members who had given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, Khaini (chewing tobacco) should also be banned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not give them 33 per cent reservation. At least let them express their views.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I would only add to what all the hon. Members have already said. My first point is that Ms. Sunita Narain, Director of CSE should be given security cover because there may be some threat to her from these international companies. We should not under estimate anything. Being a lady, she should be given special security cover.

Secondly, enough is enough, we have lost so many years and we have not protected human being as there is no proper regulation and legislation to regulate these soft drinks. Therefore, the Government should fourthwith come forward with legislation to regulate these soft drinks to protect our population.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now. You have made your point.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I urge upon the Government to come forward immediately with a legislation in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, only the Minister will speak.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, the issued raised by hon. Members in the House is a serious one from the point of view of health. Not only the children and the youth, but the people of my age group also take these drinks with the belief that the content of the bottle is safe. But, the facts revealed by the report are starting. The fact is that on seeing the report yesterday my reaction was also akin to the present reaction of the Members. So, I did not wait for the news to published in today's papers. I contacted the officers concerned just after seeing the news on electronic media and directed them to furnish complete facts before me. I have called for a comprehensive report on this subject. They have been directed to test the collected samples. The Minister of Food Processing is present in the House. We are talking with that Ministry also and I would like to assure the House that after collecting all the facts, I would personnally present those facts in the House our...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not listen to her, how can you know what minister is speaking. Atleast listen to her.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, it should be banned atleast in Parliament complex....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you sanding? Won't you listen the reply of the Minister? This is not the way? At least, listen to the Minister what she is saying.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mantriji has not completed her reply and so I will not accept anything except the speech of the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a proper way.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Do you have any legislation by which you can control this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She has not completed her speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I want to say that the government will act upon the decision taken by the Parliament with collective wisdom.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you expect anything more?

...*(Interruptions)*

12.57 hrs.

(ii) Re: Unemployment situation in the country

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question of employment was raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and I had also permitted him on the issue. Now I want to listen to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singhji do you want to say anything more on this subject?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): I have not yet started...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 165 farmers have committed suicide. This issue is more serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to give you permission only after taking up this issue.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: So many Members have spoken from that side...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to contend in argument on the issue that who will be allowed by me to speak first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no adjournment on this.

[Translation]

I am not allowing discussion on this issue. Is it a matter of Adjournment Motion? It is a matter of unemployment. This is a very serious issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You discuss this issue in the House. This can not be a subject for adjournment motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How the debate can be held on it is zero hour?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given serious consideration to this subject the problem of unemployment is very serious. Due to this unemployment...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You must have sympathy for that member also.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unemployment situation in the country has become very dreadful. It is a great irony that while assuming charge of the Government the Prime Minister had made a declaration that employment would be provided to one crore youth every year. A committee had been constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of its member Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia so that the possibilities to fulfil the promise could be considered. Ahluwalia Committee submitted its report in 2001 in which it was stated that employment would be provided to 10 crores people in 10 years. The rate of unemployment was 6.03 percent in 1993-94 which increased to 7.3 percent in 2000. And the number of people living below poverty line has become 26%. They said that if growth rate sustains at 6.5 percent then it is not possible to give employment to more than 50 lakh people every year. If we want to fulfil the promises and expectations of the Prime Minister and for the creation of more employment opportunities, the report has explicitly emphasised on bringing the growth rate at 9 to 10 percent. For this purpose there is a need of huge investment and this is not possible in India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji you can putforth all these points when discussion on this subject is held.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking during discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no discussion on this issue now. We have not yet initiated debate on it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: So there should be a discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to give permission for discussion. You are also a member of Business Advisory Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to say that according to report of the committee if the growth rate is sustained at 6 percent the creation of 10 crore employment opportunities will prove a day dream for the Prime Minister.

13.00 hrs.

It has been explicitly stated in committee's report that until a growth rate of 9 to 10 percent is achieved it will not be possible to alleviate unemployment. So the promises made by the Prime Minister will prove a day dream. This report caused a dispute between Sangh Parivar and NDA, because the promise of creating 1 crore employment opportunity yearly was forgotten. So Dr. S.P. Gupta Committee was constituted in the year 2002. According to them the rate of unemployment was 7.3% in 1993-94 and 6% in the year 2000. They too conceded the fact that 2.70 crores persons became unemployed in the year 2000. Both the committees agreed that at the present growth rate employment can not be given to one crore people. My request to you is that this is a very important issue. The situation in the country is grim and very serious. Ten crores of people are going to become unemployed. Unemployment is more visible in the states like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Bengal because there are more educated unemployed people there. In Bihar and UP the number of uneducated people is more, so their problem goes unnoticed. Whereas there is more unemployment in the States. Sarva Shiksha is being used to conceal unemployment. Migration of population is highest from these two states.

MR. SPEAKER: You can not discuss it right now, you can just express your views on one or two issues.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I request that discussion should be held for two to three days in the House on this issue on the basis of the reports of these two Committees as the employment situation in the country is very grim and serious.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing a discussion on this subject and gave me an opportunity to speak on the subject. From the date of commencement of the session. I have been giving notices daily. Some day through Adjournment Motion and some day through suspension of question hour, I have been giving notices. Around 25000 youths from my party have got themselves arrested also in this rainy season in this regard. I am foreseeing a danger to the democracy of this country and the major reason behind it would be the problem of unemployment. We are not feeling the pinch of that pain because we are employed. But the problem of unemployment is the most horrible problem. People from villages are migrating to the cities. In cities too, Government jobs are vanishing.

MR. SPEAKER: I can not give you much time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What is the logic behind it. You will adjourn the House at one o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that this subject is very important so I will allow discussion on this subject later on.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government could have responded on the issue of Coca-Cola as the discussion was held on that subject for an hour. Unemployment is such a big problem.

MR. SPEAKER: That's why I am allowing the discussion on this subject. You can speak only then.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Before that you please listen to what I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: I can't give you more time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If you don't want to give time, I shall sit down. I don't speak on any unimportant subject. I just keep mum.

MR. SPEAKER: Since I have permitted you. You please conclude within one or two minutes.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, you must have heard the reply of a question given by the Government in the House. I want to know as to who will give reply from Government side if discussion is held on this subject. Yesterday you must have observed that Government was unable to give reply to the question regarding unemployment. You are the head of the House, House is going to complete its five years tenure. As Mr. Mulayam Singh said, this Government had announced to create one crore employment opportunities per year but five crore people have become unemployed in five years. Only 43 lakh people have been given employment during the past ten years, that too under rural employment. Thousands of schemes are being run from the Government side. Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, Sampurn Rozgar Yojana, etc. are running. I want to urge that unless guarantee of employment, Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented, unless the right of

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

employment is included in the fundamental rights of the Constitution, there would be no solution of the unemployment problem. In 1990 when I was labour Minister, I had talked to the State Government thrice. State Governments would have to take some responsibility. The Central Government has to bear the major share. I would like to urge you that right to work should be included in the fundamental rights of the Constitution, there should be discussion on this. The unemployment issue will be covered up automatically. I demand that the right to work should be included in the fundamental rights. Besides, all those running schemes, which have become a haven for loot, should be brought together under the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I request you to advise the Government to be prepared for a full two-day debate on this matter in the presence of the full Cabinet because the issues are inter-linked with various Ministries, including the Planning Commission.

The Annual Report prepared by this very Government for the year 2001-02, by the Ministry of Labour gives an alarming picture at Page 226 where the Government concedes that the planning process may need time to define an independent employment strategy. The Report further says that the rate of growth of employment which was 2.37 per cent per year during 1987 to 1994, declined to 1.05 per cent per year during 1993 to 2000.

The latest figure is that it is less than one per cent up to 2003. In this alarming situation, I apprehend that there will be a serious unrest in the country, both in the villages and in the urban areas. The Parliament, especially the Opposition is being accused by various sections of the House, including the Party in power, that the Opposition never brings issues which are important to the people. Here is an issue which is very important to the people. Nothing could be more important than this. The hon. Prime Minister is committed towards this. The entire Ministry is committed.

Therefore, I demand that a full two-day debate should be allowed. The full Cabinet should be present along with the Prime Minister. The Government should give a comprehensive reply as to why in the Tenth Plan a definite employment target has not been fixed. It is only growth oriented. The hon. Prime Minister had announced that there will be a growth rate of eight per cent. We may or may not achieve that target. But on employment generation, the Government is silent. We demand a full two-day discussion. The hon. Prime Minister must reply to this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving only one or two minutes to speak. We can discuss it in detail during the debate.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): In the midst of a very alarming and grave unemployment situation in the country, everyday we find in the newspapers that in some parts of the country, some units of either the private sector or the public sector are being closed down. Even yesterday there was a news item that Indian Telephone Industry has decided to retrench some employees. It is one of the most prestigious industries in the country. I had occasions to examine them. They had deposed that the potential for growth of this industry is very high. When the telecom sector has been opened up and when a claim is being made that this is one sector which has a lot of growth potential, 11,000 employees have been thrown out of employment. In spite of an assurance from the Government regarding making available employment, there is no employment either in agriculture sector or in semi-urban areas or in urban areas. Nor is there employment for the educated people.

MR. SPEAKER: We can discuss it is detail during the debate.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need a full-fledged discussion when the Government can come out with a plan so that the people of this country can know what is the plan of this Government as far as creating new employment opportunities is concerned.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. The problem of unemployment is a burning problem in our country. This is a paramount issue and a paramount question in our country. Lakhs of youths who are registered in the employment exchanges are not getting employment. Unemployed people are very frustrated. A large number of industries are being closed down everyday. Thousands and thousands of employees and workers are being thrown out of their jobs. This Government assured the nation that it would provide one crore jobs every year.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is mentioning this.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: But their jobs are being snatched away. This is a paramount problem and a burning problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your time is over. You can only support this. I am going to allow a debate on this, if approved by the Business Advisory Committee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want the subject of Mr. Dhananjay Kumar, where 150 people have been killed. So I am permitting him.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: My only demand is that right to employment should be incorporated as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody will dispute that this is an important issue. I am sure the Government will also concede this debate. It is because here the accountability is to the people. Of course, the accountability to the Parliament is also there. Therefore, nobody can minimise the seriousness of this issue. Therefore, we request that you kindly fix an early date to discuss this matter. It is a very serious matter.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I am supporting him.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bandyopadhyay, you can only make a statement like him.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of unemployment is skyrocketing. In a State like West Bengal, a Party is in power for the last twenty-six years.

The highest number of unemployed youth is registered in West Bengal. Why can they not give any guidelines to the State concerned...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the issue before the House. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar to speak now. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampur): Sir, what is he saying. Won't I get your protection?

MR. SPEAKER: You will get full protection?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want a quarrel on this. There is no room for any quarrel on this. Everywhere, it is the same problem which exists.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. What is this? I have permitted Shri Dhananjaya Kumar to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir I would like to say only this from Government side that the demand made by hon. Member of discussion on the subject. Will be decided in the next meeting of BAC and we will find out time for this....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members you do not want the others Members to raise their issues. Please sit down. Every Member must sit down now when I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good. This is not the issue before the House. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, you can bring your issue on record. Please go ahead with it. I have permitted you to speak and you can speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with a very heavy heart, I am bringing to the notice of the Government the said plight of farmers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should listen to him.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: My friends, please hear me.

Sir, with a very heavy heart, I am bringing to the notice of the Government the sad and shocking incident of suicidal deaths committed by the farmers in the State of Karnataka. Just day before yesterday, two farmers

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committed suicide there. The day before that, two other farmers committed suicide. Like this, within the stretch of one full year, 165 farmers in Karnataka have committed suicide. No doubt, it is said that they committed suicide on account of the severe drought and they could not bear the heavy debt burden. I have no dispute on that point. What I would like to request, through you, the Government of India is this. The Government of India has magnanimously, going out of the way, provided 7.25 lakh metric tonnes of free food to the State of Karnataka...*(Interruptions)* Further, a sum of Rs. 286 crore has been given by the Government of India for taking up drought relief works. It is so unfortunate that the State Government of Karnataka has exhibited a very callous attitude to the problem. Primarily, it is the responsibility of the State Government to tackle the drought conditions. They will have to effectively undertake the relief measures...*(Interruptions)* Shri Jalappa, I am with you. You know about that. I would request the Government of India to get a report on all these incidents and also rush further relief to the affected people of Karnataka. I am only requesting the senior leaders sitting here Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to consider this. In the year 2001, a similar incident occurred in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi rushed there and expressed her sympathies. After giving some compensation from the Congress Party fund, she went to Bidar in Karnataka and made a categorical statement that if the farmers are driven to a situation to commit suicide in any State, the concerned State Government has no moral authority to continue in power. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Leader of the Opposition as to what is her stand today. 165 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. Primarily it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to them....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise a discussion under any device provided in the rules. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the KPCC President has gone on record saying that the party MLAs and Ministers have totally neglected the relief works....*(Interruptions)* In spite of the Government of India giving so much money they were not able to provide relief to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at one minute past Fourteen of the clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to review the provision of 'Food Parks' with a view to Provide benefit to small farmers particularly in hilly areas.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has formulated an important scheme of "Food Parks" so that agriculture sector gets a boost and the farmers get remunerative prices of their produce. This scheme was not given enough publicity due to which the beneficiaries came to know of it late and by the time beneficiaries applied for, the period of Ninth Five year plan was over. As a result, those who sent proposals to the Ministry hung in the mid air and in the Tenth Five year plan the subsidy for 'Food Parks' has been reduced to 30% whereas a maximum subsidy upto 4 crores could have been given earlier. Secondly, the requirement of land for this depended upon project report and on the discretion of officers but now the minimum requirement of land has been fixed 30 acres. It has made it clear that small farmers would not be benefited by this scheme. Especially in hilly states it is difficult for the farmers to possess 30 acres of land. Therefore, I urge that the projects which have been sanctioned in principle and are pending due to non-completion of formalities should be immediately accorded sanction. To my knowledge such projects are three. In addition to this the Government should review the provisions made in 10th five year plan so that small farmers may derive benefit.

(ii) Need to check pollution caused by Sponge Iron Plant set up at Ramachandrapur near Keonjhargarh, Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Sir, the Sponge Iron Plant set up Ramachandrapur near Keonjhargarh

Orissa is causing air pollution of a serious nature. The Sponge Iron Plant has not taken adequate anti-air pollution measures while it was set up. The polluted air discharged by that plant has imbalanced the ecology of the villages which are considered as green belt since time immemorial. Majority of the population in the area is tribal and the plant has been set up on the tribal land that was illegally transferred to the owner of the plant. Besides, several areas of Government land have also been encroached by the plant authority. The unchecked discharge of pollutted air has made the atmosphere poisonous. The people of more than 50 villages are suffering from TB and several other ailments. The pollutted air has also caused serious damage to the forest and paddy crops.

I request the Government that the Sponge Iron Plant at Ramachandrapur near Keonjhargarh Orissa should be asked to stop its operation till a permanent anti-pollution measure is adopted by the plant authority. The plant authority should also provide adequate health care facilities for the affected people.

(iii) Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Boden block, Naupara District, Orissa

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, there is acute drinking water shortage in the Boden block in Naupara District of Orissa and most of the Gram Panchayats and village tubewells are affected by flouride content thereby causing flourishes among the users. So, it is my demand that immediate action be initiated to provide potable drinking water from the nearby river Sunder from the Central funds, as the scheme has already been sent to the Centre.

(iv) Need to revive mines in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (Singhbhum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are huge deposits of several minerals in my parliamentary constituency Singhbhum. At many places mining work is going on but in 20 iron mines work has been discontinued. The work at these mines should be restored at the earliest after survey so that the tribals and poor people do not migrate to other areas in search of employment. Further industries based on minerals and forest wealth should be set up in the area so that the people of this area may get means of livelihood and industrial development of this area may take place.

I request through the House that these mines should be started after survey and industries based on minerals and forest should be set up soon in this Parliamentary constituency.

(v) Need to provide mobile services of VSNL in Sarguja Parliamentary Constituency from Vishrampur town.

SHRI KHELSAI SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Communication Minister through the House that be should give permission to make available the mobile services of VSNL in my constituency Vishrampur. The service has been started in district headquarters Ambikapur, 30 Km. away from this place but the coverage is only upto 15 K.M. Vishrampur is rich is coal and mining work in this area is being undertaken by SECL. It is a very backward area.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Communication to give permission to start VSNL mobile service in Vishrampur, district Sarguja, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh.

(vi) Need to instruct the Government of Orissa to check illegal fishing in Chilka lake

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, the unabated increase in the illegal fishing has posed a serious threat to the fragile ecosystem of Asia's largest brackish water lagoon Chilka in Orissa. The beautiful lake is facing the problem of siltation and obstruction of the migratory routes of aquatic species. The most serious issue for the lake has been the large scale poaching of juvenile economic species. As many as 30 varieties of fish, prawn, mollasca, and crab are affected as the poachers are collecting only the tiger-prawn juvenile and rejecting other species, which are thrown outside the lagoon.

The Chilka lake has been facing a serious ecological degradation since 1980. An estimated 0.365 million tonne of sediments get into the lake every year. The shoreline and creeks of the lagoon are being disturbed by the unauthorised fishing, which has resulted in the sharp decline of the production of fish, crab and prawn.

Unless immediate preventive steps are taken to stop the illegal fishing altogether, the lake will continue to face ecological degradation thereby adversely affecting the flow of large number of domestic as well as foreign tourists which will ultimately have an adverse impact on the

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

economy of the people of the State. As such, I demand that the Government of India intervene in the matter and direct the State Government to take urgent action accordingly.

(vii) Need to ensure early election to Cantonment Board

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Defence Government of India has dissolved elected contonment Boards/bodies in the country and earlier the tenure of former elected bodies had been extended for one year through ordinance. At present the Government officers of Contonment Boards are running the administration in absolute manner due to the dissolution of elected bodies. In the absence of public representatives House Tax and water tax are being increased arbitrarily.

In addition to this, many such decisions which should not be taken in public interest, are being taken in the absence of public representatives. The Government of India views that elections can be held only after making amendments in Cantonment Board Act but a long time has elapsed and the Government of India is neither bringing amendment Bill nor elections are being held. I demand if the Ministry of defence wants to make any amendment in cantonment Board Act, it should be got passed by the House at once and hand over the power to public representatives after conducting elections at the earliest so as to put a check on the arbitrary functioning of officers and so long as elected public representative do not take the charge, refixation of House Tax and Water Tax should be stayed.

(viii) Need to ensure adequate financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal for the proposed Raichak—Kukrahati bridge on river Hooghly in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, Haldia which has emerged as a leading industrial hub needs better connectivity between Haldia and Kolkata. The Government of West Bengal has proposed a bridge on Hooghly river between Raichak and Kukrahati for this purpose. In principle, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India has accorded approval for inclusion in the lists prepared for JBIC assistance. It is understood that a meeting for finalisation of JBIC assistance will be held shortly between the Government of India and the Government of Japan.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Minister of Road Transport and Highways for the following measures:

(a) To give the highest priority for Raichak—Kukrahati Bridge for JBIC assistance.

(b) Financial assistance for road approaching from the proposed Raichak and Kukrahati Bridge to eastern bypass at Salt Lake.

(ix) Need to include N.H.-9 and part of N.H.–202 in Andhra Pradesh for four-laning in first phase programme

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY (Hanamkonda): Sir, the efforts of the Government is improving the road infrastructure in the country, particularly in the development of the National Highways is really praise-worthy. This will create a visible impact in the economic development of the entire country.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for inclusion of NH-18, NH-4 and parts of NH-202 from Hyderabad to Bhupalapatnam and NH-205 for use as important corridors of the National Highways.

It is surprising that NH-9 has not been included in four laning to be taken up in first phase of the proposed programme during 2003-04. High density of traffic on this road was recognised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways much before the finalisation of the present proposed programme and about 170 kilometers of this National Highway has been included for four-laning. It would be appropriate if the balance stretches are also taken up.

I request the Government of India to include the entire NH-9 and part of NH-202 in the State for four laning in first phase of the proposed programme. The budget allocation may please be revised for the above programme accordingly.

(x) Need to provide WLL Telephones in rural areas of the country

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, the demand for cellular mobile telephone is burgeoning day by day throughout the country. BSNL has promised the public to provide this service throughout the country. But even today except big and urban areas this service is not available in small cities and rural areas.

BSNL has promised to provide 30 lakh cellular connections during the current year 2003-2004. But this target is small. Other companies are concentrating on urban areas only.

Many customers have deposited money for wired telephone connections. But the BSNL has stopped to provide wired telephone connections so that the customers can be encouraged to use new wireless telephones.

I urge upon the government to immediately start WLL service.

(xi) Need to ensure that construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana is undertaken on the recommendation of concerned Member of Parliament

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is informed by the Lok Sabha from time to time that no meeting should be held in states and in districts during the session of Lok Sabha. On 20.7.03 meeting of the samastipur and Saran Zila Parishad was summoned despite the fact that Monsoon session of the Lok Sabha was to be started from 21.7.03. M.Ps. have no right to send their representatives to attend the meetings of Zila Parishads. In this meeting as I was informed by some Councillors telephonically, the topic for discussion was Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana.

The Ministry of Rural Development has issued instructions to this effect to all the states that permission of concerned Members of Parliament must be taken in respect of selecting works under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. In this meeting, it was decided that the list recommended by the Block Panchayat Samiti will be forwarded to the Central Government through the State Government. After the meeting was over Secretary, Zila Parishad-cum-Collector of Samastipur and Saran districts and the Chairman of Zila Parishad sent a misleading list of proposal for 18 km. Nadhora Vidhan Sabha and 16 km in Sonepur Vidhan Sabha. The very objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana will be defeated by such an act.

The proposals for sivan district of Bihar have also been sent in the same manner. I urge upon the government to return all such misleading lists sent or being sent by other districts like samastipur, Chhapra and siwan and on the recommendations of the MPs work should be taken up in Blocks falling in their constituencies under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. In the districts where such type of incidents are taking place, the amount sanctioned by the Central Government should be stopped immediately to prevent the misuse of the Central funds. Thank you.

(xii) Need to declare gram panchayat as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance in Orissa

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Orissa faced a severe drought situation last year, which has almost broken the backbone of the farmers because the State is suffering from natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought consecutively since last four years. Lakhs of farmers had gone for crop insurance in the State. But unfortunately the assessment of crop loss has been done so erroneously that proper justice has not been done to the farmers of the State. Where there has been crop loss of more than 70 per cent, the farmers are compensated at a loss rate of only 20 per cent to 25 per cent in the State, particularly in my constituency of Sambalpur which consists of both Sambalpur and Bargarh districts. The demand of the farmers to make gram panchayat a unit instead of the prevalent policy of making block a unit for crop insurance has not yet been considered whereas in many other States *panchayat* has been declared a unit for this purpose.

I urge upon the Central Government to reconsider the whole issue and make proper arrangement to adequately compensate the farmers of Orissa for the heavy loss they have incurred during last year due to unprecedented drought situation. The Government should also consider to declare the *gram panchayat* as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance.

(xiii) Need to solve the problems being faced by Scheduled Tribes at Bhoargarh, Nasik, Maharashtra due to ban on construction of houses near RADAR Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): There is a RADAR Centre at Bhoargarh, Tehsil Dindori District Nasik, Maharashtra. The officers or employees

[Shri Haribhai Shankar Mahale]

entrusted with the task of maintaining the RADAR Centre should have stayed near the RADAR centre but they are staying 12 kilometers away. The Forest department has allotted a large area of land for their dwellings and other facilities. Nearby area is inhibited by tribals for the last 50-60 years. They are facing a serious problem because construction of new houses and residing has been prohibited within an area of 100 km. from this centre. Through you, sir, I request the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Defence to pay special attention to this problem and the difficulties being faced by the people.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for early execution of Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Vidarbha region of the State

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, there is a very important irrigation project which has been pending execution for over 15 years in Vidarbha region. The foundation for the Gosikhurd Irrigation project, known as Indira Sagar Dam, covered under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, was laid on 22.4.1988 by our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhiji. Necessary provision for its implementation was made in the Sixth Five-Year Plan. The original cost of this project was estimated to be Rs. 461.19 crore, which is now estimated Rs. 2,344.23 crore though only 16 per cent work has been done. Looking to the present pace of its progress, there is every likelihood of further cost escalation.

It was conceived to provide irrigation facilities for over 10 lakh acres of land besides solving the drinking water problem of many villages and turning the East Vidarbha region to other developmental activities. The achievement of the potential upto the Ninth Plan is however quite insignificant. Even the land owners who became destitute consequent upon the acquisition of their land have not been paid proper compensation and rehabilitated and they are greatly agitated.

The immediate implementation of this irrigation project is the absolute necessity for this backward Vidarbha region and all assistance needs to be given to the Government of Maharashtra so as to ensure its prompt execution. I would urge upon the Government to treat this long pending project as a national project and to provide the required financial assistance to the State Government in the matter.

14.23 hrs.

SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 13. The time allotted for this Bill was two hours. We have already taken one hour and twenty-three minutes. Thirty-seven minutes are left. Dr. Jayant Rongpi was on his legs.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): You are requested to tell us when the another Bill will be taken up and how much time will be allowed for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Another Bill will be taken up after this Bill and two hour have been allotted for it.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I was saying that since last 17 years, the people of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, the hill districts of Assam, have been demanding the implementation of article 244-A, that is, the creation of an autonomous State. This particular article and this particular provision are exclusively and specifically applicable only to the hill districts of Assam. This demand is under the consideration of the Government of India and by virtue of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the entire Bodoland Territorial Area Council (BTC) has been now brought under the purview of article 244-A. That means for all practical purposes, the Government of India is creating two provisions of autonomous State within the State of Assam. I am not sure whether this was a part of the agreement with BLT or not, but by consequence of this Bill, you have created a provision. Previously there was provision of only one autonomous State comprising Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Now, you have brought the Bodoland Autonomous Council area also under the provision of autonomous State, that is, article 244-A.

I want a categorical commitment from the Government of India in this regard. This is a specific area inhabited by the hill tribals. There is no demographic problem; there is no problem of boundary, there is no problem of demarcation. While considering the demand of the hill

districts for autonomous States, you should consider these clear-cut defined areas and you should not say at that time "If we give you autonomous State, we will have to give autonomous State to Bodoland also, which has got a mixed demography". That argument should not be there. So, I want a clarification from the Government of India that by diluting the exclusive provision of 244-A they should not deny the indigenous hill tribal people the right of autonomous Statehood.

After seeking clarifications on these two accounts, I would now come to the merits of the Bill. I would like to say that this is a very half-hearted and halfway approach and a very tentative step towards solving the Bodo problem. You have failed to both counts. You have said that you want to fulfil the aspirations of the agitating Bodo people. You have failed on that account. On the other hand you have said that you are trying to protect the interests of the minorities, the non-tribals. You have failed on that account also. You have failed in both ways. Why is it so? It is because the Sixth Schedule is not a new thing in the Indian Constitution. The Sixth Schedule has been in practice since 1952. I have the experience of heading such Autonomous Hill Council for seven long years. I was the Chief of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council for seven years. With that experience I can say that the Sixth Schedule has failed in India since 1952. You have upgraded all the Sixth Schedule areas into States. Khasi Hills was in Sixth Schedule; Jaintia Hills was in Sixth Schedule; Garo Hills was in Sixth Schedule; Mizoram was in the Sixth Schedule. You have upgraded all these Sixth Schedule hill areas to States. Why is it so? It is because there are inherent weaknesses in the Sixth Schedule. You have formed the Jharkhand Autonomous Council. But, you did not allow it to function even for one year and you have given a separate State to Jharkhand.

Now, you want to give the same Sixth Schedule in a rather more diluted form to the Bodos. How can you expect that the aspirations of the Bodo people will be fulfilled? There are five inherent weaknesses. I want to briefly mention them. One is direct funding. One of the basic problems of the Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils is that the funding from the Government of India is through the State Government. Most of the State Government are burdened with overdraft problem. So, the funds meant for the tribal areas do not reach the tribal Autonomous Councils. Here, you have not given the direct funding facilities to the Bodoland Autonomous Council. Unless you do away with this type of zig-zag channeling of funds the problems will not be solved.

The second issue is the personnel, the bureaucracy. There should be a separate cadre for the tribal Autonomous Councils. If you post the same cadre officers to the tribal areas, then nobody will go to there. This is the experience of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hill districts. They treat the tribal areas, the interior areas, the hill areas as a dumping ground, as a punishment to the officers. No good officer will go there. Take for example the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. The Principal Secretary there should be an officer of the rank of Commissioner. It is almost 45 years that it is in existence and not a single officer of the rank of Commissioner has been posted to the Autonomous Council of Karbi Anglong. Unless and until you have a separate cadre for the Autonomous Councils of the Sixth Schedule areas, like you have a cadre for the Union Territories, no good officer will go there, rather, the State Government will treat those tribal and backward areas as a punishment posting for the officers and this will jeopardise the entire development efforts of the Tribal Autonomous Councils. This is the experience of the last five decades of practice of Autonomous Councils under the Sixth Schedule. What have you done now? You are repeating the same mistake.

That next is the elections. It is my experience. As Chief Executive of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council I had to come to the Supreme Court because the Sixth Schedule provision says that elections will be conducted by the State Government, Government of Assam. It is at the whims of the State Government whether they will hold the election or not. If the Council is ruled by an Opposition Party, then they will not hold election. So, after five years it will go directly under the Governor's rule.

That means it will indirectly be ruled by the Ruling Party in the State. While I was the Chief Executive, the State Government, on this or that plea, said that election could not be held then. They wanted this Council to lapse so that it could come directly under the Governor's rule and that it might be ruled by the ruling State Government. That is why, if you want to correct this inherent problem, the elections to the Autonomous Councils should be brought under the purview of the Election Commission of India or the State Election Commission. You have not done that. You have not rectified that mistake.

Regarding nominated members, I would say that you have said that you are giving grass-root level democracy, an Autonomous Councils, to the tribals. Out of 46

[Dr. Jayant Rongpi]

members, six are nominated. It comes to 15 per cent. Can you call it democracy? We have a House of 545 Members, but we have only two nominated Members. That is the legacy of our Constitution that two Members from the Anglo-Indian community are nominated. Here, in the Bodoland Autonomous Territorial Council, out of 46 members, six are nominated by the Government. That means 15 per cent seats go to the non-elected members. So, it is a mockery of democracy.

We have the experience of Karbi Anglong. There are four nominated members and these four nominated members become instruments at the hands of the State Government to destabilise the Opposition-ruled Autonomous Council. Here, the nominated members are not four but six, which comes to 15 per cent of the total members. It was the reasons that in the 1950s and 1960s, repeatedly Garo Hills Autonomous Councils, Khasi Hills Autonomous Councils and Jaintia Hills Autonomous Councils were destabilised by the them Government of Assam, with the help of these nominated members. Ultimately, they had to revolt against the State Government and seven new tribal States in the North-Eastern region. These problems are not addressed.

Regarding Bodoland Territorial Council, I would submit that if you want to fulfil the aspirations of the Bodos, the main thing is cultural and customary heritage. In the Sixth Schedule, the basic power is that the tribal community will be allowed to live as per their customs and heritage, but here in the Bodoland Autonomous Council, you have not given them their customary rights. They have been curtailed so far as Bodoland Territorial Council is concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the very purpose of Sixth Schedule is to give protection to the tribals from exploitation by non-tribals and outsiders, the moneylenders and the traders who exploit the common tribal people. That is why, in the Sixth Schedule, the power to control money lending business and to control unscrupulous businessmen was vested in the Autonomous Council, but this power has not been given to the Bodoland Territorial Council.

Similarly, the basic instruments, by which the Bodo people or the tribal people can express their democratic will and can also develop themselves in their own way, have been denied by this very Bill. That is why, I am saying that this Bill will not fulfil the aspirations of the Bodo people. On the other hand, this will also not protect the non-tribals. On that count also, the Bill has failed because there is gross imbalance. Out of 46 seats, 30 seats are reserved for tribals while the non-tribals are more in that Council area. So, from the very beginning, you have created an imbalance and that imbalance will create social and political imbalances and the entire region will always be in turmoil. The very purpose and intention of the Bill that peace should prevail and that development should take place will be defeated by the very weaknesses of this Bill. So, without taking care of the inherent deficiency in the Sixth Schedule, the same mistake has been repeated. Even after that, if the Bodo leaders say that they are happy and if the Government of India says that they are happy, I have nothing to say. I can only say, 'Good luck to you.'

With my experience of seven years, I can vouch that Sixth Schedule has failed in India. All the Scheduled areas have been upgraded to separate autonomous States. I would urge that the Government of India should take a comprehensive view in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with full responsibility and with heavy heart, I want to say that the Government of India has failed to address the problems of the tribal and ethnic problem of the North-East in a comprehensive way.

They have allowed the situation to drift in such a way that the people became desperate; took up arms; formed their outfits and then came to the negotiating table. So, instead of waiting for situations to develop to that extent, the Government of India should rather take a proactive policy to serve the tribal problem of Assam. In this regard, the Bill has failed miserably. This is not a comprehensive Bill at all, even in respect to the North-East Region and in respect to Assam.

Sir, apart from the hilly regions, there are four Autonomous Councils in the Brahmaputra valley. One is the Bodo Autonomous Council, and the other three are Rabha Autonomous Council; Tiwa Autonomous Council; and Mishing Autonomous Council. You have adopted a pick and choose policy. It has suited you, so you have given the Bodos the 6th Schedule status. But, what crime did the Mishing, Tiwa and Rabha Councils committed that they are not given the 6th Schedule status? So, you must give that answer as to why you have given it only to one tribe, and why you have not upgraded it for other Autonomous Councils of the Brahmaputra valley namely Mishing, Tiwa and Rabha Autonomous Councils. Why have you denied them the 6th Schedule status? You should give an answer to this, otherwise everybody will say that you have succumbed to the pressure of gun; everybody will say that you have succumbed to the greed

of vote, etc. You cannot deny that you have been partial. You are partial—and that will be proved—until and unless you say as to why you have denied the other three Autonomous Councils this status. So, it is high time that the Government of India takes up a comprehensive view.

In 1971, the Government of India, under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, took a comprehensive view, and North-East was reorganised. Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura were created, and we have seen that this was one step by which, at least in certain areas in North-East, there is peace.

Mizoram is peaceful. Now, it has become the highest literate State in the country. But, prior to that there was turmoil and insurgency. Now, the Government of India has announced peace bonus to Mizoram. Peace bonus of Rs. 365 crore was also given to Nagaland because of peace.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up now.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: In 1971, the political will created these new States. Now, it is high time to give it to others also. In these Bodo areas, demands of the people are going on. In Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills people are demanding autonomous States in Mishing areas; in Tiwa areas; in Rabha areas; and vast tribal areas. The people there, are demanding safe rule there. So, that is why it is high time that you go in for second reorganisation of the State of Assam. You must create autonomous State for hilly areas of Assam under article 244(a). You must give effective autonomy to the Bodo people, Rabha people, Tiwa people and Mishing people. At the same time you should also take care of the non-tribal population of these areas. Until and unless you bring a comprehensive Bill, peace will not come. That is why the NDFB, the major group of Bodo are still continuing their arms struggle. The Government of India should take steps so that the NDFB also comes to the negotiating table. For UPDS, the armed outfit of the Karbi Anglong the Government must take a positive step so that they also come to the negotiating table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Till this type of comprehensive Bill is brought in, a piecemeal approach out of political compulsion; out of pressure from the gun trotting people, this will not solve the problem. It will create further complications.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, we are not opposing this Bill, rather, we are supporting this Bill. This Bill has been brought before this House in order to develop the Bodo people. They are downtrodden people. In order to bring them in the mainstream of the country, this Bill is brought forward. The tribal people, ethnic people of our country are very poor, and they belong to the poorer section of the society, and no development work as yet is being done in their areas. It is our paramount task to bring those people into the mainstream of our country. Some power has been given to the Territorial Autonomous Council, including finance, education and others. I hope, that will fulfil the aspirations of the tribal people and develop the lot of the tribal people.

I could not find time to give an amendment and, therefore, I have a suggestion to make. In that area, 28 per cent to 30 per cent Bodo people are living, and more than 70 per cent non-Bodo people are living there. However, only five seats have been allotted for the non-Bodo people. It is not a wise decision taken by the Ministry, that is, to allot only five seats for the non-Bodo people, who constitute 70 per cent of the total population in that area...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): What my friend is speaking is not factually correct.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwismuthiary, please resume your seat.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: It would be wise to allot more number of seats for the non-Bodo people of that area.

I hope, this will fulfil the aspirations of the tribal people, the Bodo people. I also hope that the Bodo Territorial Autonomous Council will act properly so that the development work could be done and the aspirations of the Bodo people will be fulfilled through this legislation.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nagaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Amendment of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. I must thank the Home Ministry for the steps taken for solution of long-pending problem of Bodo people.

The first Bodo Accord was signed on 28th February, 1993 with the All Bodo Students Union and the Bodo People's Action Committee by the then Chief Minister Shri Hiteshwar Saikia, to give maximum autonomy to the Bodo people. In pursuance of the Bodo Accord, an interim

[Shri Rajen Gohain]

Autonomous Council was constituted by the Government of Assam by enacting a State legislation. Later, the Bodo groups realised that the Bodo accord was not workable and feasible for the Bodo people's upliftment and, as a result, peace could not be restored permanently in the Bodoland. An insurgent group became more active and created disturbance. Later on, at the initiative of the Central Government, the extremist group, BLT, agreed to come to the negotiating table and, after a series of talks with the Central and State Government, this Bodo Accord was signed on 10th February, 2003 with BLT for a durable solution of the Bodo problem.

In this Bodo Accord, the Home Ministry carefully protects the rights and privileges of the non-Bodos living in the proposed BTC area. That way, no doubt, this is a very balanced Accord signed by the Home Ministry, but at the same time, I appeal to the Home Ministry not to create any differences among the different ethnic tribal groups of Assam as a whole. All the ethnic groups of Assam should be allowed to enjoy their rights and privileges throughout the State, irrespective of their boundary and territory. If we do not do that, that means we are dividing them from each other and that way, in future, it may create a serious problem, and also affect the unity and integrity of the Assamese community as a whole. For example, the Bodo people are treated as tribals in the plain districts of Assam, whereas they are not treated as tribals in the Karbi Anglong Hill Districts of Assam. In the same way, Karbi people are treated as tribals in the Karbi Anglong Hill Districts of Assam, but they are not treated as tribals in other plain Districts of Assam.

I suggest that to ensure peace and harmony in the region, these imbalances should be abolished through this accord. My opinion in this regard is that all the ethnic tribals groups of Assam should be treated as tribals in the entire State of Assam.

The last point I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Home Ministry relates to the Koch Rajbongshi community, an adivasi community residing in the proposed BTC area. There is no doubt that *Koch Rajbongshi* community is a major community residing in the proposed BTC area. This community by Ordinance has been given the Scheduled Tribe status three times earlier. Even after the *Koch Rajbongshi* community has completed all the formalities required to be declared a Scheduled Tribe, they are not yet recognised as a Scheduled Tribe. Now it has become a sentimental and emotional issue for the Koch Rajbongshi community that even after completion of all the formalities they are not being recognised as a Scheduled Tribe and they could not be a part of the proposed BTC area. Lest the matter take a serious turn, to avoid any unwanted situation, I appeal to the Home Ministry to give an assurance to the *Koch Rajbongshi* community that their demand will also be fulfilled within a short time.

Regarding *adivasi* community I would like to say that they are also a major community residing in the proposed BTC area. They are also claiming the status of a Scheduled Tribe but their demand is in infancy stage. They have not yet completed any of the formalities required to be declared a Scheduled Tribe. Three months back, the Adivasi Students Union staged a huge rally at Guwahati. The present Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi and the present PCC President Shri Pawan Singh Ghatowar attended that meeting and committed to the Adivasi Students Union that their demand would be fulfilled within ten day's time.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldoi): They said that it will be recommended within ten days. The State Government cannot fulfil the demand of the Adivasi Students Union. It is the Central Government which can fulfil the demands of the *adivasi* within ten days' time.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: It came in the newspapers also that Congress is going to fulfil the demand within ten days' time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Gohain, please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Sir, that statement caused tensions and confusion among different communities. My request to these leaders is that they should abstain from making such kind of false and baseless statements.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, constitution Sixth schedule (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been moved in the House. in this Bill, Bodoland Territorial Council is written in English—what would be its Hindi translation? In the Bill its Hindi has been written as Bodoland Pradeshik Parishad. It should have bee Kshetriya Parishad. Pradeshik Parishad creates a lot of confusion. People are already demanding for a statehood, they are dying for the creation of Bodoland state. There is much

bloodshed for this. Non-tribal, tribal and Santhalis are living there. About two to twenty persons are being killed in the acts of violence every month. Before this, an agreement was signed between Bodo Students Union and State Government. It was decided to constitute a Bodoland Autonomous Council. This agreement took place in 1993. Today, ten years have gone by but there is no fall in the acts of violence, peace has not been restored. The Government have adopted a hay-way approach about it. But it is a sensitive issue of North-East. If a well-thought decision is not taken for this and work is not done as per the aspirations of the people violence will continue, killings will go on and it will always remain a problem and danger for the country. The agreement signed ten years ago did not yield good results. Whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard and if so, whether they have reached to any conclusion? It was said ten years back that a historic act has been done, a comprehensive agreement has been made, there will be no violence anymore, the tribals and other people will live happily there. Ten years have gone by, the Government should tell what impact this agreement has made. Killings and violence are going on as usual. It is again being said that a historic act has been done and they have achieved a very landmark.

Recently they have signed an agreement with Bodoland Liberation Tiger. But they have not signed any agreement with Bodoland Democratic Front. This front is not recognising this agreement and they have not taken common people in confidence. How will this go on? 'ULFA' is also adamant to make this agreement a failure. The insurgants do not want peace there. At what conclusion this agreement was reached and what was the cause of failure of this agreement signed ten years back by them and they claimed of achieving a historic landmark? They have signed on agreement with a group. According to the agreement signed by that group it is Bodoland Kshetriya Parishad, how you have written it incorrectly, you have written Pradeshik they will demand for it. They will not leave their claim. How do you make changes in Hindi and English—Bodoland Kshetriya Parishad is territorial Council. It is a Kshetriya Parishad consisting of 46 members and you have moved the Bill of Bodoland Pradeshik Parishad. They read the Bill and their officers give the Bill to the hon. Minister and he brings it in the House. It is a constitution amendment Bill...*(Interruptions)* People write in lighter vein, they do not visualise its adverse impact. Regarding this, we want reply from the Government. There is a proposal to include 3082 villages. Earlier these was a dispute over 2515 villages. Thereafter it was about 515 villages and now it is about 95 villages as to whether they will be included in Kshetriya Parishad or not. On the record, in the voters list the names of Bodos Constitute. More than fifty percent of the total voters but in reality Bodos have fled away, they are not there. They are demanding that they should be included. But the Government says that it will not included them. A three member committee has been constituted. The Government should tell what this three member committee is and when will it give its decision? There is despute over 95 villages. Villagers demand that their names should be included in the list. What would happen to those villages?

They have brought Bodos in the Eighth Schedule. We do accept that they are heading towards peace, trying to fulfill the aspirations of people and also respecting the sentiments of tribals people. The population of Bodos is 38 percent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please do not interrupt him. You have already had your say yesterday. We do not have much time. Let him continue.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Baishimuthiaryji. I am speaking in your favour but you are supporting him yet...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you the real secret...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not address him, address to the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He was interrupting that is why I have satisfied him.

The number of seats has been mentioned here. There will be 30 seats for tribals out of 46 and their percentage comes to 38 but they are saying that it is 28 only. In this way the percentage is low and the non-tribal people having more population will remain dissatisfied leading to anarchy and conflict. How the seats are decided by the Government?...*(Interruptions)* How the seats are divided that 30 seats were taken out of 46 and five seats were declared as general category and six seats were to be filled by nomination. The State Government and Government of India are accelerating sensitivity there and killings are going on there...*(Interruptions)* Democratic front insurgents are no less virulent. They too, have not come to tern as yet. They are not satisfied with the agreement

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

of the government. The Government should state the position of Democratic front there and what does it want. The insurgents of ULFA also do not want peace there and they want turbulance to prevail there. It has been write in our constitution that Autonomous Council should consist of 19 districts but they are doing it in a piece-meal way. Shri Rongpi said that their cultural heritage, life style and old traditions are existing for a long time. We address pradhan as Mukhiya, Adhyaksha, Gram Pradhan and there they call Gaon-budha...*(Interruptions)* The village Pradhan would be Gaon-budha there.

Koch Rajbangshi is a caste there. All its formalities were completed. A Joint Selected Committee of both the Houses was constituted which gave its recommendations and the State Government also gave its recommendation as well. I also took part in that debate and Jual Oram ji, the Minister of Tribal Affairs declared and assured as that he is bringing it to the Cabinet immediately for consideration but in Rajya Sabha while replying to a question he said that they will not consider it. Due to this, 8 people were killed there and mayhem started there. What does this Government want? I would like to know from the Government as to whether it wants mayhem or peace? All formalities have been completed for Koch Rajbangshi ji. In this House Koch Rajbangshi hails from the congress party. He also raised the question. That is why I would like to ask the Government in clear terms as to what it wants? Does it want to encourage mayhem? The hon'ble Minister has given a contradictory statements in this House and in Rajya Sabha. He mislead the House and as a result of that fighting, disorder and violence started there. Ours is a border area where sunlight reaches most earliest but the light of development reaches at last. Such is our area. So far as development is concerned it was said that they will spend money on that area but I would like to know as to how much money was spent on its development. There is one and a half lakh megawatt hydel power capacity. Investing money in hydel power will benefit the people. The Government should clearly tell about its policy in this regard as it is its responsibility.

Advani ji sometimes speaks to extremists...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know as to how this country will be ruled like this? Hon'ble Home Minister agrees with the violent groups of extremists...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon'ble Minister should reply to all these queries. The development of this area should be given priority. Sunlight reaches earlier there but the light of development reaches later. That is why our border region has not been developed. The Government should pay total attention to it and for the national integrity we should give priority to that region. I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister should reply to the queries raised by me in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to participate in this Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I rise to support the Bill.

With the joint initiative of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi and the Central Government, the long-standing demands and the problems of the Bodo Territorial Autonomy are coming to an end.

But there is an unfortunate part in this Bill. We have heard many hon. Members mentioning about the population pattern. It is astonishing that—even though the problems are coming to an end and the Government has brought forward a Bill in the Parliament, there is an unfortunate part in this Bill—we, the Members from Assam, elected by the people of Assam were not consulted. We, the Members from Assam, irrespective of Parties, were not consulted by the Central Government. That is why, it is a very unfortunate thing...*(Interruptions)* Our Government took Office only two years ago. But prior to that, the Congress-AGP Government had 21 sittings among BLT, AABSU and the Central Government. But this Government had not called even Congress leaders for the meetings.

Fortunately, Shri Tarun Gogoi, in the interest of Assam and to bring peace and harmony in Assam, had discussed it in the Assembly and took up the responsibility to amend the Sixth Schedule so as to solve the problems of the Assam people. My senior colleagues Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Madhab Rajbangshi have rightly stated that there are 25 lakh people in the proposed Bodo Territorial Area, but only nine lakh people would be the tribal people. There are more than 3,000 villages which are to be inducted in the Bodo Territorial Area, but only 1000 villages have got Bodo Tribal people.

The Bodo Accord was signed in 1993. It is clearly mentioned there that the villages which have more than 50 per cent Bodo people will be inducted into the Bodo

Territorial Area, but we can see that not more than half of the villages are like that...*(Interruptions)* It is mentioned like that in the Bodo Accord. There are so many cases and there are so many litigations challenging that aspect in the High Court and the Supreme Court...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, if there is anything objectionable, I will take care of it. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: It was regarding fixation as to how to induct villages, what is the criteria, etc. It is clearly mentioned in the Bodo Accord that the villages which have more than 51 per cent of Bodo tribal people, they will be included in that Area. But what happened in reality? Sir, 3500 villages have been inducted in that Area, but there are villages where there is not even a single Bodo people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record except what Shri Abdul Hamid says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: That is why it is very unfortunate and the situation is that nine lakh people are dominating 25 lakh people. It is very unfortunate and it is democratic country!

Minority people are getting this benefit. What has the Indian Parliament done? Always the majority people are getting all the benefits but here it has created a history in the Indian Parliament by neglecting the majority people. Minority people are forcibly dominating over the majority people. It is very unfortunate. There are a number of organisations like AAMSU, NSU, ASU, Koch Rajbangshi Students Union and so on. Nobody has been called for discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, why are you interrupting him again?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: We are supporting it but we would like to remind the Government about the majority people. There are a number of such political and social organisation. A few days back about eight Adivasis were killed only because of 72 hours *bandh* regarding this agitation. It is the reality. In 1994, they made minority people their target. A number of minority people were killed in Barpeta, Armtanga. A number of them are still living in the refugee camps. They have not taken shelter. Again, in 1996 more than one lakh people were killed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, I have to name you. Please do not interrupt him like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: He is trying to mislead the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: No, it is on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is here. If he is misleading, the Minister will correct him while giving reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: They are very poor people. They live in jungles. The first target of the minority people are the people living in the camps. Again Adivasis, who are very-very poor people, are being targeted. That is why I welcome this Bill.

My only worry is, non-tribal people should be secure. Injustice is being done to the non-tribal people. There are 10-15 per cent Scheduled Caste people. What is their position in the Council? There are 40 per cent religious minority and 10 per cent linguistic minority. They become the targets. Initially, they victimised these people. Still, they are not brought into that area. There is a parallel Government running there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please resume your seat. I am here. If he utters anything objectionable, I expunge it. You are not to control this House. Will you please resume your seat?

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: So, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Government is neglecting 25 lakh people and just 9 lakh people are getting benefits...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have taken a lot of time on this Bill. Please conclude.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: What will happen to the Scheduled Caste people? What will be the fate of non-tribal people with regard to land, property, education, social and economic development? I request the hon. Home Minister that it should be clearly mentioned that the religious minority will be protected. In the name of the foreigners they are taking the advantage. I request the hon. Home Minister to look into it and take serious steps in this regard. Non-tribal people should not be disturbed and their political, social and economic rights should be granted.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill was moved in the House on 9th May last and after that it was referred to the standing committee for consideration. The report of the standing committee was laid on the Table of the House, with recommendations, on 22nd July last and the consideration started in the House on Ist August. My friends have expressed their considered views on this Bill, in their own style. As has also been stated by other hon'ble members an agreement was signed in 1993 but there were some shortcomings in that agreement due to which it could not become effective. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji has also mentioned that an agreement was signed in 1993 which did not become effective and it was only due to its ineffectiveness that a need for a dialogue for the second time was felt and on 10th February an agreement was signed by the representatives of BLT, Assam Government and the Central Government. This Bill has been brought only to implement that agreement. Through you, Sir, I would like to request that we have a limit and we can not go beyond the limit decided in the agreement. Shri Rongpi ji has told many things and we can agree with them but our problem is that the points which were not included in the agreement can not be included in the Bill. Even if something is worth inclusion then it could have been considered while the Bill was referred to the Standing committee. An hon'ble Member was saying that the opinion of the Members was not sought. I believe that the standing committee is a committee comprising of hon'ble Members and a lot of consideration has gone into that. Recommendations of the committee have only been included in this Bill. We are not venturing out of the committee's recommendations. There is a forum to express one's views and for consideration. It was also said that the opinion of the people was not taken in regard to the Bill which is totally improper because the Government of Assam is the Government elected by the people there. The Assam Government has presented its points effectively and those very points have been included in the Bill. The only way to seek people's opinion was to seek the opinion of the Government there and the opinion of the Government has been included in the Bill.

Shri Rajbangshi and other friends should agree that the very Government elected by them participated in the debate and the thoughts which came up during the debate have been included in the Bill. Objections should have been raised when the agreement was being signed. Objections should have been raised when the Bill was with the standing committee. As far as the querry raised by Rajbangshi ji is concerned, it is true that a thought also cropped up that it should be included in the scheduled tribes by bringing an ordinance.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji said that RGI had submitted its report. But I would like to tell him that RGI has taken back its report saying that they cannot give a decision in this regard now. We have not ruled out this possibility so far but we are serious on the question of including Rajbangshi in the list of scheduled tribes. We want to consider it and it should definitely be considered. But, before that we have to gather the necessary information and prepare the necessary base and then only it could be considered.

I have one more submission. Time and again it is said that non-tribals and non-Bodos have not been given any importance in this Bill. I would like to urge that they should think over it after looking at the position of other councils. They have not given representation on the basis of population. Representation has not been provided on the basis of population. There are 9 more councils and representation has never been given in those councils on the basis of population. In view of this, the question of population is not so rational. I would not like to go into the question of percentage etc. as the Census Report for the year 2001 has not arrived as yet. Therefore, I am not able to saying anything about their population. Hon'ble Member might be knowing about it and saying according to his knowledge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there were some objections. There was a special objection. There was a word "All others". Our hon'ble Member Bwiswmuthiary ji and other friends had also objected to this. It has been amended. In place of "other" it is "all". "All" has been used because

the word "all" is there in the original agreement and it has been used as it is.

Raghuvansh Babu has objected to the translation of the word territory as pradeshik in Hindi. I would like to say that he has good knowledge of Hindi. According to the Official Language Department the translation of the word territory is pradeshik.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: All the newspapers have translated it as kshetriya while in the Bill, it is pradeshik.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I am not talking of newspapers. Raghuvansh Babu, you can trust me. I will not provide you any wrong information. I would urge upon all the friends that the initiative taken with a view to establishing peace for solving the Bodo problem should be welcomed. I do not think and nor do I say firmly that any effort will be final or any effort will definitely reach its goal. Many Councils were constituted earlier also but that does mean that peace was established after their formation. I do not claim that peace will be established through this. But this is an effort in the direction of establishing peace. This effort is not being made by the State Government or hon'ble Prime Minister alone, but the Government is also making this effort by taking the Assam Government and the organisations there into confidence. We can not do anything about an organisation named NDSC, which Raghuvansh Babu had mentioned because it did not participate in the discussion even after being invited. We had invited them for talks and we cannot do anything if they do not come.

Some fiscal matters were raised. It has been provided in the agreement that in future the Government of India will provide them rupees 100 crore annually as additional aid for 5 years so that there is no financial crisis and they are able to carry out their development works properly. With these words, I urge upon the House to let the Bodos have their own right by passing it so that peace is established in Assam.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, I sought two clarifications from the hon. Minister. I wanted to know two things specifically. One is that in the Standing Committee it was specifically assured by the Government that there will be an amendment so that the Hill List of Assam will not be changed and that amendment will come as a miscellaneous in the Bill. The 102nd Report of the Standing Committee was placed in the Parliament. The Government has not brought this amendment in the Bill. So, a clarification should be given by the Government as to why this amendment has not been brought in the Bill.

Sir, again article 244A was exclusively applicable to the hill districts and now it has been extended to the Bodo areas. This should not dilute the rights of the hill tribals. I sought a clarification in that regard also. The hon. Minister has remained totally silent on these two points. I would now like to know about these from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Sir, now there are five seats for the non-tribals. But here it has been mentioned 'all others'. Who are meant by 'all others'?

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, had the hon'ble member listened or read the amendment, the word "all others" would have been understood. I agree with Rongpi Saheb. We have included in the Bill as many recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee as we could. But as far as 244A is concerned, it does not fall within the purview of the agreement and therefore, we are not able to include it.

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: The hon. Minister had said in this House that Koch Rajbangshi had fulfilled all the conditions to be included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he will introduced in this House the amendment to include Koch Rajbangshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is 9.5.2003.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: My first question has not been answered. In the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which scrutinised the Bill, the Government had assured that some amendments would be brought so that the Scheduled Tribes list of Assam will not be disturbed as a consequential effect of this Bill. They said that those amendments will be brought as a miscellaneous clause of this Bill. That Report was placed in this House and at Paras 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Report this has been stated. But those amendments are not found in this Bill.

[Dr. Jayant Rongpi]

The Standing Committee cleared this Bill with those amendments promised by the Government. What happened to them?

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have submitted that we have included in the Bill as many recommendations of the standing committee as well could and we are sorry for those which could not be included.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but the Government had assured in the standing committee and the committee had accepted them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Rongpi, what the Minister has said is that whatever the Government has considered possible, they have brought in this Bill.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, the Minister said that on 9th May 2003 he will introduce the amending Bill. But that date has gone. I would again ask when will the Scheduled Tribes Amendment Bill to include Koch Rajbangshi community be introduced in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Instead of bringing the recommended amendments within miscellaneous provisions, I have introduced them in Lok Sabha on 5 August, 2003 through Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2003 to make them more effective.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India is its application to the State of Assam, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Amendment of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): I beg to move Page 4,—

for lines 19 to 21,

substitute— "(11) In paragraph 20, after Part I of the Table, a new Part IA shall be inserted,—

Part IA

1. 'The Bodoland Territorial Areas District'.

Explanation: The district under Part 1A shall be constructed as 'in the State of Assam (excluding the autonomous districts)' for the purpose of application of 'The Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order, 1950'." (1)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): I would like to move all my amendments, except amendment No. 4, which has been adopted by the Government for which I congratulate the concerned Minister.

I beg to move:

Page 1, line 10,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (2)

Page 2, line 3,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (3)

Page 2, line 9,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (5)

Page 2, line 13 to 15,—

for "that the District Council constituted for the Bodoland areas shall be called as the Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "that the Territorial Council constituted for the Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory shall be called as the Bodoland Territorial Council" (6)

Page 2, line 24,—

for "3B. Additional powers of the Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District to make laws".

substitute "3B. Additional powers of the Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory to make laws" (7)

Page 2, line 34,—

for "(vii) Flood control for protection of village, paddy fields, markets and towns (not of technical nature)"

substitute "(vii) Flood control" (8)

Page 2, line 36,—

for "(ix) Forests (other than reserved forests)"

substitute "(ix) Forests (including reserved forests)" (9)

Page 3, line 28,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (10)

Page 3, lines 39 and 40,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (11)

Page 3, line 44 and 45,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (12)

Page 4, lines 3 and 4,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (13)

Page 4, line 9,—

for "Interim Executive Council for Bodoland Areas in Assam"

substitute "Interim Executive Council for Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (14)

Page 4, line 21,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (15)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Dr. Jayant Rongpi and amendment Nos. 2, 3 and 5 to 15 moved by Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwismuthiary to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

Amendments made:

Page 1, lines 10 and 11,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District constituted under the proviso to sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 2 of this Scheduled"

substitute "Bodoland Territorial Areas District" (16)

Page 2, line 3,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (17)

Page 2, line 6,—

for "five open for other communities"

substitute "five open for all communities" (18)

Page 2, lines 9 and 10,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Bodoland (Autonomous) Territory" (19)

Page, 2 lines 14 and 15,—

for "Bodoland Areas shall be called as the Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District."

substitute "Bodoland Territorial Areas District shall be called the Bodoland Territorial Council." (20)

Page 2, lines 24 and 25,—

for "Additional powers of the Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District"

substitute "Additional Powers of the Bodoland Territorial Council" (21)

Page 2, line 26,—

for "Bodoland Territorial Council Areas District within its Bodoland areas"

substitute "Bodoland Territorial Council within its areas" (22)

Page 3, line 19,—

for "the Bodoland Areas"

substitute "the Bodoland Territorial Areas District" (23)

Page 3, line 28,—

omit "Areas District" (24)

Page 3, line 40,—

omit "Areas District" (25)

Page 3, line 45,—

omit "Areas District" (26)

Page 4, lines 4 and 5,—

for "Territorial Council Areas District constituted under the proviso to sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 2 of this Schedule."

substitute "Territorial Areas District." (27)

Page 4, line 9,—

for "Bodoland Areas"

substitute "Bodoland Territorial Areas District" (28)

(Shri Chinmayanand Swami)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as mended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.27 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY DEPUTY SPEAKER RE: CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up Item No. 14.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, certain amendments are required to be made in it, so I request the House to postpone it to some subsequent date so that the necessary amendments may be made.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House has just passed the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003 with certain amendments. Shri Chinmayanand Swami, Minister-in-charge of the next Bill, that is, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has informed the hon. Speaker that certain amendments are also required to be made in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill in view of the passing of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003 with certain amendments. He has, therefore, requested the hon. Speaker that the consideration and passing of this Bill may be postponed to some subsequent date. I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

15.28 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wee will now take up the next item, item No. 15. Shri Arun Jaitley has to move it. Since he is not here, Shri P.C. Thomas is to move.

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 6.8.2003.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, has he give notice?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please check up. Mr. Minister, you take it for granted. This is the respect shown to the Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, he can take the leave of the House now. I do not mind it. But this casualness should be resented. Mr. Minister, you can ask for leave. I can understand it. I am happy to infer that you are piloting it. But I wanted to accuse him...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): Sir, Shri Arun Jaitley is now engaged in a matter concerning some discussion. Some foreign delegates have come to meet him. So, I seek the permission of the Chair to move this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. It is true that he ought to have given information to the Lok Sabha. It may please be taken note of. The hon. Minister of State Shri P.C. Thomas will move it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha, seeks to amend Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act and also Sections 59, 94 and 128 of the said Act. This is mainly with regard to these two aspects that the Bill has been brought forward. One is to do away with the residential qualification as to the qualification that the contesting candidate should be a resident of that particular State or that particular Union Territory.

This has been a matter which was commenced by the Election Commission also that many times senior leaders of our country have contested from other States also and so the real intent of the legislation is worth considering here. So, it has been found that a Bill of this nature to amend that particular section is apt and required.

Secondly, with regard to Section 59 and other concerned sections which deal with the secret ballot, the present amendment is to provide for an open ballot. The Ethics Committee of Parliament in paragraph 19 of its Report submitted to both the Houses of Parliament on the 8th December, 1998 stated that the trend of cross voting is to be seriously considered. This has been again considered in the Supreme Court judgement in the case of Raghbir Singh Vs Gurcharan Singh Tohra in AIR 1980, Supreme court 1362, where they have also stated that secrecy was intended for holding of free and fair elections whereas now the very secrecy has gone against the very intent of having free and fair elections. This has been widely discussed in the Press as well as in various other fora.

Then, the use of money power has also been widely discussed and the Government has dealt with this aspect in this Bill. With regard to these two aspects, the Standing Committee held serious discussions and the Committee also felt the need to curb the use of money power.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to give the hon. Minister a patient hearing because this is his maiden initiative. I am presiding over the House and I also come from the same place as that of the hon. Minister. Let us have a patient hearing.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, this aspect was deeply discussed by the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee has unanimously recommended that money power should be curbed. Of course, there were some differences of opinion with regard to the provisions of the Bill.

Sir, it has also been found that false affidavits have been given by many candidates and they felt that this should be avoided by bringing a Bill of this nature.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Is it being done with retrospective effect? If you kindly add that, it will clean up the whole system.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: If the House so feels, it can be considered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are a young, dynamic and courageous Minister. I desire that you should bring it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, if the House so feels, we will consider that aspect also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: His senior Minister has fled.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is why, his senior Minister has left the job to him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, though this aspect appears to be very simple, it is very serious and as has been commented upon by the hon. Members from the Opposition, this Bill has to be seriously considered by the House. The absence of Shri Arun Jaitley, as I have already observed, is only because he had to urgently go for some discussion relating to the WTO with some foreign delegates. So, I was asked to be present here. In fact, he was also trying to come, but he could not reach in time. Since you have allowed me, I am proceeding further.

Sir, another aspect which was discussed in the Standing Committee was whether the federal structure will be affected by allowing candidates from other places to contest from a particular State. This has also been seriously dealh with by the Standing Committee. It can be seen that the persons who are voting are the MLAs of the State or the concerned Union Territory. Therefore, it cannot be said that the federal structure also affected.

As far as secrecy is concerned, sometimes we have had the occasions to have open vote in cases like a proxy vote on the Bill which was passed recently and also in cases of blind persons where others are allowed to vote.

I would, therefore, pray that the Bill might be taken up for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, though the system of having bicameral Houses at the national level is almost a universal one in all the democracies, yet we have a very salutary and a unique provision in as much as the Upper House, that is, the Council of States or the Rajya Sabha, as well call it, is constituted by the States whereas in the case of Lok Sabha, it is directly the people who elect their representatives. So, over these years, we have had a very excellent system of constituting the Rajya Sabha.

We have also seen that people, statesmen and leaders, who have contributed their best to the political life of the country, have been picked up by different parties to represent them in the Rajya Sabha. But over the years, slowly and gradually, the Rajya Sabha has also not been spared of various ills, of which we do not feel very proud to refer to today.

I would not like to dwell at length on all those aspects. This particular Bill covers two aspects. I would like to confine to those, though the Minister may have slightly tried to say, once again as is the wont of this Government, that electoral reforms is a subject dear to them. In practice, we find that this Government has miserably failed to cleanse the public life and has rather contributed immensely, as we see, of late, in one of the northern States, that this Government has been a party to this political harlotry and meretriciousness. It is to check political harlotry and to check what has been observed of late, that is, the role of big money even in elections to the Rajya Sabha, did we think of bringing a Bill like this. To that extent, I must say that I do support the provisions.

15.38 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

There is a deviation from the practice. So far, the elections have been held at all levels through a secret ballot. It is, for the first time, that we are confronted with a situation as to what do we really do to ensure that the purity of elections is maintained, that the elections continue to remain free and fair, and the probity in public life is further strengthened. What do we really do when we find that people with big money bags are able to find their way to the Rajya Sabha at the cost of many people who have an excellent record of service to the country? It has been observed, particularly about two years, back, that money did play a major role in the elections to Rajya Sabha. People, unfortunately in this matter, cutting across the party lines, chose to vote for people for consideration other than strengthening of democracy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would request him not to say this.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it is to meet the situation like this that a provision, regarding election to Rajya Sabha, of open voting is sought to be incorporated. A view has been expressed outside and perhaps genuinely so from their point of view that this would violate the basic tenet of free and fair elections because, if you know as to who has voted for whom, this would demolish the very basis of a good election. This is not so.

In this context, I would only very briefly like to refer to the matter that came up before the Supreme Court many years back. But before I do that, let me also say that the Constitution, which is the fundamental and the basic document governing our polity does not talk of a secret or an open election.

Article 84, which is the relevant provision in this respect, which lays down certain qualifications for election to the Houses of Parliament, is completely silent on that. It is only the Representation of People Act, which we today seek to amend, which provides for secret voting. Many years back, in a different context, this matter came up before the Supreme Court in the case of Raghubir Singh Gill v/s Gurcharan Singh Tohra where the Supreme Court, the Apex court of the country, emphasising that it was imperative that we maintain the purity of elections and also that it was desirable for maintaining the purity of elections and also that it was desirable for maintaining the purity of elections that a person should not be compelled to disclose as for whom he voted and therefore, felt that perhaps there was a desirability of having a system of secret ballot. But it finally came to a conclusion that where the free and fair holding of elections is the question, when that is the objective and where by a secret ballot if the very salutary objective of free and fair elections becomes the casualty then we must see and we must believe or hold that voting by secret ballot is neither an indispensable concomitant nor a *sine quo non* for free and fair elections. This is because, if we have to ensure that people vote fearlessly and the elections are free and fair, and for that it is necessary to disclose as to who voted for him, then we may have to go in for this second option.

In this context, kindly permit me to very briefly refer to the observations of the Supreme Court because I can do no better than to quote that:

> "Secrecy of ballot undoubtedly is an indispensable adjunct of free and fair elections. A voter had to be statutorily assured that he would not be compelled to disclose by any authority as for whom he voted. So that a voter may vote without ear or favour and is free from any apprehension of its disclosure against his will from his own lips."

However, the Court further added:

> "Secrecy of ballot was mooted to ensure free and fair elections. If the very secrecy of the ballot, instead of assuring free and fair elections, strikes at the root of the principle of free and fair elections, this basic postulate of democracy would be utilised for undoing free and fair elections, which provide life blood to parliamentary democracy. If secrecy of ballot, instead of ensuring free and fair elections, is used to defeat the very public purpose for which it is enacted, this principle of secrecy of ballot will have to yield to the larger principle of free and fair elections."

This is what is important today. Since, we have seen that this seems to be the way out in the case of Rajya Sabha, we have opted for it and in fact, this provision, excepting for a few reservations here and there, at the meeting of the political parties convened by the Election Commission as elsewhere, this proposal to meet the situation has found favour and I accordingly favour this provision.

The second provision, which this Bill deals with, is again not free from controversy. That is again a major change from what has been the law so far. That is for representing a State in the Rajya Sabha, the candidate should ordinarily be the resident of any of the Parliamentary constituencies in that State.

Again, Sir, it is not the constitutional mandate. It is in the Rule under the Representation of People Act, 1951 that a provision like this was incorporated Rightly so, perhaps, because, as I said, to begin with, the Rajya Sabha or the Council of States is a body representative of the States. Sir, that is where the interpretation actually varies. Today, when a provision is being made that we need not necessarily have that residential requirement as such, and if we do away with the requirement of being a voter in that particular State, would ultimately serve the purpose of democracy better and have better composition of Rajya Sabha. We could very well try that. That is what is sought to be done through this Bill.

Sir, as I said, this is not free from controversy. I have seen editorials on this. I know of comments by many many learned people and all bona fide, expressing their reservations, and even criticizing this particular provision. But, permit me to say, Sir, that is slightly misplaced.

Sir, the basic postulate is that the Lok Sabha is the House of the people where the people directly elect their representatives, and the candidate can be a resident, ordinarily a resident of any Parliamentary constituency in the country. If the people of Punjab wish to have a person coming from Tamil Nadu as their representative from a particular constituency, they can very well do it. When I say so, I have a case in mind. A gentlemen belonging to the then Jan Sangh came all the way from Tamil

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Nadu, settled in Punjab, got elected to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab. Sir, the wording used in the law is 'ordinarily resident of. It is a very complex word. Courts have failed to really define this word. We have not defined it. This is, in fact, an issue of contention, a point which always defies solution and defies proper definition. Since it defies proper definition, this provision, as I know, as you know, as anybody knows, has often been used over the years to show onself as a voter of a particular State, and then come into Rajya Sabha from there. I suppose, rather that was playing with the legal provisions. Having seen a situation, in today's circumstances, when a large number of people would, perhaps, represent that State depending upon the view of the resident of that State, in this case the MLAs. If the MLAs of a particular State feel that "such and such gentlemen, though not belonging to our State, though not registered as a voter in our State, but who often visits our State or even is he does not visit, he is a person who has been championing our cause and is better suited to represent us in the Rajya Sabha," I think that we should really not stop them from sending him. We are not forcing them, we are only providing for an enabling provision.

Then what was really done by following not a righteous course in the past should be acceptable in law. A person may be a resident anywhere in the country, if the elected Members of Assembly of a particular State—we cannot doubt their *bona fides* and we cannot doubt their judgement—if they, in their collective wisdom, wish to send anyone from any other State to represent them in the Rajya Sabha, why should we come in the way?

Sir, a doubt is expressed that once you do this, this would rather open flood gates of sorts of activities and practices and people with all sorts of resources would, then, be able to find their way to Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I am sorry, I cannot agree with that provision. Rather I would feel sorry if that is the expression and if that is the reservation expressed against this because that is casting doubts, that is casting aspersons on the elected representatives all over the States in the various Legislative Assemblies.

Sir, this would be just an enabling provision, as I said. It would not open floodgates for people to come from other States to get elected from elsewhere. The local pressures would always be exerted. It is the leadership of the political parties who would choose their candidates seeing as to what the local conditions are, as to who should go there from that State. And above all, not just the political parties, finally when they go to the election arena, it will be the Members of the Legislative Assemblies who will finally decide whether they want to choose that person or not. And for that reason, I think, this particular provision was rather necessary. It was many years back, when perhaps it was not being talked of thinking that it was necessary, I had moved a Private Member's Bill then but it lapsed, it could not be taken up, and, therefore, I am particularly happy that this proposal is being accepted today.

Sir, when I say so that this is being accepted and these two important provisions relating to Rajya Sabha are there, I want to now slightly go to one or two other points not directly covered by this Bill but which are of immense importance. The first one to which we should have drawn the attention of the Government certainly by now, is that over the years this biennial character of Rajya Sabha has been demolished. Why? It is because when a seat fell vacant in Rajya Sabha, say in a given case, and per chance the Legislative Assembly of that State was not in place, the elections would not be held. And when the Legislative Assembly came into being later—for whatever reason it was dissolved, it was under the President's Rule and, therefore, there were no elections held—the election, when held, to Rajya Sabha from that State should have been only treated as a by-election. I am using 'by-election' consciously only to make my point that the Member coming to fill that seat should have remained as a Member of Rajya Sabha only for the remaining period. And that is precisely the point which the Government today wishes to make for Lok Sabha when they call for a fixed term. Be that as it may, coming back to the point of Rajya Sabha, what really happens is that they gave him a fresh six-year term because that is what the Constitution talks of. So, slowly and slowly, today we have come to a position that when you have elections to Rajya Sabha every year, not every year rather every few months, that biennial character has gone which was consciously thought of and provided for in the Constitution to see that complexion of the Legislative Assemblies after every two years in every State is reflected in the Rajya Sabha so that it continues to have its perpetual existence and continues to remain a vibrant dynamic democratic body. It has ceased to be so in that sense. And the situation has come to such a pass. I will give you the examples of only two States; one is Punjab where all the seven seats now are filled after six years and the other is Delhi where all the three seats are filled after six years.

Another aberration, which has crept in, is that we are treating them on one day separate election and that

is because of the interpretation of the courts. And for different reasons, even if they are held at the same time, we issue different notifications for the same day, with the result that in the case of Delhi, if any Party has a majority of one Member in the Assembly, it will win all the three seats. Similar is the case in the case of Punjab. My dispute is not with any party winning all the seats. Any Party may win. But what I say is that these elections should have been held every two years—one seat to be filled every two years.

Now, if you ask me, the solution is still available today without touching the present term of the Members who are already in the Rajya Sabha. You can come with an amendment that henceforth this is the schedule which would be worked out, as it was done in 1952.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Or, treat it as a bye-election.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I said so for that particular purpose. I used a word which is not a synonym for this to meet a situation like this. I said, it would be an important provision when we talk of election matters or matters relating to the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, I was not very elaborate on this point. I did want to touch this important point because this is the occasion when we can touch this. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister that somehow we should see that a solution is found because even today a scheme could be worked out without touching the tenure of the present Members of the Rajya Sabha, that whenever a seat falls vacant hereafter it would be going back to the situation when this aberration crept in. That way, the term would be worked out and ultimately we would restore the biennial character of the Rajya Sabha.

Having said that, I am sorry if Shri Somnath Chatterjee objects to my deviating a little from the Bill but this is again very pertinent point because of the controversy raised by the statement of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister just two days ago about holding simultaneous elections to Parliament, that is, the Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies. This is not practical in the sense that this postulates that you have fixed terms for all the elected bodies and having a fixed term would again strike at the very root of democracy and at the very basic postulate of accountability of the Government to the people through their representatives. If that were to happen, any vote of no-confidence, any defeat of money Bill, would still save the Government from quitting. The Constitution provides for a maximum term of five years. If the House remains in office for five years, it stands dissolved on the completion of five years. That is the end of the matter and the rest lies within the political dynamics of the House and it should remain as it is. I would not talk more about that. That is a very important subject on which much could be said but I do wish to add with all the emphasis at any command that particular statement is not really aimed to bring about any electoral reform. I know the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. I have known him for many years since we happened to be together in a committee when we talked of electoral reforms and his concern for electoral reforms. Sometimes one could be displaced in one's views. That particular provision would not usher in reforms but rather lead to a situation where democracy would be the casualty. It would lead to deformation of democracy. Therefore, we should not go for this.

When I entered the House—I was late by a minute—I heard the hon. Minister of State talk about proxy voting. That is a very vicious think if you try to introduce that in the system because today when you talk about it you would not know what would happen, if you have a particular class in mind. All of us what that all the people and all the serving personnel in the Defence Forces should be provided means of voting. Today, when you talk proudly of your IT achievements and developments, we have many ways of doing it so that the person sitting in Siachen also could vote back in his remote small village in Punjab. He could do it if you have the will to do it. So, please do not have proxy voting. This is something that you really need not do for them. If you really think of the Defence Forces, there are many issues about which you have to be really concerned. This is a very peripheral issue. Once you introduce it, there would be a floodgate of demands from all quarters asking for proxy voting and that would lead to a situation which we could never contemplate.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2003 moved by the hon'ble Minister and congratulate the Government for bringing it. People having money power and muscle power have started getting themselves elected to parliament and other elected bodies. After the formation of N.D.A. Government, persons with criminal records and those with money power and muscle power could not get themselves elected.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

16.00 hrs.

In fact, the Government has enacted 3-4 Acts to ensure that only those persons can represent the public who want to serve people. Recently a law was made in regard to election. It prevents the persons with criminal bent of mind who have been sentenced, from contesting elections and getting elected. Another law has been made to facilitate the casting of vote by those soldiers and defence officers who are serving the country at different remote areas of the country. Prior to it, they were unable to cast their votes: Now, they have got the opportunity to do so. Earlier they used to cast their votes by postal ballot, but their ballots used to be kept separately and these ballots were not counted before the declaration of results. Sometimes, the postal ballots were received after the constitution of the House. So, a law has been made by the Government to play that loop-hole and to give that right to every citizen of the country under the democratic system of the country. The steps taken by the Government in this direction are praiseworthy.

Honourable Chairman, Sir, this bill had been passed by Rajya Sabha. All of us know it that there is no restriction of being a resident of a particular area for persons who want to contest election for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, but in case of Rajya Sabha election the said restriction was there. So, they used to get their names entered in electoral rolls by getting fake domicile certificate. There is a provision in the rule that they must get their names enrolled at least six months prior to election. But it has been seen many times that many elected leaders of Rajya Sabha, who are prominent persons contested their elections even when they were not residents of that particular state. They got their names enrolled in the electoral rolls of the state from where they contested their election. If you have a look at the structure of Rajya Sabha, it can be seen that there are 5-7 per cent such leaders who are not the resident of that state from where they got elected to Rajya Sabha but they could win only when they got their names entered in the electoral rolls of that state.

In such cases, many a time writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court and High Courts. Owing to this a number of difficulties have been experienced. We feel that it would be better if the elected representative hails from the State where he resides. Because, in that case he will think about the welfare of that State. But the intelligent persons who lead the party and even the country do not wish to be elected for Lok Sabha as they are unable to give more time there. If they are elected, they do not give that much time as is required for their Constituency. Such persons are required in Rajya Sabha. These people got their names included in the electoral rolls from a place where they intended to contest elections. Now, this law is being reviewed. Under this law, if any relaxation is given to the effect that a person is eligible to contest an election from any part of the country, it would be a welcome step because in that case if the legislators of that State are in his favour, then, he will win the election. If they are not in this favour, he will lose the election. In this way it is certain that he would work in the interest of his state and only the persons of legislator's choice will be elected. So, giving such relaxation in the Act is a good thing. I support this commendable step taken by the Government.

The second point is about the open ballot. It may have two aspects. Due to provision of open ballot, there is apprehension of breach of secrecy. On the other hand, if it happens so, then it goes against the very spirit of the Constitution of India which upholds the provision of secret ballot. In the present political scenario of the country, one can visualise in whose favour one has cast his vote. In the Lok Sabha elections, we see that people cast their votes as per choice of their party and its ideology. That is why, the Government has been compelled to enact a law for breach of secrecy. We have seen that the persons who had no political or independent existence, in last Rajya Sabha elections, got elected on the basis of money and muscle power.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have seen such instances in the state to which you belong and in one or two other adjoining states. That is why we as well as the Government have to think about all those sincere persons who serve the public whole heatedly and do not have money and muscle power. If the persons having money and muscle power get elected, then what would be the future of those persons who are serving general public.

Secondly, legislators follow the ideology of the party only and the legislators of a particular party cast their votes as per the direction of their party. But, it has been observed in some past elections that some legislators have cast their votes after taking money and setting aside all their ideological policies. In this way, even those persons who had to desire to serve their people, got themselves elected to Rajya Sabha. This has changed the character of Rajya Sabha to such an extent that people with money and muscle power are getting themselves elected to this House and the number of intellectuals and party leaders is decreasing. This

compelled political parties to think about the option of open ballot. Although the provision of open ballot is also not the final solution because such unscrupulous persons will continue to vote according to their preference even in 'open ballot' system. But definitely, it will leave an impression on the mind of public that persons who get elected after giving money would not have good image about them among the people. It will help the political parties to discard and isolate those persons who have got themselves elected by giving money to other persons and who have not cast their vote in favour of their party's candidate. It will have positive effect in the sense that the persons who want to serve the people and who really believe in the policies of their parties would be able to cast their votes. When this happen, good people will be elected in Rajya Sabha.

How to cast open vote, for this, there may be various options. The voter may cast his vote either in presence of the polling agent of the candidate and declare it in the presence of all persons to whom he has cast his vote or the procedure for casting vote in Parliament may be followed. A member can push the button on his seat for casting his vote as 'AYES' or 'NOES' and in this way his or her choice is immediately known to the chair. Either of the two systems can be adopted. It is the duty of Election Commission and it will do it. But, when such a transparent system starts operating in which one can see to whom one has cast his vote and when it will come to know that wrong person has been voted by taking money or under pressure, then there is possibility that political environment may be improved upto some extent. As a result of that dishonesty and corruption can be reduced considerably in the country. As well all know that costly election system promotes dishonesty and corruption. People collect money by hook or by crook and use that money to win elections. It is natural that they may have sympathy with those persons who have given them money. There is a possibility that they not help them directly but they will certainly not try to take action against them even if they are doing something wrong. They will try to ignore their wrong deeds. By and large there are two or three amendments in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act. They are necessary in the context of present political scenario. I congratulate the Government for the step taken and I also congratulate the Rajya Sabha for passing this motion unanimously. I would also like to urge the hon'ble members of Lok Sabha that they should enact such laws so that good political scenario could emerge in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

I would like to give a suggestion in this regard. Legislative Council elections are held, although it is a state matter, but it requires ratification of half of the states. But even in the Legislative Council elections more or less such situation is also emerging. Wherever such situation exists efforts should be made to enforce such type of election system there. I would urge the Government that efforts should be made to make arrangements for open voting system in Legislative Council elections too. If such type of arrangements are made, then it will be more beneficial.

I am thankful to you that you have given me opportunity to speak. I conclude my speech and support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that is the maiden venture of my very young, good and affectionate friend, the new Minister, he is piloting a Bill which is like trying to give birth to a deformed child. I think, it is a very sad day in the history of Parliament today. This Bill had been considered by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I am reading from the Report of the Committee. It says:

> "There is, however, lack of consensus in the Committee on the issue."

There was unanimity that there was a difference. I am further quoting:

> "In view of the divergent perceptions in the Committee on the subject matter of the Bill, it is of the considered view that the Government should explore the possibility of evolving a consensus on the issues before piloting the Bill in Parliament."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what exploration was made to find out the possibility of evolving a consensus. Nobody can deny that this is an important Bill. Even with all the eloquence of Shri Bansal, he did not say that it was not an important Bill. There was no attempt made to evolve a consensus on this issue.

Sir, there is a total flouting, total ignoring of the unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee. When there was a clear divergence of opinion in the Committee, I feel, my party feels that this is the most brazen facade attack on some of the basic features of our Constitution. The only justification which is put forward

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

by the two hon. Members who have spoken and the hon. Minister, who has piloted the Bill, is that there are some corrupt voters in the Rajya Sabha elections.

16.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

On the basis of trying to find out a solution to deal with corrupt activities of some Members of the Legislative Assemblies, this atrocious attempt is being made to dilute two very fundamental provisions of our Constitution, which the Supreme Court has laid down repeatedly to the basic features of the Constitution, namely, secrecy of voting as also the federal structure of the Constitution.

This Bill is a direct and blatant attack on these two very essential and ennobling, basic features of our Constitution. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is so naive and so cynical that it is nothing but affront so far as Parliament is concerned. The way this matter is being treated as if it is a question of just curing the corruption of the MLAs. This is an admission on behalf of the ruling party and—I am very very sorry to say—the Congress, with such a glorious tradition that they have, but they have succumbed to this. They are unable to control of presence of unscrupulous and corrupt people in the party. Some opportunities are there in different ranks.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to set the record straight. We are not the victim of this so far. We have only noticed something in the system.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are the beneficiaries so far as this is concerned.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, Sir. Neither way, it has not affected the Congress, but we observed something in the system. We are not the beneficiaries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I request Shri Somnath Chatterjee to kindly come back to the subject being discussed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is a very articulate and a very responsible Member, but he also has a party whip. Only thing is that he cannot whip his MLAs.

Sir, there are some opportunists and some corrupt elements in their ranks—in the ranks of the ruling party; and also some of the parties supporting this Bill—and they have no faith in their party policies and programmes, if any. They have treated themselves; and allowed themselves to be treated as purchasable commodities. Now, these few corrupt people in some of the Assemblies are going to decide the fate of this country's future.

Sir, the object is very clear. It is to enable some politicians to enter the Council of States from States to which they do not belong; with which they have no affinity and that money may not be collected by some corrupt MLAs. It will be an open book, and, therefore, secrecy of the voting must be done away with because some corrupt MLAs here and there may fall prey to the lures of cash payment or whatever it is. I do not know.

Sir, in this country, Mahatma Gandhi had led the struggle for Independence, and people had made tremendous sacrifices without hankering for any post or position of power. Now, some people in these parties feel themselves so indispensable that when they are rejected or cannot be elected by their own people, they see to it that they come back to Parliament by hook or crook. There are also politicians who have no support in their own State and must come to Parliament. For that purpose, they have some cases—fortunately, not too many—and they have polluted the system. It is a matter of concern, and there is no doubt about it.

What is the remedy? Please look at the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Have you got a copy, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,? Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act prescribes residential qualification for contesting elections to the Council of States. There have been numerous instances "where the persons, who are normally not residing in a particular State, have got themselves registered as voters in that State simply to contest an election to the Council of States." Of course, Sir, my friend, whose name is on the list as the mover of the Bill answer that description, that is, to get himself elected to Rajya Sabha, he made a foray to Gujarat and got himself registered as an ordinary resident. Just for this purpose, that is, to enable these people to get elected, should we approve of this system or the proposal that is being brought?

One of the Members of this House, we have all respect to him, Shri Bansal says that this Party is not a beneficiary. I am very sorry to say, without meaning and disrespect because people know the respect in which we hold the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, could he not have served this country by remaining outside the House? He is a man of tremendous ability, great

knowledge and expertise. He has held extremely important positions. This is not a reflection on him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: You are commenting on a person who is not here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Well, I will say 'somebody'. Your leader was here, but he has fled. You can delete that.

Sir, is parliamentary democracy being strengthened? We know of a person who has given in a State his address, which is nothing but a godown. There are Members of Rajya Sabha who have nothing to do with the States from which they have been elected. My simple query is, is anybody so indispensable in this country that politics of this country cannot survive or the Parliament cannot survive? As I said, our freedom fighters, like Mahatma Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narayan, never hankered for any position. Have they not served the country? The tallest leaders of our country have remained outside the elected office. Unfortunately, some very good candidates may lose an election, but that is not the end of the day, end of everything or end of the road. Very good persons should come to this Parliament. There is a provision for nomination also representing different facets of life in this country. But for whom are we changing this law? Are you changing for these persons? What will remain of the identity of the States? I will come to it.

The whole objective is, according to this Statement of Objects and Reasons, to do away with money power. Money power is being indulged in by whom—the Members of the Legislative Assembly. They say, well, there are big money-bags, who get themselves elected. They cannot bribe anybody and everybody, and they have to bribe some MLAs. How many such instances are there? Shri Kuldip Nayyar has made some study. Earlier, it was three per cent from other States, and it has now come up to ten per cent. For ten per cent, that is, 25 people in Rajya Sabha, today, you are mutilating the Constitution of India.

I will ask a simple question. Why do you allow such persons about whose honesty you are not convinced, to remain in your party? What action is taken against them? You indulge in having opportunists as your members, corrupt people as your members, you give them tickets, they become Members of Legislative Assembly, and then take bribe and elect somebody else for the sake of money. That may happen without changing the residence also. It can happen in the same State.

We are unable to understand how this can be the whole consideration. Very well, what will happen now? An MLA cannot take bribe. Who will get the money now? The party is astute enough. The party will collect money and give nomination. Now, those crooks with moneybags will purchase nominations from the party. Once they get the nominations, everything will be open. They will get themselves elected. Money will change hands. Instead of unscrupulous MLAs, it will be unscrupulous parties now. Instead of some individual corrupt MLAs selling themselves, the parties will sell themselves. This is going to happen.

By these proposed changes, are we not insulting all the Members of Legislative Assemblies?

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Are we not giving an impression that all the party leaders will indulge in this?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That should not be the case. But then, why are you supporting this Bill? I am not saying that your party is corrupt or your leadership is corrupt, but you will be in the shadow.

Are you not insulting all Members of Legislative Assemblies in all the States? This is a direct insult to them. There are many people in politics, hopefully, who believe in some principles, some policies, some objectives; who have some party loyalty; who work for the common people and not for themselves. Are you not insulting them?

People are all not purchasable commodities. All the MLAs are not purchasable commodities. Just for some crooks, I would not like my MLAs in my State to be treated as purchasable commodities belonging to a party. They are not. We the Left parties stand today amongst all my friends here, we know that on this issue we are isolated. Even then, we shall go on objecting to this. We shall never accept the deliberate decimation of Constitution provisions in this country just for the sake of a handful of criminals who may have sneaked into some Legislative Assemblies.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is not isolated. We are also with them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am deeply obliged to him, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have changed your place and perhaps that is the reason why he could not take note of you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as the residential status is concerned, what is the plea given here? The Election Commission, while discussing this aspect at an all-party meeting in April, 2000, was of the view that a precise definition of 'ordinarily resident' was very difficult and emphasised that it was for the political parties acting through Parliament to carry out what in their judgement might be the best possible solution in the light of experience in the past 50 years. It was because of the misuse that was being made, probably, the Election Commission thought three years back that the Parliament might consider it.

But as I said, there was no discussion with the parties.

Now, there is a reference to the Ethics Committee. The hon. Minister also referred to the Ethics Committee of Parliament. I am reading from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. This is the most atrocious statement. I have ever seen in my humble career of 32 years.

The Ethics Committee of Parliament, in para 9, of its first Report presented to Parliament on 8th December, 1998 recommended that the issue relating to open ballot—system for election—be examined. This is different. But the issue has given rise to concern in the wake of allegations of money power.

Therefore, only one observation was made by the Election Commission that the 'Parliament may consider it.' Where has the Election Commission recommended that? Anybody and everybody can be sent from anywhere in this country. What is meant by the federal structure of this country? Our Constitution has made it very clear. Kindly see article 1. You know, Sir, very well. I am sure, Shri Bansal knows it by heart. 'India, that is, Bharat shall be the union of States'. States' boundaries have been laid down by the Constitution of India, and the Upper House is called the Council of States and not the House of People. The difference is so obvious. That is the whole basis of our Constitution. That is why Seventh Schedule has been provided here about the separation of powers between the Centre and the States.

Every States has been given its own identity. That is why we are also so keen to preserve the rights, powers and identity of the States. We always object to encroachment by the Centre on the States' territory. Why? It is because that is the basic feature of our Constitution. Every State has its own ethos, its own culture, its own problems and its own issues which are shared by the citizens of that State. They may speak different languages, they may belong to different religions, they may belong to different castes and creeds, but they have one unity, *i.e.*, they are residents of a particular States.

Sir, we feel proud to say that not only hundreds, not only thousands but lakhs and lakhs of people from all over the country are staying in our State, West Bengal. They are staying with dignity and honour. They consider themselves to be essential part and parcel of the State. They are contributing towards its development. I must admit with great happiness and pleasure that the people from outside who have made West Bengal as their State, have contributed substantially and are still contributing to the development of our State. We have no grievance or quarrel with them. They are residing there. They proudly call themselves that they belong to West Bengal. Similarly, those who belong to Karnataka also proudly say that they belong to Kerala. Everybody belonging to a particular State will say so about his State. .

Sir, the other day—although it was unseemly and I was very unhappy to observe—some of our hon. friends from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were, a sort of, criticising each other over discussion on water. They were trying to find fault with each other. Why? It was because each one of them felt that his State's interest was getting affected. We must concede full *bona fides* to them. Shri K. Yerrannaidu fought for about 50 minutes trying to make out a case for Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, friends from Karnataka also spoke trying to put forward their case. This is not chauvinism as such, because the Constitution of India postulates this. States have their own rights. States have their own problems. State have their own issues. Then, who will respond to them?

I do not want it. But if Shri P.C. Thomas has to be elected from Himachal Pradesh, where will his commitments be? This is not dividing the country, please. This is our unity in diversity. Therefore, if there is a dispute between Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, for whom he will respond? Whose cause will he uphold? This is the basis of it. That is why our Constitution' is there.

Kindly see, Sir the importance which has been given to the States.

Article 80, as you know, Sir, is about the composition of the Council of States. Article 80 says:

"The Council of States shall consist of twelve members to be nominated by the President..., and not more than two hundred and thirty-eight representatives of the States and of the Union Territories."

Now, comes to Article 249. Article 249 is a very important article. It deals with the powers of Parliament. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, if the Council of States has declared by resolution supported by not less than two-thirds members present and voting that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to any matter enumerated in the State List....."

It is stated to because it will be the view of the people of the State. Similar is article 312 that speaks of formation of all-India Service. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything in (Chapter VI of Part VI or Part XI), if the Council of States has declared by resolution, supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting....., they can constitute an all-India service."

Sir, nowadays we do not hear the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. What did he say? In the Constituent Assembly, this is what he said with regard to this.

"Ex hypothesize the Upper Chamber represents the States, and, therefore, their resolution would be tantamount to an authority given by the States."

What are the considerations of the Members of Rajya Sabha, representing a particular State, if they do not belong to their States? Now, even pretence of being ordinarily resident will go. In future, there will not ever be a pretence of being an ordinarily resident. No false declaration would be necessary. Very well, if you can get a nomination from your party, which has got a majority in Assembly, in a particular State, he will send you there. There are some indispensable people in this country. He becomes indispensable by his service, or indispensable because of the monetary contribution, he makes.

Sir, what does Sarkaria Commission say? It says that the Rajya Sabha has been constituted to enable the States to give effective expression of their viewpoints at the parliamentary level so that the States can give effective expression of their viewpoints. Take the composition of Members of Rajya Sabha, who belong to different States. If there are 15 Members, two belong to Bihar, two belong Kerala, two belong to Gujarat, two belong to Pondicherry, who will speak and for whom? How will the State give effective expression to their view points at the parliamentary level? What are you doing? You are striking at the very basis of our parliamentary functioning and the basic character of our Constitution.

Sir, in Bommai case, what was done? What was said by the Supreme Court? It said:

"The States are sovereign in the field which is left to them. The States have an independent Constitutional existence, and they have an important role to play in the political, social, educational and cultural life of the people as the Union. They are neither satellites nor agents of the Centre."

"Federalism envisaged in the Constitution, is a basic feature in which the Union of India is permanent within its territorial limits, and the State is a permanent entity." Now we will have agents of political parties inside, not the representatives of the States. You would not have the representatives of the States any longer in the Council of States.

Sir, we have a federal structure of Government—some call it quasi-federal, some call it federal. Its very basis is the existence of Centre and the States with distribution of powers, but it is ultimately for the benefits of the country as a whole. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that federalism is a basic feature of our constitution.

Therefore either from the point of view of the federal character or from the point of view of dealing with corruption of some MLAs, should you change the basic structure of the Constitution? I appeal to my friends not to do permanent damage to us. They are institutional corruption. They are to dealing with money power. They are giving primacy to money power today.

Is there any provision, Mr. Minister, in this Bill, to control persons taking money for giving nomination, so far as political parties are concerned? Can he control if political parties take money for giving nomination? I would like to know this. So, they are saying that individual MLAs should not take bribes, but the top people can take! That is the ridiculous situation that they have evolved.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Although the Election Commission said that they should be some discussion to find out the procedure, nothing was done; no meeting was held. The Government did not try to find out a solution in discussion with parties. I do not know whether the Congress Party was called for a separate discussion on this. Probably anticipating the support from Congress, they may not have called them or they may have called them separately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Constitution is being finished! Let me take a little more time, but not longer; maybe 5-10 minutes more.

As I said, Shri Kuldip Nayyar has made some exercise; he has taken the trouble; we respect him; he believes in certain basic norms.

Another situation has been commented upon—that those Members who get elected from other States do not take any interest in the affairs of the States. This is the situation, except perhaps our distinguished Minister of Law and Justice—I wanted him to be here—who is often found in Gujarat in the company of the discredited Chief Minister. Probably he is trying to create more trouble for the minorities there! I do not know what is his role in the trial in the Best Bakery case.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): What is your idea about the word 'discredited?'

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be patient for a few more minutes. Kindly do not disturb him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I hope at least some time will be left for us also!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Give him a few more minutes. Please do not disturb.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not call him a discredited person. He is a very eminent person; he is a very eminent parliamentarian; he is a very eminent lawyer and an eminent Minister, but maybe in a very bad company!

This Bill strikes at the very root of the federal set up of our Constitution. So, I strongly object to it and I protest against this attempted pollution of our Constitution, which is because of some personal greed, having been responsible for election of some Members.

The other point is very important, which is the question of voting. The Supreme Court has expressed its agony in the case read by Mr. Bansal. It has said that the very basis of the parliamentary democracy is secrecy of votes. This is not the first time this has happened.

I forgot to mention one very important thing here. There is a document called the US Constitution. Mr. Minister, the party under which you are working today, gets its inspiration, if not sustenance, from U.S.A. In their case a Senator has to be the inhabitant of the State from which he is elected. This is in case of the Upper House. Even for the Lower House, a representative needs to be only 25 years old and a citizen of seven years but the residence requirement is the same namely, he must belong to that State. This is true even for the House of Representatives. By custom, a representative must reside not only in the State but also in the district from where he is elected...*(Interruptions)* That is for Senate, that is a different thing. President Bush will get annoyed. You do not know. He will be very upset since you are not following that. You are following the World Bank, IMF or even others. Also, if President Bush wishes to send troops to Iraq, you are conceding to that. But here is something against that.

There are other two very important international documents; Article 21 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights to which India is a party and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1996, to which also we are a party and we are bound by them. There is a mandatory provision that the will of the people shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be held by secret vote. the Supreme Court says that it is the very essence of our parliamentary democracy.

Another inspirer of yours is the American Supreme Court. Of Course, any constitutional lawyer does refer to the American Supreme Court because it has pronounced outstanding decisions. The American Supreme Court has pointed out the danger of open voting in the following words:

> "Absolute secrecy in voting reaches effectively a great number of evils including violence, intimidation bribery and corrupt practices, dictation by employers or organisations, the fear of ridicule and dislike or of social and commercial injury. In fact, all coercive and improper influence of every sort, depending on a knowledge of the voters' political action. Secrecy of

ballot has been considered and described as a postulate of constitutional democracy as it serves a vital public interest that an elector or a voter should be absolutely free in exercise of his franchise."

This is the basis. That principle is being given a go by in this country for a handful of corrupt and crooks, in some legislative assemblies and for some handful of power-hungry politicians who consider themselves indispensable, that they must enter Parliament by any method that may be available to them, even to the extent of filing false applications. Today, for them we are not only tinker with the Constitution, we are injuring the very heart and soul of the Constitution.

This is nothing but an outrage, a sacrilege committed so far as Constitution is concerned. Although we may be alone here, but Sir, I have got the great happiness, privilege and great satisfaction of opposition it today even if we are isolated, this lawless law, this attack on the Constitution of India which is nothing but according to me an outrage which is being committed. I oppose every sentence, every word of this Bill. I hope even now some of the hon. Members will reconsider their position and will see that this great Constitution of India which was framed in the next Hall, of which we all are proud is not diluted, polluted in this manner because of some handful of crooks in this country.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill contains only two Sections. One is for the Rajya Sabha where the members have to identify their residences and the second Section is regarding the type of voting. As the hon. Members have mentioned, he can be a resident of that State or he can be an ordinary resident of that State as is going on for the last so many years. But what this Bill says is that instead of ordinary resident, let us take a policy decision so that it can be done without creating any problems. That is the basic thing.

Another thing is that there are some important intellectuals who are required to be taken into the Rajya Sabha. Sometimes we have to consider the place from where they can be brought to the Rajya Sabha. It has to be done to bring their talent into the Rajya Sabha, the Council of States so that we could get their valuable suggestions and advice. That is the main object on which I hope this Bill has been taken up for consideration.

This Bill has also been examined by the Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. But the Standing Committee could not give any firm recommendation on the concerned Bill. Then, the Government has taken a decision. In view of the present circumstances, they want to legalise the system which is being followed for the last so many years.

There is one more important point which Shri Somnath Chatterjee has also the interest of the State to which he is representing in the Rajya Sabha or the interest of that State which he originally belongs to. This will also create some problems. But in spite of that, if we want to have the benefit of the advice and valuable suggestions of the intellectuals, we have to bring them to the Rajya Sabha. That is why, probably, they thought that it is better if we make it a more legalise affair. It is going on for the last 50 years. Shri Kuldip Nayyar has said that almost ten per cent people represent the States in the Rajya Sabha which are other than their own States. That is why, they want to legalise this temporary system so that there is no problem.

Therefore, this matter was discussed with the Election Commission also. Whatever is being put up today is not the final word. It can be amended any number of times as per the opinion and valuable guidance of the people.

The second question is of voting as to whether it should be by secret ballot or open ballot. This also represents two factors, viz., the party on which the mandate is given or the whip is served. Quite often there are violations. In order to make sure that there is discipline in the party, all have preferred that there should be open voting so that they can verify whether it is a right thing or not. If they do not follow the whip, some action can be taken against them. They have also tried to see the methodology of the voting which is being followed today and how best it can be improved.

In spite of all these things, there is possibility of using money power. We could see what happens in some parts of the country. It had happened recently also. We have to see how to control and how to prevent it. We require the valuable suggestions from different sectors. The Government would try to take them into consideration to see what amendments are required.

But in spite of this, we have to see what method we can adopt for the present. If necessary, we can, later on, take the views of different States and different Parties on this subject and also look into the recommendations of the Election Commission on this issue. In any case, a number of States have benefited out of this open voting

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

system. Maybe, in certain States this did not work well. But a number of States feel that open voting system has offered an easy way to enforce Party discipline and so they prefer this system of voting.

Sir, in the circumstances in which the hon. Minister has brought this Bill, I think, it is necessary for us to accept it at present and then, in future, if there are any suggestions, those can be incorporated in it later on.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am sorry that I am not convinced with the views of hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): He knows that owing to secret voting how a problem is being faced by a state. You do not have such type of problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the first time when I am unable to agree with the views of hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee. I appreciate and congratulate Somnath Ji that he has tried to prove his stand as correct by showing his intelligence and giving logical examples...*(Interruptions)* but I would definitely like to say that whatever has been done in the past is not good at all. I can say that much only. I do not want to say anything beyond this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have also written a letter for making amendment in this regard. Therefore, we support it...*(Interruptions)* If we do anything, we do it wholeheartedly and complete it. We do not do anything half-heartedly. We support the two amendments brought by you. We support it also because this disease will spread not only in Uttar Pradesh but everywhere. At present, you are deprived, Bengal is deprived. We agree that Bengal is deprived. But you will be surprised that simultaneously 420 such people have got elected who did not have a single member as an MLA. For example, even some industrialist who is elected on the basis of money power or by giving donation to the party, he also serves the country. Any industrialists can come in Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha is meant for such persons. Intellectuals, learned people, industrialists, educationists, jurists can contest for Rajya Sabha. This only was the intention behind it in the Constitution. Rajya Sabha was constituted with the intention that if some mistake is committed in Lok Sabha then it may be brought before the learned members of Rajya Sabha and they make amendments in it. It is for the Rajya Sabha to see whether things are going on rightly in accordance with the law or the Constitution or not. There are many such members elected in Rajya Sabha who do not have even a single vote but they got the maximum number of votes. They got elected by the highest margin. Hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee ji I am proud that there is not a single MLA of Samajwadi party who has cast vote against the party line.

17.00 hrs.

There were 28 members of BJP in U.P. but the BJP candidate was defeated. Had their candidate not been defeated, they would not have brought this legislation....*(Interruptions)*

I will not quote his name but he was a good person. If his intention was good then why did he leave the legislative council aside? There should have been open voting for legislative council also otherwise mafia, businessmen, contractors, all of them will have an easy access in the legislative council. Hon'ble Law Minister ji, if the intention of the Government is good and you agree to it and give in writing and Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, if you also grant permission then there could be open voting in Legislative Council. It makes no difference to them. It is also a big Panchayat of the State. So far as relaxation is concerned it is correct that a person residing anywhere in India can become a member of Rajya Sabha. Earlier people used to give false information and file false affidavits. But all of them do reach there. If a person from Maharashtra wants to go to Uttar Pradesh, he can do so because in the Constitution it is provided that his name should be included in the electoral list 6 months before...*(Interruptions)* If the name is included 15 days before and is traced out, then this nomination is cancelled as has happened in Ghaziabad recently where the nomination was got cancelled. People should be honest in filing their nomination. Why people are forced to file false affidavits. If there is a big leader of the party then we have to bring such person in the party. It is not that only wrong persons are included in the party. We too bring such people in the party whom we consider necessary. But so far we have not made any member. There is an industrialist, Sanjay Dalmia. He has his business in Noida. We had brought him...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise who will give money? If we bring some big person the party will get donation...*(Interruptions)* Mafia

do not give money to the party, they buy the MLA's. Today, the whole democratic system is under attack. MLA's are selling themselves. The ill effect of the system is that Pradhans and Zila Panchayat and Zila Panchayat members are selling themselves. It has such a effect that everybody is involved in this activity. I have said this because past is not always good, one can learn from the past and we can make future better by adopting ourselves to the present conditions. That is why I am unable to agree to it. We are supporting it. Earlier also we had written a letter. We had said that there should be a direct election for Zila Panchayats also. A serious situation has emerged there. Mafia and Goonda people are not allowing the genuine persons to file their papers. So the elections of both Zila Panchayat and Block Pramukh should be held by people. When that amendment will be brought we will congratulate for that. This amendment has been brought and we support it strongly.

I have to make one suggestion. I support it but bring forward a proposal regarding inclusion of Vidhan Parishad. You can bring it tomorrow or even today and get it passed. Otherwise all of them will contest for Vidhan Parishad election and there they will win easily. Till now we are saved and we have not confined our M.L.A at one place so far. Our M.L.As move freely and they always vote to the candidate of their party. But your M.L.As are required to be confined at one place. If there would have been any government, they might have confined them. They provide them food and likewise other thing. But our M.L.As. move freely without fear and any expectations. It is true that you also don't support it, you are right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You commit mistakes and they also commit mistakes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We never did so. We never formed government by defecting members. Had we done so we would have been in the government. Had we deviated from our principle, we would have been considered good. It is not so. Samajwadi party have made sacrifice. We could have formed government despite opposition from all the parties but we cannot compromise with our principles and I have said that if the BJP give up its four issues, then the distance between BJP and Samajwadi Party can be reduced. If you change your stand over Article 370, uniform code of conduct, Muslims and the issue 'Mandir-Masjid' in Ayodhya then the distance between us will be reduced and you may continue to be in power, we would not have any objection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then there will be no need of Mayawati...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please don't compel me to say something on this issue. This government is patronising corruption. There is corruption every where in Uttar Pradesh. Members of Lok Sabha may confirm from their voters and party workers that such type of loot had never taken place earlier in India where security personnels had carried money in government aeroplanes. Nobody knows where the IB, RAW, CBI and Income Tax officials have gone. Everybody knows about it but I do not want to go into details. You are a cabinet minister. There is a collective responsibility. So I suggest, Minister Shri Kansi Ram Rana, is also sitting here, that the election of blocks and Zila Panchayats be conducted through public directly in this session and make provision for open voting system in Vidhan Parishad. Then we will support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2003. But I do admit that I support this Bill *albeit* grudgingly.

There are basically two questions with regard to this Bill. There is a provision in this Bill for open voting by the MLAs. The second point is that there is a provision to remove the residency requirement of the candidate who is to contest for the Rajya Sabha. A question is being raised with regard to open voting. Generally, in a democratic country like India, anybody can say that the secret voting provision is one of the most important features of democracy. I agree to that view. But while a Member of a Legislative Assembly votes, does he vote as an ordinary citizen only? An MLA is not only an ordinary citizen but he is also a representative of a political party.

The hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee was talking about the secrecy aspect. He has left the House. I wish he would have been here. You take the example of the Leftists. When they get the salary, they contribute almost everything to the party. They take home only Rs. 1000. You can ask them. They will tell you why it is done like that...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Is it wrong?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I do not say that there is anything wrong in it. It is right from their point of view. But why do they take only a small portion of it? It is because they think that an MLA or an MP is a representative of the party and that is why they take it so. I am not objecting to that. But he is not an ordinary citizen. When he has become an MLA or an MP, he represents his party.

He represents his party. So, he must vote according to the wishes and dictates of his party. That is all. For that reason, to say that there should be a secrecy Clause, he is just like an ordinary citizen, he can vote for anybody, he can take money from anybody, I do not agree with that contention. I fully agree with the provisions of the Bill brought by the Government and I also agree with the point that is expressed by the Standing Committee and expressed by all the political leaders. I agree with them.

Sir, the second point is with regard to the removal of residency requirement of a candidate. My moot question: 'What is Rajya Sabha?' Is it a Chamber for the elders only? Is it a Chamber for the elite? Is it a Chamber for the celebrities or, is it a Chamber for the States? What was the intention of the Constitution makers? What did they intend to do? I am asking whether it is a Chamber to bring in unelectable persons to the Parliament. I do not think so.

Sir, the founding fathers of the Constitution wanted that the Council of States should serve the interests of the State and should safeguard the interests of the State at the Centre. The Rajya Sabha is to provide an opportunity to a resident Member of the State to concentrate on special needs peculiar to his State which require urgent attention. This is why there is Rajya Sabha and also a Member of Rajya Sabha must be able to understand his State's language and he should be familiar with its culture. That is what the founding fathers of the Constitution thought of. So, my point is, why should we remove the limitation of residency? Why should we do that? I am giving you a probable situation Take this example. the other day, we had a debate under Rule 193 on the Krishna Water Dispute between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Now, suppose a Kannadiga is elected to Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh and there is a debate on the Krishna Water Dispute, what will happen to his role? On whose side will he make his presentation? Naturally, this will create a lot of problem. It will happen. You take the example of the great matinee idol, Rajnikant, a great Tamil film star but basically he is a Kannadiga. So, what difficulty was he put to when there was a dispute on Cauvery between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu? He was put a lot of difficulties.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Ms. Jayalalitha also belongs to Karnataka. Ms. Jayalalitha, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was also born at mayday in Karnataka.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please avoid all these names.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not accusing. I am just saying that he was put to a lot of difficulties.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may not be accusing but it is better not to mention the names.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to name anybody here. There is an hon. Member of the Upper House who is elected from Karnataka but he comes from Andhra Pradesh. As rightly said by Shri Kharabela Swain, there is the dispute in sharing of krishna water between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. So, what the gentleman should do? I have great respect for him. That is a different matter. But still we have to think over this aspect.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, when we remove the limitation of residency, I think, it is an insult to a large number of capable people of a particular State. So, when we want to remove this clause, we should give a second thought to this aspect.

Sir, many times, the Government in power tries to bring in a very capable person through the Rajya Sabha route as to make him a Minister. Every Government wants to do that every Government has done that. I have got a very small suggestion here. This problem can be sorted out if we bring a small amendment to the Constitution. Why can we not provide 10 per cent reservation for outsiders in the Council of Ministers? In countries like the United States of America, all the Ministers are from outside. They are not from the House of Representatives or from the Senate. Somebody can say that there is a provision for outsiders to become Ministers with a stipulation that within six months from the date of becoming Ministers they have to get elected either to the Lok Sabha or to the Rajya Sabha. I am not talking about the stipulation. But if we provide for 10 per cent reservation in the Council of Ministers for outsiders by bringing an amendment to the Constitution, this problem can be sorted out and we need not bring in people from outside parliament through the Rajya Sabha route. It will not be required.

My next point is regarding the second Chamber. In some States we have the second Chamber. I think it is totally unnecessary. When we do not have the second Chamber in most of the States of our country, why should we have the second Chamber only in two or three States? It is not necessary. It is only an appendage and it leads to unnecessary spending of public money in those States. It also becomes an accommodation for disgruntled politicians. So, can we do away with the second Chamber system in those States?

Then, when the Rajya Sabha is not having any financial power, can the Prime Minister of this country be from the Rajya Sabha? The Members of Lok Sabha are being elected directly by the people. So, can we not make a provision that the Prime Minister of this country, who should represent the people of this country directly, should only be from the Lok Sabha and not from the Rajya Sabha? Why should anybody who cannot win an election from a Lok Sabha constituency, become the Prime Minister of the country? Why should he come through the back door? I am appealing to the hon. Minister to consider whether we can bring some amendment to the Constitution to this effect.

Finally, with regard to holding of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, as has been mentioned by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, personally I do not agree with that suggestion. My point is, when there is a simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, one issue will cloud over the other.

The State issues will specifically cover the national issues. For the fault of a MLA, an MP will get defeated. In the same election, if somebody is disgruntled with the MLA because he could not provide water, road or something else, then that person will also not vote for the MP candidate of the same party. He may vote if there is a separate election. So, I do not agree with that contention.

We are talking about expenditure. In a democracy, no amount of money is more valuable or indispensable than the directed election by the people.

Last but not least, with regard to the proxy voting, hon. Member, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, said: "Do not do it. Find out some other way so that the people in the Defence Forces can vote in their villages." How can they do it unless we have a system of proxy voting? We are having the postal voting system. You send the postal ballots to them. They send these back by post. Do these votes reach by the time when your elections are being held? We have been trying for the last 56 years. Is it possible? This is basically denying the right of voting to a very large percentage of people of our country. So, I suggest that proxy voting should be allowed. It is being allowed in many other countries of the world. Let us not deny the opportunity to the people who are sacrificing their lives for saving us—the Indians.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Sir, first of all I would like to thank both the Law Ministers, Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri P.C. Thomas for bringing this Bill. Both the Ministers are young and we can expect from them that they will bring the Bill keeping in view the present scenario. This Bill is in the interest of democracy as well as our society and also in the interest of the present political circumstances. This Bill would definitely create a conducive atmosphere in the country. With this hope I support and welcome this Bill.

Sir, this Bill would remove the difficulties being faced earlier. Ex-Prime Minister hon'ble Shri Gujaral had to live in a rented house in Bihar to become a member of Rajya Sabha. And to legalise it and for entering into Rajya Sabha he had to give an affidavit. Shri Mulayam Singh also said that for producing an affidavit he had to live there for six months. Now this legal procedure is being carried out and it will definitely help to sort out this problem. Besides the open voting system will also definitely enhance the dignity of our upper House. In England this House is known as House-of-Lords and in America as Senate and in our country open voting system is being introduced for upper House. If this system is implemented it would definitely enhance the dignity of the upper House, this not only in our country but in foreign countries also it would enhance our dignity. It is a welcome step. There should be an open voting system in Vidhan Sabha also because upper House is a place of dignity and it must be given respect. This Bill if passed would provide this respect. So I support this Bill. Member of Rajya Sabha will become eligible to contest the election from any part of the country and there will be no problem for it, it is a very good thing. It will prove a mile stone for the unity and integrity of the country. While welcoming and supporting this Bill I would like to say that after passing this Bill the dignity of Rajya Sabha will enhance not only in our country but in foreign countries also. Through this Bill we will be able to check the use of money power during elections. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Thanks a lot, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, on the other day when the hon. Minister moved the Election related laws amendment Bill, we whole-heartedly supported and move our pat and praise for bringing such an amendment and suggested that the must come with more and more electoral reform amendments. But today, we take a different stand.

As far as, we, the Tamilians, are concerned, we are known for our broad outlook and tolerance. To illustrate, I can cite a famous couplet:

"*Yadum Oorey Yavarum Kelir.*"

It means, every place is ours and every one is our own kith and kin. But our broad outlook could not agree with the issue of broadening the residential qualification in question.

On the other day, the hon. Law Minister, in his introductory speech, wanted to legalise and legitimise the practice in vogue; and brought the Bill it. It was all right. There we agreed. Today he wants to do away with the practice, which has been in existence for years and years. We the AIADMK, oppose this amendment in unequivocal terms, with tooth and nail. Our reasons are manifold.

Many of our friends, who spoke here have either supported it or opposed it and while opposing, they said that it has got radical changes, lot of ramifications and implications.

It is said that the object of bringing this Bill is to curtail money power and to prevent cross voting. It is all right to curtail the money power. I used to say that there are five powers in existence in this country. They are, money power, muscle power, mafia power, media power and ministerial power. The Minister proposes to control only the money power. What about other four Ms? Will he be able to control the other four powers? Is he not interested in curtailing or controlling such powers? This is my point.

Today, he has suggested a remedy to this. The remedy should not be dangerous than the disease. What he has suggested is not a remedy, but it is more dangerous than the disease.

Sir, according to me, and others also, the Upper House has got its own character, and feature. The fundamental character of the Upper House is lost by bringing this legalisation.

There are States and regions. As the Chair and others know, we are federal in character. Federal structure is going to be lost.

The imbalance among the States and the regions occur. In due course, regional imbalance will be there to a great extent. For example, a Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu is to be elected from somewhere else, from North-Eastern region—I am assuming it for the sake of argument—and he does not known anything about the language, culture, habit tradition etc. of North-Eastern region and he does not known about the problems of North-Eastern region, how can he represent North-Eastern region in the Rajya Sabha but hailing from different states. No purpose will be served by him.

There will be a conflict of interest between the state he belongs and the state from which elected. These are the days where the conflicts are too many. In such a situation, whether he will play here or play there. He will be nowhere. He will be a non-player.

Sir, this Bill will help in a way i.e. it will be a tool for patronizing somebody in the country, that too by the Party President who will be at Delhi. They can name somebody from one state to be elected from totally a different states, thus and they can patronize. To that extent the Bill will be useful but it will not serve the purpose. The National Commission to review the Constitution has said to many things about the amendment of the Constitution but they have never spoken about any of the aspects of the amendments now in question.

One more anomaly may happen. As per this amendment, the whole Rajya Sabha can be elected from the one State itself, for example, from Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh or from any other State. Members for 250 seats of the Rajya Sabha can be elected from one State, if one wants. Whether it happens or not but the law permits it. What will happen?

Finally, Sir, in Schedule IV of the Constitution they have given the list of Rajya Sabha Members for each state. By adopting this Bill that structure is going to be lost. Whatever the seats allotted for a particular State and the seats mentioned in Schedule IV will not occur there. It will have no relevance at all. What is the purpose of Schedule IV? The framers of our Constitution should have done it with due purpose and fore sight. These are my points to the issue of residential qualifications proposed here.

Now, I come to open ballot. As rightly said by some of our colleagues, this has betrayed the basis of democracy and the heart of democratic functioning. The voter should have a free choice. He should have secrecy. How can he afford to vote openly? The Election Commission is supposed to have a free and fair election. Can the Election Commission adopt one yardstick as far as the Lok Sabha and other elections are concerned and another for Rajya Sabha is concerned? Can it close its eyes, and asks them to vote in open, what will happen? How can they do so? The image of the Election Commission will be lost and its prestige will be undermined. Should we not think from a constitutional authority's viewpoint?

Then, as per the Bill, the election results are predictable. Who is to vote and whom etc. is already known. There is open voting. The elections are well set already and the results are already known. Where is the need for an election then.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next speaker.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Since you are looking at me several times, I will conclude now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you have taken more time than that was allotted to you. You conclude now.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: In fact I wanted to suggest a number of electoral reforms. While participating in the earlier Bill, I suggested that a comprehensive legislation, as far as the electoral reforms are concerned, is required. I have got a number of points on it.

Sir, if you permit, I will list them out, quickly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, you can speak about them when the next Bill comes.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Sir.

Instead of concentrating on relevant and substantial electoral reforms, an objectionable, inadequate Bill has been brought. Hence we totally oppose this Bill.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I start from where my friend, Shri Malaisamy has ended. I will come to the relevance of the Bill and the manner in which this is being discussed in Parliament.

Firstly I come to the open ballot which Shri Malaisamy has mentioned. Let us conceive a situation where we have an open ballot. Very recently, I think, two, three or four months back, an idea has also been floated to do away with any split. Now, one-third of a Party can split and maintain their group, maintain their membership. Just conceive that idea is accepted, the Constitution amendment is done and it becomes a law, then is there a necessity to have voting from Rajya Sabha? According to the position of respective political parties in different Legislative Assemblies when the leader of the political party determines these are my candidates according to the strength of that particular party they get elected. Where is the case for voting? What to speak to openness, there is no need for that. This occurs to my mind when I hear Shri Malaisamy saying that. Once that occurs, there is no need for voting at all...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If you permit me, I will mention it. I do not wish to interrupt you all. This voting would be required where the result would depend upon the second preference, etc....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I will come to the preferential vote because preferential vote goes along with your secret voting. Preference vote goes along with how you eliminate other Members by certain percentage of voting. I will come to that aspect. I do not know how much time I have but this is an important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have five minutes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I do not know how time is being divided. Sir, with your wisdom, you can also gauge the mood of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can accommodate one or two minutes here and there.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I will just give certain dates. The Election Commission convened an All-Party meeting in April, 2000. The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 2001; referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on 10th December, 2001; the Standing Committee on Home Affairs submitted its Report on 23rd July, 2002; Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on 8th April, 2003; and today, the 6th August, a famous day for the human race, we are discussing about the existence of bicameral system of Indian Parliamentary democracy. Why I say this is because after this amendment is effected, becomes a law, a question will arise, it has been arisen through different Members who have spoken today, is there a necessity to have a duplication of this House in this edifice? Is there a necessity to have another House just to supplement, just to accommodate, as has been mentioned here? I do not see there is any reason.

It has also been mentioned that when you are considering changes in the statue, it is true that changes must be dictated by considerations of public good. What is the public good here? It has been mentioned, 'to drive out money power'. I accept that. That is one of the valid reasons for public good but is this amendment actually driving out money power? Is it actually dissuading those forces which want to enter the Rajya Sabha by the back door? The change must be on the assumption that some evil which was not present in the minds of those who made the law in the first instance has manifested.

As I was going through different reports, I found that since 1952, around 2,000 people had got elected to the Rajya Sabha and out of them 45 to 50 persons had got elected from States other than those to which they belong. This give rise to another question to which I would come later but what is the lesson in it? What is the percentage of those persons who have gone to other States and got elected to the Upper House? This reminds me of two or three elections in our State.

In the 1950, we do not have an Upper Chamber in our Assembly. We did not have a Vidhan Parishad. We have only the Assembly. When the then leaders of Orissa thought that we should send someone who could speak for us in Delhi, the leadership of the State of Orissa during that time, in the 1950s, saw to it that he got elected to the Lok Sabha. If we want someone to get elected and to put forth our viewpoint in Delhi, the leaders should also have that much of confidence in them that they could get somebody elected to the Lok Sabha. Is it necessary to bring him from some other place as it was done in the 1980s when people from Kerala got elected from Orissa and come to Delhi, people from Delhi got elected from Orissa and people from Karnataka got elected from Orissa to Rajya Sabha?

There was a time when a party or a leader wanted somebody to be sent here to represent the State, he would get him elected by the people to the House of the People. It was not at all necessary to send him to the Rajya Sabha. Get the mandate from the people and show your capacity or capability; get him elected to the Lok Sabha. This was done in Orissa in the 1950s, in the first and the second general elections. It is still happening in many other States.

Coming to another aspect, a question occurs to me. As against the wisdom of Parliament in passing this law, we must put on the other side of the scale the wisdom of the entire Constituent assembly. I am requesting all hon. Members to do this. Of course, today the main Ruling party and the main Opposition party, and another vociferous Opposition party, have accepted this. As was mentioned letters were written and all party meetings were held. But as I represent a regional party, I have a different view. Many hon. Members of this House have reservations regarding this Bill. That is why I request you to be patient. I also request the hon. Deputy-Speaker to give some more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is that you decide the time in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I do not sit in the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, every party wants more time it is an unpleasant duty which I have to perform.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: This is an important (Amendment) Bill. It deals with the basic fabric of the Constitution, the basic of the Indian parliamentary democracy. I say this Bill is wrong as it affects the smaller States and it affects the regional parties' political endeavour.

The body politic of the Indian politics is changing very rapidly. This was not a case till 1980. It happened

after 1989. A little bit of history is also required when we deliberate on this Bill. How many Members flew to other States and got themselves elected till 1989? It was not much. It was only after 1989 when the total political fabric changed. The percentage of these types of Members getting elected to Rajya Sabha rose to ten per cent. This was not the case before that. It was hardly three per cent, as Shri Kuldip Nayyar wrote it in one of his columns. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs has also deliberated on this Bill. I went through that report, but I do not want to mention it here. They have gone through in detail. What is the amendment that is being effected? It is very simply stated.

The first is, in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for the words "in that State or territory" the words "in India" shall be substituted. By doing this, we are referring to the domicile status of a person. The domicile status of a person or the residential status of a person is essential for us, who get elected to Lok Sabha also. We have to mention it in the nomination form that this is our place of residence, this is our holding number.

Similarly, for Rajya Sabha, the only restriction is the territory, the State. Of course, the names of different countries have also been mentioned. Perhaps, we are getting too much influenced by the Constitution of the United States. Of course, of founding fathers of our Constitution also referred to the American Constitution, but they have deliberately mentioned that Rajya Sabha represents the 'Council of States'. So, by doing away with the territorial status, the residential status of that territory, are we not doing away with the basic structure of Rajya Sabha? 'Rajya' means 'State'. That basic structure is getting demolished. My request is that this should not be done.

I would now mention that a candidate who has filed a nomination and truthfully mentions his residential requirement of being domiciled in the State who can deny him? This gives rise to another question. In this country, if I belong to Cuttack and I want to go and stay in Ahmedabad, I have every right to do so. No law can restrict me saying, 'No, you were born in that place; you have to say there and you have to be confined to that State and you can only get elected from the State'. I can very well go and stay in Ernakulam. I can very well go and stay in Chennai. If the political party of that State thinks it fit to say 'Yes, you are the best person to get elected from Tamil Nadu', I will get their support and I will get myself elected to Rajya Sabha. But why all these things have come up?

I may be excused, as I did not hear what Shri Pawan Kumar, the first speaker mentioned. A number of other Members have also spoken before me. I just want to remind this House that I mentioned about 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 deliberately.

I do not know whether other hon. Members have spoken about Shri T.N. Seshan or not. It was he who interpreted the law according to his own dictionary. His interpretation was: "No, you cannot go there; you belong to this State". My humble question to the Government is—should we be guided by that interpretation and make a law? Is it becoming on our part that we should be guided by that wrong interpretation? Of course, a lot of litigation was there. But how many of them saw the light of the Day? If the onus lies with the leaders of the Party, if they can select a person from that State, why bring this legislation? This is my basic question relating to the territory or area. The second part is the influence of money. Of course, many things have been told about it. My humble suggestion would be that by legalising the residential status, you are legalising an illegal act and that should not be done. I may be excused; but this is mutilation of the Constitution, both in letter and in spirit.

The National Commission for Reviewing the Working of the Constitution have categorically stated—rather recommended I would say—that 'make a person eligible to contest the Rajya Sabha election from a State'. It should not be done away with. That is the recommendation. But we are not adhering to that recommendation. The Bill violates the basic structure of the Constitution.

I now come to the second aspect.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, you may kindly conclude now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, please give two minutes.

Another violation of the basic structure of the Constitution is the change in the spirit of the Fourth Schedule which lists the number of seats for each State in the Rajya Sabha. People from outside the State will also now fill these seats. An outsider can never be a true representative of the State.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

I was mentioning about Shri Seshan who looked beyond law and beyond the Constitution and proceeded on the basis of an assumption that he made that a person could not so change his residence as to become qualified to be elected from another State. The issue is—can we legitimise clearly that a person has the right of residence, right to establish residence for purpose of his occupation as well as for electoral purposes. That ought to be made very clear. The difficulties which were created by Shri Seshan should not the only guiding factor or guiding consideration for us.

When we speak of open votes, the preferential votes get diluted. The preferential vote is a complex one. It respects the minority vote and if you have an open vote, does it respect the minority vote? The concept of preference vote is to see that a Member is elected by process of elimination.

Therefore, though I fully agree that purity in electoral system should be maintained, but who is going to enforce it? It shows the incapacity of the leaders who do not have control over the MLAs. This Bill, practically, speaks about our leaders. They do not have faith in their elected Members. This shows to what depth we have fallen. That is why, I oppose this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been brought with a motive to facilitate big people only and is very much against the spirit of the constitution. In the study of law, there is a sum for exercise. Since the hon. Minister is a jurist himself. I am putting this question to him. It's a one line amendment— "to substitute India by that state or state area". It is a Bill to substitute India by state and Union territories. Sir, a jurist will give a constitutional reply only but you are the Judge. You have to give your own ruling. The name of Rajya Sabha is as it was before— 'Council of States. They have not changed its name in the Constitution as 'Desh Sabha' and 'Bharat Sabha. It is the same Council of State only. I would like to read out the three lines as mentioned in article 80 of the constitution about the constitution of Council of States:—

[English]

Clause (1) of Article 80 of the Constitution says:

"The Council of States shall consist of—

(b) not more than two hundred and thirty-eight representatives of the states and of the Union Territories."

Clause 2 says:

"The allocation of seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of the States..."

Clause 4 says:

"The representatives of each State in the Council of States..."

[Translation]

The word 'Composition of Council of States' is intact in the Constitution. According to Constitution, the Council of States shall consist of representatives of the states and of the Union Territories and will have a say in passing a Bill to make it a law. Now they are substituting it by Bharat. Till date Council of States is composed of both Council of States and Union Territories in the Constitution. But they are resorting to short-cut method. It means that they have not bothered to study Constitution atall. Rather they have presumed that their work would be over if they substitute 'State and Union Territory' by 'Bharat' in the Peoples Representation Act. Now it has to be seen whether this is in accordance with the Constitution. The Constitution is very clear about the Composition of Rajya Sabha.

I would like to cite an example. How would it sound if we call a Tamra Kalash made up of brass swarn kalash. The thing made up of brass would always be a tamra kalash not Swarn Kalash and a thing made up of gold would always be swarn kalash. In the same way the council of States is constituted by the representatives of both States and Union Territories. Article 80 states this in all is clauses. All these are there as they were before. Setting aside what has been provided, the hon. Minister has resorted to a short-cut method.

18.00 hrs.

An amendment has been brought to substitute 'in that State or State area' by 'in India'. If this was his intention he should have brought amendment first in article 80. It would have been an another constitutional amendment. But this Bill has been brought as a short-cut in the influence of big persons to make them happy and facilitate them. Hence it is against the spirit of the

constitution. Sir, earlier also these big persons used to impost as citizens and during the tenure of T.N. Seshan this section was complied with. T.N. Seshan had discovered some names but does a big person require to get his name registered? Let them be free from all formalities. Such a great disorder...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only two speakers are left.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, only two speakers are left to speak on this subject. It will take another 10-15 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please conclude this discussion today itself...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Let it be for tomorrow.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Now, only two speakers are left i.e. only a little is left. We would like it to be passed today itself...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know, tomorrow we have two constitution Amendments listed in the Business for the day.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now, voting will be conducted in it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: This Bill is very important. Let it be passed tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for further half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): We are tired. Everyday it is like that.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): It can be passed today if we sit for some more time. It is not going to take much time now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think only two Members are there, and the hon. Minister will take another 20 minutes or so.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, tomorrow we will meet exactly at 11 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will take just 20-25 minutes more.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will take half an hour. You kindly take it up tomorrow. This is an important Bill. So, you kindly take it up tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, you are going to support this tomorrow. O.K. tomorrow. Now the House adjourned to meet again at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 7 2003/Sravana 16, 1925 (Saka)

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