

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 16, 2005/Phalgun 25, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

11.00 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Laxman Kakadya Dumada.

Shri Laxman Kakadya Dumada was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977, representing Dahanu Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shri Dumada was a Member of the Committee on Estimates from 1975 to 1976.

An active social worker, Shri Dumada served on several welfare organisations in various capacities. He was the Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Posheri from 1959 to 1971. Shri Dumada was conferred with "Dalit Samaj Sewak Award" in 1977 and "Adivasi Samaj Seva Award" in 1986.

Shri Laxman Kakadya Dumada passed away on February 19, 2005 at Pali, Maharashtra, at the age of 80.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, till today it has been the tradition of the Lok

Sabha that photographs of the Members are taken the last day but this time these are going to be taken tomorrow.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would allow it after Question Hour. I would look into your notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Has the term of our Parliament expired or the term of the Government is over. What is this convention that the photographs will be taken tomorrow?...(Interruptions) Are you apprehensive about survival of the Government or you have no confidence in the House?...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one judge of the Supreme Court has created sensation all over the country by saying this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : After Question Hour please. I would allow you, if you have given a notice, after Question Hour. Every day, I am allowing issues to be raised. I thank you for your co-operation.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Doctor-Patient Ratio

*181. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the present doctor-patient ratio in India against the doctor-patient ratio in developed countries;
- (b) steps being taken to improve the situation;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to generate employment for doctors and paramedics during the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The doctor-patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient care required viz. indoor/out door. No statistics are being compiled about doctor-patient ratio. However, as per the figures obtained from the Medical Council of India, the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1 : 1722.

In addition to the 6,39,729 allopathic doctors registered as on 28.2.2005, about 6,94,712 Medical Practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy are registered as on 1.1.2003. Taken together, the Doctor-Population ratio comes to more than 128 per lac population (1 : 781). In addition, there are 229 Medical Colleges with annual intake of 25,682 students. The doctor population ratio is not comparable to the developed countries. However, according to Medical Council of India, there are sufficient number of doctors to take care of services all over the country including rural areas.

The National Health Policy inter alia envisages increased access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions through increased investments. It aims at increasing the Health Sector expenditure from 5.2% to 6% of GDP with the Government contribution increasing from present 0.9% to 2% by 2010. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) also envisages increased Public investment in the health sector. Increased investments in the Health Sector would naturally result in creation of additional job opportunities for medical, paramedical as well as technical personnel.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not clear to me, as there is no mention about the doctor-population ratio in rural India and in urban India. Moreover, I would like to know what is the target fixed by the WHO in regard to doctor-population ratio. In several countries, the ratio has increased. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has any plan to increase the doctor-patient ratio and what is the thinking of the Government in this regard.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, as given in the answer, there is about one doctor for 1,732 people.

That is for the modern allopathic doctors.

Coming to the Indian system of medicine doctors, the ratio comes to 1 : 781. Today there are approximately 6,30,000 modern medicine doctors, approximately 6,90,000 Indian

system of medicine doctors. Coming to dentists, we have sufficient doctors as a developing country. But, Sir, the problem is that the doctors are not going to rural areas. We have sufficient doctors in the country. Every year we are producing about 26,000 modern system doctors and 27,000 Indian system of medicine doctors and 13,000 dentists. So, we have a whole lot of doctors coming out of all these medical schools and dental schools every year.

But the issue here, the hon. Member is right, the doctors are not much prevalent in the rural areas. We are trying to work out some mechanism whereby the doctors could go to the rural areas. Here the subject pertains to the State Government. From the Central Government's point of view, we may take some decision in the coming years or coming months whereby we could make it mandatory for doctors to work there before getting their graduation certificate or, maybe, before they get the post-graduation certificate. We can make it mandatory for doctors to serve in the rural areas which we are discussing at this point of time.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, I want to know whether, for increasing the number of doctors as required in the country, there is any plan to increase the number of students in the medical colleges especially the newly sanctioned medical colleges—SSK Medical College, Kolkata or Midnapore Medical College and other medical colleges. Secondly, there are lots and lots of doctors who have no degree, who have no medical qualification; in spite of that they are practitioners in the local areas. I want to know whether the Government is contemplating to bring them into the system of medical practitioners or not.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, in India, today there are 229 medical colleges and 189 dental colleges. Out of these 229 medical colleges, 125 are from the Government sector and 104 from the private sector. Just six States—Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat account for 143 medical colleges out of these 229 medical colleges. The other States have to come up; the Governments of other States have to build their resources and have to increase the number of their medical colleges and produce more doctors, especially the EAD States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Union Government will help them out in this matter also.

MR. SPEAKER : But you say more doctors do not mean they go to the rural areas. This is the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the

hon'ble Minister has just now accepted that its ratio is 1 : 1722. The doctors completing their studies from medical colleges do not practice in rural areas and it is also very difficult to produce so many doctors to serve there. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he proposes to implement the concept of barefoot doctors in the country like the experiment made in China during Mao's era where concept of barefoot doctors was introduced. At the time, some of the persons in every Panchayat itself were given medical training for 3-4 months and so that they are able to meet the medical requirements of poor and common people at the village level? Thus it will also provide employment to lakhs of people in rural areas. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what will be the alternative if the doctors being produced by medical colleges never go to rural areas and serve there?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you contemplating about these barefoot doctors?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the Government of India does not recognise the so-called barefoot doctors or any degree other than the MCI-recognised courses. Some States like Assam have started a three-year course in the medical curriculum. But we do not recognise that also.

Sir, the hon. Member is talking of the concept of training for doctors for three or six months. We have ANM, Auxillary Nurse Midwives at the sub-centres who undergo training for one or two years. Doctors cannot be trained for three to six months or even one or two years because they save lives and are responsible for the lives of the patients. So, they have to undergo a complete training.

There was a concept of barefoot doctors in the sixties and seventies, but there were a lot of other issues. The barefoot doctors started practising the regular medicine and then, the issue of quackery came up. Of course, about the previous question, I would say that we have a law—Drugs and Magic Remedies Act—under which the State Governments have been asked to take steps against the quacks.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has admitted that there is paucity of medical colleges in northern states of the country. I can say this from my own experience that the process of setting up Government hospitals in remote and far-flung areas has slowed down. The hon'ble Minister, himself is accepting that by 2010 five

percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be spent on health sector. Presently it is even less than one percent. I would like to know about the steps being taken by the Government to increase the share of health sector and to set up new medical colleges in backward states. The Government of India is not doing anything regarding its announcement to set up PGI type medical colleges in backward states especially in Uttaranchal and Bihar. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to set up Central Medical colleges in the said backward States under its health scheme.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, we are already going ahead with six new AIIMS-like projects in these under-served States and the Finance Minister has allocated a part of the budget towards this provision, whereby there are going to be under-graduate, post-graduate and super-speciality courses in these six new AIIMS-like institutes. The Government is committed to increase the public spending on health from current 0.9 per cent to minimum two per cent in the next five years.

Sir, as I said earlier, in this year's allocation for the Health Department, there is an unprecedented increase of 31 per cent over that of the last year, which has not been done at all in the history. This shows the commitment of the Government and the hon. Prime Minister for health care of people especially in rural areas and under-served regions.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to submit that I do not agree with the statement of the Minister that doctors are not ready to serve in villages. I have witnessed in my State that the newly trained doctors are ready to serve in remote and inaccessible areas on contract basis and they have also been sent there. It is not that they do not intend to serve there. I would like to submit that there are very few gynaecologists in the country particularly in district hospitals. I would like to know about the steps being taken by the hon'ble Minister in this regard?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, even though this is a State issue that the State Government has to appoint doctors and make them go to rural areas, nevertheless, the Government of India is trying to take some policy decisions also to make them go and work there, as I said earlier about compulsory training. There are different issues also on this

aspect, like doctors are just asked to go to serve in the rural areas without any infrastructure for them to stay and education of their children and other things. That also has to be taken into notice while framing these legislations and laws. Now, we are going through Rural Health Mission....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This habit has to be given up.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the Prime Minister will shortly launch the Rural Health Mission. I think, issues on that are coming up in the third question. In that, we are trying to induct doctors on contract basis and we will try to go in for short-term anaesthesia courses for MBBS doctors whereby they could get more anaesthetists into the system. We are trying to take up these things.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister has correctly pointed out that doctors are not willing to work in the rural areas, and that it is desirable that rural service be made mandatory for graduates, and post graduates. At the same time, I would like to say that the doctors who are working in the rural areas, and are in the Government service should be encouraged.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : In most of the States, there is special quota for the service doctors in the entrance examination to the post-graduate courses. But they are forced to write the entrance examination, and secure 50 per cent marks due to certain regulations put forward by the Medical Council of India.

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not the matter before us.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Sir, I am coming to the question.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot elaborate your question. Please put your question.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Sir, it is difficult for a doctor, who is working in the rural service, to qualify with 50 per cent marks in such entrance examinations. Hence, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Will he consider special provisions for the doctors who are working in the Government service, and rural service? Will they be exempted from writing the entrance examination? Will special grace marks be given to those doctors who are working in the Government service, and rural service?

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. You have put your question.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Will the hon. Minister consider the

concept of family doctor, which is already implemented in the ESI Scheme?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, different States have different legislation regarding the Government service doctors. Some States have a provision whereby after going to the Government service, a doctor has to work compulsorily for three years in rural areas, and then only he can apply or become eligible for post-graduation. In certain States some post-graduate institutions are reserved for rural trained Government service doctors. Hence, it depends on the States to make legislation on the quota for the Government service doctors.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Sir, I did not get a reply with regard to the issue of family medicine.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, family medicine is a concept that is gaining popularity around the world. In India, through the National Board of Examination, we are starting the family medicine courses whereby our doctors know their subjects in-depth, and this concept is more close to the community-level facilities. This is a concept, which we are trying to develop.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Sir, we are trying for the welfare of the poor people, and many sweet announcements are made on the floor of this august House, namely, the poor rural people should get the medical services, etc. But as far as my State is concerned, most of the public health centres, and dispensaries are going without doctors.

MR. SPEAKER : Those are State run institutions. Why are you asking about it here to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : No, Sir. I am coming to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do it.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Sir, I may be excused. I am coming to my question. Is the Government going to enhance seats in the three Government Medical Colleges, namely, S C B Medical College, M K C P Medical College, and Veer Surendra Sai Medical College to overcome this alarming situation. Is the Government going to accord permission to any private person or any other organisation to open new medical colleges in my State? Is the Government of India going to provide mobile services to the rural people?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Panda, you have travelled a long way from the actual question, which was on the doctor-patient ratio.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the State of Orissa comes under the low parameters of health indices in the country. I agree with the hon. Member that the crude birth and death rates in Orissa are some of the highest in the country. The State of Orissa does not have much of an infrastructure to deal with it. They have only three Government Medical Colleges, and one Dental College. They need more of these colleges, and they need to produce more doctors also.

The Government of India sanctions a college if they have the requisite criterion irrespective of it being a private or a Government one. If they have it, then we will be happy to sanction more of these colleges in Orissa.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Sir, the situation in my State of Orissa is really alarming....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not do it. There are 30 hon. Members who want to put their supplementaries on this question. If this is the situation, then I shall not reach the second question today. So, please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Thank you very much, Sir. In India, apart from Allopathy, we have other systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy, etc.

There is a Department of Ayurveda in the Ministry of Health. My question is this. Will the hon. Minister consider encouraging these Indian systems of medicines, and provide alternative system of medicines in rural areas in view of the reluctance being shown by many of the MBBS doctors to serve in the rural areas?

MR. SPEAKER : This is the same question that he has already answered.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri C. Kuppusami has put a very valid question. The Indian system of medicines is our own system, and it needs to be propagated. The Government of India is actively doing that not only in India but also across the world. In the coming Rural Health Mission, we are also planning to have a doctor of Indian system of medicines inclusive of the modern medical doctor, at a PHC level. Maybe at one point of time, there will be two doctors—one from modern medical, and another from Indian system of medicines. We are planning on that.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Sir, normally newly qualified doctors do not want to serve in rural areas. We have large number of homeopathic and Ayurvedic doctors in the

country. I would like to know whether the Government propose to avail their services in rural areas.

Sir, in 1977 a health scheme was launched at the Gram Panchayat level for the public health. That scheme provided health care facilities to the common people at the Gram panchayat level. I would like to know whether the Government propose to revive the said scheme.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : He has come back to the same question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I have already answered this in the last question. Hon. Member has asked about the Indian system of medicines. We have about 431 colleges of Indian systems of medicines, and homeopathy in the country. They are producing roughly about 27,000 doctors in a year. In total, there are about 6.9 lakh doctors of Indian and traditional systems in the country. Most of these doctors are already serving in the rural areas. We need to encourage them more. In fact, in the CGHS also, we are starting more of these dispensaries to propagate this Indian system.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : From the answers, we understand that there is a problem of inefficient and insufficient doctors in the country. We see reports in newspapers every day that new medical colleges are being run. There is insufficient number of patients. When the Medical Council people come to inspect them, they bring coolies there, dress them and put them as fake patients. As a result, the medical colleges are being treated very badly. We came to know that the Medical Council has got power, and it is an autonomous body. Is there any view in the Ministry to take out the power, and the autonomous status of the Medical Council? Is it going to help?

MR. SPEAKER : Take them out is a very popular demand. I do not know whether they can concede that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Personally, I would like to contradict the hon. Member when he said, inefficient and insufficient doctors. I, being a doctor, strongly contradict this. All doctors in the country are efficient. They undergo five and a half years' training. Definitely, all the doctors are efficient. In fact we have sufficient number of doctors in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already taken nearly 25 minutes on one question. No more questions.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Coming to the Medical Council of India, we are proposing an amendment in the

Medical Council Bill, which will shortly be brought into the Parliament. It has gone through the process, and it has been approved by the Parliament. We will be bringing it up in the Parliament, and then we can debate on that.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 182—Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan—not present.

Convention on Tobacco Control

*183. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is a signatory to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, ratified by 40 member nations and it is to come into force from February 25, 2005;

(b) if so, whether under this convention India is bound to make anti-tobacco consumption measures more stringent including prominent display of statutory warning both on the product pack and sale point; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) negotiated under the aegis of the World Health Organization has come into force from 27th February, 2005. India is a signatory to this Convention and has already translated some of the important provisions of FCTC into its domestic law by legislating "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" in May, 2003.

The said legislation includes Total ban on direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products; prohibition on sponsorship of sports and cultural events which encourage tobacco use; ban on smoking in public places; ban on sale of tobacco products to minors; ban on sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions; provision of specified health warnings and mandatory pictorial depiction of warnings like skull and cross bones and such others for the benefit of illiterate persons; and clear indication of nicotine and tar contents on packets and cartons of all tobacco products. The rules framed under this legislation

have made it mandatory the display of health warnings at the point-of-sale of tobacco products, containing either "Tobacco causes Cancer" or "Tobacco Kills". This warning is required to be displayed prominently within a stipulated limit of size of the board and area of coverage.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, let there be order in the House because this is a very important Hour.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : The Government had admitted that it is spending more on healthcare, on tobacco-related diseases than its revenue generated through excise duty on tobacco. If so, will the Government consider banning cigarettes in phases so that the tobacco growers gradually switch over to other crops?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the issue of tobacco consumption in India is a very serious issue according to health concerns. In the days to come, as per WHO findings, around 40 per cent of all the health issues are going to be tobacco-related. I would now give approximate figures just to show the ratio between the industry and the health issues. In the country, today, the tobacco industry that includes marketing, manufacture, sale, advertisement and the Government revenues is worth approximately Rs. 30,000 crore to Rs. 35,000 crore a year. The amount that the Government, the private sector and the common man are spending on tobacco-related issues, which includes health issues, the social issues, treatment part, prevention, loss of productive years, active smoking, passive smoking, all these put together, comes to approximately Rs. 35,000 crore.

Therefore, we need to take a very serious view on that. I myself being an environmentalist, I had participated in anti-smoking campaigns. I have done it for the last ten years. I have been doing this as an environmentalist. This issue has wider ramifications and social implications involving farmers and all other sectors. Today, in Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, we do not have a provision for banning any tobacco products. We have to bring in an amendment, and the Central Government is trying to bring that before the Parliament.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : I would like to know whether the Government is seized of the fact that multinational cigarette companies use surrogate advertising to sponsor sports events, polo and golf and also promoting sports wear and designer garments under the logo of its cigarette brand.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : After the enactment of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, which

was enforced in May last year, the Government had brought in a number of legislations prohibiting smoking in public places, put a ban on direct or indirect sale of tobacco products to minors, and also there is a ban on the sale of tobacco products within hundred yards of an educational institution.

Regarding the advertisement part of it, there is a Steering Committee in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary which goes through these surrogate advertisements. Nevertheless, the Health Ministry is also in the process of forming a Steering Committee to specially look into the issue of surrogate advertisements, which are happening; for example, the Formula 1 Racing.

Regarding other surrogate advertisements, we are taking action whenever the matter was brought to our notice. Even if the issue comes up in the newspapers, the Government is taking action, and the States have the Enforcement Officers to do that.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, you will be allowed to put the supplementary if you go to your seat; you have to occupy the seat allotted to you. You have to choose between your supplementary and your seat.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Tobacco is mixed in gutka at large scale in the country. Recently some Gutka barons have been arrested. I would like to know the number of such gutka barons and the name of the gutka barons who have been arrested. Today tobacco mixed gutka is available in variety of brand names at every paan hockers. I would like to know whether any step is being taken by the Government to impose complete ban on it.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The issue relating to Gutka is one of the biggest issues today.

Sir, initially, the Supreme Court has said that the State Governments are entitled to ban sale and manufacture of tobacco under the PFA Act only for a short term. Then, subsequently, they said that only the Central Government has the legislation to ban gutka products, the States do not have any legislation under the PFA Act. They could ban only for a short period. Incidentally, when the Tobacco Act was formed, there were a number of tobacco products brought into the Scheduled list of Tobacco Act, like, cigarettes, bidis and gutka. The Supreme Court has said that tobacco products, including gutka, should be delinked from the PFA Act. Only

the issue of magnesium carbonate could be brought under the PFA Act. They could be asked to remove that substance. So, currently, to ban a gutka product, we have to go and make an amendment in the Tobacco Act according to the Supreme Court. The legal advice is being sought from the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : I had requested to mention their names, please tell their name.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : That does not come under my Ministry's purview. It is the Home Ministry.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, as the hon. Minister himself has said, smoking is not just bad for health, it is also bad economics. It is because you lose much more than what you gain in the form of taxes or even employment or farmers' benefits. It also uses the best land in the country. It is a water guzzler. The growing of tobacco is responsible for cutting most of the wood clandestinely because you need it to burn tobacco in oasts. Shrimati Madhavaraj asked a very interesting question to which I would like to get a clear answer. If we believe that it is bad in all these aspects itself, and as you said, it has social implications, it has farmers' implications, is it not possible to issue a phasing-out notice now, or let us say, in perhaps four years or five years? All the countries in Europe and America do this with medicines or chemicals where they announce a four-year phase out or five-year phase out. It gives people time to change. Is there anything on the anvil?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, personally I would like to do it. But, as I said, there are wider ramifications of that. Sir, like I said earlier, tobacco industry is today worth about Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 35,000 crore. Out of that, only a small amount goes to the farmers; the major profit is done by select companies. Sir, the Indian farmers, there will be a social issue if we ban tobacco today. But, there are alternative crops for the farmers, like, medicinal plants.

Today, the Indian medicinal plant industry is a very fast growing industry. Currently it is only two per cent of the world market whereas China's market is 16 per cent. But, we have right climatic and environmental conditions to grow medicinal plants. The experts say that, in the next 40 to 50 years, medicinal plant industry is going to be a trillion-dollar industry.

We have a huge potential. The farmers could be asked to take to the medicinal plants, which does not require much water and much pesticides. The Government is actively trying to promote this medicinal plants.

MR. SPEAKER : I have some proposal in my Constituency, will you support it?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I will support it.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a pointed reply from the Minister of Health. I would like to know whether the Ministry has done any research into *kendu* leaves and whether *kendu* leaves damage the human body as tobacco does. It is because *kendu* leaves, in my State of Orissa, hold tremendous economic importance—labour potential—and they affect the day-to-day lives of many tribal and non-tribal population in major parts of my Constituency and the Western Orissa. So, I would like to know the answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, this is a Report on Tobacco Control in India. I showed it last time also. There are a lot of health as well as social issues involved in the growing of tobacco leaves where the hands are affected, they have the health problems and all that. I would give this to the hon. Member later.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Sir, I could not get my reply. My question is this. Has the Ministry done any research into the damages of *kendu* leaves not to the pluckers or to the farmers? It is not a farming thing. It is a wild tree.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I will give it to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : He will give you. If you are not satisfied, then you can ask him.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Sir, the statutory warning printed on the cigarette packets and shown in the advertisements has almost become a farce. What could be done in this regard? The statutory warning, which says 'Smoking is injurious to Health', is printed in such tiny letters that it cannot even be seen sometimes. Can the ill effects of smoking be better advertised so that the real thrust of the point comes to the minds of the people who smoke? The statutory warning that is printed now is totally devoid of any real merit. Can something be thought about in this regard? I would like to know as to what the Government can do in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Can you control advertisements?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir. Out of six legislations, four are already enacted. Like I said earlier, they are mostly related to advertisements in public places and institutions. The fifth enactment is on pictorial warnings on cigarette packets and packets of other tobacco products like Gutka and Bidis. We are trying to work on the pictorial advertisements on tobacco products. We are trying to get the best pictorial representations in the world in order to deter the smokers. We are trying different pictures like a smoker getting cancer, a lung cancer patient, etc. In the coming few months we will bring out this enactment whereby it will become mandatory to the tobacco products to have pictorial warnings covering a minimum of 50 per cent of the space on the packet of a tobacco product.

MR. SPEAKER : Like 'skull and crossbones'.

National Rural Health Mission

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*184. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government has approved the ambitious National Rural Health Mission as a comprehensive rural health care programme to provide integrated health care services to the people especially to the rural poor;

(b) if so, the main aims and objectives of the above programme;

(c) the details of the plan prepared by the Government to achieve the goal;

(d) whether the Government is considering to provide adequate health care facilities to the people in hilly and tribal areas of the North-eastern Region;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide medical facilities, treatment and medicines free of cost to BPL families;

(f) if so, the details of the funds earmarked/ released for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan, so far State-wise;

(g) whether the Government proposes to seek external financial assistance to undertake the Mission; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the National Rural Health Mission as a comprehensive rural health care programme to provide integrated health care services to the people, especially to the rural poor. The Government aims to launch a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) throughout the country in the next financial year to improve healthcare delivery, to fulfill the mandate of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The 18 States, including 8 EAG States (U.P., M.P., Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh), 8 North Eastern States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura), Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, shall be covered for focused interventions.

(b) The Mission aims to undertake architectural correction of the Health System to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). It seeks to address inter-State and intra-district disparity, especially among the 18 high focus States, including unmet needs for public health infrastructure. It aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health, like Sanitation & Hygiene, Nutrition and Safe Drinking Water, through a decentralized District Plan for Health. Above all, it seeks to improve access of rural people, especially poor women and children, to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary healthcare.

(c) The key components of the Mission include provision of a female Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in each village; Village Health Plan prepared through a local team headed by the panchayat representative; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care made measurable through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), and accountable to the community; and integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary healthcare.

(d) Yes, Sir. 8 States in the North Eastern region viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura are among the 18 States selected for focused attention under the NRHM.

(e) The States have been asked to prepare State Action Plans reflecting unmet needs for the Health Sector for

funding under NRHM. Proposals for free medical care to BPL families would be funded under NRHM, as reflected in State Action Plans.

(f) No funds have been released under NRHM during the 10th FYP, since it is a new activity, which has been recently sanctioned. State-wise allocations are under finalization.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The negotiations are on with the World Bank for credit support of Rs. 1575 crores and for Grants-in-Aid support from Department for International Development (DFID) for Rs. 2125 crores for Reproductive and Child Health Programme (2005-10), with the objective to supplement the resources for NRHM.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the Government has taken up this most ambitious programme. Respected Rashtrapatiiji has also assured the nation in his Presidential Address that spending on public health would be increased from the present level of 0.9 per cent of GDP to at least 2 per cent of GDP. However, this is not reflected in the present Budget. The increase is only about Rs. 1,800 crore. The Government has not yet made any announcement as to how much money would be spent on this Mission. I think it will require thousands of crores of rupees and it is yet to be reflected in the present Budget.

If we go by the decision on the Cabinet, the entire spending will be made through credit support from the World Bank, that is about Rs. 1,575 crore, and other international source like DFID which is about Rs. 2,125 crore. The Government will mostly depend on the credit support. How is it that the Government has announced that the Mission will start from the 1st of April, 2005 without making any financial allocation, or by mostly depending on the international sources of credit support? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is sincere about this ambitious programme. If so, what is the total expenditure and how does the Government propose to meet this expenditure?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Firstly, I would like to mention to the hon. Member that the UPA Government is committed to the National Common Minimum Programme. We are going about it in a very serious manner committed ourselves to it. We have announced a lot of things in the Common Minimum Programme and they are already going on.

Regarding spending on health, like I said earlier, it has

seen an unprecedented increase over the last year's budget. No Government has done this so far. This UPA Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister has done it. This is our commitment towards that. Our further commitment is that in the next five years the ratio of allocation on public health in the GDP should be a minimum of two per cent. We will definitely achieve that target also and you will come to know of that.

Regarding the Rural Health Mission, this year we will be spending approximately 6,500 crore rupees. It is not like we just put the money into the scheme and forget about that. We need to ensure accountability and we need a platform to put up this programme. This programme is going to spill over a period of seven years covering both 10th and 11th Financial Years and maybe after that also. So, we need a platform. There are a lot of programmes earlier in which money was put but we do not know where the money went, who was accountable and whom it reached.

We need a platform whereby the programme can be put in. Spade work will be done in this year, and in the subsequent year, we will be investing a lot on infrastructure. In fact, we have planned to invest more than Rs. 15,000 crore on infrastructure building in all the primary level sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres. We are going to do it in the days to come.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The Ministry has not assured from where will they get money. My question was very simple. When they are going for an ambitious mission, from where will they get money? Will the Minister make a categorical announcement on this aspect?

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the Finance Minister today!

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The Ministry aims to undertake attitudinal correction in the health system. Totally from the primary level, CGHS and public health centres, they will undertake infrastructure first and then will appoint a health worker in the village level also. But there is no mention about training. How much money will be required for this programme? From 1st April, Ministry is going to announce and start this Mission. What is the real programme? Is it just an announcement of the Government or is the Government sincere on this?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding from where the money will come, the Finance Minister will answer that question. You kindly put this question to the hon. Finance Minister.

Regarding the Health Mission, there is no point in building infrastructure just like that. Even today the State Government have not filled up posts of doctors, para-medics, etc. Just building infrastructure will not serve the purpose. We need to go in a planned way to achieve the target. The Rural Health Mission focuses mainly the district as a unit and then going down to the Panchayat and village level. In every village, we are considering to put in a Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). She is going to be the centre of the Rural Health Mission, and we are going to put ASHA in all the villages. In these mostly 18 States where ASHA is going to be trained initially, I would like to say that there is going to be a proper training and they have all the parameters, namely, as to how she is going to be trained, as to what is the amount for their training, as to what would be her training capacity; and as to where she is going to be linked. She is going to be trained in such a manner that she will be taking care of the immunization of her children, taking care of anti-natal check-up, delivery and post-delivery check-up. In fact, she will be taking care of educating the village people and as to how a community latrine or household latrine could be built. She will be promoting the use of condoms by taking it to the village women. She is going to do a lot of things. She is going to be linked to the village headman, the Self-Help Groups, ANMs of the sub-centres and health centres. There are a lot of programmes.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : First of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister for launching this Mission. This Mission covers 18 districts. including eight North-Eastern States. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that I come from the Vidarbha region, which belongs to the Maharashtra State, and it is dominated by tribal and SC and ST people. Why has this region not been covered under this Mission? Are you going to cover this region or not?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The Rural Health Mission covers the entire country. We are focusing on the 18 States because they come under the lower parameters of the health industry taken together the EAG States and North-East States, including Jammu and Kashmir. So, we are concentrating on those States. But the Rural Health Mission covers the entire country.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : First, I want to congratulate the Government for thinking about this Mission. I have gone through the programmes that are being mentioned under the Rural Health Mission. Is it going to be incorporated with the Panchayati Raj institutions? We have seen a number of programmes which were parallel to the Panchayati Raj system. Very often, we come across diversion of funds outside the

Panchayati Raj system. In the planning of the Rural Health Mission, are we going to integrate the Mission with the Panchayati Raj system across the country?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : This programme is integrated with a lot of programmes under different Ministries like Rural Development, Panchayati Raj. Under this concept of ASHA also, she has to be selected by the Panchayat people in the villages. There has to be a direct link between the Panchayat headman and also the sub-centres in the Rural Health Mission. We are planning to give about Rs. 10,000 to each sub-centres, which will be jointly manned by Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and the Panchayat headmen. This is totally a primary programme which is going to be linked to the Panchayati Raj system.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (c) of the question the hon'ble Minister has stated that Social Health Activist will be appointed in every Panchayat. Prior to this several rural health schemes have also been launched by the Central Government. Under the programme public health guides were appointed who used to get a monthly honorarium of Rs. 50. Lakhs and crores of rupees were spent by the Government on their training. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether those trained persons would be engaged in this rural health scheme mission or not? Recently under the foreign aided programme midwife training was given to women to ensure their important role in rural health programme. I would like to know whether those trained midwives will also be associated in this programme as crores of rupees were spent by the Government on their training? When a new programme is launched, initiative is taken to train new persons for the new programme and millions-billions of rupees are spent on that. I would like to know whether all those persons who were trained earlier would be associated with this programme or not?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the basic 'ASHA' concept is that she should have studied up to a minimum of 8th Standard. In some cases, we could even exempt that. She will be appointed by the village Headman, village Panchayat, including the Self-Help Groups and the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) put together. She should be daughter-in-law of the village and she should live in the village. Any existing trained women personnel will also be employed into this. If they are found eligible, they will be taken into the programme. We are going to take them into the programme. So, anybody who is eligible for that, we will definitely absorb

them into the programme, including all the ANMs. Today, we have roughly, Sir, 500,000 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) in the country. They are already into the programme. Definitely, we will take them.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that the Government should not again spend crores of rupees for providing training to new persons under this programme. While launching the programme the Government should issue specific order stating that such and such categories of people who were trained in the past are presently jobless and whose capabilities are not being utilised...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only the Prime Minister can give him the order. I cannot.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In this programme, 'ASHA' is not going to be paid by the Government. Initially, we were going to give her remuneration of just Rs. 100. According to the function and work she does, she will be paid. If she takes the women for anti-natal check-up, she will be paid a little amount. She will earn according to the work she does. It is not like that we are going to pay her anything.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a similar question. What I have understood in the matter, I feel that the national Rural Health Mission is a mission linked with voluntary activities. I would like to know whether the Government propose to provide employment oriented responsibility to Non Governmental Organisations, Self Help Groups and Health Guides at the village level under the National Rural Health Mission?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. You have put your question. Are you considering NGOs?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Not only the NGOs, even the private sector are going to be co-opted into this programme. We have a lot of schemes for the NGOs as well. We have high-level discussion with the NGOs, the State Governments and the private sector.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Sir. The problem is not only with money. Though money is an important factor, yet the rural infrastructure and manpower are really a problem up to date. There are shortages of sub-centres, particularly in the backward, hilly and tribal areas. Sir, there is a shortage of male and female health workers. These persons are trained. You cannot deploy umpteen number of persons. However, it is an ambitious Mission.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, I know that a new system is going to be introduced. But, I want to know from the Minister whether there is any concrete and comprehensive proposal with the Ministry to fill up the gap of sub-centres in the backward and tribal areas by providing trained male and female health workers to fill up this gap till date.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Today, we have roughly about 145,000 sub-centres around the country. This caters to the population of 3000 to 5000—3000 in the hilly regions and 5000 in the plains in different regions. In some areas, we need more sub-centres. But, we are facing a lot of problem with the existing sub-centres at the State level.

In respect of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), the Central Government is paying salaries whereby in the case of male health workers, the State Government pays their salary. Today, there are less than 40 per cent male health workers present all over the country because the State Government does not pay their salary or does not recruit new male health workers. We have to take a comprehensive view of this. In fact, we are discussing within ourselves as to how we could give a little extra budgetary allocation for this....(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : The real problem is of the male health workers. It is the responsibility of the State Government....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has knowledge of your problem and he will discuss it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Sir, part 'd' of the question pertains to hill and tribal areas....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you in your seat? Sorry, you are not in your seat. You can go to your seat and put the question.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : All right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for your cooperation.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : I am also thankful to you for permitting me this extra time.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not done something extraordinary. I am only requesting. It is there in the rules, in the guidelines and in the Handbook, which was breached.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : I apologise for not being in my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. We are on a learning process.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Part 'd' of the question pertains to the hilly and tribal areas. Apart from the fact that all over India and probably more so in the hilly areas, there is acute shortage of doctors and medicines. The situation is pathetic particularly in the case of lady doctors. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that this norm of population and distance is almost totally irrelevant in the hills. You have just mentioned the figure of population of 3000 for a sub-centre. In Uttaranchal, the primary health centres can no more be opened as per the population norm. the quota is full, with the result, that people have to walk in terms of time almost a day before they reach a primary health centre. So, unless you are going to take care of this aspect in all the programmes, nothing is going to happen on the ground. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that such a restriction is creating lots of problem particularly in the mountainous area. If he is aware of this, what is he doing about it?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I agree with the hon. Member on this issue. In the hill areas and, in fact, even in the desert areas of Rajasthan also, we have vast geographical locations whereby the population is spread over a huge area and we do not have sub-centres. The Government is also planning to increase the number of sub-centres in the next few years. In fact, we have planned to increase more than 21,983 sub-centres all across the country, as per the population in Census 2001. We are going according to that survey. In fact, in the Rural Health Mission, essential medicines are going to be supplied through the ASHA, ANMs, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. Today, medicines are available under the National Programmes, for malaria, TB and so on....(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : I would like to know whether he is considering to change the population norm and the distance norm.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : There is no point in changing the population norm. We could increase the facilities. That is what we are doing.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : How will you increase it if I am not entitled as per the norm prescribed?

*[Translation]***BSNL Mobile Phone Subscribers**

*185. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of subscribers of mobile phone of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the country till now;

(b) whether all the applicants are being provided with mobile connections immediately as per demand;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor including the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The number of mobile phone subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country as on 28.02.2005 is 88,46,477.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) BSNL's Mobile services have been well received by the public due to wide coverage, transparency in operations and good quality of service. As a result, in most of the states, the capacities have been fully utilized. BSNL is expanding the cellular network by 12 million lines capacity during 2005. The connections are expected to be available on demand in near future subject to technical feasibility.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all aware of the outcome of the information revolution and we all know that large number of mobile connections are subscribed every month in the country. I would not like to go in detail about all these things, however, in reply to my question, hon'ble Minister has told that people prefer Mobile service and are subscribing new connections. Despite that there is a waiting list for mobile connections.

First of all I would like to know the state-wise waiting list. Secondly, whether transparency is being maintained

regarding clearing the waiting list or not. I know that there is a waiting list in every state. How will the waiting list be cleared? I feel that no policy has been formulated by the Ministry in this regard. I would like to know as to what measures have been taken statewise to clear the waiting lists.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your point. Not much time is left now.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : I know that. That is why, I am saying so.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. You are a very cooperative Member.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Sir, the most important point is about the BSNL employees. The Minister should tell us about them.

MR. SPEAKER : You are a very disciplined Member.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I had proposed that. There is some thing wrong. We will talk and ponder in this regard.

[English]

Nothing will be done without consultation. Please answer the question.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : It is a fact that BSNL is the most sought-after service by the people of India. It has got the respect and trust from the people of India. Sir, we have not officially made any waiting list throughout the country. But, we received complaints from States like Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, etc., that the sim cards are being sold in the black markets, and there is congestion in services.

Sir, the Department is aware of it, and we are going to roll out 12 million lines. The process will start in the month of May. Sir, I can assure the House that in six months' time, BSNL mobile phones will be available on demand.

MR. SPEAKER : Would it be six months from today?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The services should be without any interruptions.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got the good answer.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : I want that a policy should be formulated to clear the waiting list for mobile connections. My second question is whether the hon'ble Minister is aware that the number of landline telephone subscribers is dwindling? If so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : The hon. Member is very right. The demand for landline phones in urban areas is on the decline. The reason, Sir, is again because the people are opting for mobile phones, which they feel are much more comfortable to them.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGAWAR : Their services are not proper.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : The hon. Member should allow me to complete my answer. Sir, we also realise that we should encourage people to use landline phones. Sir, we have started the broadband services in which the customers can use landline, and simultaneously use the same line through broadband for internet services. Sir, we are trying to retain the landline.

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Jitin Prasada—not present.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : For a number of years, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was kept away from mobile services. Only recently, mobile services have been provided to Jammu and Kashmir. Still, there is a long waiting list of demands, and services are not available. Prepaid sim cards are not made available. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether further investment in technology is going to be made, whether prepaid sim cards are going to be provided, and the waiting list is going to be removed.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, I have already answered the question. I can also add to this. Sir, we are planning to provide 160 million telephone lines in the next three years, and BSNL will be taking approximately 50 per cent of that. I assure the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER : Including Jammu and Kashmir? I have got your answer.

Shrimati Neeta Pateriya. Is she here? Please, put your question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through

you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the district wise number of prepaid and post paid SIM provided this year in Madhya Pradesh. I would also like to know whether a target to provide only two hundred SIM in my district has been fixed? I would also like to know whether the Government propose to fix a quota for Members for providing SIM card to subscribers? If so, what will be that quota?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, we are not planning to give any quota to any Member. But I can assure the hon. Members that from the month of May, we are rolling out. In six months time, all the demand related issues would be answered.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Hike in Rural Telephone Rates

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

(a) whether telephone rates and security charges in the rural areas are now at a par with the urban areas due to recent hike in the telephone tariff;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider the proposals and reduce the registration fees, telephone call charges and telephone rent in rural areas in the country and restore the earlier position in this regard;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring improvement in telephone services in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :

(a) No, Sir. So far as the telephone rates for rural areas are concerned, rental are lower and free calls are higher than urban areas.

Security deposit for new connections has now been simplified with effect from 17.5.2004. A comparative statement in this regard is placed in the enclosed Statement-I. These

rates will apply upto 31.3.2005. There is no change in Security deposit of the existing subscribers.

(b) Registration fees, Telephone call charges and Telephone rent in rural areas of the country have not been hiked. Therefore, the question to reconsider and reduce these charges does not arise.

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

(e) Number of measures have been taken by Government/BSNL in phased manner to improve the services in Rural areas. The details are as per enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Comparison of Security Deposit

Exchange Capacity	Security Deposit up to 16.5.2004				Security Deposit from 17.5.2004		
	Rural		Urban		Both for Rural & Urban		
	Rental Per Month	Security Deposit	Rental Per Month	Security Deposit	Local + 95	Local + STD	Local + STD + ISD
<1000 Lines	50	600	120	1440	1000	2000	3000
≥1000 Lines <30000 Lines	110	1320	120	1440	1000	2000	3000
≥30000 Lines <100000 Lines	150	1800	180	2160	1000	2000	3000
100000 Lines & above	210	2520	250	3000	1000	2000	3000

Salient Features of revised Security Deposit

1. No additional Security deposit is recoverable from the existing subscribers.
2. Revision applies only to new connections taken during 17.5.2004 to 31.3.2005.
3. The Security deposit of Rs. 1000/- is prescribed for making local calls & all calls on 95 level covering whole circle/state.
4. Majority of rural subscribers are not required to pay the security deposit of Rs. 2000/- or Rs. 3000/- valid for STD & ISD calls.

Statement-II

The Following Steps are taken by Government/BSNL in Phased Manner to Improve the Services in Rural Areas :

(a) Step Taken by Government :

- (i) It has been planned for umbrella coverage of Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) by Wireless Local Loop (WLL) technology.

- (ii) It has been planned to provide Satellite Based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remote inaccessible and hilly areas of the country.
- (iii) It has been planned to open New Telephone Exchange where the registered demand is more than 75 in a radius of 2.5 Kms.
- (iv) It has been planned to extend coverage of the existing telephone exchanges in rural areas up to a radius of 5 Kms.
- (v) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has made a further plan to provide Rural community Phones (RCPs) in villages, having population more than 2000.
- (vi) The Government is committed to provide access to all people for Basic Telecom Services at affordable and reasonable prices.
- (vii) The Government seeks to achieve the objective to provide voice and low speech data services.
- (viii) All Multi Access Radio Relay System (MARRS)

VPTs have been planned to be replaced by reliable technology.

- (ix) All 256 Port Exchanges are to be converted into Single Based Module (SBM).
- (x) The present SBM Exchanges will be converted into Remote Switching Units (RSUs).
- (xi) The budgetary provisions of Rs. 300 crore and Rs. 200 crore allocated to USO fund for the financial year 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively have been disbursed.
- (xii) In addition, Rs. 1200 crore allotted for the current financial year 2004-2005 have been disbursed.
- (xiii) There are as on date 66,822 villages without Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the country, excluding villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. The work of provision of VPTs in these remaining villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. The work of provision of VPTs in these remaining villages on satellite media or otherwise have been awarded to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) by the office of administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. The work is targeted to be completed within three years in phased manner i.e. by November, 2007.
- (xiv) BSNL has finalised tender for Satellite based VPTs as well as WLL equipment in order to cover all the villages. Advance purchase orders have been released by BSNL for supply of Satellite based Village Public Telephones as well as for WLL equipment in order to cover the most of the villages in hill states, with subsidy from USO Fund.

(b) Steps Taken by BSNL :

- (i) Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.
- (ii) Replacement of Under ground paper core cables by other systems in phased manner.
- (iii) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based

centralised fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC).

- (iv) Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/ media on daily basis.
- (v) Conversion of C-DOT 256 port exchanges in to AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (vi) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back up power supplies.
- (vii) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments workign in rural areas including Fixed Wireless Telephones (FWTs) and provision of AMC in new supplies.
- (viii) Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and stadby time.
- (ix) Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300 V.

[Translation]

Combating Malaria and Cholera

*186. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether prevalence of diseases like cholera and malaria is indicative of failure of the Public Health Care System and lack of prompt attention by the Government to contain them;

(b) whether compensation is to be paid to the victims of cholera and malaria; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to save the public from fatal diseases which are the outcome of the failure of the Public Health Care System?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Diseases like cholera and malaria are linked to maintenance of environmental hygiene, sanitation, consumption of safe good and drinking water. Data as furnished by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence and Directorate of National Vector Borne

Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) indicate that the number of cholera cases has been fluctuating from 3455 in 2002, 2893 in 2003 & 4695 in 2004, while the incidence of malaria cases has declined from 3.04 million cases in 1996 to 1.87 million cases in 2003.

Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases like cholera etc. through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and environmental hygiene are some of the causes of water borne diseases. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme is implemented by the Central Government which provides technical guidance and commodity assistance to the State Governments for prevention and control of major vector borne diseases including Malaria. Under this programme, 100% central assistance is provided to the North Eastern States including Sikkim. The assistance is provided in the form of commodity and cash. In addition, 100% central assistance is also provided under Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance which was launched in the eight problematic States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. The strategies for control of Malaria include providing anti-malarial drugs for early treatment through health facilities and community volunteers and integrated vector control which includes indoor residual spray in high risk pockets of the rural areas and larvicides in urban areas, use of bednets, environmental measures, capacity building, information, education and communication.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories through various National Health Programmes and by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including cholera. Technical support to improve the quality of drinking water is

also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi. The Government has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to further strengthen the disease surveillance system in order to ensure early detection and rapid response to arrest spread of diseases. In this manner, it is expected to control the incidence of diseases.

III Effect of Cell Phones on Health

*187. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding ill effects of cell phone on health as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated Januray 24, 2005;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued suitable directions to all cell phone manufacturers in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to propagate the ill effects of excessive use of cell phone instruments on the health of the user; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :
(a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), World Health Organisation (WHO) is conducting research to identify links between use of mobile phone and its effects. However, according to the published literature of WHO and other agencies, there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effect of use of mobile phones on human beings.

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

Import of Blood

*188. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Government imports blood;

(b) If so, the details of the countries and the quantum of blood imported from each country during the last three years;

(c) whether the blood imported from some countries was found to be infected;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents; and

(f) the annual requirement of blood in the country and the extent to which it is met with indigenous supply and import?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (f) 1. There is no import of Blood into the country. However, Blood Products derived from Human Plasma are imported from countries like USA, UK, Finland, Austria, Germany, Korea, Switzerland, China, Hungary, Israel, Italy etc. A statement on blood products imported from various countries during the last three years is enclosed. Currently there is no manufacturer of Blood Products in the country, therefore, the blood products mainly Immunoglobulins, Human Albumin and Anti hemophilic factor are imported into the country.

2. Based on media reports, investigations conducted by Drugs Controller General (India) revealed that 22 vials of Vigam-S 5g (Human Normal Immunoglobulin) Batch No. VGC 085 manufactured by M/s Bio Products Laboratory, U.K. was imported in India from a blood donor in U.K. who later

developed variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (vCJD). M/s Bio Products Laboratory, U.K. exported this consignment to M/s Genexx Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, in 1997. The manufacturing date of the said lot was July, 1997, and expiry date August, 1999.

3. As per information available from WHO, there is no credible instance of transmission of vCJD through blood products. The Government has not received any reported incidence of vCJD through blood products in the country so far.

4. Further, in order to prevent any occurrence of infection through imported blood products, provisions have been made in Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules there under, which provide for registration of the manufacturing site and the products prior to import. Before registration, the product dossiers are examined by the experts. Samples of each batch of the drug are tested at National Institute of Biologicals, NOIDA, for freedom from HIV 1 & 2, HbsAg and HCV before releasing the consignment. The summary protocols of every lot of the drug is examined by the port officers before importing the drug.

5. The annual requirement of blood in the country is around 6 million units which is entirely met from voluntary and replacement donors in the country and no blood is imported.

Statement

Blood Product Import during last three years

Sl.No.	Country	Name of the Product	Quantum	Value (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Austria	Human Serum Albumin	282239 vials	422331300
		Human Tetanus Immunoglobulin	10038 vials	1859494
		Tissell Kit	4493 vials	17972000
		Human Normal Immunoglobulin	7600 vials	24440624
		Human Anti-D Immunoglobulin	31010 vials	62020004
		Anti Hemophilic Factors VIII & IX	50195 vials	65117076
2.	China	Human Normal Immunoglobulin	31000 vials	34897586
3.	Finland	Human Serum Albumin	49286 vials	46303078
4.	Germany	Human Serum Albumin	17385 vials	23893137
		Human Normal Immunoglobulin	3773 vials	30942669

1	2	3	4	5
		Anti Hemophilic Factor VIII	723 vials	771967
		Human Rabbis Immunoglobulin	1000 vials	1380099
5.	Hungary	Immune Serum Globulin Bulk Products (supplied in Kgs)	1200 Kgs	49345148
6.	Italy	Human Serum Albumin	8300 vials	6732256
		Tetanus Immunoglobulin Bulk	184.68 Kgs	133607148
		Anti-D Polyclonal	26.96 vials	51718234
7.	Israel	Human Serum Albumin	6000 vials	5607080
		Human Anti-D Immunoglobulin	30600 vials	21577197
8.	Korea	Human Normal Immunoglobulin	8124 vials	10572086
9.	Russia	Human Anti-D Immunoglobulin Monoclonal	76000000 mcg	65071908
10.	UK	Human Serum Albumin	99407 vials	122696268
		Human Normal Immunoglobulin	1920 vials	8454953
		Anti Hemophilic Factors VIII	3820 vials	6586460
11.	USA	Human Serum Albumin	36386 vials	38842326
		Human Anti-D Immunoglobulin	77335 vials	79559597

[English]

Refund of Fee by Cellular Operators

*189. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has asked all the cellular operators in the country to refund the fee charged from users on their migration to other cellular service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the direction issued by TRAI has been adhered to by the cellular operators in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) :
(a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had notified 4th Amendment of Telecommunication Tariff Order

(TTO), 1999 on 28.7.1999 prohibiting service providers from levying a charge when a subscriber moves from one tariff package to another. Under the provisions of this Amendment Order "Installation charges shall be imposed by any service provider only when a customer subscribes initially to the packages offered by the service provider. No installation charge shall be imposed when a subscriber moves from one package to another offered by a particular service provider". However, it may be noted that these Orders will not be applicable when a subscriber moves from one service provider to another service provider.

TRAI is empowered and has been monitoring the compliance of these Orders by service providers through tariff reports and consumer feedback. The authority has issued Orders/Directives whenever any instance of migration fee being levied by the service provider had come to its notice. So far, the Authority has issued Refund Orders in 6 cases as per details given below :

- (i) Directive dated 15.3.01 to all service providers directing them to delete statement in all the documents providing for charging of migration fee and WPC charges and to refund to the

subscribers any such amount if charged since the implementation of TTO (4th Amendment) i.e. 1st May 1999.

- (ii) Order dated 1.1.2004 to Idea Cellular Ltd.
- (iii) Order dated 1.1.2004 to Bharti Cellular Ltd.
- (iv) Order dated 1.1.2004 to Reliance Infocomm.
- (v) Directive dated 26.10.2004 to Idea Cellular Ltd.
- (vi) Directive dated 26.10.2004 to Bharti Cellular Ltd.

(c) and (d) The service providers have complied with the Refund Orders/Directives issued by the Authority and the refund process is completed in cases (i) to (v) above. As regards (vi) above, Bharti Cellular Ltd. had refunded the migration fee levied to 98% of the subscribers and is in the process of providing the refund to the remaining 2% of the affected subscribers who had left the Airtel network. In the case of these subscribers the Authority on 18.2.2005 has further directed M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. to issue advertisement in newspapers offering the refund to them and giving them one month time to claim the refund from the date of advertisement. The service provider has given advertisement in several newspapers on 24.2.2005 asking the remaining subscribers to claim refunds.

The service providers have generally adopted the following modus operandi for making the refunds :

- (i) In the case of active subscribers the refund was made by crediting the amount of refund to the customers account by way of necessary adjustment i.e. as talk time for prepaid customers and as adjustment in bill for the next billing cycle in the case of post paid customers.
- (ii) In the case of de-activated customers the amount was refunded by way of issuing cheque to the individual customers.

Extension of Services

*190. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to grant fixed term to specific posts of Secretaries to the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these Secretaries are also eligible for extension of age up to 62 years and then upto 64 years;

(d) if so, the details of persons so given extension, category-wise till date alongwith the criteria laid down for the same;

(e) whether any alleged irregularity in such extension of service is pending before the Central Vigilance Commission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the decision promulgated by the Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (d) Government has been receiving suggestions to grant fixed term in certain posts of Secretaries to Government of India. No decision has been taken in this regard.

Under Rule 56(d) of the Fundamental Rules (FR), specialists in medical and scientific fields are eligible for extension upto 62 years and, eminent scientists of international stature upto 64 years. A Secretary covered under the aforesaid categories can also be considered for appropriate extension.

Under the F.R. 56(d), during the last three years, the following Secretary level officers were granted extension in service ranging from 62 to 64 years of age :

Dr. Manju Sharma, the then Secretary, Department of Bio-Technology, Prof. V.S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Dr., R.A. Mashelkar, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the then Secretary, Department of Space, Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Shri G. Madhavan Nair, Secretary, Department of Space and Dr. H.K. Gupta, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Patenting of Traditional Herbal Plants

*191. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that even our

traditional herbal plants used as medicines for jaundice like 'Keezha nelli' herbal juice are being patented by pharmas of developed countries;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take remedial measures to protect our traditional right;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to promote these traditional medicines as there is a great increase in the cost of life-saving drugs in the patent regime;

(d) whether any special drive is proposed to be launched to encourage our traditional system of medicine like Ayurveda and Siddha; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) The Medicinal usage of the plant 'Keezha Nelli', an Indian Medicinal Plant, also known as 'Bhumyamalaki' for jaundice has been patented, as per the information derived after searching the data bases of United States Patent and Trade Mark Office (USPTO), European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO) and world wide.

(b) In order to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge relating to medicinal plant, Government is implementing a project called 'Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)'. Under the scheme, the traditional knowledge about the medicinal plants as described in the ancient literature is being transcribed in the five international languages, namely, English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish in digital format so that the traditional knowledge with a non-disclosure agreement could be accessed and verified by the international patent offices at the time of scrutinizing and rejecting the patent applications.

(c) The Government is committed to promote and propagate the traditional systems of medicine i.e. Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani, nationally and internationally, considering their popularity, time tested efficacy and global resurgence of interest in the use of natural/plant based medicines. Considering the rich biodiversity and a vast documented scientific literature of traditional systems of medicine, India has the potential to assert its relative strength and advantage to deal with the rest of the world in the patent regime which is likely to increase the cost of patented drugs.

(d) and (e) A number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented to promote the traditional systems of medicines i.e. Ayurveda, Siddha and

Unani. The schemes for which financial assistance is granted include development of educational institutions; intra and extra mural research; cultivation of medicinal plants; strengthening of pharmacopoeial laboratories; preparation of pharmacopoeias and formularies; incentives for quality control laboratories; publication of text books and manuscripts; international exchange programme; holding of national and international conferences, participation in national and international events; hospitals and dispensaries, drugs quality control, etc.

Illegal Recruitment Agencies

*192. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN :

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to send Indian Officers abroad to study the working condition of Indian migrant labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether migrant labourers are ill treated in foreign countries;

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

(e) whether the Government has a proposal to set up Human Resource Development Export Council;

(f) if so, the details and the anticipated time frame for the same;

(g) whether a number of complaints regarding illegal recruitment agencies have been received by the Government;

(h) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints during each of the last three years and till date; and

(i) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) The working conditions of Indian migrant labourers overseas have been under continuous study. They would be reviewed further at a conference of welfare offices and ambassadors in the Gulf Region being convened shortly.

Government is aware of ill treatment of migrant labourers in many cases. The steps taken and under consideration include :

1. Interventions in individual cases by through our Embassies and local community organisations;
2. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the concerned countries to enable Government authorities on both sides to intervene in cases of extreme hardship; and
3. Suggestion to provide legal aid to migrant workers.

(e) and (f) The Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 included a provision to set up a Central Manpower Export promotion Council. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha. Other options are now under consideration.

(g) to (i) Government has also been receiving complaints against illegal recruitment agencies. During 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (till 11.03.2005), 49, 25, 39 and 7 complaints respectively have been filed with the State Police authorities. Permission for prosecution has been granted in 40, 11, 9 and 4 cases respectively.

National Dedicated Freight rail Corridor

*193. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for National Dedicated Freight Rail Corridor under the National Maritime Policy;

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

(c) whether any decision has been taken in regard to construction and operation of the corridor by Private Operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds likely to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Setting up of National Dedicated Freight Rail Corridor from Northern Indian hinterland to Southern India which would be linked with the various ports is envisaged in the draft policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport). The draft policy further envisages that the corridor

would be operated in the private sector and would have its own rolling stock, locomotives, signaling system, stations etc. but will follow the standards laid down by the Railways.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The policy is at draft stage and would need the approval of the competent authority before the corridor is operationalised.

New Telecom Policy

*194. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication is working on a fresh telecom policy in order to provide 250 million telephones by 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allow the Cellular Operators in rural and semi urban areas to share Universal Service Obligation Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) After the announcement of the New Telecom Policy, 1999, the Telecom sector in India has witnessed accelerated growth in tele-density and changes in technology. The teledensity target of 7.0 has been met one year ahead of schedule. It has now been decided to provide 200-250 million telephones by the year 2007. The Government has, in October, 2004, announced its Broadband Policy.

The Department has also asked all Public Sector Operators and Private Sector Operators to prepare a detailed plan of action for their respective companies in view of target of 250 million Telephones by the year 2007.

(c) and (d) There is at present no decision to allow Cellular Operators in semi urban areas to share Universal Service Obligation Fund.

[Translation]

Demand for Waiving Off Central Debt

*195. SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the States have unanimously

demanded during the discussion with the Planning Commission over the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan to waive off Central debt;

(b) if so, the State-wise, loan amount-wise and interest amount-wise details of the Central debt outstanding against each State;

(c) whether several States are not satisfied with the annual plan allocation approved by the Planning Commission for the financial year 2004-2005 and they had strongly sought for raising the plan allocation;

(d) if not, the annual plan proposed by the State Government vis-a-vis the amount approved by the Planning Commission alongwith State-wise and annual plan-wise details thereof;

(e) whether several States had demanded for allocation of funds to implement populist policies which was not accepted by the Planning Commission;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether many States had demanded for increasing the annual plan allocation on the basis of their excellent economic management and good performance;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether some States have requested for special assistance; and

(j) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Several States had represented to the Planning Commission regarding waiver of Central debt and the Planning Commission had supported initiatives for debt relief while inter-acting with the Twelfth Finance Commission. The recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission for reduction of the interest rate and rescheduling Central loans to States and related measures will be implemented and it is estimated that this will provide relief to the extent of Rs. 33204.56 crores to them from 2005 to 2010.

(b) Loan amount-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-I. Interest amount-wise details are not available.

(c) to (h) Annual Plan outlays of States have been mutually agreed upon and approved by the Planning Commission for 2004-2005 keeping in mind the resources

available with the State and Central governments and the special needs of States. Approved Plan outlays are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(i) and (j) Special Plan assistance sanctioned to States is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Amounts Outstandings as on 01.03.2005 against States for Loans provided by Ministry of Finance

(Rupees in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Balance of loans as on 01.03.2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15842.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	461.12
3.	Assam	2441.11
4.	Bihar	9361.18
5.	Chhattisgarh	2217.44
6.	Goa	717.94
7.	Gujarat	11102.64
8.	Haryana	2215.96
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1061.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2340.79
11.	Jharkhand	2766.34
12.	Karnataka	8615.26
13.	Kerala	4756.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8546.50
15.	Maharashtra	8415.37
16.	Manipur	1436.42
17.	Meghalaya	366.61
18.	Mizoram	323.93
19.	Nagaland	375.12
20.	Orissa	8914.16
21.	Punjab	7350.57

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	7258.42
23.	Sikkim	221.10
24.	Tamil Nadu	6416.51
25.	Tripura	515.59
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24259.98
27.	Uttaranchal	365.94
28.	West Bengal	15673.63
Total		154339.25

Statement-II*Approved Plan Outlays for Annual Plan 2004-05*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	States	Approved Outlay
1	2	3

A. Special Category States

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	760.35
2.	Assam	2101.55
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1400.38
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	3008.03
5.	Manipur	787.72
6.	Meghalaya	716.34
7.	Mizoram	616.52
8.	Nagaland	538.79
9.	Sikkim	491.07
10.	Tripura	700.27
11.	Uttaranchal	1810.40
Total (A)		12920.02

B. Non-Special Category States

12.	Andhra Pradesh	12790.42
13.	Bihar	4000.00
14.	Chattisgarh	3322.46

1	2	3
15.	Goa	883.33
16.	Gujarat	8518.21
17.	Haryana	2305.71
18.	Jharkhand	4110.19
19.	Karnataka	12322.91
20.	Kerala	4852.03
21.	Madhya Pradesh	6709.96
22.	Maharashtra	9446.73
23.	Orissa	2500.00
24.	Punjab	3479.80
25.	Rajasthan	6797.50
26.	Tamil Nadu	8001.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9661.51
28.	West Bengal	5019.61
Total (B)		104721.37
Total (A+B)		117726.27

Statement-III*Special Plan Assistance sanctioned to States*

(Rupees crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount sanctioned
1.	Assam	240.00
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	645.77
3.	Himachal Pradesh	578.76
4.	Manipur	250.00
5.	Uttaranchal	750.49

Manufacture of Herbal Medicines

*196. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken comprehensive study of herbs found in forests of the country with the objective of manufacturing medicines therefrom;

(b) if so, the States in the country where small and big units have been set up for manufacturing medicines from these herbs; and

(c) the details of units set up in public as well as private sector and the efforts being made by the Government to promote them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) A large number of medicinal plants found in forests are used as raw material for production of medicines. A 'Demand Study for Selected Medicinal Plants' was commissioned by Government through the Centre for Research, Planning and Action (CERPA), New Delhi, which estimated the requirement of 198054.71 tonnes of medicinal plant based raw materials costing Rs. 1099.18 crore for the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) There are approximately 9257 licensed Pharmacies of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy in different parts of the country including 40 pharmacies in the public/cooperative sector, which are engaged in manufacture of the medicines. The State/UT wise details as on 1.4.2003 are as follows :

Andhra Pradesh	694
Assam	40
Bihar	262
Chhattisgarh	49
Delhi	89
Goa	6
Gujarat	699
Haryana	375
Himachal Pradesh	72
Jammu and Kashmir	9
Karnataka	260
Kerala	800
Madhya Pradesh	452
Maharashtra	718
Meghalaya	1

Orissa	233
Punjab	149
Rajasthan	366
Sikkim	2
Tamil Nadu	854
Uttar Pradesh	2268
Uttaranchal	79
West Bengal	693
Chandigarh	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16
Daman and Diu	18
Pondicherry	58
Total	9257

The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme under which financial assistance is extended to strengthen the Government/public sector pharmacies of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy. The scheme also provides for financial incentives to private manufacturing units to strengthen the inhouse quality control section/drug testing laboratories and to meet the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

Resources In Tenth Five Year Plan

*197. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made any suggestions to the Government to meet the shortage of resources while making estimates for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government has made efforts to mobilize domestic and foreign capital to meet the expenditure to be incurred on various heads under the Tenth Five Year plan;

(c) if so, the percentage of expenditure to be met with the domestic and foreign capital during the Tenth Five Year plan separately;

(d) whether any annual review is conducted at the

Government level to offset the estimates made during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) If so, the percentage of work completed during the preceding years of the Tenth Five Year Plan along with the estimates made for the remaining years of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) At the commencement of each Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission examines trends in resources and makes projections of available resources for financing an estimated Plan size. Such an exercise was carried out for the Tenth Five Year Plan also. The Tenth Plan Document outlined various measures for improving resource mobilization. The document, which has been placed in the Parliament, inter alia, stressed the need for improved tax enforcement, removal of exemptions, increase in the coverage of service tax, introduction of VAT, controlling subsidies and raising user charges.

(b) The efforts made by government to raise resources from domestic and external sources are detailed in the Annual Budgets approved by Parliament. These resources cover both non-Plan expenditure as well as Gross Budgetary Support to the Plan.

(c) Gross Budgetary Support by the Centre for the Plan comprises budgetary support from domestic sources and net inflow from abroad covering external aid (i.e. loans and grants). Gross Budgetary Support by the Centre for the Tenth Plan was projected at Rs. 706000 crores at 2001-02 prices. Of this, Rs. 27200 crores (3.9%) were expected to come from external aid. During the first three years of the Tenth Plan net external aid from abroad (at comparable prices) has been Rs. (-) 9678 crores which is (-) 2.8% of the Gross Budgetary Support by the Centre for the Plan. Sharp decline in net external aid has been mainly on account of the decision of the Government to effect premature repayment of high cost external loan(s) during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(d) and (e) Resources raised to fund Annual Plans are assessed while preparing the Central budget and indicated along with outlays accordingly. Gross budgetary support provided during the first three years of the Tenth Plan and support envisaged for 2005-06 in relation to the Tenth Plan projections are given in enclosed Statement. A special purpose vehicle has also been announced with a borrowing limit of Rs. 10,000 crores for 2005-06 to mobilize domestic and foreign exchange resources to finance infrastructure projects.

Statement

Gross budgetary support by the Centre during Tenth Plan

(Projected, BE and realized) (Figures in Rs. crores at current prices)						
Sl.No.	Year	Projected	BE	Actual/RE	% BE to Projected	% Actual RE to Projected
1.	2002-03	113500	113500	111470	100.00	98.2
2.	2003-04	134985	120974	122280	89.6	90.6
3.	2004-05	159993	145590	137387 (RE)	91.0	85.9
4.	2005-06	189892	172500*		90.8	
5.	2006-07	231073				

*Includes loans to the extent of Rs. 29003.22 crores to be raised directly by States/UTs for financing their Annual Plan.

(English)

Non-Availability of Drugs

*198. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the non-

availability of a number of drugs in the country including sleeping pills and essential drugs for different types of patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Reports were recently received regarding some shortages of Psychotropic drugs in the country. The shortage of the drugs was mainly because of the unwillingness of the wholesalers and retailers of drugs in maintaining consignment note in Form 6 as required under Rule 67 of the NDPS Act and Rules, 1985.

Under Rule 67 of NDPS Act, 1985, the consignor and the consignee were required to maintain a consignment note in Form 6 for transportation of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs. However, this condition was kept in abeyance by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministry of Health by the circular No. 664/39/86/OPIUM dated 29.5.1986. Accordingly, the consignment note was not being maintained by drugs wholesalers and retailers. Recently, however, the concerned authorities of the Narcotic Control Bureau started insisting on the maintenance of such note by the wholesalers and retailers. consequently, the traders boycotted the stocking of NDPS drugs because of which there was a temporary shortage of these drugs in the market.

Since a large number of representations were received from all over the country, the Ministry of Finance in consultation with Ministries of Home and Health have issued notification No. GSR 104(E) dated 25.2.2005 wherein the requirement of maintaining consignment note in Form 6 as required under Rule 67 of NDPS Act and Rules has been amended to read as "Provided that consignment note in Form 6 shall not apply in cases where the sale of the Psychotropic Substance is accompanied by a sale bill or invoice or cash memo or any other document duly signed by the consignor or his authorized signatory, which shall include the following information about the consignment :

- (a) name, address and license number of the consignor and the consignee;
- (b) description, batch number and quantity;
- (c) mode and particulars of transport;

Provided further that such document shall be preserved by consignor and consignee for a period of two years for inspection by the officers referred to in sub-rule (4) above.

Explanation : Where the consignee is a research institution, registered medical practitioner, hospital or dispensary, the requirement of incorporating license number of consignee shall not be applicable."

In view of the above notification, the main grievance of

the traders has been removed and the drugs will be available freely and there should not be any shortage in the near future for such drugs.

[Translation]

Drug Suppliers' Strike

*199. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the drug suppliers of CGHS dispensaries hold strikes due to non-payment on time by the Government for the drugs supplied by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the annual amount allocated by the Government under this head for the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase this allocation in view of the hike in drug prices, continuous increase in the number of CGHS beneficiaries/dispensaries etc;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to remove inconvenience to the beneficiaries due to the strikes of the drug suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (f) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi had stopped the supply of indented medicines during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005. The matter has been resolved and the Authorised local chemists have since resumed the supply of local purchase indent medicines with effect from 1.3.2005. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local Chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to permit the beneficiaries to

purchase the non-available medicines in the dispensary from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from their respective offices in case of serving employees and from CGHS Directorate in case of the pensioner cardholders.

The Authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi had gone on strike on four occasions in the last two years during the period :

- (i) 1.11.2002 to 15.1.2003
- (ii) 1.3.2003 to 5.3.2003
- (iii) 8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004
- (iv) 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

The allocation of funds during the last three years in respect of CGHS under the Sub-Head Supplies and Material from which payment is made to the Authorised Local Chemists is as under :

Financial Year	(Rupees in Crore)			
	Non-Plan		Plan	
	BE Stage	RE Stage	BE Stage	RE Stage
2001-2002	117.50	160.88	4.15	5.80
2002-2003	118.50	178.25	6.18	6.86
2003-2004	126.50	212.77	7.34	10.68

From the above figures, it can be seen that during the last three years, there has been increase in the budget allocation for supply of local purchase indent medicines through the Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS.

Encroachment of Land by Neighbouring Countries

*200. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of those neighbouring countries who have encroached upon certain portions of our territory and since when these are under their occupation;

(b) whether Pakistan has given some parts of the Indian land to China after its encroachment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the area of land freed from the encroachment of the neighbouring countries as on date;

(e) whether the attention of the international organisations has been drawn to this matter; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (f) India has outstanding boundary issues to be resolved with Pakistan and China. Pakistan has been in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq kms of Indian Territory.

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. km. in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called "Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963", Pakistan illegally ceded 5180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

China also illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. km. of Indian Territory in the eastern Sector of India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

India and Pakistan are committed under the Shimla Agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore Declaration to resolve outstanding issues peacefully through bilateral dialogue.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. In the Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation issued on June 23, 2003, India and China have agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, the framework of a boundary settlement. Four meetings have been held so far between the Special Representatives of the two sides.

Eradication of AIDS

1954. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received proposals from the State Governments and Non-Government Organisations for formulating various schemes for the eradication of AIDS and to set up AIDS eradication awareness and treatment centres;

(b) if so, the State-wise and Non-Government

Organisation-wise details of the said proposals received during the current financial year;

(c) the action taken on each of the said proposals; and

(d) the status of the pending proposals, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Government of India is implementing National AIDS control Programme in all the States and Union Territories as a centrally sponsored scheme. Under the programme support is provided to various NGOs mainly for implementing targeted intervention for the High Risk Group. The funding of NGOs for HIV/AIDS prevention and control has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies since April 2001. As a result, the NGOs are required to submit their proposals for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS to respective State AIDS Control Society. Even if, a proposal is received from any NGO for funding, the same is referred to the respective State AIDS Control Society for taking appropriate action.

Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology

1955. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of international organisations with whom the Government signed the agreements for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology from January, 2004 till date;

(b) the details of the above agreements along with the details of the institutional assistance obtained in the form of Indian currency during the above period; and

(c) the achievements of the Government in the field of Science and Technology during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Indo-French Task Force on Seismic Zones

1956. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-French Task Force is likely to identify seismic zones;

(b) if so, the manner in which it will be different from the currently identified seismic zones; and

(c) the manner in which the new exercise is likely to help our disaster management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

IT Infrastructure in Karnataka

1957. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of Communications and Information Technology be pleased to state :

(a) whether IT companies have requested the Government to provide better infrastructure in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has agreed to provide all assistance and infrastructure requested by the IT companies in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the assistance likely to be provided by the Government and the time by when IT companies are likely to be provided necessary infrastructure to start their work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indo-Pak Talks on Border Issue

1958. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has held any dialogue with Pakistan in connection with the border issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether J & K Government has submitted any proposal in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED) : (a) to (d) Government has been holding a dialogue with Pakistan on a

wide range of issues, including border issues, within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. Government takes into account suggestions and recommendations from various authorities. The significant developments in respect of the dialogue on border issues are as follows :

- (i) On Sir Creek, meetings of Surveyor Generals have been held and a joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary has been conducted in January 2005.
- (ii) Biannual interactions were held between Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers in 2004 to discuss border related issues, such as defense constructions, illegal border crossings, and boundary pillars maintenance.
- (iii) In meetings between Coastguards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency both sides have agreed to work towards a MoU between the two agencies.

The government is committed to making progress on border related issues within the framework of the Composite Dialogue.

Hovercraft Services for Inland Water Transport

1959. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has examined the feasibility and desirability of introducing hovercraft services for inland water transport and setting up a hovercraft platform for the pupose at Gateway of India in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Morarji Desai Rashtriya Yog Sansthan

1960. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Morarji Desai Rashtriya Yog Sansthan, New Delhi, has started charging registration and admission fee for their each Yog and Pranayam courses;

(b) if so, the present fee-structure thereof;

(c) the number of yog Sadhakas sought admission in each course after the Sansthan started registration process, timing-wise and the average attendance per month during the last three months;

(d) whether the registration is valid for 6 months;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to do away with the aforesaid conditions in view of the present resource-availability of the Sansthan, the average presence against the registered number during the last three months, and the devotion of yog-sadhak as towards yog practices; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Morarji Desai Rashtriya Yog Sansthan, New Delhi is charging admission form fee of Rs. 10/- and the admission fee of Rs. 100/- per month for each short-term Yoga programmes. However, there is provision of 5 free seats to be offered free to the persons from low income category.

(c) After the registration process started from 1st of November, 2004 and various short-term programmes introduced in different phases, a total of 994 yog Sadhakas got enrolled in the last four months. The timing wise details are as under :

Number of Yog Sadhakas admitted in each course

General Fitness Programme	6-7 a.m. (Monthly)	208
General Fitness Programme	7-8 a.m. (Monthly)	299
Meditation & Fitness Classes	8-9 a.m. (Monthly)	128
Health Aging Programme	10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. (3-Monthly)	30
Women Special Programme	11 a.m. to 12 noon (Monthly)	102
General Fitness Programme	4 to 5 p.m. (Monthly)	128
Meditation & Fitness classes	5 to 6 p.m. (Monthly)	99
Total		994

Average Attendance per month during last three months

December, 2004	January, 2005	February, 2005
102	109	164

(d) Admission is valid for three months in the first instance and can be renewed for next three months.

(e) Earlier the classes were being held free of cost and there was no restriction on the duration of admission. As a result some of the nearby residents were using these facilities almost endlessly and as per their convenience. The Institute was turning out to be more of a health club in the neighbourhood and deterrent for the seriously interested yoga aspirants. There were problems of discipline also.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) After introduction of the fee and restriction on duration of admission in the programmes, significant improvement in discipline, punctuality, attendance and seriousness has been noticed and those interested in understanding the finer aspects of Yoga, are appreciating the change.

**Conversion of Telephone Exchanges
Into Electronic Ones**

1961. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) the number of the telephone exchanges in Gujarat not converted into electronic exchanges so far;

(b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges during the last two years;

(d) the target set for conversion of telephone exchanges of the country into electronic exchanges during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the progress achieved in this regard till 31.12.2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) All telephone exchanges in Gujarat Circle were converted into electronic ones before March, 2002.

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

(d) No target was set for tenth five year plan as all the exchanges were converted into electronic, before March, 2002.

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

[English]

New Technique for Dengue

1962. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has found any new technique to check dengue;

(b) if so, whether there was a significant decline in dengue cases due to use of the new method; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Under the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme, the Government of India has taken the following measures to control Dengue :

(a) Disease and Vector surveillance

(b) Case Management.

(c) Early reporting of cases.

(d) Vector control mainly through source reduction with community participation.

(e) IEC Campaign for community awareness and their active involvement in source reduction and personal protection measures.

The epidemiological situation of Dengue during the years 2003 and 2004 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Epidemiological Situation of Dengue during the
Year 2003 and 2004*

Sl. No.	State	2003		2004 (upto 31.12.2004) (Provisional)	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95	5	230	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Bihar		0	0	0	0
3. Chandigarh		0	0	0	0
4. Delhi		2882	35	606	3
5. Goa		12	2	3	0
6. Gujarat		249	9	117	4
7. Haryana		95	4	25	0
8. Karnataka		1226	7	281	2
9. Kerala		3546	68	686	8
10. Maharashtra		772	45	856	22
11. Sikkim		0	0	12	0
12. Punjab		848	13	52	0
13. Rajasthan		685	11	207	5
14. Tamil Nadu		1600	8	831	0
15. Uttar Pradesh		738	8	4	0
16. West Bengal		0	0	32	0
17. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0	0	1	0
18. Pondicherry		6	0	0	0
Total		12754	215	3943	45

Telephone Advisory Committees

1963. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committees are constituted to advise the Government for effective implementation of the Telephone Services in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for formation of such committees;

(c) whether a T.A.C. member can get the telephone facility from one circle to another circle; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nomination of members to Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) are approved by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology generally on the basis of the recommendations received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament from their constituencies.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Development/Extension of Telecom Facilities in Bihar

1964. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the works undertaken in the rural and urban areas of Bihar during the last three years for the development, extension and upgradation of telecommunication facilities;

(b) whether the said works are being carried out at slow pace in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent of success achieved consequent upon taking such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The details of the work undertaken in the rural and urban areas of Bihar during the last three years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the work undertaken	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4
1.	Number of Exchanges opened	33	173
2.	Land Line Switching Capacity added	2,36,638	1,94,214
3.	WLL capacity added	13,000	1,30,000
4.	Land Line connection provided	1,35,636	1,42,089
5.	WLL connections provided	6,918	81,647
6.	Cellular Mobile connections provided	1,52,246	—

1	2	3	4
7. Village Public Telephone provided	—	24,673	
8. Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPTs	—	4,724	

In addition to above 365 C-DOT RAXs were converted into V5.2AN RAXs and 146 SBMs were converted into RSUs.

(b) No, Sir. The works are as per the plan of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

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

Towers in Himachal Pradesh

1965. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of towers installed to provide telecommunication facilities and run cellular telephone facilities smoothly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of towers being sanctioned further and the population of Himachal Pradesh likely to be covered by them;

(c) the time by which the telephone facilities are likely to be provided through MCPC under new scheme where telephone facilities cannot be provided through land-lines and the total population of the State covered by the telecommunication facilities so far; and

(d) the details of scheme to provide telecommunication facilities to the rest of the population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided 143 towers to run cellular mobile and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) BSNL has planned to provide around 300 additional towers to provide mobile telecom services on wireless to serve population up to the level of Block Headquarter in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to provide additional MCPC systems in the state. However, BSNL has plan to provide telecom facilities to remote areas, primarily through wireless systems including Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs), WLL, Cellular Mobile service and wherever feasible, through land line.

[English]

Bridges on NHs in Assam

1966. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to replace the conventional Timber bridges on the National Highways in Assam with RCC bridges with standard cost effective double lane bridges;

(b) if so, the number of such bridges to be so replaced and the estimated cost thereof and Government's reaction for clearance thereof;

(c) whether the design for the Chowkighat bridge on NH-52 has since been finalised; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for construction of this bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 43 temporary bridges including timber bridges on various National Highways in Assam, which are yet to be taken up for replacement with 2 lane RCC bridges at an estimated cost of about Rs. 106 crores. These bridges are being taken up in phased manner depending upon the availability of funds. In addition, 34 temporary bridges falling on East-West Corridor being implemented by National Highways Authority of India are expected to be replaced with 2/4 lane RCC bridges by December 2007.

(c) No, Sir. The Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati has been entrusted with carrying out model study for ascertaining the feasibility for the construction of permanent RCC bridge at Chowkighat on NH-52 in Assam. The study has since commenced in December, 2004 and is expected to be completed in a period of 19 months from the date of commencement.

(d) The construction of above bridge will depend upon the outcome of the said study.

Research and Development in Agro Sector

1967. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has earmarked investment for Research and Development in Agro Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for development of rural technologies?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has provided grants of Rs. 11.44 crore to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Rs. 13.50 crore to the Coir Board during the Tenth Plan period (upto 2004-05) for research and development activities in the agro sector, including coir.

(c) For development of new and upgradation of existing rural technologies in thirteen village industry sectors, the KVIC has entered into technical agreements with national level technology institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), National Institute of Technology (NIT), etc. In addition, the Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti, Ahmedabad, an institution which is registered with the KVIC, develops tools and implements and improved technologies for adoption by khadi institutions and artisans. Similarly, the Coir Board is engaged in modernization of technologies relating to fibre extraction, spinning, product manufacturing, etc., as part of its research and development activities. Towards modernization of the coir sector, the traditional ratt has been motorized, leading to improved productivity, quality improvement and enhancement of wages of the coir spinners. The Coir Board has also developed a mild steel compact handloom, called "Anugraha" for women to weave mattings/geotextiles. Conversion of coir pith into organic manure, using 'pith plus' is another technology, which has been popularized in the rural areas through field demonstrations.

Conversion of Post Offices Into Finance Marts

1968. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has drawn up plans to convert the post offices to finance marts to make available various financial services to the customers; and

(b) if so, the time by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) It is proposed to convert 300 Post Offices into Postal Finance Marts.

(b) The scheme will be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Industry Status to Surface Transport Sector

1969. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA :

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to grant the status of industry to the surface transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) The financing of transport sector (which includes transport of passenger by road or by water) has been covered in the relevant provisions of industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 and Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 and thus already has an industry status, in effect.

[English]

Research on Pippalyadi Yoga

1970. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the scientists of the Central councils for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) rediscovered Pippalyadi Yoga, a 2005 year old prescription from ancient medical text;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the clinical trials have shown 99 per cent success rate and absolutely no side effects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Central Councils for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), an autonomous research organization under the Deptt. of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India had undertaken the clinical trial of Pippalyadi yoga—a herbo-mineral female oral contraceptive. This formulation is mentioned in Ayurvedic classical text "Bhavaprakash" written in 16th Century AD.

The formulation Pippalyadi yoga consists of equal parts of following drugs :

- (i) Pippali (Piper longum Linn.) fruits
- (ii) Vidanga (Embelia ribes Burm.f.) fruits
- (iii) Tankana (Purified natural borax)

The fine powder of these drugs is mixed together in equal proportion and capsules of 500 mg each are prepared.

(c) and (d) The Council had conducted clinical trials on 722 women volunteers and no pregnancy was reported due to drug failure. No side effect was reported.

After the formulation was found effective, the project has been taken up by the Deptt. of Family Welfare, Government of India to study its further efficacy. The Phase-I clinical trial was conducted at PGI, Chandigarh, JIPMER, Pondicherry and KEM&H, Mumbai, the drug is found to be safe. Now the Phase-II clinical trial is under progress at four premier institutes of India i.e. at AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER, Pondicherry, PGI, Chandigarh and KEM&H, Mumbai. The NIPER (National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research), Mohali is supplying the standardized drug after ensuring the batch-to-batch quality of the drug programme.

Indo-Japan Co-operation in IT Sector

1971. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has signed an agreement with

Japan to set a timeframe for a joint task to identify areas of cooperation in IT and telecom;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. India and Japan have not signed any agreement. However, in the course of mutual discussions, it has been considered expedient to set up a Joint Task Force to identify areas of cooperation in IT and Telecom.

(b) and (c) Likely benefits enuring to India can be assessed after the Joint Task Force meeting is held when synergies between the two countries in these sectors are likely to be identified.

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats

1972. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone adalats organized in each State during the last two years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases received by these adalats during the last two years, State-wise;
- (c) the number of cases settled by the said adalats, State-wise and
- (d) the details in regard to reliefs provided to the subscribers and the prescribed norms for organizing the said adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement. However, Adalats are held between three to six months.

Statement

Details of Telephone Adalats Period 1.1.2003 to 31.12.2004

Name of the circles	Year	Number of Telephone Adalat held	Number of Cases received	Number of Cases settled	Detail of Relief provided in Rupees
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman and Nicobar	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	1	14	13	5118

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	2	15	14	107441
Andhra Pradesh	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	136	195	195	32622
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	135	133	133	12267
Assam	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	28	304	282	49760
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	19	129	113	47291
Bihar	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	62	2575	2499	2710685
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	64	3123	3076	2959979
Chhattisgarh	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	22	173	173	7569
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	32	144	144	38,780
MTNL Delhi	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	18	425	416 (9 cases adjourned)	708278
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04				
Gujarat	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	99	1094	1082	288155 + 3400 calls + 7 days rent
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	99	860	852	174300 + 9250
Haryana	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	39	328	323	200283
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	48	400	378	700765
Himachal Pradesh	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	27	72	72	127797
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	34	175	175	143741
Jammu and Kashmir	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	11	171	161	100355
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	12	153	114	87708
Jharkhand	1.1.04 to 31.12.03	9	357	357	69837
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	26	444	416	99880
Karnataka	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	82	228	228	578559
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	88	200	200	1124526
Kerala	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	67	1117	952	83349
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	65	1153	1074	111133
Madhya Pradesh	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	170	570	570	314402
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	174	708	708	422160
Maharashtra	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	138	1232	1186	1,51,201
(including Goa)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	148	1195	1127	72,295

1	2	3	4	5	6
NE-I	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	4	296	279	149531
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	7	88	80	256975
NE-II	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	2	5	5	3592
Orissa	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	20	280	262	2,55,800
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	58	868	825	5,04,890
Punjab	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	60	251	251	252786
(including Chandigarh)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	68	211	211	81877
Rajasthan	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	81	842	842	459236
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	87	856	851	220311
Tamil Nadu	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	72	876	876	32,405
(including Pondicherry)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	76	807	807	24,260
Uttar Pradesh (East)	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	169	3930	3930	4358428
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	163	4693	4677	5744402
Uttar Pradesh (West)	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	65	1754	1716	1813132
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	67	1155	1147	1062372
Uttaranchal	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	19	256	254	304273
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	25	285	283	185700 + 200 calls
West Bengal	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	40	388	388	92339
(including Sikkim)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	34	468	468	146849
Kolkata Telephones	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	10	133	133	300 + 450 calls + 161 days rent
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	6	51	46	2624 + 2306 calls + 424 days rent
Chennai Telephones	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	28	446	446	187473
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	27	69	69	47213
MTNL Mumbai	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	87	1258	1258	40212
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04				

[English]

**Vacancies of Grade 'C' and 'D'
Stenographers**

1973. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies of Grade 'C' and 'D' Stenographers lying vacant in all Ministries/Departments of Government of India;

(b) whether the Staff Selection Commission had invited applications for Grade 'D' Stenographers Examination in the year 2004;

(c) if so, whether the date of written examination has been finalized;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) The information is not maintained Centrally in Department of Personnel and Training.

(b) to (e) The Staff Selection Commission had invited applications for the Stenographer Grade 'D' Examination which was proposed to be held on 10th October, 2004. It was, however, cancelled as it was not in conformity with the Scheme of Combined Matric Level Examination approved by the Government.

[Translation]

Ban on Human Cloning

1974. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite opposition from a number of countries including India regarding imposing a ban on human cloning, a committee of UN has passed a non-binding of resolution in this regard; and

(b) if so, the likely effects on the research work being carried out by India in the field of clinical cloning in the event of the aforesaid resolution being adopted by UN General Assembly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The UN General Assembly approved a non-binding resolution on Tuesday 8th March, 2005 that urges member states to adopt legislation "to prohibit all forms of human cloning in as much as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life". The proposal was passed by 84 to 34, with 37 abstentions. As it is a non-binding declaration, India's position on therapeutic cloning remains unchanged and will not effect the Stem Cell Research activities in the country.

[English]

Setting up of Institute of Ayurveda

1975. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up an All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in setting up of AIIA; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal was initially for setting up a National Ayurveda Hospital as a Joint Venture project but was later on revised to establish it entirely in the Govt. sector with PG teaching and state-of-art research facilities. The land allotted earlier by the DDA was inadequate and additional land was sought. The DDA allotted additional land and payment of the lease value was made in February, 2005. A comprehensive Memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee has been prepared. Action has been taken to seek in-principle approval of the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Renovation of Post Office Buildings

1976. SHRI ATIQ AHMAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dilapidated condition of Naini Post Office building at Allahabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting the above post office since long;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the renovation of the post office building and for improving the working conditions therein;

(d) whether dilapidated condition of other post offices has also come to the notice of the Government;

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

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKÉEL AHMAD) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Memoranda on SCs/STs Facilities/Reservations

1977. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Office Memoranda with regard to the five office orders affecting the facilities and reservations provided for the employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last 10 years alongwith the information about such a memoranda which nullified each of the said orders; and

(b) the present status regarding the implementation of the said memoranda and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) and (b) Five Office Memoranda were issued by the Department of Personnel and Training in 1997. The following three O.Ms have been withdrawn through O.M. No. 20011/1/2001-Estt.(D) dated 21-1-2002. O.M. No.36012/23/96-Estt.(Res.)-Vol-II dated 3-10-2000 and O.M. No. 36012/5/97-Estt.(Res.) Vol. II dated 20-7-2000 respectively.

(1) O.M. No. 20011/1/96-Estt.(D) dated 30-1-1997, as this O.M. affected the seniority of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe candidates, promoted by reservation, adversely. (2) O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 22-7-1997, as it withdrew the relaxations in qualifying marks/ standards of evaluation available to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe candidates in the matter of promotion.

(3) O.M. No. 36012/5/97-Estt.(Res.) dated 29-8-1997. This O.M. provided that ceiling of 50% on reservation in a year would apply to the backlog reserved vacancies also.

The remaining two office Memoranda viz. (1) O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 2-7-1997 which introduced post based reservation and (2) O.M. No. 36012/18/95-Estt.(Res.) Pt.II dated 13-8-1997 which continued reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in promotion, remain in force.

[English]

Medical/Dental Colleges

1978. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

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

(a) the total number of medical and dental colleges in the country in the private and Government sector and the total number of seats in medical and dental streams available, State-wise, respectively in both sectors; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote medical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) The Medical Council of India with the approval of Government of India, has brought out a scheme in the form of Regulations for opening of new medical colleges, increase in seats in existing courses and starting of new or higher course of study. Any person eligible under the Regulations and fulfilling the requirements laid there-under may apply under this scheme for obtaining permission of the Central Government. Similar scheme also exists in respect of dental education.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Medical Colleges		Total	Total number of seats
		Govt.	Private		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	17	27	3375

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Assam		3	—	3	391
3. Bihar		6	2	8	510
4. Chandigarh		1	—	1	50
5. Chhattisgarh		2	—	2	200
6. Delhi		5	—	5	560
7. Goa		1	—	1	100
8. Gujarat		8	5	13	1625
9. Haryana		1	2	3	350
10. Himachal Pradesh		2	—	2	115
11. Jammu and Kashmir		3	1	4	350
12. Jharkhand		3	—	3	190
13. Karnataka		4	27	31	3905
14. Kerala		6	8	14	1600
15. Madhya Pradesh		5	2	7	820
16. Maharashtra		19	19	38	4260
17. Manipur		1	—	1	100
18. Orissa		3	—	3	364
19. Pondicherry		1	4	5	475
20. Punjab		3	3	6	520
21. Rajasthan		6	2	8	800
22. Sikkim		1	—	1	50
23. Tamil Nadu		13	8	21	2415
24. Uttar Pradesh		9	3	12	1262
25. Uttaranchal		—	2	2	200
26. West Bengal		9	—	9	1105
Total		125	105	230	25,742

<i>Statement-II</i>					
Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Dental Colleges		Total	Total number of seats
		Govt.	Pvt.		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	14	16	1340
2.	Assam	1	—	1	40
3.	Bihar	1	6	7	320
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	2	2	200
5.	Delhi	1	—	1	20
6.	Goa	1	—	1	40
7.	Gujarat	2	3	5	320
8.	Haryana	1	7	8	620
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	4	5	340
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—	1	20
11.	Karnataka	1	41	42	2700
12.	Kerala	3	7	10	520
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	5	6	500
14.	Maharashtra	4	19	23	1830
15.	Orissa	1	1	2	80
16.	Pondicherry	—	1	1	40
17.	Punjab	2	9	11	640
18.	Rajasthan	1	7	8	700
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	14	15	1180
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2	18	20	1640
21.	Uttaranchal	—	1	1	100
22.	West Bengal	2	1	3	170
Total		30	159	189	13,260

**Amount Allocated/Released for
Polio Control**

1979. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount allocated and released under the National Immunisation Programme to control polio during the last five years, state-wise; and

(b) the details of amount spent under the said programme during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Funds are given to the States towards Operational Cost for implementation of polio immunization rounds. Details of funds sanctioned and released to the States and expenditure reported by the States during the last 5 years are given in the enclosed Statement-I. In addition, oral polio vaccine is supplied to the States in kind. The details of vaccine supplied to States is also enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

**Funds Sanctioned/Released to States and Expenditure Reported Towards Operational Expenses for
Pulse Polio Immunization**

Sl. No.	Name of the States/Uts	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Sanc-tioned	Expen-diture	Sanc-tioned	Expen-diture	Sanc-tioned	Expen-diture	Sanc-tioned	Expen-diture	Sanc-tioned	Expen-diture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.85	25.28	2.09	2.09	7.45	7.09	7.36	7.35	15.18	10.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	945.84	941.33	457.09	429.56	707.86	695.08	720.91	720.91	802.72	802.72
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	146.65	146.65	38.58	38.58	46.43	46.41	34.04	34.04	38.36	38.36
4.	Assam	527.61	527.61	393.18	393.18	309.25	309.25	312.89	312.56	482.31	467.06
5.	Bihar	1160.05	1013.78	2203.53	1754.78	1585.33	1130.75	2388.11	1477.54	3707.93	2117.19
6.	Chandigarh	28.00	17.43	3.42	4.39	8.00	7.75	8.59	8.51	9.97	9.34
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23.86	13.86	1.56	1.15	2.54	2.15	2.64	2.18	3.04	2.97
8.	Daman and Diu	31.13	12.02	0.98	0.94	2.04	1.89	2.09	2.02	2.22	2.16
9.	Delhi	102.90	100.04	275.02	263.85	226.55	209.16	338.97	318.29	516.23	480.35
10.	Goa	32.02	28.00	590.06	454.55	9.26	10.00	9.26	9.26	10.37	10.10
11.	Gujarat	678.90	549.77	5.99	5.99	542.72	468.96	500.35	446.22	1586.78	1503.44
12.	Haryana	270.96	242.89	343.79	286.92	246.33	201.87	496.73	304.17	852.53	658.91
13.	Himachal Pradesh	228.38	166.54	86.07	65.77	100.44	95.41	71.33	70.81	108.30	100.46
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	240.86	176.83	96.06	70.15	152.59	128.00	164.04	139.95	180.57	132.06
15.	Karnataka	476.17	458.05	437.20	352.15	539.07	472.49	488.05	465.19	531.65	511.82
16.	Kerala	452.41	432.30	130.25	125.67	196.24	189.82	201.27	193.92	220.07	209.48
17.	Lakshadweep	22.43	11.12	0.60	0.00	1.52	1.14	1.55	1.55	2.95	2.88
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1725.43	1668.29	134.82	1242.43	736.02	707.43	702.07	696.31	1811.35	1841.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19.	Maharashtra	1064.78	703.43	516.61	511.15	903.66	886.65	926.14	870.97	885.33	792.27
20.	Manipur	89.58	89.58	9.52	9.52	58.17	58.17	59.70	59.70	68.13	64.76
21.	Meghalaya	72.68	67.71	13.45	12.41	73.10	48.89	64.40	54.97	74.27	0.00
22.	Mizoram	40.04	40.04	3.59	3.59	21.50	21.50	22.23	22.23	24.35	24.11
23.	Nagaland	70.14	70.14	7.59	7.59	42.33	42.33	41.60	41.60	50.01	50.01
24.	Orissa	683.04	646.65	411.89	403.60	318.00	313.65	327.76	323.30	356.34	272.64
25.	Pondicherry	44.42	35.71	4.91	5.65	8.46	8.46	8.54	8.54	9.17	9.17
26.	Punjab	292.10	276.37	312.18	301.37	243.46	232.64	249.77	234.64	271.76	247.84
27.	Rajasthan	890.45	679.23	939.58	741.23	720.77	637.57	757.09	640.22	2439.91	2002.19
28.	Sikkim	37.01	36.17	2.45	2.45	13.85	13.52	13.68	13.31	14.39	14.39
29.	Tamil Nadu	723.46	706.64	329.70	314.79	492.88	478.14	515.70	504.92	561.29	535.66
30.	Tripura	80.64	52.14	12.80	12.80	68.48	68.48	70.35	67.74	76.58	88.04
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1834.19	1697.58	3544.13	2929.98	3186.89	2706.32	4871.18	4584.92	10675.69	8768.32
32.	West Bengal	740.90	725.93	1104.74	993.05	884.50	848.61	749.09	734.32	1985.97	1902.27
33.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	129.11	114.24	132.80	129.30	302.63	276.95
34.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	196.63	176.25	223.99	214.03	244.38	232.09
35.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.84	266.33	431.33	252.70	1026.87	914.27
Total		13762.84	12359.15	13598.42	11741.34	13105.09	11808.39	15915.61	13968.18	29946.61	25096.72

Statement-II*Details for the OPV released to the states with the values*

Sl.No.Name of the State		IPPI supplies with the values									
		Year 2004-2005		Year 2003-2004		Year 2002-2003		Year 2001-2002		Year 2000-2001	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	655.34	3,092.61	385.44	1,883.52	271.95	1,038.31	296.98	976.77	339.67	1,117.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.02	33.96	4.54	23.79	5.06	19.32	5.24	17.23	5.77	18.98
3.	Assam	229.44	1,031.25	148.91	740.34	121.22	462.82	121	397.97	219.03	720.39
4.	Bihar	2,050.79	9,488.61	1,010.05	4,324.09	1235.06	4,715.46	1220.47	4,014.13	1289.77	4,242.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	127.64	616.09	97.45	470.95	133.27	508.82	85.99	282.82		-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6.	Goa	5.10	24.64	3.28	16.81	3.39	12.94	3.5	11.51	3.4	11.18
7.	Gujarat	415.19	1,992.25	367.59	1,606.91	281.89	1,076.26	236.27	777.09	376.08	1,236.93
8.	Haryana	242.55	1,084.48	192.47	825.68	170.44	650.74	124.21	408.53	181.69	697.58
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27.54	130.02	17.84	85.15	20.03	76.47	14.34	47.16	21.83	71.80
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	68.54	322.03	43.97	211.08	57.64	220.07	41.49	136.46	55.26	181.75
11.	Jharkhand	349.76	1,647.57	273.06	1,152.64	234.68	896.01	142.14	467.50		—
12.	Karnataka	384.93	1,812.54	281.00	1,312.78	174.69	636.97	257.53	847.02	211.13	694.41
13.	Kerala	118.17	548.35	76.18	403.05	90.65	346.10	94.35	310.32	105.12	345.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	555.89	2,611.51	519.89	2,247.26	351.42	1,341.72	295.95	973.38	637.18	2,095.69
15.	Maharashtra	641.47	3,046.94	303.84	1,650.12	468.72	1,789.57	483.16	1,589.11	494.56	1,626.61
16.	Manipur	13.22	63.85	9.23	48.59	9.27	35.39	8.9	29.27	8.76	28.81
17.	Meghalaya	15.80	75.99	15.79	75.17	10.75	41.04	11.34	37.30	13.02	42.82
18.	Mizoram	4.42	21.20	3.69	19.35	3.47	13.25	3.3	10.85	2.96	9.74
19.	Nagaland	10.33	49.44	7.00	34.72	5.72	21.84	6.31	20.75	6.76	22.23
20.	Orissa	230.51	1,133.27	117.49	580.91	157.94	603.01	123.4	405.86	207.01	680.86
21.	Punjab	141.02	630.96	228.65	435.35	107.6	410.82	106.53	350.38	152.24	500.72
22.	Rajasthan	804.44	2,747.84	408.79	2,333.40	312.99	1,195.00	289.06	950.72	481.69	1,584.28
23.	Sikkim	2.68	12.98	2.45	9.52	2.8	10.69	2.01	6.61	2.23	7.33
24.	Tamil Nadu	276.98	1,294.66	183.20	975.41	208.56	796.28	201.02	661.15	228.05	750.06
25.	Tripura	17.07	82.50	10.95	57.41	8.31	31.73	12	39.47	1.05	46.21
26.	Uttaranchal	114.33	522.27	950.95	6,088.92	66.91	255.46	58.32	191.81		—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3,618.47	16,059.44	864.86	1,769.44	2649.28	10,114.95	2376.6	7,816.64	2098.08	6,900.59
28.	West Bengal	823.77	3,973.50	471.26	2,048.74	312.5	1,193.13	453.17	1,490.48	558.33	1,836.35
Total		11,752.41	54,150.75	6,999.81	31,431.12	7,476.21	28,544.17	7,074.58	23,268.29	7,713.67	25,370.26
UTs without Legislature											
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.83	8.83	1.07	5.62	1.14	4.35	1.79	5.89	1.09	3.59
30.	Chandigarh	5.06	23.88	3.43	16.47	6.4	24.44	5.09	16.74	3.92	12.89
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.44	6.91	0.93	4.78	0.73	2.79	0.86	2.83	1.47	4.83
32.	Daman and Diu	0.87	4.14	0.48	2.48	0.73	2.79	0.49	1.61	0.49	1.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	Lakshadweep	0.25	1.21	0.08	0.43	0.19	0.73	0.18	0.59	0.09	0.30
Total		9.45	44.98	5.99	29.78	9.19	35.09	8.41	27.66	7.06	23.22

UTs with Legislature

34.	Delhi	223.88	1,054.19	133.07	569.66	183.7	701.37	154	506.51	128.16	421.52
35.	Pondicherry	3.39	16.05	2.64	13.92	3.18	12.14	2.76	9.08	2.94	9.67
Total		227.27	1,070.24	135.71	583.58	186.88	713.51	156.76	515.58	131.10	431.19
G. Total		11,979.68	55,220.98	7,135.52	32,014.70	7,663.09	29,257.68	7,231.34	23,783.88	7,844.77	25,801.45

Criteria for CGHS Dispensaries

1980. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy and criteria followed by Government for opening CGHS dispensaries/units of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken for opening of CGHS dispensaries of allopathic System of Medical CGHS Units of ISM&H;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any request has been received by Government in this regard so far;

(e) if so, the system-wise, location-wise and year-wise details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) As per the SIU norms, the criteria for opening a new CGHS Allopathic dispensary in an existing CGHS covered city is 2000 cardholders (serving/pensioners) which translates into about 10,000 beneficiaries. For extending CGHS to a new city, it requires at least 6,000 cardholders (serving/pensioners) which translate into about 30,000 beneficiaries.

There are no fixed norms for opening ISM&H/Ayush dispensaries/Units under CGHS. These units are opened as per the requirements/demands of the CGHS beneficiaries based on justification and subject to availability of manpower and resources.

(d) to (f) Opening of new CGHS dispensaries depends upon availability of manpower and resources.

Requests for opening of new CGHS dispensaries under differed systems are received from various parts of the country. On the basis of the requests received, new CGHS dispensaries have been sanctioned during the 10th Five-year Plan as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the CGHS City	Type of Ayush	No. of Ayush dispensaries sanctioned
1.	Trivendrum	Ayurvedic	One
2.	Trivendrum	Homoeopathy	One
3.	Guwahati	Ayurvedic	One
4.	Guwahati	Homoeopathy	One
5.	Delhi	Unani	One
6.	Delhi	Sidha	One
7.	Delhi	Yoga Centre	One

Sl.No.	Name of the CGHS City	No. of Allopathic dispensaries sanctioned
1.	Dehradun	One
2.	Ranchi	One
3.	Bhubaneswar	One

Telecom Network in Tribal and Hilly Areas

1981. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared a separate plan and programme for development of telecommunication network in Tribal Areas and Hilly Areas of Orissa Circle;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the funds provided for above network plan to connect the tribal and remote villages and achievements made so far; and

(d) the network plan prepared for coastal and Chilika island groups so far and technology adopted for providing stable systems in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has prepared programme for providing various schemes for development of telecommunication network in Tribal and Hilly Areas of Orissa for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The funds provided for the network plan to connect the tribal and remote villages for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 23.61 crores.

The achievements made during 2004-05 (upto February, 2005)

(i) Switching Capacity Added	= 6,672 lines
(ii) Direct Exchange Lines Added (Wired + Wireless in Local Loop)	= 9,574
(iii) Optical Fibre Cable	= 62.5 Route Kilometers
(iv) Cellular Mobile	= 29,951 Nos.

(d) The network plan prepared for coastal and Chilika Island groups so far and technology adopted for providing stable systems in these areas for the year 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Various Schemes for Development of Telecommunication Network in Tribal and Hilly Areas of Orissa for the Years 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl.No.	Parameter	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Local Switching Capacity Expansion/Upgradation (in lines)	5,000	3,000
2.	TAX New/Expansion (in lines)	12,000	Nil
3.	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) (in Lines)	14,500	4,000
4.	Cellular Mobile (in lines)	1,08,000	1,95,500
5.	Village Public Telephones (VPT) using Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (DSPT) (in Nos.)	3,918	1,000
6.	Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (ANRAX) commissioned (in Nos.)	141	Nil

Statement-II

Details of Network Plan for coastal and Chilika Island Groups and Technology adopted for providing Stable Systems for the Year 2004-05

Sl.No.	Parameter	Coastal & Chilika
1	2	3
1.	Local Switching Capacity Expansion Upgradation (in lines)	8,320
2.	TAX New/Expansion (in lines)	8,000

1	2	3
3.	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) (in lines)	54,500
4.	Cellular Mobile (in lines)	2,82,500
5.	Village Public Telephones (VPT) using Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (DSPT) (in Nos.)	390
6.	Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (AN RAX) commissioned (in Nos.)	239

**New Research Station
at Antarctica**

1982. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a new research station in Antarctica;
- (b) the number of scientists working in research stations at present;
- (c) whether there have been casualties due to extreme weather conditions since 1981;
- (d) if so, the year wise details thereof;
- (e) the yearly budget of the research stations in Antarctica;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to increase the budget and number of scientists at these stations; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The department has selected a site near latitude 69° South and longitude 76° East. Detailed surveys on environmental parameters as mandated under the Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty and also from logistics and scientific considerations, are being carried out.

(b) Seventy nine scientists and logistics personnel are presently at the Indian Research Station 'Maitri' in Antarctica. These include fifty four scientists including three from Malaysia (29 summer team members + 25 winter team members) of 24th Expedition and twenty five persons of wintering team of the 23rd Expedition.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The present annual expenditure for the maintenance of research station is about Rs. 4.00 crores.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The budget allocation for Polar Science Programme for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 41.00 crore as against the current year allocation of Rs. 24.00 crores. This is to strengthen the research and logistics facilities at the Maitri Station, so as to accommodate more scientists.

[Translation]

N.H. No. 28-B

1983. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has approved the 130 kms long road from Chhapwa in Bihar to Uttar Pradesh border as National Highway No. 28-B;
- (b) if so, whether Bihar Government has informed the Union Government regarding the upgradation of this road;
- (c) if not, whether the Union Government is required to take any concrete steps in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the time by which this will be initiated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The Government has declared 112 km. long road from Chhapwa in Bihar to Uttar Pradesh border as National Highway No. 28B on 25.02.2004.

(b) No proposal for upgradation of this National Highway has been received from the State Government of Bihar.

(c) and (d) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and *inter se* priority. The Central Government has allocated funds to the State Government of Bihar for maintaining all the National Highways including National Highway No. 28-B, in traffic worthy condition.

[Translation]

**Specific Guidelines for
Small Pharma Units**

1984. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has provided specimen documentation proforma required to be maintained in order to comply with the provisions of GSR 894(E) notification.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent exploitation and harassment of small pharma manufacturing units by the concerned staff in the absence of such specific guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the revised Schedule M (Good Manufacturing Practices) and Schedule U of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, following documents are to be maintained by the manufacturers :

- (i) Master Formula Records
- (ii) Batch Manufacturing Records
- (iii) Records of raw materials
- (iv) Batch Packaging Records
- (v) Records of analysis
- (vi) Site Master File
- (vii) Manufacturing Records relating to manufacture of sterile products
- (viii) In-process records
- (ix) Distribution records
- (x) Standard Operating Procedures for different activities.

(c) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs rests with the State Governments. No such specific information of exploitation and harassment of small Pharma manufacturing units by the concerned staff have been received till date.

Assistance for Setting up of Medical University

1985. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance for setting up of Medical University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 crores for setting up a Medical University in the State. However, there is no scheme with this Ministry under which financial assistance can be provided for this purpose. Government of Kerala has been informed accordingly.

High Risk Group in HIV/AIDS

1986. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether street children, tribals, truck drivers and drug users in the country have been identified as high risk group in HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the basis on which they have been identified and labelled as "high risk groups";

(c) the estimated numbers of such street children, tribals, truck drivers and drug users, separately in the country, State-wise living with HIV;

(d) the number of people living with AIDS in each group separately and State-wise; and

(e) the number of deaths in each group separately since the beginning of the epidemic till date, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only Injecting Drug Users, truckers and street children are among the list of high risk groups included under mapping exercise in addition to Commercial Sex Workers and men having sex with men. These groups have been identified on the basis of their high risk behaviour for potential transmission of HIV/AIDS.

(c) to (e) These groups are not identified under surveillance on HIV/AIDS. However as per national estimate through mapping study, the number of such people are : Injecting Drug Users-96463, Truckers-21,96,591 and Street Childre-1,02,425.

The other information related to number of cases and deaths in these groups is not captured in the Management information System under the programme.

AIDS Cases

1987. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of people have died due to AIDS in India since the beginning of the epidemic;

(b) if so, the total number of people died due to AIDS, State-wise, year-wise till date; and

(c) the number of people living with AIDS in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statements-I and II indicating the total number of people died due to AIDS, State-wise, year-wise and the number of people living with AIDS in the country, State-wise, are enclosed.

Statement-I

Reported Number of Deaths due to AIDS

(Since Inception to 31st December, 2004)

Sl.No.	State	Cumulative figures till 1999	Reported in 2000	Reported in 2001	Reported in 2002	Reported in 2003	Reported in 2004	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7	9	3	4	5	3	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	45	0	53	36	185	230	549
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	8	1	0	2	0	1	12
5.	Bihar	30	7	1	0	0	0	38
6.	Chandigarh	8	13	29	22	19	19	110
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	118	24	27	32	29	6	236
10.	Goa	11	3	15	14	20	22	85
11.	Gujarat	43	0	20	60	48	27	198
12.	Haryana	6	5	0	0	0	0	11
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0	5	23	13	43
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Karnataka	97	19	27	40	27	28	238
16.	Kerala	78	74	120	139	120	0	531
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	45	4	6	3	2	10	70
19.	Maharashtra	410	77	176	202	182	151	1198
20.	Manipur	129	18	51	73	133	0	404

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21.	Meghalaya	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
22.	Mizoram	0	7	0	5	11	21	44
23.	Nagaland	29	25	28	35	51	82	250
24.	Orissa	10	3	1	1	0	0	15
25.	Pondicherry	35	0	0	7	0	0	42
26.	Punjab	69	7	12	2	0	0	90
27.	Rajasthan	64	0	0	0	0	0	64
28.	Sikkim	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
29.	Tamil Nadu	403	119	249	285	351	319	1726
30.	Tripura	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
31.	Uttar Pradesh	31	6	15	4	23	7	86
32.	West Bengal	21	18	27	48	62	0	176
33.	Ahmedabad M.C.	0	0	0	23	14	3	40
34.	Mumbai M.C.	163	31	178	202	233	175	982
Total		1875	471	1039	1247	1541	1117	7290

Statement-II

National AIDS Control Programme, India AIDS Cases in India (Reported to NACO)

(As on 28th February, 2005)

Sl.No.	State/UT	AIDs Cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10819
2.	Assam	225
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33
5.	Bihar	155
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	1099
7.	Delhi	949
8.	Daman and Diu	1
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0

1	2	3
10.	Goa	495
11.	Gujarat	5098
12.	Haryana	400
13.	Himachal Pradesh	223
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
15.	Karnataka	2126
16.	Kerala	1769
17.	Lakshadweep	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1305
19.	Maharashtra	12963
20.	Orissa	128
21.	Nagaland	718
22.	Manipur	2666

1	2	3
23.	Mizoram	106
24.	Meghalaya	8
25.	Pondicherry	302
26.	Punjab	292
27.	Rajasthan	1153
28.	Sikkim	8
29.	Tamil Nadu	48180
30.	Tripura	5
31.	Uttar Pradesh	1383
32.	West Bengal	2397
33.	Ahmedabad M.C.	520
34.	Mumbai M.C.	7005
		102733

**UNAIDS Report on the Global
HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

1988. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the UNAIDS report on the Global HIV/AIDS epidemic (AIDS epidemic updates-1999) which mentioned about the death due to AIDS in South and South East Asia; and

(b) if so, the estimated deaths of children (less than 15 years) from the beginning of the epidemic to the end of the year 1999;

(c) the estimated adult and child deaths from the beginning of the epidemic to the end of year 1999;

(d) the cumulative number of children (less than 15 years) estimated to have been orphaned till the end of year 1999;

(e) the estimated adult and child deaths in the year 1999;

(f) the estimated child deaths in the year 1999; and

(g) the figures for India for the corresponding period separately for A, B, C, D and E as published by the UNAIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

UNAIDS report on Global HIV/AIDS epidemic showing figures for South and South East Asia and corresponding figures for India - 1999

Para	Figures for South and South East Asia	Figures for India (ref. Para g)
(b) Estimated deaths of children (less than 15 years) from the beginning of the epidemic to the end of the year 1999.	2,42,000	Not mentioned in the report
(c) Estimated adult and child deaths from the beginning of the epidemic to the end of year 1999.	11,00,000	-do-
(d) Cumulative number of children (less than 15 years) estimated to have been orphaned till the end of year 1999.	8,50,000	-do-
(e) Estimated adult and child deaths in the year 1999.	4,60,000	3,10,000
(f) Estimated child deaths in the year 1999.	29,000 to 54,000	16,000 to 33,000
(g) Ref. Column 3	-	

Functionaries Trained by NACO

1989. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NACO (National Aids Control Organisation) has been training health care functioning (doctors, nurses etc.) for prevention care and treatment of HIV/AIDS; and

(b) if so the number of such functionaries trained since 1992 till date, year-wise, State-wise and district wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NACO has been training the health care functionaries for prevention care and treatment of HIV/AIDS. During National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) phase I starting from 1992-93 till 1998-99, a total of 60,000 health care staff were trained consisting of doctors, nurses and paramedicals, Monitoring of staff trained was done at state level and figures of the same are not available at Central level. Since the initiation of NACP-II (April, 1999), a total of 582781 health care providers have been trained all over the country. The State-wise break up is given in the enclosed Statement. District wise breakup is analysed at State level.

Statement**State-wise Training Status on HIV/AIDS during NACP II as on January, 2005**

State	Period	Doctors	Nurses	Lab Tech.	Field Workers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
High Prevalent States						
Andhra Pradesh	Ap. 99-Mar, 04	8704	2020	499	18927	30150
	Sanctioned Strength	9192	7284	1098	40359	57933
	Trg. Index*	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Karnataka	Ap. 99-June, 04	6457	1304	587	9340	17688
	Sanctioned Strength	8500	4717	2000	14988	30205
	Trg. Index	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6
Maharashtra	Ap. 99-June, 04	25859	11759	158	171280	209056
	Sanctioned Strength	7528	15097	1124	37380	61129
	Trg. Index	3.4	0.8	0.1	4.6	3.4
Manipur	Ap. 99-Mar- 03	3218	3359	6638	21937	35152
	Sanctioned Strength	875	700	4260	600	6435
	Trg. Index	3.7	4.8	1.6	36.6	5.5
Nagaland	Ap. 99-June, 04	1345	2211	169	3980	7705
	Sanctioned Strength	790	1750	104	4022	6666
	Trg. Index	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.2
Tamil Nadu	Ap. 00-Dec. 03	7930	3267	2174	7588	20959
	Sanctioned Strength	7370	12500	2150	7500	29520
	Trg. Index	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mumbai District M.C.	Ap. 99-June, 04	4718	4802	352	7141	17013
	Sanctioned Strength	9225	5560	731	13200	28716
	Trg. Index	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6
Moderate Prevalent States						
Goa	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	673	498	45	690	1906
	Sanctioned Strength	615	952	92	645	2304
	Trg. Index	1.1	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.8
Gujarat	Ap. 99-June, 04	3730	6251	205	23330	33516
	Sanctioned Strength	6733	5268	507	12649	25157
	Trg. Index	0.6	1.2	0.4	1.8	1.3
Pondicherry	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	277	897	69	363	1606
	Sanctioned Strength	393	994	84	488	1959
	Trg. Index	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8
Low Prevalent States						
Bihar	Ap. 99-June, 04	2326	2312	388	9112	14138
	Sanctioned Strength	5303	2165		13813	21281
	Trg. Index*	0.4	1.1		0.7	0.7
Chandigarh	Ap. 99-June, 04	1016	1321	336	561	3234
	Sanctioned Strength	760	1746	516	222	3244
	Trg. Index*	1.3	0.8	0.7	2.5	1.0
Delhi	Ap. 99-Mar., 03	4206		4850	19429	28485
	Sanctioned Strength	3700		13000	33200	49900
	Trg. Index*	1.1	0.4		0.6	0.6
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Ap. 99-Mar. 03	32	9	5	77	123
	Sanctioned Strength	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Trg. Index	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Daman and Diu	Ap. 99-Mar., 03	64	14	17	48	143
	Sanctioned Strength	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Trg. Index	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	1454	945	1219	11942	15560
	Sanctioned Strength	1703	1512	1267	16240	20722
	Trg. Index	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.8
Himachal Pradesh	Ap. 99-Mar. 04	3518	2272	521	4612	10923
	Sanctioned Strength	2797	1711	556	3984	9048
	Trg. Index	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.2
Jammu and Kashmir	Ap. 99-Sept. 03	2054	1826		5961	9841
	Sanctioned Strength	4788	1680		13600	20068
	Trg. Index	0.4	1.1	0.4		0.5
Kerala	Ap. 00-June, 03	3284	5887	672	11111	20954
	Sanctioned Strength	5326	8024	674	1463	15487
	Trg. Index	0.6	0.7	1.0	7.6	1.4
Lakshadweep	No Reports Received					
	Trg. Index	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Madhya Pradesh	Ap. 99-June, 04	3627	6266	688	5889	16470
	Sanctioned Strength	3547	11182	1028	10958	26715
	Trg. Index	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6
Meghalaya	Ap. 99-Dec. 03	237	397	—	—	634
	Sanctioned Strength	462	799	89	1089	2439
	Trg. Index	0.5	0.5			0.3
Mizoram	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	752	826	107	1042	2727
	Sanctioned Strength	268	617	33	1283	2201
	Trg. Index	2.8	1.3	3.2	0.8	1.2
Orissa	Ap. 99-June, 03	3148	991	655	429	5223
	Sanctioned Strength	4421	1450	817	9446	16134
	Trg. Index	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	8.3
Punjab	Ap. 99-June, 04	2025	424	—	835	3284
	Sanctioned Strength	4431	3055	1061	11872	20419
	Trg. Index	0.5	0.1		0.1	8.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	Ap. 99-Mar. 04	3841	6424	690	2911	13866
	Sanctioned Strength	6533	11088	2536	16530	36687
	Trg. Index	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
Sikkim	Ap. 00-June, 04	239	341	72	203	855
	Sanctioned Strength	318	752	78	214	1362
	Trg. Index	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.6
Tripura	Ap. 99-Mar- 04	445	156	6	164	771
	Sanctioned Strength	700	1000	170	2118	3988
	Trg Index	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	Ap. 00-June, 03	7442	2459	677	1529	12107
	Sanctioned Strength	10428	5426	1872	—	17726
	Trg. Index	0.7	0.5	0.4		0.7
West Bengal	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	8581	17292	1544	13256	40673
	Sanctioned Strength	9500	16528	1470	24000	51498
	Trg. Index	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.8
Ahmedabad M.C.	Ap. 99-Mar., 04	664	863	23	1408	2958
	Sanctioned Strength	500			500	1000
	Trg. Index	1.3				3.0
Chennai M.C.	Ap. 99-Dec. 03	712	2698	9	28	3447
	Sanctioned Strength	1225	2040	35	N/A	3300
	Trg. Index	0.6	1.3	0.3		1.0
Chhattisgarh SACS	No Reports Received					
Jharkhand SACS	Ap. 03-Mar., 04	268	255	22	417	962
	Sanctioned Strength	935			1250	2185
	Trg. Index	0.3	0.2			0.4
Uttaranchal SACS	Ap. 03-Mar., 04	644	0	8	0	652
	Sanctioned Strength	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	Trained	113490	95196	24516	349579	582781
	Sanctioned Strength	118515	139395	37952	277817	575428
	Trg. Index	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.3	1.0

*Trg. Index - No. trained / Manpower available.

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7. Andhra Pradesh	1730.00	1711.00	0.00	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.60
8. Rajasthan	1512.00	1485.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9. Uttar Pradesh	471.00	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
10. Bihar	118.00	118.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11. Orissa	520.00	520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	8362.00	7180.50	13.50	25.40	141.00	33.00	15.00	108.80	19.67	66.00	6.06	524.09	

*39 hect. is for future widening of ROW from 45 m to 60 m.

**Out of 190 hecta, 134 hecta is for future widening of Row from 45m to 60m.

***Area to be acquired has increased due to actual demarcation for service.

Statement-I(B)

North-South and East-West Corridor : Land Acquisition Progress

Land acquisition work on various sections of North-South and East-West Corridors is in progress at different stages as per provision of National Highways Act, 1956. The details of land acquired during the period 22 May, 2004 to 28 Feb 2005 is as under :

Sl.No.	State	Land acquired during May 22, 2004 to February 28, 2005 (in Hect.)					
		Sep. 04	Oct. 04	Nov. 04	Dec. 04	Jan. 05	Feb. 05
1.	Gujarat	5.26	61	—	143.31	—	—
2.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	1.08
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	23.97

Note : The Detailed Project Reports of some sections of North-South and East-West Corridors are under preparation as such total area to be acquired and balance to be acquired is not known at this stage.

Statement-II

Land Acquired in Regard to Golden Quadrilateral Project

(Contracts awarded between 22nd May 2004 to 28th February 2005)

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (Km)	Anticipated date of completion	Cost Awarded to civil contractor (Rs. Crore)	Date of Award
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Allahabad Bypass Contract II Km 158 km-km 198	2	38.987	Dec. 2006	446.99	09.06.04
2.	Allahabad Bypass Contract III Km 198 km-km 242.708	2	44.708	Dec. 2006	505.27	04.11.04
3.	Silchar-Udarband Km 309 to km 275.00	54	34	Sep. 2007	115.86	22.06.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Deesa To Radhanpur Km 372.60 to Km 458.0	14	85.4	Nov. 2007	326.03	02.11.04
5.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar Km 138.80 to Km 245.00	15	106.2	Nov. 2007	288.54	22.11.04
6.	Gagodhar to Garamore Km 245.0 to Km 281.3 and Km 308.00 to Km 254.00	15 & 8A	90.3	Nov- 2007	339.29	22.11.04
7.	Jetpur to Gondal and Rajkot Bypass on NH-8B (BOT) km 117 to km 143 and km 175 to km 185	8B	36	Dec. 2007	265.00	18.01.05
8.	Garamore to Bamanbore Km 254.00 to Km 182.60	8A	71.4	Nov. 2007	289.92	22.11.04
9.	Jetpur to Bhiladi Km 117 to Km 52.50	8B	64.5	Nov. 2007	299.84	22.11.04
10.	Bhiladi to Porbanbdar Km. 52.50 to Km 2.00	8B	50.5	Nov. 2007	193.23	22.11.04
11.	Omalur to Thumpipadi Km 163.40 to Km 180.00	7	16.6	Oct. 2007	49.70	08.02.05
12.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase II SH-54+Amramarg+Panvel Creek Bridge	SH 54	14.35	May 2007	127.10	02.07.04
13.	Garhmukteshwar-Muradabad Km 93-149.23	24	56.25	Sep 2007	221.42	22.11.04
14.	Hapur-Garhmukteshwar Km 58-93	24	35	Sep 2007	195.51	22.07.04
15.	Chennai Bypass Phase II	4 & 45	12.5	Aug. 2007	404.98	25.01.05
16.	Improvement of Access to Golden Qua- drilateral (GQ) Corridor by construction of Free Flow Facilities along NH-4, 45 and 205 within Chennai City	4, 45 & 205	4	March 2007	196	28.01.05
17.	Construction of ROB and its approaches from km 22.865 to 24.650 of Nagpur Adilabad section at Railway Level crossing no. 113 (Butibori ROB) in the State of Maharashtra	7	1.785	Oct. 2006	24.268	10.02.05
18.	Borkhedi to Jam section Km 36.6 to Km 64.0	7	27.4	Oct. 2007	89.367	10.02.05

Statement-III**Land Acquired in Regard to Golden Quadrilateral Project****GQ Corridor wise Details**

Corridor (NH)	Total Length (km)	4 Laned Length (km)	Under Implem-entation (km)
Delhi-Mumbai (NH-8, 76 & 79)	1419	1383	36
Mumbai-Chennai (NH-4, 7 & 46)	1290	1015	275
Kolkata-Chennai (NH-5, 6 & 60)	1684	1358	326
Delhi-Kolkata (NH-2)	1453	855	598
Total	5846	4611	1235

*[Translation]***Door to Door Postal Service in Rural Areas**

1992. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unit of the Postal Department rendering door to door service in rural areas handled by rural postmen;

(b) if so, the time by when these persons handling the door-to-door postal service are likely to be made departmental employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The service of door to door delivery of mail in rural areas is rendered predominantly through Grameen Dak Sevaks who are attached to extra Departmental Post Offices.

(b) There is no proposal to make these persons departmental employees.

(c) Grameen Dak Sevaks are employed for work periods ranging from three to five hours and are being compensated in accordance with their workload. However, they are eligible for recruitment to certain categories of Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the department. Their recruitment to these posts is made in accordance with the provisions of the

respective recruitment rules, and subject to their fulfilling the prescribed eligibility conditions as well as availability of vacancies.

*[English]***Hospitals Violating Bio-Medical Waste Rules**

1993. SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

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

(a) whether Government is aware that Government hospitals in the National Capital Territory (NCT) are selling waste to junk dealers without sterilization as reported in the 'Statesman' dated February 16, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government is also aware that selling of such hospital waste without sterilization is a violation of bio-medical waste rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the Government hospitals violating the rules; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such authorities in this regard?

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

Hanging of MTNL Services

1994. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of MTNL, Delhi had hanged recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this connection;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following faults had occurred in MTNL, Delhi recently :

- (i) Idgah Exchange was down on 12.02.2005 for about 5 hours.
- (ii) MTNL, Delhi GSM services were partially affected in Tis Hazari (TH), Nehru Place (NP), Hauz Khas (KH) and Kidwai Bhavan (KBN) zones for about 2-3 hours on 04-03-2005.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MTNL has investigated the reasons for failure etc. and found the following :

- (i) The fault in Idgah Exchange had occurred due to failure of both the batteries.
- (ii) Failure in GSM service was due to failure of D.C. supply to OF systems at Tis Hazari MSC. The D.C. supply failed due to burning of MCB. The Mobile system was in working condition but service were down due to failure of OF system.

(e) Following steps have been taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future :

- (i) Actions have been taken to procure new battery sets for Idgah.
- (ii) For Dolphin, steps have been taken to install standby DC distribution box as a backup measure as well as separate power cable from separate power plant to avoid total breakdown situation in future.

Secretaries Heading Ministries/Departments

1995. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Secretaries heading the various Union Ministries and Departments; and

(b) the number of years of service put in by each of them in the Additional Secretary Grade before they were appointed as Secretaries to the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) Total

number of Secretaries heading the various Union Ministries and departments as on 11.03.2005—73.

(b) The eligibility of officers for holding the post of Secretary as laid down under the Central Staffing Scheme is as under :

"Minimum of two years of service in a post carrying a basic pay of Rs. 22400/- or above. (Note : In case of All India Services officers who stand allocated to different cadres, eligibility criteria will apply to the entire batch as soon as one officer of the batch has put in the required 2 years of service on a post carrying a basic pay of Rs. 22400/- P.M.)"

Stringent criteria of selection would apply to members of all the services.

Ratio of Doctors, Nurses Etc.

1996. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) The ratio of Government doctors, nurses, hospitals, PHCs and dispensaries each as per one lakh population during the period 1990 and 2004; and

(b) The trend of rate of increase/decrease, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per latest data compiled by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, average population served per doctor under Government Agencies ranges from 661 to 64182 in different States as detailed in Statement-I. Similarly, the number of nurses per one lakh population and number of hospitals per one million population during the period 1990 onwards are given in the enclosed Statement-II and III. As per 2001 census each PHC covers an average of 32129 rural population. The data regarding number of dispensaries per one lakh population is not maintained centrally.

Statement-I

Average Population served per doctor in Government Agencies

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Population served per Doctor
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64182
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3532

1	2	3
3. Assam		12128
4. Bihar		*
5. Chhattisgarh		*
6. Goa (3)		7507
7. Gujarat		*
8. Haryana		NA
9. Himachal Pradesh		NA
10. Jammu and Kashmir		3956
11. Jharkhand		*
12. Karnataka		11714
13. Kerala (A)		8057
14. Madhya Pradesh		*
15. Maharashtra		NA
16. Manipur		2820
17. Meghalaya		6665
18. Mizoram		3427
19. Nagaland		5014
20. Orissa		7312
21. Punjab		6642
22. Rajasthan (4)		11252
23. Sikkim		3335
24. Tamil Nadu (B)		21637
25. Tripura		4004
26. Uttar Pradesh (5)		25153
27. Uttaranchal		*
28. West Bengal		*
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		3043
30. Chandigarh		661
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		6250
32. Daman & Diu		5097

1	2	3
33. Delhi (6)		16158
34. Lakshadweep		2179
35. Pondicherry (C)		1607

*Data not furnished.

Statement-II*Number of Nurses per One Lakh Population*

Year	Nurses per One lakh population
1990	37
1991	40
1992	45
1993	52
1994	58
1995	63
1996	61
1997	64
1998	70
1999	75
2000	78
2001	78
2002	82
2003	N.A.

Source : Nursing council of India.

Statement-III*Number of Hospitals per One Million Population*

Year (as on 1st January)	Number of Hospitals per one million population
1	2
1990	13
1991	13
1992	13
1993	16

1	2
1994	17
1995	17
1996	16
1997	16
1998	16
1999	16
2000	16
2001	15
2002	15

Source : Directorate of Health Services of States/UTs (as per latest information received)

Non-Medical Scientists' Promotions

1997. SHRI N.S.V CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Medical Scientists got in-situ promotions according to Supreme Court orders;

(b) if so, the number of such promotions given so far;

(c) whether Designations are also given along such in-situ promotions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) In Situ Promotions are given to the Group 'A' Gazetted Non-Medical Scientific and Technical Officers working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare according to the Department of Health (Group 'A' Gazetted Non-Medical Scientific and Technical Posts. In Situ Promotion Rules, 1990 which were framed on the direction of the Honourable Supreme Court.

(b) 377.

(c) and (d) Since the Department of Health (Group 'A' Gazetted Non-Medical Scientific and Technical Posts. In Situ Promotion Rules, 1990, states that "In Situ promotion" means personal promotion of a candidate from the existing Scientist Level to the next higher Scientist Level without any change in

the post or in the designation thereof, new designations on In-Situ Promotion are no longer indicated in the In-Situ Promotion orders.

Use of Cell Phones

1998. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the advanced camera cell phones are the biggest villains in flooding the markets with porn material; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to restrict the use or marketing of these cell phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has also come to know about misuse of camera provided in the cell phones through media reports. The camera cell phones are the products of technology advancement and use of such products solely depends on the user. Since the question of using camera in-built in a cell phone does not relate to use of a miniature camera, Ministry of Communications cannot take any action to restrict the use of advance technology products such as camera cell phones.

Oil-For-Food Programme in Iraq

1999. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an interim report by the UN appointed panel investigating the oil-for-food programme in Iraq had depicted the programme as "tainted";

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

(c) the extent to which India participated in the UN's oil-for-food programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The interim report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme has noted that the selection process for the major contractors for the Programme did not conform to established financial and competitive bidding rules and failed to meet the organization's own standards of fairness, objectivity and transparency. The

interim report has also found inadequacies in the United Nation's internal audit with regard to monitoring and review of the Programme.

(c) Several Indian companies participated in the U.N. Oil-for-Food programme. Major items of export included tea, sugar, wheat, soyabean meals, yarn, electrical goods, machinery and equipment, pharmaceutical products, spares of oil industry, tobacco etc. The major import was oil. As per U.N. data available till November 2003, the total volume of Indian exports to Iraq under the Oil-for-Food Programme was around US \$ 1.3 billion.

Number of Joint Secretary Level Officers

2000. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers from IAS, IRS, IPS, IRS (C&CE), IFS, IFS(forest) presently at the level of Joint Secretary at the Centre, service-wise;

(b) whether officers of a particular batch from Central Services need to wait for two extra years for promotion as Joint Secretary at the Centre in comparison to officers from the IAS; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) The number of the Joint Secretary level officers at the Centre as on 28.2.2005 belonging to the concerned services is shown below :

Service	No. of JS and equivalent officers
IAS	311
IPS	60
IFS (Forest)	Nil
IFS	7
IRS (C&CE)	1
IRS (IT)	11

(b) and (c) The posts at the level of Joint Secretary are filled under the Central Staffing Scheme, by borrowing officers from the All India Services and other participating Group 'A' services. All officers who are so borrowed serve the Govern-

ment of India for a stipulated tenure on deputation and, thereafter, return to their parent cadres. Their growth, development and career prospects are mainly in their own service. Promotion of the officers takes place in their own cadres. These posts are not earmarked for any particular service.

[Translation]

Joint Venture on Power Generation with Bhutan

2001. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bhutan are contemplating to start hydel power projects;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) Cooperation in the field of hydro-power generation is one of the pillars of India-Bhutan economic cooperation. The 336MW Chukha Project and 60MW Kurichu Project built in Bhutan with India's assistance are already operational, supplying electricity to India. The 1020 MW Tala Project, currently under implementation, is another flagship project. Most of the power generated from this project will be exported to India.

Government of India is also funding the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Punatsangchu (Stage I) project with an estimated potential of 900 MW. An MoU for undertaking preparation of DPRs of Punatsangchu (Stage II) and Mangdechu Project, with an estimated combined potential of 1500 MWs was signed on January 25, 2005.

[English]

E-Chaupals

2002. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether MNCs have started marketing in the rural areas through e-chaupals;

(b) if so, the total approximate sales during the last year;

(c) whether this poses any challenge to the village industries; and

(d) if so, the plans of the Government to protect the village and rural industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) According to available information, e-chaupal is a project of the ITC Limited, an Indian company, which offers farmers the following facilities :

- (i) information dissemination through the internet, e.g., best farming practices, weather conditions, prices of various crops, etc.;
- (ii) buying farmers' produce at ITC buying centres approved under the respective States' Agriculture produce Market Committee Rules; and
- (iii) sale of quality farm inputs and other consumer goods to farmers.

(b) The total sales during 2004 through the e-chaupals are estimated at Rs. 12 crore.

(c) The data on the sale of village industries products (Rs. 10988.17 crore approximately during 2003-04) of units promoted with Government assistance through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and institutions registered with the KVIC and KVIBs, do not indicate that these products face marketing challenge on account of marketing of farm products, etc., through e-chaupals.

(d) The Government assists village industry (VI) units to participate in exhibitions, brand promotion, quality assurance and technology upgradation and also in modernization of sales outlets, etc., of the registered VI institutions. In addition, a Confederation for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries has been set up in 2003 to strengthen the marketing network of Khadi and village industry products. The Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme of the KVIC has been started during 2003 in order to assist design and packaging improvement of Khadi and village industry products.

Fifth Economic Census

2003. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct Fifth Economic Census;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for such census; and

(d) the funds allocated for the census during the current plan and the allocation made during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Fifth Economic Census is to be implemented as a Central Sector Plan Scheme with 100% fund assistance from Centre to States/UTs. The main purpose of conducting the Economic Census is to generate the latest frame of enterprises/establishments covering all sectors of the economy (except crop production and plantation) to be used for follow up surveys. The Census will be conducted in the whole of Indian Union except some areas that remain inaccessible throughout the year and where State/UT Governments find it impossible to collect the information. The field work would be undertaken by the respective State/UTs during April to June 2005.

(d) An amount of Rs.99.20 Crore for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 of the 10th Five Year Plan including Rs.46.52 crore in the current financial year 2004-05 is allocated for the census.

Uniform Admission Guidelines

2004. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States in the country have agreed for a Central law for smoothening the process of admission in the private medical colleges and look into the administrative structure in those colleges;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has agreed to enact a law for uniform guidelines concerning such colleges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c): The Central Government have received requests from some of the State Government for enactment of central law to deal with the matter concerning admissions and fee structure in the private medical colleges. The Government has taken a decision to frame an appropriate legislation in this regard after eliciting the views of the

concerned Departments and the stakeholders including the State Governments.

[Translation]

Terrorist Camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh

2005. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :

SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the presence of terrorist training camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the total number of camps existing as on date;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the neighbouring Government to destroy these camps;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (e) Myanmar : Some Indian insurgent groups reportedly use Myanmar territory for shelter and other activities. This matter has regularly been taken up with the Government of Myanmar including during the State visit of the Head of State of Myanmar to India in October 2004, during which a categorical assurance was given that the Myanmar Government would not permit its territory to be used for insurgent activities against India. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed between the two countries on 25th October 2004, both sides have agreed to cooperate to prevent cross-border crimes including terrorism. The first meeting of the Consultative Group set up to monitor progress on the implementation of the MoU was held in February 2005. Both Governments are taking further steps for enhancing cooperation in this field.

Bangladesh : There are frequent reports that Indian insurgent group (IIGs) are using Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, training camps, transportation of arms, transit, etc. IIG camps are reported to be located along the border areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet Division and Chittagong. Information on such camps is regularly shared with Bangladesh authorities for action. The matter has been repeatedly raised at the highest level including with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in July 2004, who assured that Bangladesh does not want anyone to use their territory for terrorism. At the same time, the Bangladesh authorities have also been denying the existence of such camps. The matter remains an important issue in our bilateral discussions with Bangladesh.

[English]

Guidance to Entrepreneurs of Small Scale Sector

2006. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a project to guide the entrepreneurs of Small Scale Sector in order to help them to compete with the policies of the world Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of Small Scale Sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the two WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their Parliaments. India is a member nation of the WTO. There is, therefore, no competition between the small scale sector in India and the policies of the WTO. The Union Government has been organizing workshops and seminars all over the country to acquaint the small scale entrepreneurs with the WTO agreements and their implications for the small enterprises and offering guidance on how to avail of the advantages and face the challenges flowing from these agreements.

(c) The measures taken by the government to protect the legitimate interests of the small scale sector within the provisions of the WTO agreements include assistance for technology upgradation, common infrastructure development

and marketing through schemes of cluster development, facilitating availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices and use of information technology, etc. Besides, protection to the small scale sector within the framework of WTO agreements is available in the form of raising customs duties upto the bound levels, imposing antidumping duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge of imports, etc.

Satellite Oriented Education In Schools

2007. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of officials of Indian Satellite Research Organisation (ISRO) has visited a number of Schools during the last week of January, 2005 to find out the possibilities of imparting satellite oriented education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A team of officials from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has visited about 108 schools to inspect and evaluate the equipment installed for the purpose of Satellite-based Distance Education programme in Chamarajanagar District in Karnataka State.

Precaution for Tsunami

2008. SHRIMATI BHAVANA P. GAWALI : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Tsunamis which hit the Indian ocean till date; and

(b) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to save west coast of India from an impending Tsunami?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per available information, the details of Tsunamis which hit the Indian ocean are provided below :

Date	Particulars
326 B.C.	Alexander the Great
Between 1st April and 9th May 1008	Tsunami on the Iranian coast from a local earthquake
August 27th 1883	Krakatoa 1.5 m tsunami at Madras, 0.6 m at Nagapattinam, 0.2 m at Arden
1884	Earthquake in the western part of the Bay of Bengal Tsunamis at Port Blair, Dublet (mouth of Hooghly River)
26th June 1941	8.1 quake in the Andaman Sea at 12.9°N, 92.5°E. Tsunamis on the east coast of India with amplitudes from 0.75 to 1.25 m
27th November 1945	8.25 quake 70 km south of Karachi at 24.5°N, 63.0°E Tsunami amplitude at Kutch was 11.0 to 11.5 m.

However, only one tsunami incident of August 27, 1883 is confirmed.

[Translation]

Theft of Cables

2009. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector telephone company MTNL has lodged a complaint of telephone cable snapping/ theft with the ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(b) As far as west coast is concerned, the major source of Tsunami generating earthquake is in Makaran Coast, and extensions of Bhuj (2001) and Katchch (1819) earthquake faults in Arabian sea. This is being taken care of by installing appropriate tide gauges and databuoy network coupled with tsunami warning sensors, strengthening of the existing seismological network, modelling of inundation scenarios and establishing a center for collection of the information analysis and generating status advisories.

(c) whether the Government has inquired into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been spurt in theft of underground cable of MTNL, Delhi during the last few months. 50 cases of cable theft have been registered in Delhi. The matter has been taken up by MTNL, Delhi with Police Commissioner, Delhi, Lt. Governor Delhi as well as this Ministry.

(c) and (d) The matter has been referred to Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action in this regard.

[English]

Fire Safety in Hospitals

2010. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is no fire safety in a large number of hospitals in the country;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) It is for the respective State Government to ensure the availability of fire safety norms in various hospitals in the States. However, appropriate equipments/instruments as per the fire safety norms equipments/instruments are available in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate, Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry. The fire safety norms are closely monitored in each of the above hospitals.

Mobile Service in West Bengal

2011. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts and blocks particularly in West Bengal connected with BSNL mobile service and the

number of districts and blocks deprived of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.'s mobile service;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand mobile service in West Bengal in the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided cellular mobile service in all the District Headquarters and 116 Block Headquarters in West Bengal. 226 Block Headquarters are yet to be provided cellular coverage by BSNL in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) BSNL has planned to provide 585700 cellular connections in West Bengal including Calcutta Telephones District during current financial year.

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

[Translation]

Consumption of Allopathic Medicines for Intoxication

2012. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some allopathic medicines are being consumed for the purpose of intoxication in the country;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to take any concrete step to check it; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Reports have been received, especially from North Eastern States, that some prescription drugs like cough syrups containing Codeine and Buprenorphine, Dextro-poxyphene formulations are being used for the purpose of intoxication.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by Dte. GHS under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to check the misuse of these drugs.

(i) Codeine :

Codeine is a Schedule 'H' drug in the Drugs and

Cosmetics Rules. Considering the abuse potential of the formulations containing codeine, the sale of Phensedyl cough linctus, Corex syrup and other habit forming drugs is restricted and these drugs available in the pharmacies are sold only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

To curb the misuse of these habit forming formulations, State Govts in North Eastern States have issued orders on the supply of these preparations permitting only limited quantities of these drugs to be kept by the stockists and by the retailers at a time in their shops.

Further, to curb the possible misuse of the cough linctus containing Codeine formulations in India, manufacturers have been directed to revise the composition. The cough linctus preparations now marketed in India has the following revised composition.

Each 5 ml contains :

Codeine phosphate I.P. - 10 mg

Chlorpheniramine Maleate I.P. - 4 mg

(II) Buprenorphine :

Buprenorphine is an opiod analgesic and preparations containing the drug are required to be sold only against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners.

Keeping in view the growing trend of abuse of Buprenorphine, the following measures to curb the misuse of these drugs have been taken :

- (a) The manufacturers of this drug have been asked to have minimum stockist outlets for sale of Buprenorphine formulations.
- (b) The manufacturers have been asked to put the warning "the drug has potential for abuse and should be sold and used under strict medical supervision" in red colour on the label and carton of the formulation.
- (c) The manufacturers have also been asked to consider the marketing of a combination of Bupreorphine with Nalaxone to reduce the abuse potentiality of Buprenorphine.
- (d) DCG(I) has issued suitable instructions to the State Licensing Authorities requesting them to issue instructions to the Inspectorate staff to prevent the easy availability of the drug Buprenorphine through retail outlets and also to ensure that the drug

marketed under different brand names are supplied only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Further a meeting of the Secretaries of Health of various North Eastern States and also States of Punjab and Delhi was held on 11th November 2003 to discuss the issue concerning reported misuse of certain drug formulations containing Narcotics and Psychotropic drugs especially in North Eastern States and Punjab and Delhi and various measures to curb the illicit trafficking of these drugs, were suggested.

[English]

Special Plan Assistance to States

2013. SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to release Special Plan Assistance during 2004-05; and
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of State-wise allocation of Special Plan Assistance (SPA) for the Annual Plan 2004-05 are given below.

Sl.No.	Name of State	Allocation of SPA for 2004-05 (in Rs. Crore)
1.	Assam	22.00
2.	Himachal Pradesh	578.76
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	613.77
4.	Manipur	40.00
5.	Uttaranchal	750.49
Total		2005.02

Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell

2014. SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunication

has set up Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cells at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad in a bid to curb the menace of illegal ILD telephony which has caused losses to the Government amounting to several crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to monitor the menace in other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Telecommunications has setup Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad to curb the menace of illegal ILD telephony which has caused notional loss of several crores to the Government.

(b) These four VTM Cells has busted 69 cases till date since formation in October, 2004. Total notional loss of Rs. 37.98 crores has been caused to the Government, due to these cases, as per latest available data.

(c) Temporarily these four VTM Cells are monitoring the menace in other cities also. Proposal is under process for creation of more such cells in the other circles of the country.

Revival Package for Traditional Industries

2015. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA :

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala has sought centre's help for a revival package for traditional industries like Cashew and Coir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES : (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government of Kerala approached the Government of India some time back with a memorandum for a package for revival of traditional industries like cashew, coir, handloom, handicrafts, etc., and for creation of a Traditional Industries Fund to provide support for technology development, design improvement, market surveys, skill development and setting up of state-of the-art common facility centres.

Expansion of Telephone Exchange in Maharashtra

2016. SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand telephone exchange capacity in Maharashtra during 2004-05;

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

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Targets for expansion of telephone exchange capacities in Maharashtra have not been fixed. The expansions are carried out as per local requirements. MTNL has already commissioned 106.21 K gross capacity in Mumbai during 2004-05. As regards BSNL, details of expansion are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Land Line switching Capacity expansion in Maharashtra during 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of SSAs	Capacity expansion
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	780
2.	Akola	1140
3.	Amravati	792
4.	Aurangabad	1684
5.	Beed	784
6.	Bhandara	2358
7.	Buldhana	1576
8.	Chandrapur	1200
9.	Dhule	1928
10.	Gadchiroli	424
11.	Jalgaon	4148
12.	Jalna	0

1	2	3
13.	Kalyan	4400
14.	Kolhapur	1256
15.	Latur	624
16.	Nagpur	-18700
17.	Nanded	-728
18.	Nasik	-76
19.	Osmanabad	1452
20.	Parbhani	0
21.	Pune	848
22.	Raigadh	168
23.	Ratnagiri	3180
24.	Sangli	1992
25.	Satara	-292
26.	Sindhudurg	914
27.	Solapur	4464
28.	Wardha	1608
29.	Yavatmal	136
Total		18058

[Translation]

Credit Guarantee Scheme

2017. SHRI DHAN SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

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

(a) whether the Credit guarantee scheme to provide loans and guarantee to the entrepreneurs keen to set up small and medium scale industries is under operation in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entrepreneurs belonging to the SCs/STs are extended any concession in the interest etc. under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the entrepreneur-wise and enterprise-wise number of the beneficiaries under the scheme in Rajasthan alongwith the amount of loan sanctioned to them?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the scheme per se is not meant to provide loans.

(b) The Government launched the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries on 30 August 2000, which become operational with effect from 1 January 2001. The scheme, operated by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI), provides guarantee cover to the extent of 75 per cent of the loans of up to Rs. 25 lakh sanctioned to new and existing small scale industrial, service and business enterprises, without collateral and/or third party guarantee, by the Member Lending Institutions (namely, public and private sector banks, regional rural banks, etc.) of the CGTSI.

(c) and (d) The provisions of the scheme are uniform for all categories of borrowers, including those belonging to the SCs/STs.

(e) The number of entrepreneur/enterprise beneficiaries and the amount of loans for which guarantee cover has been sanctioned under the scheme in Rajasthan up to 28th February, 2005 are 430 and Rs. 716.36 lakh respectively.

[English]

Committee on Development of Shipping Industry

2018. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee exclusively to examine development of infrastructure for shipping industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition and terms and reference of the Committee; and

(d) the time by which the committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Treatment of Goitre

2019. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether the studies conducted in Tripura and Bengal show the incidences of goitre;

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

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to ensure proper treatment for goitre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Studies conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, State Health Directorates, Indian Council of Medical Research and recently by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad during the year 2003 have indicated that the prevalence of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders in all the States including the North-Eastern States and West Bengal has declined as a result of iodized salt consumption. The extent of reduction was relatively more in the districts of North-Eastern States where higher levels of awareness about iodized salt as well as higher consumption of iodized salt were observed during the course of study. However, no impact evaluation study has been conducted in the State of Tripura.

(c) In order to prevent and control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs), the Government is implementing National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme in the country. Under the Programme, the Government is providing financial assistance for establishment of IDD control Cell and IDD monitoring laboratory to the States/UTs for effective implementation of National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are also undertaken by central/State Governments.

All the States/UTs except Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra

and Arunachal Pradesh have fully banned the sale of edible non-iodized salt. Office of the Salt Commissioner, functioning under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Government of India, is engaged in the planning of production and distribution of iodized salt to meet the required demand in the country.

Maintenance of N.Hs by Private Sector

2020. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to entrust the responsibility of maintenance of national highways to the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Private Sector participation is proposed to be increased by awarding Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) concessions for 5 or more years for a length of 250 or more kms in respect of completed sections of Highways. Bidder meeting the minimum technical qualifications and offering the highest bid amount, will be selected on the basis of competitive bidding. The concessionaire will maintain the section for the period of concession and will retain the toll collected during this period.

Hike in Call Charges

2021. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has increased the charges of making a telephone call from the capital to the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and from when this hike in telephone charges has been made;

(c) whether the approval of Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been obtained for this hike; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The pulse rate has been revised as per Statement and implemented w.e.f. 18-02-2005.

(c) Tariffs are under fore bearance and are within

the prescribed limits given by Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Hence, only intimation to THAI has been given.

(d) The revision has been necessitated to offset the loss to MTNL in the interconnection regime.

Statement

Pulse Rate in Seconds

Distance slab in Kms.	Basic to Basic		Basic to WLL(m)		Basic to Cell	
	Existing	Revised	Existing	Revised	Existing	Revised
Call to adjoining areas	180	120	90	60	90	60

NCR stations with code

Distance	Station	Code
0-50	Ghaziabad	95-120
0-50	Noida	95-120
0-50	Faridabad	95-129
0-50	Sonepat	95-130
0-50	Bahadurgarh	95-1276
0-50	Gurgaon	95-124
0-50	Modi Nagar	95-1232
0-50	Sikandrabad	95-5735

[English]

Increases in Cases of Diabetes and Atherosclerosis

2022. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some medical experts have expressed the fear that by the year 2025, India would rank first in diabetic global burden with about 60 million diabetic cases;

(b) if so, the main reasons for this massive increase in diabetic cases;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that there is tremendous increase in incidence of atherosclerosis and resultant coronary artery disease, heart attack and brain attack (strokes); and

(d) if so, the steps taken to launch a national programme of awareness to combat diabetes and atherosclerosis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Patent for Medicinal Plants

2023. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any action plan for the conservation of Medical Unani Plants related to the indigenous system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large scale Indian Medicinal Plants are being patented by the Multi-National companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of medicinal plants that got patented by the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the number of Indian Unani Medicinal Plants that got patented by the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government has set up a Medicinal Plants Board with a view to co-ordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, etc. in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The schemes implemented by the Board provides for financial support for promotional activities and for captive cultivation of medicinal plants used in preparation of drugs under traditional systems of medicine including the Unani system.

(c) to (e) Although, plants and the knowledge about their medicinal usage in the public domain can not be patented, it is noticed that some individuals and companies in some of the foreign countries have been given patents for the medicinal use of a number of Indian medicinal plants. As there is no effective mechanism to know about the applications made for patents in the patent offices of other countries, it is not possible to indicate the number of patents granted for medicinal use of plants including those used in Unani in foreign countries.

[English]

**Non-Issuance of Visas to
Indians Living Abroad**

2024. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA :

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instruction has been issued by the Government to Indian Missions abroad not to issue visas to some Indian nationals living abroad or taken refuge in other countries after 1984;

(b) if so, whether any black-list is maintained in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to abolish the list; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) Indian nationals living abroad do not require visas to travel to India. Those who have taken refuge in other countries, are restrained

by such countries from travelling to India. As regards maintenance and review of the black list, it is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

Bio-Technology Awareness Park

2025. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any special scheme or proposal for setting up 'Biotechnology Awareness Park' in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not apply.

**Billing Contract Order to U.S.
Based CSG System**

2026. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has awarded billing contract order to U.S. based CSG system;

(b) if so, the cost of the contract;

(c) the norms adopted to award the contract;

(d) the terms and reference of the contract; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) rolled out its countrywide mobile services in the year 2002. The application software for the billing solution was from M/s CSG International. The Mobile services network expansion presently in progress, apart from expanding the core network elements, also necessitates the expansion of hardware and application software for the Billing systems.

The software component; being proprietary in nature is being expanded through M/s CSG International by acquiring corporate license on a long-term basis for 10 years. The corporate License acquisition enables BSNL to serve unlimited number of subscribers to meet their Billing needs for the present and future services. Ten years corporate License agreement for expansions has been finalized through negotiations at a cost of approximately Rs. 120 Crores for unlimited subscribers and to be paid in 10 equal instalments of approximately Rs. 12 Crores each.

Revenue Earned Through Auction of Scrap

**2027. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD :
SHRI RAJARAM PAL :**

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

(a) whether the Government sells/auctions the scrap of the worn-out ships at the shipyards set-up under it in the various States;

(b) if so, the shipyard-wise quantum of scrap, in metric tons/auctioned during the last three years and the earning made therefrom;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints of blatant irregularities in the auctions of scrap at the various shipyards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has constituted/proposes to constitute any committee to investigate the whole matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of Revenue Stamps from Post Offices

2028. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post offices located in various places of the country have stopped selling the revenue stamps;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps to re-start the selling thereof; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. However, in places where the State Government is not making payment of commission to the Department of Posts at the rates prescribed in the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of State Secretaries of Stamps and Registration decisions of which were circulated in October 2003—replenishment of stock of revenue stamps, where exhausted, has not been possible.

A copy of the relevant portion of the Highlights of the Proceedings of the "Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of State Secretaries of Stamps and Registration" dated 31-10-2003 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Sale of revenue stamps has not been suspended by the Department of Posts. It is for the State Government to "exercise their right to use or not to use the channel provided by the Department of Posts".

Statement

Relevant Portion of the Highlights of the Proceedings of the sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of State Secretaries of Stamps and Registration Held on 31 October 2003

Item 4. Rate of Commission on sale of stamps and stamp papers by state governments to the Department of Posts.

The Standing Committee considered the position of the Department of Posts as contained in their D.O. Letter No. 7-1/92-PO dated 20 June 2003 that the rate of discount to Department-headed to be raised to 10% within three years (instead of five years as had been decided in the fifth meeting), and be set at 3%, 6% and 10% in the successive years. While noting that even a discount of 10% covered only about 50% of the cost that the Department incurs on the sale of stamps, the representatives of the State Government observed that these were high and if implemented, may force the state governments to use other channels. The Committee, in this regard, took note of the provision in the existing Indian Stamp Act, 1899 which permitted the state governments to make such arrangements as they considered appropriate for the sale of stamp and stamp papers.

Upon deliberations by the Committee of the implications arising out of the position taken by the Department of Posts, it took the view that the Department of Posts may set the rates of discount at 3%, 6% and 10% (with flexibility to consider the rates at the end of the three years) but not rates that are

in excess of 3%, 6% and 10% even in those states which have agreed to a larger discount, and the state governments may exercise their right to use or not to use the channel provided by the Department of Posts. It was further decided that in order to enable the states to take a considered view in the matter, the Department of posts would make available to NIPFP a copy of the costs that are involved in extending this facility which will be circulated to all states.

[English]

Preparation of Human Development Report

2029. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UNDP has funded and assisted the States in the preparation of Human Development Report; and

(b) if so, the details of the States which have received such assistance alongwith the names of the States which have released the HDR till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States which have received such assistance for UNDP in the preparation of Human Development Reports are—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The States which were assisted by UNDP and have released the Human Development Report till date are—Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. In addition, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have also released their HDRs, but without UNDP assistance.

Monthly Insurance Saving Scheme

2030. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

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

(a) whether various schemes such as MIS etc. run by Post Offices can be availed only through agents of Post Offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the recent scams by some of the agents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make these schemes agent-free and fool-proof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) There is no such scheme like Monthly Insurance Saving Scheme. However, Monthly Income Scheme account can be opened by investors directly in the Post Offices, besides being availed through agents of Post offices.

(c) Some instances of depositors being duped by the agents have come to the notice.

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

Fifth Pay Commission Recommendations

2031. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has not till date accepted the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations that have not yet been accepted; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (c) All the major recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission have been accepted and implemented by the Government. The recommendations which have been examined and not been accepted by the Government due to financial implications and other relevant factors, inter-alia, include :

(i) Restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 instead of the existing period of 15 years.

(ii) Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies to have the same machinery for implementation of decisions as in the case of JCM including that of Reference of Board of Arbitration.

(iii) Grant of additional pension at the rate of 05% of emoluments for each completed six monthly period of service in excess of 33 years.

- (iv) Calculation of pension on average emoluments for six months.
- (v) Interest on delayed payment of pension.
- (vi) Constitution of Sixth Pay Commission.

Waiting List in Telecom Circles of West Bengal

2032. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for STD/ISD telephone and PCO booths in all the telecom circles of West Bengal, circle-wise;

(b) the names of the Circles where Telephone Advisory Committees have been Constituted for providing such booths;

(c) the number of persons who applied for PCO booths in various regions of West Bengal during the last three years; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by the Government to clear the pending applications in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, number of pending applications for STD/ISD and Local Public Call Office (PCO) booths in West Bengal are as under :

Name of Circle		Pending applications for STD/ISD and Local PCOs as on 28-02-2005
West Bengal Circle	West Bengal Circle (excluding Sikkim)	531
	Sikkim	Nil
Kolkata Telephone District		Nil

(b) Anybody of 18 years or above age are eligible to apply for a PCO. The PCOs are provided depending upon the technical feasibility. As such no committee is constituted for allotment of PCO booths.

(c) Number of persons who applied for PCO booths in various regions of West Bengal are given as under:

Name of Circle		Number of applications received					
		SDT/ISD PCOs			Local PCOs		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 upto 28-2-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 upto 28-02-05
West Bengal Circle	West Bengal Circle (excluding Sikkim)	3796	3547	5153	886	703	762
	Sikkim	12	09	08	02	04	01
Kolkata Telephone District		4893	4912	2106	4726	4212	1978

(d) Steps taken to clear the pending applications are :

- (i) Laying of Cable in the areas where the connections are non-feasible.
- (ii) Around 72700 Fixed Wireless Type (FWT) sets ordered for West Bengal Circle. These sets will be used for providing PCOs also in areas which are Technically Not Feasible (TNF) on underground cable.
- (iii) Procurement of exchange cards for PCOs.

Economic Ties with Bangladesh

2033. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh are discussing on some fresh trade, investments and economic issues;

(b) If so, the details of projects and programmes on which discussions have been held so far; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Bangladesh have been discussing a number of fresh trade, investment and economic issues. The bilateral Joint Economic Commission (JEC), which met in Dhaka on 14-15 July 2003, focused on a host of economic and commercial proposals, including rail-borne container services, a new dollar denominated credit line, a bilateral investment protection and promotion agreement and a free trade agreement between the two countries.

As a follow up of the decisions taken during the JEC meeting, the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on trade has met twice in October 2003 and in March 2004 for negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement and the elimination of para-tariff and non-tariff barriers. The JWG has also finalised the text of a revised bilateral trade agreement, which is expected to be signed during the proposed visit of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry to Bangladesh sometime later this year. The India-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs also met in New Delhi in March 2004 and addressed various field-level problems between the two sides. Indian and Bangladeshi officials met in Dhaka in August 2004 to discuss the terms and conditions of a new dollar denominated credit line to Bangladesh. They are expected to meet again in New Delhi in the near future to discuss and finalise a number of new projects in the railway sector that will be covered by the proposed credit line. In a related development, the Inter-Governmental railway meeting between India and Bangladesh, which was held in New Delhi in December 2004, discussed several measures to strengthen relations between the two railways, including a new proposal for the movement of containerized cargo between the two countries.

[Translation]

Bridge at N.H.-2

2034. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the design drawn up for a bridge in Badarpur at National Highway No. 2 has been provided to the National Highways Authority;

(b) if so, the salient features of the design so drawn up;

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be started and the time likely to be taken on the completion of this project; and

(d) the requisite arrangements being made by the Government to complete the project within the stipulated time in view of heavy traffic in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Construction of a 6 lane elevated highway near Badarpur on National Highway No. 2 (km 16.700 to km 19.700) has been approved in principle, for implementation on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis including construction of 2 lane service road on either side, improvement of junctions and other miscellaneous provisions for traffic safety features etc.

(c) Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this project is in advanced stage of completion. The project is scheduled to commence in 15 months after preparation of bid documents, pre qualification of bidders, formulation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), financial close etc. Schedule time for construction for this project is 36 months.

(d) Appropriate arrangements are being made by National Highways Authority of India to complete the project within time.

Utilization certificate of Funds

2035. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 194 asked on December 1, 2004 and state :

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has sent the information to the Union Government regarding 'utilisation certificate' of the Central funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent an utilization certificate for an amount of Rs. 1,49,88,216.00 against the allocation of Rs. 1.50 crores for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow.

[English]

Improving Inland Waterways-3

2036. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

DR. K. S. MANOJ :

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

(a) the details of works proposed for improving the Inland Waterways-3 in Kerala for the year 2004-05;

(b) whether all the proposed works have been completed;

(c) if not, the details of the amount allotted for the purpose that has got lapsed in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has received a proposal from the State Government for extension of National Waterways no. 3 from Kollam to Kovalam;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Important works included annual fairway maintenance capital dredging, construction of terminals, back portion works, maintenance of lock and provision of 24 hours navigation aids.

(b) and (c) Except capital dredging, most of the proposed works have been completed. Against original budget provision of Rs. 13.7 crore, actual expenditure would be about Rs. 8.70 crore.

(d) to (f) There is a proposal for extension of national waterway No. 3 from Kollam to Kovalam. However, in view of the problems being faced in making the existing waterway fully operational, this has been kept in abeyance.

Proper Treatment for AIDS Patients

2037. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that AIDS patients are not getting proper treatment in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to create special wards in Government hospitals for such patients;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to assist the States Government's for setting up of exclusive hospitals for treatment of AIDS with proper HIV diagnostic kits;

(d) if so, whether any arrangements have been made to supply medicines to the AIDS patients free of cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Some stray instances of discrimination against AIDS patients have been reported from time to time. However, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) not only issues guidelines to hospitals through all State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), that HIV/AIDS cases should be treated without any stigma and discrimination but also provides funds of the amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh to each government run medical college and District Hospital in the country through the concerned State AIDS Control Society for treating opportunistic infections likely to affect people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, funds are also made available to all hospitals for Post Exposure Prophylaxis to any medical/para medical staff who gets accidentally exposed to HIV due to injury from sharp, instruments and syringe needles.

(b) and (c) Setting up of exclusive hospitals and special wards exclusive to HIV/AIDS cases are discouraged as such type of arrangement is likely to add to the stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS. Proper diagnostic facilities are available in most of the medical colleges and district hospitals in the country and this facility is proposed to be extended in remaining medical colleges and district hospitals.

(d) to (f) Arrangements have been made to supply free Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) to AIDS cases through 25 selected medical institutions in 13 States/UT of the country, that is Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, UP, Rajasthan, W. Bengal and Chandigarh. NACO plans to scale up ART services by establishing at least one hospital in each major state of the country to provide free ART services. Global Fund round IV, has agreed to provide support of an amount of USD 140.878 million, that is equivalent to Rs. 648.039 crore for providing free ART services in six high prevalence states and NCT Delhi for a period of five years. The same will be implemented after EFC approval and signing of agreement with the GFATM.

Reports of Commission of Enquiry

2038. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that law requires that the reports of the Commission of inquiry

should be presented to Parliament within six months of their receipt;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to lay before Parliament the Phukan Commission final report which was submitted before the Commission was disbanded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under examination.

Reports on Facilities of Medical Colleges

2039. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether monitoring committee to examine the facilities as per MCI norms in Medical Colleges in the country under guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court has submitted its reports to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations;

(c) whether the recommendations have been accepted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The members of the Adhoc Committee, appointed by the hon'ble Supreme Court of India to monitor the functioning of Medical Council of India, has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Court. Copies of the report have also been submitted to the Central Government. The recommendations made therein pertain to various aspects concerning the medical education sector including with regard to the functioning of Medical Council of India with a view to improve the system as a whole. The report is presently under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

National Health Policy

2040. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special arrangements have been made for rural scheduled Caste Community under the National Health Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Health is a State subject and State Governments are primarily responsible for provision of health care for the citizenry at large including the rural scheduled caste population. The National Health Policy-2002 gives overriding importance to ensuring a more equitable access to health services across the social expanse of the country. In order to met the objective of reducing such inequities and imbalances between economic classes and allow the disadvantaged sections of society a fairer access to public health services, the Policy envisages to increase the sectoral outlay in the primary health sector. Further, the policy also emphasises that the State Governments will need to design separate schemes, wherever required, tailor made to the health needs of socio-economically under-served sections of population under the overall umbrella of macro-policy prescriptions contained in the National Health Policy, 2002. Government of India is, however, implementing the National Health Programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health which covers the entire country, including the scheduled caste population, both in urban and rural areas.

Condition of N.H. No.-76

2041. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to streamline the National Highway No. 76 from Allahabad to Jhansi via Chitrakoot and Banda;

(b) whether this highway gets damaged in rainy season every year;

(c) the reasons for the poor condition of this highway as compared to other highways; and

(d) the plans of the Government to construct permanent pavements and for repair and maintenance of this highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The Ministry has taken steps for development and maintenance of National Highways No. 76 from Allahabad to Jhansi through Chitrakoot and Banda. Estimates amounting to Rs. 4711 lakhs has been sanctioned for development and maintenance so far.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Major portion of this stretch of National Highway passes through a terrain which is composed of black cotton soil. This explains its comparative vulnerability.

(d) The development and maintenance of this National Highway is being taken up in phased manner. Efforts are made to keep it in traffic-worthy condition depending upon the availability of funds, sector-wise traffic intensity and inter-se priority of works.

Employment in Mobile Telephone Sector

2042. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are 3.6 million people working in mobile telephone sector in the country at present on the basis of the survey conducted by the Global System for Mobile Association;

(b) if not, the estimate of the Government in this regard;

(c) the annual percentage of people who got employment during the last three years; and

(d) the total capital investment made in this industry till December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Global System Mobile association of India engaged OVUM, a reputed international Agency, to carry out a study and prepare a report on "The economic benefits of mobile services in India". This report was published in January 2005. As per this report, 3.6 million people are estimated to be employed both direct and indirect in mobile telephone sector.

(b) and (c) The Government does not monitor the employment in mobile telephone service sector separately. As such the estimate of number of people engaged and the annual percentage of people who got employment during the last three years is not available.

(d) The capital investment made in the mobile sector alone has not been maintained by the Government. However, as per the estimates of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the total capital investment made in the mobile sector till March 2004 is about Rs. 50,000 crores.

(English)

District Level Planning

2043. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to introduce and promote district level planning/district level budgeting through local Government institution; and

(b) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Decentralised planning has been advocated since the beginning of the planning era. After the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, the responsibility for preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and their implementation in relation to subjects listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution have been assigned to Panchayats/Urban Local bodies. The State Governments are required to constitute district Planning Committees (DPCs) to facilitate the process of district planning and budgeting.

Broad Band Initiative

2044. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

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

(a) the number of users registered with the MTNL and BSNL for Broad Bank initiative;

(b) the other competitors in the field;

(c) whether the BSNL and MTNL can cope up with the demand for this initiative; and

(d) if so, the measures to be taken to meet the competition from private enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The total number of users

registered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) are around 150,000 and 22,765 respectively.

The total number Broadband connections working in BSNL and MTNL are around 15873 and 3611 respectively.

(b) Broadband services in the country are being provided by other authorised Telecom service providers in addition to BSNL and MTNL.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Some of important measures taken by BSNL and MTNL to meet the competition from private enterprises are listed below :

- (i) Broadband Service has been launched in January, 2005 in a number of cities and has been planned for roll out in 200 cities across the country progressively.
- (ii) Creation of state of art infrastructure for broad band services.
- (iii) Affordable and competitive tariff.
- (iv) Wide range of tariff plans for different segments of residential and commercial broadband customers.
- (v) Ensuring quality of service.
- (vi) Skill upgradation of staff.

Deepening of Channels

2045. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for deepening the channels of some major ports;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of each of these channel deepening projects (port-wise);

(c) the number of phases in which the deepening work would be completed;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for the completion of the deepening work; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Deepening

of port channels is undertaken by the major ports from time to time to keep pace with the draught requirements of vessels calling at these ports. This is a part of an on-going process to improve port infrastructure.

The following projects for deepening of channels in major ports are proposed to be taken up during Annual Plan period 2005-06 :

- (i) **Kolkata Port**—River Regulatory Measures for improvement of draught in Hooghly Estuary at an estimated cost of Rs. 385.03 crores.
- (ii) **Cochin Port**—Dredging for International Container Transshipment Terminal Project at Vallarpadam at an estimated cost of Rs. 422 crores.
- (iii) **Jawaharlal Nehru Port**—Deepening and Widening of Main Harbour Channel and JN Port Approach Channel at an estimated cost of Rs. 640 crores.
- (iv) **Visakhapatnam Port**—Deepening the Port Waterways, including slope protection at an estimated cost of Rs. 29 crores.
- (v) **Kandla Port**—Deepening of approaches to Sogal Channel and Navigational channel in Kandla Creek and Deepening and widening of the channel in the approaches to Kandla Creek at a total estimated cost of Rs. 98.50 crores.
- (vi) **Paradip Port**—Deepening of channel at an estimated cost of Rs. 148.59 crores.
- (vii) **New Mangalore Port**—Deepening of channel and lagoon at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores.

[Translation]

Changes in the Tariff Plans

2046. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for WLL mobile operators to take permission from Government before implementing any tariff plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for effecting regular changes in tariff plans by mobile companies.

(c) whether the tariff plans by mobile companies

are changed without apprising the consumers of the same resulting into the increased bills sent to the users; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) As per provisions of the 30th amendment of Telecommunication Tariff Order dated 16.1.2004, the service providers have the flexibility to implement tariff plans after conducting a self check to ensure consistency of the tariff with the relevant regulatory principles. The plans so implemented are to be reported to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) within seven days from the date of implementation.

(b) The service providers launch different tariff plans to suit different customer groups.

(c) and (d) Subscribers have right to choose and/or remain in any tariff plan of their choice offered by a service provider. In order to protect the interest of subscribers from frequent changes/hike in tariff, it has been mandated by TRAI that service should be available to the subscribers for the chosen tariff plan atleast for a period of six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber to that tariff plan.

[English]

Paradeep Port

2047. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paradeep Port is under tremendous pressure as a result of which India's exports are being adversely affected;

(b) if so, whether the clearance at the port is being affected as a result of the lack of coordination between the port authorities and the transporters; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to ensure that the clearance at the port is done quickly?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cargo handled at the ports are received both by rail and roads. Cargo received by road are causing

some congestion for which the Port Trust has initiated immediate measures by putting extra personnel to regularise the flow of traffic. The National Highways Authority has already undertaken the work of four-laning of NH-5A at a cost of Rs. 420 crores (approx.). Paradip Port has contributed about 10% of the total cost of the project towards a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed for the purpose. The work has already begun since February, 2004 and is likely to be completed within a period of three years. In addition to the above, regular meetings are undertaken with the transporters, weighbridge operators, shippers to address the issue for faster clearance of cargo to and from the port.

Tendency to go on Deputation

2048. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the IAS and IPS officers who belong to the North Eastern Cadres have the tendency to go out from their Cadre Zone either on deputation or training or any other ground;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism to check it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the period for which an IAS or IPS officer can be on deputation outside his/her Cadre State or Zone;

(e) whether there is a time limit for deputation;

(f) if so, whether this rule is strictly adhered to; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) The officers belonging to All India Services are eligible to go on deputation and training in terms of rules governing the conditions of the All India Service.

(b) and (c) An All India Service officer is allowed deputation or training with the consent of the State/Joint Cadre Authority.

(d) and (e) The normal period of inter-state deputation is three years. It can be extended up to five years. Normal period of Central deputation under Central Staffing Scheme/ Non-Central Staffing posts is a maximum of 7 years.

(f) and (g) The tenures of deputation is governed under the policy and relaxation is granted only in deserving cases with the concurrence of the parent cadre.

Traditional Systems of Medicine

2049. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to include Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the modern medicine curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had identified specific and vital areas of development in the traditional systems of medicine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Government had sent a proposal to the Medical Council of India to consider inclusion of the basic principles and concepts of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Siddha and Yoga in the curriculum of MBBS students. This proposal was made with a view to sensitize the students of MBBS course about the philosophy and underlying the principles of these systems of medicine. The Department of AYUSH have taken up various steps for the development of

the traditional systems of medicine by mainstreaming of AYUSH into the Health Care Delivery system.

[Translation]

Progress of NHAI in Uttar Pradesh

2050. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the works of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in entire Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government is facing any difficulties with regard to the NHAI project in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has obtained the approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for NHAI project in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The status of the NHAI projects in Uttar Pradesh are given as under :

Sl.No.	Project	Completed (in km.)	Under Implementation (In km.)	To be Awarded (In km.)	Total Length (In km.)	Likely Date of substantial completion
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	375	380	Nil	755	Dec., 2005
2.	North-South Corridor	23	—	179	202	Dec., 2007
3.	East-west Corridor	10	77	560	647	Dec., 2007

(b) to (f) The difficulties being faced in the State of Uttar Pradesh in implementing the projects include delay in shifting of utilities, delay in receipt of clearance from Forest authorities and poor performance of some contractors.

[English]

Transfer of Non-Lapsable Pool Fund

2051. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam and other State Governments of North Eastern States have urged the Government to transfer non-lapsable pool fund to the Department of North Eastern Region for the benefit of these states;

(b) whether the North Eastern States have also demanded the abolition of 10% loan Component in the funding pattern of the pool; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) No specific request from the North Eastern States has been received for transfer of non-lapsable pool fund to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

(b) to (c) Governments of Tripura and Meghalaya have demanded abolition of 10% loan component in the funding pattern of NLCPR in a memorandum submitted by them. No such proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

World Bank Report on Deaths of Women

2052. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government is aware that the World Bank report has expressed concern over the increasing number of deaths of women in their thirties in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) The special steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the expenditure on the health of Indian women is higher in comparison to the other Asian Countries such as Korea, Thailand and Singapore; and

(e) If so, the names of the States in the country where female rate is higher?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) According to the World Bank Report titled "Better Health System for India's poor" in the year 2004, more women than men die before the age of 35 years in India. This is due to the fact that women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years are more vulnerable to morbidity and mortality due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. These causes are hemorrhage, puerperal complications, obstructed labour, abortion, toxemia of pregnancy and anemia. Malnutrition, Low socio economic status of women, low level of education, economic dependency, lack of access to services, poverty and cultural misconceptions are important factors.

(c) As a major supplement to the current strategies and programmes, the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme that addresses primarily to women in the

reproductive age group to bring down the maternal mortality ratio, is under implementation in all states and Union territories of the country since 1997. Under the programme the interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) staff nurse and hiring of Anaesthetists. In the second phase of RCH Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like operationalisation of First Referral Units (FRU), providing 24 delivery and new born care services at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and training of ANM and LHV to become skill birth attendants.

Government of India adopted the National Nutritional Policy in the year 1993 to combat wide spread nutritional problems especially among vulnerable segments of the population such as women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls. In order to improve the diet and Nutritional status of different group of population, several programmes such as provision of supplementary nutrition under ICDS and special nutrition programmes are being implemented as part of this policy.

(d) According to information available from WHO and World Bank, the per capita total expenditure on health at international Dollar rate during 2001 for some of the Asian Countries was as under :

Country	Per Capita total expenditure on health at international dollar rate	Country	Per Capita total expenditure on health at international dollar rate
Afghanistan	3	India	80
Bangla Desh	58	Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea	44
Bhutan	64	Republic of Korea	948
Maldives	263	Pakistan	85
Nepal	63	Sri Lanka	122
Myanmar	26	Thailand	244

The Gender segregated data on health expenditure is not available.

(e) State-wise data on number of maternal deaths are not available. However, the maternal mortality rates as estimated for major states by the Registrar General of India for the year 1998 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Rate India and Bigger States

(Source : RGI, SRS, 1998)

Major State	MMT (1998)
India	407
Andhra Pradesh	150
Assam	409
Bihar	452
Gujarat	28
Haryana	103
Karnataka	195
Kerala	198
Madhya Pradesh	498
Maharashtra	135
Orissa	367
Punjab	199
Rajasthan	670
Tamil Nadu	79
Uttar Pradesh	707
West Bengal	266

[English]

Investment on Research and Development

2053. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 86 percent of Indian companies do not invest anything on research and development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make it

mandatory for companies to spend some of the profits of the companies on research and development;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Government has not carried out any survey of companies with regard to their R&D investments. However, a report published in the financial daily of Hindu Group dated 20th March 2003, had quoted a study conducted by Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad pointing out that about 86 percent of 8334 Indian companies did not report any spending on R&D in their annual reports for the year 2001-02.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Funds to NGOs for TB Programme

2054. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) The number of TB Centres and NGOs functioning in Tamil Nadu for the eradication of TB, district-wise;

(b) The amount allocated by the Union Government for the above purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any demand to increase the allocation of funds;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government is aware that there are large scale complaints of irregularities regarding the funds allotted for the purpose to NGOs not being properly utilized and very meagre amount reaching the beneficiaries; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the leakage of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The details of number of TB Centres and NGOs functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu under Revised

National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) district wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount allocated by the Union Government to the State TB Control Society, Tamil Nadu, during the last three years is as under :

Year	Funds allocated
2001-02	Rs. 6.79 crores
2002-03	Rs. 3.50 crores
2003-04	Rs. 9.82 crores

(c) No such request has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No such complaint has been received in respect of NGOs working in Tamil Nadu under the Programme.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement indicating details of district-wise numbers of TB Centres and NGOs participating in the TB Control Programme

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of TB Centres	No. of NGOs
1	2	3	4
1.	Chennai	10	2
2.	Coimbatore	9	4
3.	Cuddalore	5	0
4.	Dharmapuri	6	9
5.	Dindigul	5	6
6.	Erode	6	0
7.	Kancheepuram	6	2
8.	Kanniyakumari	4	8
9.	Karur	2	12
10.	Madurai	5	2
11.	Nagapattinam	3	8

1	2	3	4
12.	Namakkal	3	4
13.	Perambalur	3	3
14.	Pudukottai	3	18
15.	Ramanathapuram	3	0
16.	Salem	6	2
17.	Sivaganga	3	7
18.	Thanjavur	5	1
19.	Theni	3	5
20.	The Nilgiris	2	5
21.	Tiruchirappalli	6	2
22.	Tirunelveli	6	2
23.	Tiruvallur	6	1
24.	Tiruvarur	3	3
25.	Tiruvannamalai	5	9
26.	Thoothukudi	3	3
27.	Vellore	7	6
28.	Villupuram	6	12
29.	Virudhunagar	4	8
Total		138	144

Hike in Tariff

2055. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

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

(a) whether the MTNL has increased its tariffs for fixed line calls between Delhi and NCR towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification of increasing tariffs;

(c) whether the MTNL proposes to review its tariff structure in order to compete with other private players; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revision of tariff has been implemented on 18-02-2005. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Revision has been necessitated to offset the loss to MTNL in order to comply to the interconnection regime.

(c) and (d) Tariffs are revised by MTNL from time to time keeping in view of the competition etc.

Statement

The Details of Revision of Tariff

(Pulse in Seconds)

Distance slab in Kms. Peak/off peak hours	Basic to Basic		Basic to WLL(M)		Basic to Cell	
	Existing	Revised	Existing	Revised	Existing	Revised
Call to adjoining areas	180	120	90	60	90	60

NCR Stations with Code

Distance	Station	Code
0-50	Ghaziabad	95-120
0-50	Noida	95-120
0-50	Faridabad	95-129
0-50	Sonepat	95-130
0-50	Bahadurgarh	95-1276
0-50	Gurgaon	95-124
0-50	Modi Nagar	95-1232
0-50	Sikandrabad	95-5735

come up along G.T. Road (NH-1) and other National Highways in Punjab and Haryana.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The encroachments are being removed from time to time with the help of local administration and in some cases legal actions are also being taken by the state PWDs and NHAI. The Control of National Highways (Land and traffic) Act, 2002 has been enacted to control and safe guard National Highways land.

Promotion of Small Scale Industries with Foreign Assistance

2057. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has a proposal to promote small scale industries in the country with foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which joint ventures are proposed to be set up to promote small scale sector; and

(c) the extent to which it would be helpful to SSI Sector?

Encroachments on G.T. Road

2056. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of encroachments have come up on busy G.T. Road and other highways in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether the Government proposes to remove the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Some temporary encroachments have

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Union Government adopts policies and introduces schemes, etc., from time to time to facilitate the growth and development of small scale industries (SSI) in the country. As part of these policies,

individual entrepreneurs proposing to set up or actually operating SSI unit are authorized to tie up with foreign entities, with the latter's equity participation being limited to 24 per cent of the paid up capital of the SSI units concerned. The SSI units are privately owned and such partnership are, therefore, decided and undertaking by the individual units. However, the Union Government in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking under its administrative control, have entered into Memoranda of Understanding with several countries like South Korea, Italy, Taiwan, Germany, etc., to facilitate such partnerships.

(c) By entering into such partnerships, the SSI units gain through flow of investment, infusion of technology, sharing or transfer of managerial practices and marketing tie-ups.

**Conversion of State Highways
Into National Highways**

2058. SHRI KIREN RIJU :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) the length of National Highways in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has converted some State Highways into National Highways during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether the standard of such National Highways is of very low level; and

(e) if so, the funds allocated for development and maintenance of such National Highways during the said period till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The total length of National Highways in the country at present is 65,569 km. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State-wise and year-wise details of conversion of State Roads into National Highways during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) After declaration of State Roads as National

Highways, roads are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The allocations for development and maintenance of National Highways are made State wise and not National Highway wise. The State-wise details of fund allocated for development and maintenance of National Highways during last three years and during current year are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

*Present State-wise length of National Highways
in the country*

(Length in Km.)

Sl.No.	States	Total Length as on 10th March, 2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	392
3.	Assam	2836
4.	Bihar	3537
5.	Chandigarh	24
6.	Chhattisgarh	2184
7.	Delhi	72
8.	Goa	269
9.	Gujarat	2871
10.	Haryana	1468
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1208
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	823
13.	Jharkhand	1805
14.	Karnataka	3843
15.	Kerala	1440
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5200
17.	Maharashtra	4178
18.	Manipur	959
19.	Meghalaya	810
20.	Mizoram	927

1	2	3
21.	Nagaland	494
22.	Orissa	3704
23.	Pondicherry	53
24.	Punjab	1557
25.	Rajasthan	5585
26.	Sikkim	62
27.	Tamil Nadu	4183
28.	Tripura	400
29.	Uttaranchal	1991
30.	Uttar Pradesh	5599
31.	West Bengal	2325
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	300
Total		65569

Statement-II

*State-wise details of conversion of State Roads into
National Highways during last three years*

(Length in Km.)

Sl.No.	States	Conversion of State Roads into National Highways during		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	470
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	225
5.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	374

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Delhi	0	0	0
8.	Goa	0	0	0
9.	Gujarat	0	0	410
10.	Haryana	0	0	111
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	20
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	0	0	202
14.	Karnataka	0	0	273
15.	Kerala	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	536
17.	Maharashtra	0	0	550
18.	Manipur	0	0	5
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	93
20.	Mizoram	0	0	0
21.	Nagaland	0	0	125
22.	Orissa	0	0	403
23.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
24.	Punjab	0	0	0
25.	Rajasthan	116	0	988
26.	Sikkim	0	0	0
27.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	425
28.	Tripura	0	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	218	0	916
30.	Uttar Pradesh	41	0	657
31.	West Bengal	0	0	374
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	300
Total		375	0	7457

Statement-III

State-wise details of funds allocated for Development and Maintenance of National Highways during last three years and during current year

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	Allocation for Development and Maintenance of National Highways							
		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Develop- ment	Mainte- nance	Develop- ment	Mainte- nance	Develop- ment	Mainte- nance	Develop- ment	Mainte- nance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.80	43.00	118.46	35.44	110.51	37.42	96.74	33.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.09	4.10	0.31	6.00	0.60
3.	Assam	76.05	40.82	73.75	26.92	108.00	23.27	71.01	28.98
4.	Bihar	65.32	44.90	76.53	30.46	83.07	29.48	79.51	49.14
5.	Chandigarh	1.50	0.46	2.70	0.74	1.50	0.28	2.00	0.56
6.	Chhattisgarh	32.28	24.20	61.20	25.60	46.00	15.35	51.26	26.05
7.	Delhi	6.00	1.02	6.00	0.12	10.00	0.42	6.00	0.73
8.	Goa	20.00	3.70	8.00	4.15	24.00	5.03	5.00	2.67
9.	Gujarat	68.30	25.75	90.00	10.51	72.00	22.47	84.35	34.69
10.	Haryana	103.88	18.57	59.00	10.30	52.50	11.19	53.00	11.26
11.	Himachal Pradesh	55.00	19.89	30.00	12.51	32.00	13.45	45.00	17.15
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.30	1.06	4.00	0.88	4.00	0.54	0.00	0.43
13.	Jharkhand	35.00	20.00	32.00	16.97	36.70	15.46	35.00	19.78
14.	Karnataka	107.36	39.97	89.66	45.82	150.35	38.73	80.60	35.82
15.	Kerala	90.26	35.72	75.95	23.74	99.86	20.81	75.69	18.16
16.	Madhya Pradesh	90.55	66.01	96.10	48.03	81.00	57.50	91.90	62.37
17.	Maharashtra	192.82	59.51	124.78	47.39	127.80	49.85	122.98	46.53
18.	Manipur	14.51	9.36	14.02	6.01	16.01	6.96	11.57	8.33
19.	Meghalaya	22.58	11.35	22.20	8.70	40.00	9.41	25.93	12.46
20.	Mizoram	26.00	4.99	22.00	6.20	31.00	5.55	22.00	5.43
21.	Nagaland	15.00	5.74	12.00	1.86	11.50	1.98	14.00	3.77
22.	Orissa	78.69	47.31	56.32	42.37	69.97	42.51	78.80	40.12
23.	Pondicherry	2.12	0.85	2.00	0.76	2.20	0.83	3.00	0.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Punjab	62.21	24.06	51.76	17.59	51.00	20.09	46.79	19.39
25.	Rajasthan	87.20	49.37	93.89	33.86	48.00	27.93	92.72	50.97
26.	Tamil Nadu	96.42	44.75	102.48	41.62	89.04	41.36	91.55	34.01
27.	Uttar Pradesh	139.76	66.19	137.31	39.85	104.00	55.68	152.43	51.73
28.	Uttaranchal	25.00	11.10	20.69	5.84	20.10	3.66	25.44	13.34
29.	West Bengal	84.22	39.07	114.50	20.69	98.00	23.57	101.60	22.31

Cancellation of Medical Seats in UP

2059. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has recently cancelled a lot of Medical and Dental seats in various Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests from Uttar Pradesh Government to reconsider the decision of MCI in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Indian Science Congress

2060. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 92nd Indian Science congress was held in Ahmedabad recently as reported in the Hindu dated January 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formed a Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 92nd session of the Indian Science Congress was held from January 3-7, 2005 in Ahmedabad. This session was jointly organized by the Nirma University of Technology (Deemed University) and the National Institute of Occupational Health (Indian Council of Medical Research). The focal theme of the session was **Health Technology as Fulcrum for the Nation**. Professor N.K. Ganguly, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research was the President of the 92nd session. Several national and international experts in the area of health sciences, Health Technologies, etc. had participated in this event. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has set up Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The Council has eminent scientists and technologists drawn from academic and industrial sectors as its members. The mandate of the Council is to look at the S&T issues at policy level and put in place systems to meet the needs of India in future. The Council has also been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing a road map for science and technology to ensure our preparedness for meeting these challenges.

Decline in Population Growth Rate

2061. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have recorded a decline in population growth rate during the first four years of the current decade viz., during 2001 to 2004;

(b) the specific achievements made in the implementation of different birth control measures and programmes; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the latest available data on Birth Rate, Death Rate and Natural Growth Rate for the years 2000 to 2002 from Sample Registration System of the Office of the Registrar General, India the States which have recorded a decline in natural growth rate of population are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The statements I to VI showing State-wise Crude Birth Rate, Total Fertility Rate, and achievements of Family Planning by methods are enclosed.

(c) A statement VII showing state wise funds released by the Department of Family Welfare during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	States	Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	
		2000	2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.3	20.7
2.	Assam	26.9	26.6
3.	Bihar	31.9	30.9
4.	Chhattisgarh	26.7	25.0
5.	Gujarat	25.2	24.7
6.	Haryana	26.9	26.6
7.	Jharkhand	26.5	26.4
8.	Karnataka	22.0	22.1
9.	Kerala	17.9	16.9
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31.4	30.4
11.	Maharashtra	21.0	20.3
12.	Orissa	24.3	23.2
13.	Punjab	21.6	20.8
14.	Rajasthan	31.4	30.6
15.	Tamil Nadu	19.3	18.5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	32.8	31.6
17.	West Bengal	20.7	20.5

1	2	3	4
18.	Himachal Pradesh	22.1	20.7
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.7	19.2
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.3	20.2
21.	Delhi	20.3	17.2
22.	Goa	14.3	14.0
23.	Manipur	18.3	16.8
24.	Meghalaya	28.5	25.8
25.	Mizoram	16.0	16.9
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	21.8	21.9
28.	Tripura	16.5	14.9
29.	Uttaranchal	20.2	17.0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.1	16.8
31.	Chandigarh	17.5	14.6
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.9	30.4
33.	Daman and Diu	23.7	22.4
34.	Lakshadweep	26.1	19.3
35.	Pondicherry	17.8	17.9
All India		25.8	25.0

Source : Sample Registration System, Registrar General, India

NA—Not available

Statement-II

Sl.No.	States	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	
		1997	2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.5	2.3
2.	Assam	3.2	3.1
3.	Bihar	4.4	4.5
4.	Chhattisgarh	NA	NA
5.	Gujarat	3.0	2.9

1	2	3	4
6.	Haryana	3.4	3.2
7.	Jharkhand	NA	NA
8.	Karnataka	2.5	2.4
9.	Kerala	1.8	1.9
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	4.0
11.	Maharashtra	2.7	2.5
12.	Orissa	3.0	2.8
13.	Punjab	2.7	2.4
14.	Rajasthan	4.2	4.1
15.	Tamil Nadu	2.0	2.1
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4.8	4.7
17.	West Bengal	2.6	2.4
All India		3.3	3.2

Source : Sample Registration System, Registrar General, India

Statement-III**State-wise Achievements in respect of Sterilisations**

Sl.No.	State/U.T./Agency	Achievement	
		2000-01	2003-04*
1	2	3	4
I. Major States (Population >20 million)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	814,335	830,503
2.	Assam	13,865	45,134
3.	Bihar	130,550	109,625
4.	Chhattisgarh	81,156	115,848
5.	Gujarat	253,908	262,896
6.	Haryana	96,348	91,280
7.	Jharkhand	66,417	48,960
8.	Karnataka	412,950	377,091
9.	Kerala	151,043	151,586
10.	Madhya Pradesh	325,588	352,000
11.	Maharashtra	677,071	689,000

1	2	3	4
12.	Orissa	87,186	89,021
13.	Punjab	114,198	97,598
14.	Rajasthan	267,390	300,068
15.	Tamil Nadu	375,654	429,450
16.	Uttar Pradesh	365,200	487,517
17.	West Bengal	313,817	216,524

II. Smaller States/UTs (Population <20 million)

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,755	1,632
2.	Delhi	36,194	39,269
3.	Goa	5,031	5,090
4.	Himachal Pradesh	34,398	32,337
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	14,863	19,663
6.	Manipur	1,605	1,265
7.	Meghalaya	2,213	2,642
8.	Mizoram	4,586	2,580
9.	Nagaland	2,575	1,086
10.	Sikkim	965	1,355
11.	Tripura	7,476	3,010
12.	Uttaranchal	26,484	31,200

III. Union Territories

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,936	1,304
2.	Chandigarh	2,747	2,908
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	710	785
4.	Daman and Diu	550	560
5.	Lakshadweep	52	19
6.	Pondicherry	11,379	12,545

IV. Other Agencies

1.	M/O Defence	16,147	14,756
2.	M/O Railways	14,809	7,375
All India		4,735,149	4,875,462

*Figures are provisional.

Source : State/UT Govt. Reports

Statement-IV**State-wise Achievements in respect of IUD Insertions**

Sl.No.	State/U.T./Agency	Achievement	
		2000-01	2003-04*
1	2	3	4
I. Major States (Population >20 million)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	282,257	326,222
2.	Assam	39,275	42,128
3.	Bihar	110,949	122,322
4.	Chhattisgarh	89,191	99,136
5.	Gujarat	410,900	413,632
6.	Haryana	162,862	152,157
7.	Jharkhand	51,209	52,175
8.	Karnataka	350,505	296,830
9.	Kerala	79,650	77,853
10.	Madhya Pradesh	443,764	455,000
11.	Maharashtra	433,808	447,000
12.	Orissa	192,176	142,108
13.	Punjab	374,569	318,946
14.	Rajasthan	245,697	265,778
15.	Tamil Nadu	397,130	437,573
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2,037,302	2,082,764
17.	West Bengal	87,736	68,084

II. Smaller States/UTs (Population <20 million)

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,396	2,281
2.	Delhi	64,863	62,528
3.	Goa	2,882	2,767
4.	Himachal Pradesh	35,088	32,265
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	12,990	27,001
6.	Manipur	4,334	5,687
7.	Meghalaya	2,808	3,226

1	2	3	4
8.	Mizoram	2,480	2,232
9.	Nagaland	1,660	3,664
10.	Sikkim	1,091	835
11.	Tripura	4,407	3,114
12.	Uttaranchal	93,031	108,873
III. Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,139	1,615
2.	Chandigarh	5,340	5,601
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	347	290
4.	Daman and Diu	297	276
5.	Lakshadweep	33	33
6.	Pondicherry	4,553	3,737
IV. Other Agencies			
1.	M/O Defence	7,685	7,425
2.	M/O Railways	9,237	6,170
All India		6,045,641	6,079,328

*Figures are provisional.

Source : State/UT Govt. Reports

Statement-V**State-wise Achievements in respect of Condoms Users**

Sl.No.	States/U.T./Agency	Achievement	
		2000-01	2003-04*
1	2	3	4
I. Major States (Population >20 million)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	602,018	727,597
2.	Assam	33,310	31,779
3.	Bihar	36,570	34,085
4.	Chhattisgarh	205,445	341,566
5.	Gujarat	903,717	1,125,196
6.	Haryana	334,311	349,389

1	2	3	4
7. Jharkhand		3,016	49,888
8. Karnataka		279,685	286,809
9. Kerala		127,281	153,203
10. Madhya Pradesh		1,320,399	1,423,833
11. Maharashtra		455,040	462,611
12. Orissa		289,297	284,718
13. Punjab		397,158	368,171
14. Rajasthan		1,035,234	1,422,736
15. Tamil Nadu		246,263	223,242
16. Uttar Pradesh		1,780,676	1,760,064
17. West Bengal		393,941	412,049

II. Smaller States/UTs (Population <20 million)

1. Arunachal Pradesh	1,270	1,076
2. Delhi	174,308	185,608
3. Goa	786	634
4. Himachal Pradesh	69,127	79,218
5. Jammu and Kashmir	11,804	18,109
6. Manipur	3,723	4,622
7. Meghalaya	578	2,031
8. Mizoram	1,633	1,570
9. Nagaland	42	294
10. Sikkim	629	1,297
11. Tripura	10,800	21,353
12. Uttaranchal	96,329	103,840

III. Union Territories

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,611	2,516
2. Chandigarh	11,286	10,416
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	46
4. Daman and Diu	1,154	1,437
5. Lakshadweep	462	171
6. Pondicherry	9,758	10,519

1	2	3	4
IV. Other Agencies			
1. M/O Defence		26,944	9,027
2. M/O Railways		38,404	32,492
3. Comm. Distrn.		9,298,472	15,042,917
All India		18,202,483	24,986,129

*Figures are provisional.

Source : State/UT Govt. Reports

Statement-VI**State-wise Achievements in respect of Oral Pill Users**

Sl.No. States/U.T./Agency		Achievement	
		2000-01	2003-04*
1	2	3	4

J. Major States (Population >20 million)

1. Andhra Pradesh	256,325	300,774
2. Assam	28,093	31,926
3. Bihar	58,997	41,241
4. Chhattisgarh	104,184	205,274
5. Gujarat	178,837	228,710
6. Haryana	68,198	67,209
7. Jharkhand	15,701	35,291
8. Karnataka	151,883	157,250
9. Kerala	30,795	29,636
10. Madhya Pradesh	488,840	564,000
11. Maharashtra	332,128	351,923
12. Orissa	130,833	137,725
13. Punjab	120,997	104,205
14. Rajasthan	479,310	711,788
15. Tamil Nadu	200,516	171,813
16. Uttar Pradesh	848,786	852,620
17. West Bengal	386,724	397,605

1	2	3	4
II. Smaller States/UTs (Population <20 million)			
1. Arunachal Pradesh	1,900	1,362	
2. Delhi	13,772	12,096	
3. Goa	1,987	3,596	
4. Himachal Pradesh	26,505	24,750	
5. Jammu and Kashmir	4,696	9,401	
6. Manipur	2,648	1,278	
7. Meghalaya	2,780	3,361	
8. Mizoram	1,624	4,441	
9. Nagaland	256	1,159	
10. Sikkim	2,543	5,393	
11. Tripura	18,336	16,857	
12. Uttaranchal	38,295	43,189	
III. Union Territories			
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,092	1,548	
2. Chandigarh	413	617	
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	41	322	
4. Daman and Diu	238	467	
5. Lakshadweep	92	109	
6. Pondicherry	1,340	1,758	
IV. Other Agencies			
1. M/O Defence	3,972	4,555	
2. M/O Railways	4,531	3,854	
3. Comm. Distn.	3,631,749	4,222,186	
All India	7,639,957	8,751,291	

*Figures are provisional.

Source : State/UT Govt. Reports

Statement-VII**Detail of Releases : State-wise**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19780.29	19821.17	23987.95

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	728.83	823.36	444.21
3.	Assam	14285.54	14406.50	10894.23
4.	Bihar	16446.85	22752.90	24618.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	6287.78	7103.73	8724.34
6.	Goa	398.69	184.46	337.24
7.	Gujarat	19402.60	14441.69	17352.43
8.	Haryana	5637.09	5682.25	8065.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3095.19	3666.73	3958.41
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3287.08	3292.74	3138.65
11.	Jharkhand	7867.65	8412.91	9555.72
12.	Karnataka	18747.65	18713.31	14214.52
13.	Kerala	8609.33	8387.82	8335.16
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16028.18	14494.26	19817.30
15.	Maharashtra	22321.37	24526.30	24670.81
16.	Manipur	2556.62	1735.60	1172.37
17.	Meghalaya	1420.82	1296.31	797.13
18.	Mizoram	1684.95	1651.72	908.77
19.	Nagaland	1053.79	1239.35	835.65
20.	Orissa	12702.81	10085.03	10913.87
21.	Punjab	5463.04	2857.36	5635.24
22.	Rajasthan	20088.23	19507.77	25618.03
23.	Sikkim	841.89	662.30	693.26
24.	Tamil Nadu	16156.90	17078.49	15817.87
25.	Tripura	2238.87	1713.02	968.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	43222.66	50900.28	60457.61
27.	Uttaranchal	4408.13	3378.77	3933.24
28.	West Bengal	17595.66	15949.00	19476.64
Total-All States		292338.49	294765.13	325343.60
UTs with Legislature				
1.	Delhi*	3252.10	1874.48	4042.23

1	2	3	4	5
2. Pondicherry		504.31	447.02	832.16
UTs without Legislature				
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		394.96	347.46	380.85
2. Chandigarh		270.74	246.52	224.82
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		93.77	81.53	118.63
4. Daman and Diu		112.04	134.02	115.05
5. Lakshadweep		75.90	73.61	81.77
Total-UTs		4703.82	3204.64	5795.51
Grand Total		297042.31	297969.77	331139.11

Toll Tax

2062. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds collected from toll tax which is meant for maintenance of roads on various National Highways remain unspent with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the toll tax would be reduced in view of this unspent balance with the NHAI;

(d) whether the toll tax has been over estimated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) As per Government policy, user fees collected on the 4-laned National Highways are to be utilized for maintenance and for repayment of a portion of the external loan. It has been estimated that the overall user fee collection would just be sufficient to meet the maintenance, expenditure and repayment of external loans. During the initial years, the expenditure is only towards routine maintenance, whereas, once in every five years, the periodical renewals are carried out. Therefore, there could be year-wise surplus or deficit against the user fee collections since the requirement for maintenance is not evenly spread over the years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Sanction for Prosecution of Officers

2063. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Administrative Vigilance Division accords at sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against the IAS and CSS officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Seventeen and Eleven Cases of IAS and CSS officers respectively were pending with the AVD (Administrative Vigilance Division) as on March 31, 2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of new complaints received during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) and (b) The Administrative Vigilance Division accords sanction for prosecution under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against officers of the Indian Administrative Service and Central Secretariat Service (Grade-I and above). Such proposals received from the CBI/State Governments are decided in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) and (d) Department of Personnel and Training is the Disciplinary Authority in respect of IAS officers serving in connection with the affairs of Central Government and CSS officers Grade-I and above. Seventeen proposals of Major penalty proceedings under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969 and eleven proposals under the Central Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 against officers of IAS and CSS (Gr. I & above) respectively received from different Ministries were pending with AVD as on 31.3.2004. During 2004-2005 (till date), eleven proposals for action against IAS officers and five proposals for action against CSS officers (Grade-I and above) have been received from the different Ministries/Departments.

Single-Chip Mobile Phone

2064. SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the world's first single-chip mobile phone within a year as reported in the 'The Hindu' dated January 23, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The Government grants licenses to operators for provision of Telecom services including mobile telephone service. The license is technology neutral and therefore, licensed operators are free to use any state of the art technologies as per approved technical standards.

Life Saving Medicines in Government Hospitals

2065. SHRI S. MALLIKARAJUNIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are no life saving medicines in Government Hospitals for the patients of Dog bites, Snakes bites etc.;

(b) if so, whether the patients of Dog Bites and Snake Bites are not getting treatment in time due to non-availability of these life saving medicines in the hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Anti Snake venom is available in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi i.e. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Anti rabies serum and anti rabies vaccine are available in Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital being the designated hospitals for running the Anti Rabies Clinic.

Health Insurance Scheme

2066. SHRI VINOD KHANNA :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any Health Insurance Scheme or any Health Financing

Schemes for the underprivileged/financially poor to improve their access to quality health care and for preventive and curative services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

Circulation of Fake Postal Stamps/ Postal Orders

2067. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has noticed any cases of circulation of counterfeit postal stamps and circulation/ encashment of fake Postal Orders, National Saving Certificates, Kisan Vikas Patras, etc. so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent the same in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Some cases of circulation of counterfeit postal stamps in various parts of the country have come to the notice of the Department since 1999. No case of fake Postal Orders, National Savings Certificates, Kisan Vikas Patras and other Small Savings instruments has come to notice.

(b) Till date counterfeit stamps valued at more than Rs. 6,00,00,000/- (Rupees six crores only) have been detected/seized. Reported instances of fake stamps are given in the enclosed statement.

The following steps have been taken by the Department to prevent such cases in future :

(i) Instructions have been issued to all the Heads of Postal Circles for conducting surprise checks/visits for checking the Stamp Vendors/Post Office Treasuries, Circle Stamp Depots (CSDs).

(ii) Instructions to Heads of Circles for activating Circle/ Regional Checking Squads and checking of

Licensed Stamp Vendors/Licensed Postal Agents/ Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have been issued.

(iii) Staff have been made aware of the features of genuine stamps like quality of paper and colour of print, perforation, watermark and quality and colour of gumming so that they can identify and detect fake stamps from the genuine ones.

(iv) Heads of Circles have been instructed to give publicity requesting the public to purchase stamps

only from Post Offices or authorized agents and not from any other source.

(v) Field units have been instructed to book the articles through Multi Purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs), wherever such machines are available, in order to reduce the need to use stamps.

(vi) Use of franking machines by institutional customers is being encouraged.

(vii) Since February, 2004, technical data of commemorative stamps is also not published.

Statement

Reported cases of detection of suspected fake Postal Stamps by Circle

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Place	Date of detection	Details of fake stamps detected/seized			
				Denomination	No.	Value	Total Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	Naharbari	April, 1999	5/-	13	65	73
		HO		1/-	8	8	
2.	Delhi	NDRS TMO	Feb., 1999	10/-	3	30	
		Janakpuri & DES Col. PO	Jan., 2000	10/-	15	150	180
3.	West Bengal	Kolkata GPO	Dec., 1999	50/-	15	750	750
4.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jan., 1999	2/-	894	1788	5599
				1/-	3811	3811	
5.	Bihar	Ashok Nagar (Ranchi)	March, 1999	5/-	7	35	1215
				10/-	2	20	
		Barh (Nalanda)	Sept., 1999	2/-	41	82	
		Jamalpur	Oct., 1999	2/-	12	24	
		Patna	Mar., 1999	5/-	198	990	
				5/-	12	60	
		Bankipore HO	Mar., 1999	2/-	2	4	
6.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	June, 1999	20/-	2	40	33109800
		Thane (Mumbai)	Nov., 1999	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 & 1/- Rev.	-	33048530	
		Shivaji Nagar HO, Pune City HO	Jan., 2003	10/-	6123	61230	
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida & Meerut	May, 2000	1, 2, 3, 5, 10/-	-	32100	13648869

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Tetri Bazar Basti	July, 2000	5/-	86	430		
	Meerut	May, 2000	10/-	50	500		
	Ghaziabad	July, 2004	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, .05 to .75	-	5154839		
	Allahabad	July, 2004	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, .05 to .75	-	8461000		
8. N.E.	Dimapur	Sept., 1999	5/-	72	360	360	
9. Karnataka	Kallambella SO	March, 2003	20/-	133	2660	2660	
10. Gujarat	Ahmedabad	May, 2003	-	-	2300000	2300000	
11. Chhattisgarh	Raipur HO	June, 2003	2/-	200	400	400	
12. STAMPIT Karnataka	KNK/Delhi & Mumbai	1999	25p., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50	-	12730910	14327330	
	Madivala	2002	1, 2, 3, 5, 10 & 20	-	1596420		
13. Punjab	Chandigarh	July, 2002	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, Rev. 1/-	50584 43520	117564 43520	161084	
Total						63558320	

Quality Treatment for Patients in AIIMS

2068. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that AIIMS has failed in providing quality treatment despite being a specialized referral hospital of national importance;

(b) whether patients are being deprived of quality diagnosis, timely treatment and medical care in AIIMS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to provide quality treatment to the patients in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences is providing every medical care to emergency or general ward patients who come for treatment at the AIIMS. The hospital provides round the clock emergency services and are manned by specialized doctors at the level of Senior

Resident and consultants. This emergency services is equipped with all the diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. The hospital has got best possible state of art diagnostic facilities. There are inbuilt practice for infection control, review of cases of death and internal system of grievance redressal are some major steps for providing quality care to the patients who attend the AIIMS Hospital. The Institute is maintaining the required number of doctors, nurses and other staff to maintain optimal level of patient care services. The institute is also making efforts to increase the infrastructure facilities keeping in view the work load.

Visas to Pakistanis to Witness Cricket Matches

2069. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to issue Visas liberally to the people from Pakistan visiting India to witness Indo-Pakistan Cricket matches;

(b) if so, the number of Visas issued/proposed to be issued in this regard; and

(c) the procedure that has been devised to ensure that people of dubious or suspicious character who can foment trouble in India are not issued Visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) In keeping with its policy of encouraging people to people contact, Government had taken a policy decision to give visas to all Pakistani nationals who want to visit India for the cricket matches, provided they have valid tickets for the matches.

(b) The High Commission of India in Islamabad has issued 3223 visas to Pakistani nationals to see the first cricket match at Mohali.

(c) The visas have been issued only after following due procedures and making the necessary checks.

[Translation]

IT Facilities in Rural/Tribal Areas

2070. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme to provide internet, e-mail and computer facilities in rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Department of Information Technology (DIT) had taken up an initiative to set up Community Information Centres (CIC's) in the hilly, far-flung and rural areas of the country to bring the benefits of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to the people for socio-economic development of these areas. Under this initiative, DIT has supported 487 CICs at block level in the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim; 135 CICs at block level in the State of Jammu & Kashmir; 41 Vidya Vahini CICs in the Andaman & Nicobar Island and 30 Vidya Vahini CICs at Lakshadweep Island.

Department of Information Technology has prepared draft guidelines to facilitate establishment of Common Services Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country. It

is proposed to promote these centres through village level entrepreneurs adopting Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Such Centres would have flexibility to offer a mix of services (from Government & non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

[English]

Tribal Doctors in Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal

2071. SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that out of 300 doctors employed in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, Manipur, there are only 7 tribal doctors;

(b) if so, the reservation norms followed in the recruitment of doctors;

(c) whether the reservation for the Tribals in MBBS course in the RIMS is 31%;

(d) if so, whether the above norm is followed strictly;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the same norm is also applied for Tribals of Manipur in case of admission for PG courses in the RIMS; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per information furnished by the North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong, it is admitted that out of 300 odd doctors employed in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, Manipur, there are only 7 tribal doctors.

(b) The appointment of doctors was earlier being done purely on merit and no reservation norms were followed by the Institute. However, reservation norms are being followed from the year 2004-05.

(c) 31% reservation for the Tribals in MBBS course is not followed in RIMS, because admission in RIMS is done as per quota allotted to 7 NE States. National norms for ST candidates is 7½%.

(d) The State Government is following the norms

while nominating/sponsoring the candidates for the above course.

(e) Not applicable. Entrance Test for MBBS course is conducted by the beneficiary States of North-East only.

(f) The Government of Manipur has followed the Reservation Norms for ST candidates for admission to PG course during 2005.

(g) Not applicable in view of (f) above.

Utilisation of Fly Ash

2072. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Fuel Research Institute has developed know-how for bulk utilisation of Fly Ash for soil improvement, waste land management and reclamation of over-burdened dumps;

(b) if so, whether it has been covered under patent;

(c) whether it has been successfully implemented; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to encourage the inventors of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. These developments are protected by patents. CSIR filed an Indian patent (031 NF 2002) covering bulk use of fly ash for soil amendment and wasteland management. Another patent covering the bulk use of fly ash for reclamation of over burden dumps is envisaged.

(c) These developments are demonstrated through large scale pilot trials including farmers fields in the vicinity of different Thermal Power Plants of the country.

(d) The inventors of the know-how receive share of intellectual fee as per the CSIR guidelines.

[Translation]

World Bank's Funds for Hospitals in Uttar Pradesh

2073. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI ILYAS AZMI :

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

(a) whether the World Bank is providing funds for setting up of hospitals and dispensaries in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the amount of grant aid received by the U.P. Government from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) A State Health System Development Project with World Bank's credit assistance of US\$ 98.5 million has been under implementation in Uttar Pradesh since 26.7.2000 and will close on 31.12.2005. The project, inter-alia aims at renovation of Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals.

[English]

Global Corporate Research Centre

2074. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has invited Siemens Corporation to set up a global corporate research centre in Bangalore;

(b) whether Siemens India will initially focus on areas related to medical information technology and security automations; and

(c) if so, by when the research centre in Bangalore will be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Siemens Corporate research centre has been set up taking into consideration the skills and competencies available in India.

(b) Yes, Sir. Initially, the centre will focus on the research area related to Medical, Information Technology and Security Automation.

(c) The research centre was inaugurated on October 25, 2004 in Bangalore and is currently functional.

Medical Surveillance System

2075. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that some

major hospitals in Delhi have started medical surveillance system;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for similar surveillance system at the State level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Incentives to States for Development of IT

2076. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to provide incentives to the States to promote the development of software and communication business;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance to be provided by the Union Government to the States for this purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has granted A-one status to a few selected cities of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) Government has provided incentives for the promotion of Information Technology Sector in the country, as per enclosed statement which are equally applicable to all the States. Government has not granted any special status to selected cities of the country for applicability of these incentives.

Statement

Incentives for the development of Information Technology Sector

1. Approvals for all Foreign Direct Investment proposals relating to the Information Technology

Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.
4. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 20% to 15%. Customs duty on project imports with investment of at least Rs. 5 crores in plants and machinery is @ 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. Customs duty on Metals (Ferrous & Non-ferrous), chemicals and plastics has been reduced from 15% to 10%. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs duty on specified electronic components has been exempted except Deflection parts, Air cored & ferrite cored transformers, RF/IF coils and Loudspeakers (cone type). An additional duty of 4% has been imposed on items bound by IT Agreement (except IT Software) and their inputs, raw materials, parts, capital goods covered under various customs notifications. Specified capital goods required in the manufacture of capacitors, electronic fuses, TDM, DC micromotors, PCBs, Relays, Switches have been exempted from customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%. Specified infrastructure equipment for basic/cellular/internet, V-SAT, radio paging and public mobile radio trunked services and parts of such equipment are exempted from basic customs duty. Customs duty exemption to mobile switching centres presently available to cellular mobile telephone service providers has been extended to imports by universal access service providers. Customs duty on cellphones, parts of Set Top Box continues at 0%. Laptops brought as part of baggage are exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on passenger baggage has been reduced from 40% to 35%.
5. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Micro-

processors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives continue to be exempt from excise duty. Pre-loaded software on PCs, Audio CDs, Recorded VCDs and DVDs, Cellular Phones, Radio trunking terminals, Portable receivers for calling, alerting of paging; parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones, Set Top Box remain exempted from excise duty.

6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. Import of second hand capital goods and import of capital goods for pre-production and post-production facilities are permitted under the scheme. Import of spares is also permitted to facilitate upgradation of existing plant and machinery. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange. EPCG licence holders can opt for Technological Upgradation of the existing capital good imported under the EPCG licence.
7. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive NFE.
8. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for all units under EOU/EHTP/Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zones (SEZ) schemes.
9. EOU/STP/EHTP/Bio Technology Park (BTP) units have been exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
10. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
13. EOU/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities :
 - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
 - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
15. The donation of computer, imported duty free by EOU/STP/EHTP units to Government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations, two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
16. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations are exempted from customs duties.
17. Income by way of dividends of long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and

regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

18. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act (Infrastructure Status) is available to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
19. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
20. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

[English]

Spectrum Allocation

2077. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the spectrum allocation in the Indian telecom sector compared with that of other countries; and

(b) the manner in which the Government ensures optimal allocation of this limited resource?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Spectrum for telecom sector has been allocated by different countries, taking into account their needs, spectrum availability, etc. Same approach has been adopted for the Indian telecom sector. The National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) has been formulated taking into account international allocations and national requirements.

(b) Criteria have been evolved for allotment of spectrum to ensure optimal use of this limited resource.

[Translation]

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Gram Panchayats

2078. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in West Bengal not having post and telegraph facilities, district-wise;

(b) the number of panchayat Communication Services and Telegraph offices set up/to be set up in West Bengal by the Union Government during the last 2 years, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the time bound programme prepared by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There is no Gram Panchayat without Post facilities in West Bengal.

1,778 Nos. of Gram Panchayats in West Bengal are not having Telegraph Office facilities. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The number of Panchayats Communication Services and telegraph offices set up/to be set up in West Bengal during the last two years is Nil.

(c) All Inhabited, accessible and undisturbed villages (including Gram Panchayat villages) in the state of West Bengal have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. Further, at present, there is no proposal for setting up of Telegraph Offices in the State of West Bengal.

Statement

District/Secondary Switching Area (SSA)-wise availability status of Gram Panchayat in the State of West Bengal where telegraph facilities are not available

Sl.No.	Name of the District/SSA	No. of Gram Panchayats in the State of West Bengal not having telegraph facilities
1	2	3
1.	24 Paraganas (N)	111
2.	24 Paraganas (S)	228
3.	Bankura	65
4.	Birbhum	65
5.	Burdwan	79
6.	Coochbehar	49
7.	Darjeeling	59

1	2	3
8.	Dinapur (North)	70
9.	Dinapur (South)	40
10.	Hoogly	135
11.	Howrah	102
12.	Jalpaiguri	68
13.	Malda	80
14.	Midnapore	305
15.	Murshidabad	127
16.	Nadia	99
17.	Purulia	96
Total		1,778

Satellite Radio Navigation Programme

2079. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to participate in the Satellite Radio Navigation programme named Galileo of the European Union;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard in the recently concluded International Space Conference held in Brussels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Opening of Regional Centres of ICCR

2080. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plans to open new regional centres of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open regional centres of ICCR in Jammu & Kashmir and Bihar in order to remove the regional imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Council has plans to open new regional centres in various parts of the country. These offices will become operational once the competent authority have approved additional posts needed to man these centres and necessary funds are placed at the disposal of the Council for this purpose.

Drug Manufacturing Licences

2081. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Drug Manufacturing licences issued and in force, State-wise as on date;

(b) the number of WHO GMP, Schedule M, USFDA, UKMCA, accreditation granted in India, State-wise;

(c) the amount of funds used by the Government for promoting capacity building and training imparted to technical people from pharmaceutical industry and the number of such persons found to be suitable for implementing schedule M under Drugs and Cosmetics Act by the industry;

(d) whether such persons have been approved by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the information available with the Ministry of Health & FW, the details of Drug Manufacturing Licences issued state-wise and in force as on Nov. '2003 is enclosed as statement.

(b) WHO GMP and Schedule 'M' (GMP) certificates are issued by the State Licensing Authority and as such complete data in this regard is not Centrally maintained.

USFDA and UKMCA accreditation are granted by USFDA and UKMCA Authority respectively on the basis of applications submitted by the individual manufacturing firms for export to the respective countries and as such no data in this regard is available with this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Technical people from pharmaceutical industry are being provided training by Ministry of Health under Capacity Building Project and the training is imparted at National Institute of Pharmaceutical education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, Punjab. According to information received from NIPER, total expenditure made so far is Rs. 23,86,052/- on the training of personnel from Industry covering

503 technical persons from production as well as Analytical Dept. of various Pharma industries. All the participants are evaluated daily so as to confirm their learning process. There is no provision for approving such persons from pharmaceutical industry, by the ministry of health and family welfare. This function is performed by the licensing authority of the concerned state.

Statement

Categories-wise No. of Manufacturing Licenses in States

Sl. No.	States	Bulk Drugs	Formulation	Large Vaccines Volume Parenter	Blood Banks	Surgical Dress- ings	Disinfectants	Repack- ing	Loan License	Medical Devices	Cos- metics	Ayur- vedic, Unani Siddha	Homeo- pathy	Misce- llaneous not covered	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200	416	5	14	179	21		27	620		59			31
2.	Assam	2	19	2		51	15	12	3		1	10	38	1	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		2			3									
4.	Bihar		236	3	1	38	Included in 236			7		7	240	26	2
5.	Chandigarh	1	13			3		4				2	3		
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	37			1	7	7		2	4	5	44	2	
7.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	56					1	2	47		54	15		
8.	Delhi	4	90		1	42	28	4	1	89	1	499		69	
9.	Goa	5	88	2		7	1	1	2	186	1	16	6		
10.	Gujarat	430	526	18	6	159	52	19	15	644	117	324	930	11	
11.	Haryana	23	230	6	2	42	65	8	6	13	4	39		10	
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	15		1	14	5	2			1	1	10		
13.	Karnataka	57	84	2	2	135	21	32	9	291	3	74			33
14.	Kerala	4	60	10	1	125	2	2	6	15	4	11	800	17	
15.	Maharashtra	347	693	17	9	245	38	29	49	1931	19	513	655	25	68
16.	Madhya Pradesh	54	435	12	1	101	44	20	43	263	4	56	539	17	15
17.	Meghalaya		2		1	4						3			
18.	Mizoram		1			5	1								
19.	Orissa	4	43		2	63	19	30	31	14		39		25	6
20.	Pondicherry	7	34			8		3	3	12	3	52	51	7	2
21.	Punjab	9	187	3	2	72	13			12		71		3	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22. Rajasthan		19	85	2	1	60	48	10	9	68	5	24		4	31
23. Sikkim			1			3						3	1	1	
24. Tamil Nadu		62	436	15	5	192	103	21	20	325	12	175	531	7	58
25. Tirpura			4			6	1						1		
26. Uttaranchal		10	8	1	1	18	7	1	1	6	1	3		1	
27. Uttar Pradesh		44	329	9	3	126	115	30	53	16	12	51		40	12
28. West Bengal		46	280	27	3	104	32	30	40	131	7	191	850	700	10
Total		1338	4410	134	56	1806	638	273	320	4692	199	2282	4714	966	287

Programme Under NHDP-III

2082. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has planned a new programme under the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP-III) for 4-laning of National Highways;

(b) if so, the total length of roads to be included in this Programme, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether any of the roads of which 4-laning had started or were planned earlier are being included in this;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the date of start and completion of the programme; and

(f) the total cost of the Programme and methodology of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 71 stretches covering 10,417 km. have been included in this programme. List of National Highways identified is given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The Government has approved NHDP-III in two phases. The Government has approved NHDP Phase IIIA covering 4,000 km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 22,000 crore (including Land Acquisition) and work in 4 stretches covering 328 km. has been awarded so far. The Government has also approved NHDP Phase IIIB 'in principle' covering balance 6,000 km.

NHDP Phase IIIA is targeted for completion by December 2009.

(f) The total estimated cost of the programme is Rs. 55,000 crore. The projects will be taken on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis with Government providing grant towards viability gap funding upto 40%.

Statement**Stretches proposed to be upgraded under NHDP Phase-III**

Stretch/ Corridor No.	NH No.	Stretch/Corridor	Length (km.)	States involved
1	2	3	4	5
1	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49	Punjab
2	1A	Srinagar-Baramula-Uri	101	J&K
3	3	Guna Bypass	14	MP

1	2	3	4	5
4	3	Indore-Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule-Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	546	MP/Maharashtra
5	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105	Karnataka
6	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20	Maharashtra
7	4A	Balgaum-Panji	153	Goa/Karnataka
8	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/Orissa Border	88	Orissa
9	6	Aurang-Raipur	45	Chhattisgarh
10	6	Nagpur-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	226	Maharashtra/ Chhattisgarh
11	6	Nagpur-Talegaon-Amravati	148	Maharashtra
12	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat	84	Gujarat
13	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25	Karnataka
14	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82	Rajasthan
15	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127	Gujarat
16	9	Pune-Sholapur	170	Maharashtra
17	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	240.5	Andhra Pradesh
18	10	Delhi-Hissar	160	Delhi/Haryana
19	11	Agra-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus	282	UP/Rajasthan
20	12	Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur	297	MP
21	12	Jaipur-Tonk	86	Rajasthan
22	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246	Rajasthan
23	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101	Punjab
24	17	Panvel-Indapur	84	Maharashtra
25	17	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji-Goa/KNT Border	139	Goa
26	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71	Goa/Karnataka/Kerala
27	17	Mangalore-Khozikode-Eddapally	469	Karnataka/Kerala
28	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	192.5	Andhra Pradesh
29	19 & 17	Patna-Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	149	Bihar
30	19 & 85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153	Bihar
31	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73	Chandigarh/Punjab
32	22	Ambala-Kalka-Shimla	168	Haryana/Punjab/ Himachal Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
33	24	Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow	322	UP
34	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67	Bihar
35	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53	Bihar
36	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255	Bihar
37	33	Barhi-Ranchi-Jamshedpur	265	Jharkhand
38	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60	West Bengal
39	36, 39	Doboka-Dimapur	124	Assam, Nagaland
40	31, 52 & 52A	Baihata Chariali (on EW corridor)-Itanagar	345	Assam/ Arunachal Pradesh
41	39	Kohima-Imphal	140	Nagaland/Manipur
42	43	Kurnud-Dhamtari	23	Chhattisgarh
43	44, 53	Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shillong Bypass)	447	Meghalaya/Assam/ Tripura
44	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80	Tamil Nadu
45	45B	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144	Tamil Nadu
46	45 Ex	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni	73	Tamil Nadu
47	47	Cherthala-Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari	265	Kerala/Tamil Nadu
48	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154	Karnataka
49	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186	Tamil Nadu
50	50	Pune-Khed	30	Maharashtra
51	54	Silchar (on E-W corridor)-Aizawl	180	Assam/Mizoram
52	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13	Bihar
53	1, 24, 58, 72	Delhi-Dehradun	280	Delhi/UP/Uttaranchal
54	59	Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad	379	MP/Gujarat
55	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam-Pondicherry	210	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry
56	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy-Karur	180	Tamil Nadu
57	67 Ex	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45	Tamil Nadu
58	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134	Tamil Nadu
59	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13	MP
60	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100	MP

1	2	3	4	5
61	80	Mokama-Munger	70	Bihar
62	84	Patna-Buxar	130	Bihar
63	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40	MP
64	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106	UP
65	200	Raipur-Simga	28	Chhattisgarh
66	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39	Orissa
67	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30	AP
68	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59	Orissa
69	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138	AP/Tamil Nadu
70	215	Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy	249	Orissa
71	220	Theni-Kumili	57	Tamil Nadu
Total			10417	

New Rules for Coastal Areas

2083. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has started working on new rules of coastal areas after the recent disaster due to Tsunami waves;

(b) If so, whether a high-powered scientific Government Committee has prepared a comprehensive review of regulations determining settlement and development along the country's 6000 km coastline; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Meeting of G-7 Countries

2084. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was also invited to take part in the meeting of G-7 countries held in February this year;

(b) If so, the details of the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries apart from India who were invited to this meeting and the approach of the G-7 countries towards such participating countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) At the invitation of the Chancellor for Exchequer of the United Kingdom, Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram attended a meeting with G-7 Finance Ministers on February 5, 2005.

(b) There was no formal agenda. The discussions focused around challenges and opportunities of globalization. Finance Minister briefed others on trends in the Indian economy. The participants exchanged views on the rising international oil prices.

(c) Other countries invited to the meeting were Brazil, South Africa and China.

[English]

Tax Deduction on R & D Expenses

2085. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pharmaceutical sector has been enjoying tax deduction on its R&D expenses;

(b) if so, the amount of money spent on R&D by Pharma sector in each of the last three years; and

(c) the achievements in treatment of chronic ailments and improvement of life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major Pharma companies have been spending substantial amount annually on research & development activities, in view of the fiscal incentives provided by the Government. The department has compiled year-wise R&D expenditure and annual turn over of select pharmaceutical in-house R&D units from their published annual reports, as per which the R&D expenditure of 18 major pharmaceutical companies is as follows :

2001-02	Rs. 496 Crore
2002-03	Rs. 761 Crore
2003-04	Rs. 1150 Crore

It is estimated that currently, the total annual R&D expenditure of the pharmaceutical industry is of the order of Rs. 1450 Crore.

(c) The Indian pharmaceutical industry has made good progress in terms of augmenting technology base through R&D, development of world class infrastructure and manufacture of drugs to international quality standards. The industry has developed a good expertise in developing patent non-infringing process technologies for drugs and their intermediates by substantial R&D efforts. Major Pharma companies such as Ranbaxy Laboratories, Lupin Laboratories Ltd., Torrent Pharmaceutical Ltd., Glenmark Pharmaceutical Ltd., Wockhardt Ltd., and Cadila Health Care Ltd., have developed new drug molecules. 33 Indian companies have obtained permission of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to carry out various stages of clinical trials during the period 2001-2004. The Drug Controller General of India has approved 127 bulk drugs and formulations for manufacturing during the period 2001-2004, which though were approved abroad, the processes for manufacturing the same were redeveloped by Indian companies. The drugs approved are in all therapeutic areas, including drugs for treatment of chronic/life threatening ailments like diabetes, hypertension

asthma, chronic infections, neurotic and psychotic diseases, arthritis & other musculo-skeletal diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Also DCGI has approved 14 new drugs till date, which were discovered in India for manufacturing and marketing.

Development of Genetic Transformation System for Mosquito

2086. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the scientists have developed genetic transformation system for the mosquito (*Anopheles stephensi*) causing malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for eradication of Malaria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a group of scientists from UK, Germany and Greece have developed a stable germline transformation system for the mosquito (*Anopheles stephensi*) causing malaria which was published in Nature (Vol. 405, June 22, 2000). The genetic transformation technology will be useful to investigate the molecular aspects of malaria parasite transmission for control of the disease.

(c) Several steps have been initiated to eradicate malaria in the country through active surveillance, early diagnosis and prompt treatment, anti-vector and anti-larval control measures. The government also initiated several projects for development of potential candidate vaccines for both *P falciparum* and *P vivax* and also development of novel anti-malarial drugs.

Bill for Small Scale Sector

2087. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared a comprehensive bill for the small scale sector and the new Government has made a number of additions to the proposed bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when this bill is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the benefits to accrue to the SSI sector after the passing of this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005 is under formulation and attempts are underway to introduce the Bill in Parliament during the on-going session. On being enacted, this is expected to benefit the small enterprises, including the growth and by providing a legal framework for promoting the growth and development and enhancing the competitiveness of these enterprises, including reducing the rigours of the "Inspector Raj".

[Translation]

Vidya Vahini Programme

2088. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI MUNSHI RAM :
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

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

(a) the total number of Government Higher Secondary Schools that have been connected with computers under the Vidya Vahini Programme launched under the Tenth Plan by the Government;

(b) the total funds earmarked/spent for this purpose;

(c) the names of the Government run schools selected for the same; and

(d) the number of schools which have implemented the said programme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has implemented a Vidya Vahini pilot project connecting 140 Government/Government aided schools including high schools, higher secondary schools and inter-colleges in the 7 districts of 6 States in the country.

(b) An amount of Rs. 15 crores has been spent on the pilot project.

(c) and (d) The list of Government/Government aided schools covered under the pilot project is attached as enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Schools covered under Vidya Vahini Pilot Project

Sl.No.	Name and Address of the School
1	2
Kuppam (Chittoor)	
1.	Zilla Parishad High School, V. Kota (Post & Mandal), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517424
2.	Zilla Parishad High School, Ramakuppam (Village & Post) Ramakuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517401
3.	Zilla Parishad High School, Gudupalle (Post & Mandal), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
4.	Zilla Parishad High School, Rallabuduguru (PO), Santhipuram Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517423
5.	Zilla Parishad High School, Settipalle (Village & Post) Gudupalle Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
6.	Zilla Parishad High School, Dandikuppam, Santhipuram Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.
7.	Zilla Parishad High School, Paipalyam, Vasanadu (Post) Kuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
8.	Zilla Parishad High School, Cheldiganipalle (PO), Via V. Kota, Ramakuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517424
9.	Zilla Parishad High School, Sector-7, Adavibuduguru (Village), Kuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
10.	Zilla Parishad High School, Vijalapuram (Village & Post) Ramakuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
11.	Zilla Parishad High School, Gonuguru, Vendugampalli (Post) Kuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425
12.	Govt. High School, Boyanapalli (Post) Santhipuram Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517423
13.	Zilla Parishad High School, Thummisi, Nadimpalli (Post) Santhipuram Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517423
14.	Zilla Parishad High School, Pandyalamadugu, Pallekuppam Post, Ramakuppam Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517401

1	2
15. Zilla Parishad High School, Sogadaballa (Village & Post) Santhipuram Mandal, Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517423	
16. Zilla Parishad High School, Kangundhi (V&P), Vijalapuram (Via.), Kuppam M., Kangundhi, A.P.-517425	
17. Zilla Parishad High School, Pamuganipalli (V&P), V. Kota(M), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517424	
18. Zilla Parishad High School, Mudaramdoddi (V&P), V. Kota (M), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517424	
19. Zilla Parishad High School, Lingapuram (V), C.M. Palli (P), V. Kota (M), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517424	
20. Govt. High School, Kuppam (V&P), Kuppam (M), Chittoor Distt., A.P.-517425	
Gandhinagar	
1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vidhyamandir, Sector-7, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382007	
2. G.D.M. & H.N.J. Kobawala Gandhinagar High School, Near Bageshree Hotel, Gandhinagar Highway, Koba, Gujarat-382009	
3. Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans Vidhyadham, Sector-15, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382016	
4. Mahatma Gandhi Vidhyalaya, Sector-16, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382016	
5. Subhashchandra Bose Shikshan Sankul, Sector-20, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382020	
6. Maharana Pratap Vidhyamandir, Sector-27, Near the Inquiry Office, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382027	
7. Zansini Rani Vidhyalaya, Sector-29, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382029	
8. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Vidyalaya, Palaj, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382353	
9. Shree J.S. Patel Vidhyamandir, Randheja, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382620	
10. R.G. Patel Girls School, Sector-23, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382023	
11. Sheth S.M.S. High School & Shri B.P. Patel Higher Sec. School, Sardhav, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382640	

1	2
12. Smt. J.M.G. High School, Shertha, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382423	
13. Matrushree B.K.S. Sarvajani High School, Delvad, PO. Ambod, Ta. Mansa, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382845	
14. B.M. Patel Sarv. High School, Parbatpura (North Gujarat), Ta. Mansa, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382845	
15. S.J. Patel Sarv. High School, Pratapnagar, Ta. Mansa, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382845	
16. Mahant Shri Shatruhandasji Vidyalaya, At Padusma, Ta. Mansa, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382825	
17. Shree K.R. Vakil Vidyalaya, Kanipur, Ta. Dhegam, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382308	
18. Purnima High School, Dehgam, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382305	
19. St. Xavier's High School, Post Box No. 5, Kalol (North Gujarat), Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382721	
20. Patel S.N. Derivala High School, Dingucha, Ta. Kalol (N.G.), Gujarat-382740	
Hazaribagh	
1. Hindu Inter +2 Stariya Vidyalaya, Mazar Road, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825301	
2. Gandhi Memorial High School, Ramgarh Cantt. Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829122	
3. Public High School, Kuju, Ramgarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825316	
4. C.C.L. High School, Nayanagar, Barkakana, Ramgarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829103	
5. K.K.C. High School, Sayal, Ramgarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829125	
6. K.B. High School, Lari, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829122	
7. Bhurkunda High School, Bhurkunda, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829106	
8. High School, Barhi, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825405	

1	2
9.	K.B.S.S. High School, Chowparan, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825406
10.	High School, Vishnugarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825312
11.	State Subsidized High School, Gola, Ramgarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829210
12.	Bihari Girls High School, Badam Bazar, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825301
13.	Indira Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, P.O. Reformatory School, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825319
14.	Maheshra High School, Maheshra, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825301
15.	K.N. High School, Ichak, Ichak, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825402
16.	State Subsidized High School, Mandu (Beside Mandu Block and in front of Forest Office) Village Govindpur, Dist. Hazaribagh
17.	Raj Ballabh High School, Sandi Chitarpur, Ramgarh, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829122
18.	Shramik High School, Sirka, Argada (Ramgarh), Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-829101
19.	High School, Barkagaon, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825311
20.	State Subsidized High School, Keredari, Dist. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-811325

Lucknow

- Govt. Jubilee Inter College, Near City Station, Lucknow-226003
- Govt. Hussainabad Inter College, Chowk-3, Lucknow-226003
- Govt. Inter College, Nishantganj, Lucknow-226007
- Govt. Girls Inter College, Singarnagar, Alambagh, Lucknow
- Govt. Girls Inter College, Shahmina Road, Lucknow, U.P.-226003

1	2
6.	Govt. Uttar Pradesh Sainik School, Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow-226008
7.	Govt. Girls High School, Sector-11, Indira Nagar, Lucknow
8.	Govt. Girls High School, Vikas Nagar, Sector-11, Lucknow (U.P.)
9.	Govt. Girls High School, Vinay Khand-4, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226018
10.	Navyug Girls Inter College, Rajendra Nagar, Lucknow-226004
11.	Lalbagh Girls Inter College, Lalbagh, Lucknow, U.P.-226001
12.	Agarsen Inter College, Chowk, Lucknow-226003
13.	Aminabad Inter College, Aminabad, Lucknow
14.	Guru Nanak Girls Inter College, Chander Nagar, Lucknow-226005
15.	Bhartiya Balika Vidyalaya, Shahnajaf Road Hazratgunj, Lucknow-226001
16.	Lucknow Montessori Inter College, Purana Qila, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226001
17.	Shri Guru Nanak Girls Inter College, Basmandi, Chauraha, Lucknow-226002
18.	Maharaja Agarsen Inter College, Motinagar, Lucknow-226004
19.	Sunni Inter College, Victoria Street, Nakhass Chowk, Lucknow-226003
20.	Nari Shiksha Niketan Girls Inter College, Chakbast Road Kaisarbagh, Lucknow-226001

Allahabad

- Govt. Inter College, Louthar Road, Allahabad-211001
- Govt. Girls Inter College, Civil Lines, Allahabad-211001
- Govt. Girls Inter College, Muhalla Jameelabad, Phoolpur, Allahabad
- Govt. Girls Inter College, Shankar Garh, Allahabad

1	2
5.	Govt. Girls Inter College, Handiya, Allahabad
6.	Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Katra, Allahabad, U.P.-211002
7.	Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Dhanupur, Allahabad
8.	Govt. Girls High School, Saidabad, Allahabad
9.	Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Jasra, Allahabad
10.	Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Rampurkarchana, Allahabad
11.	K.P. Inter College, M.G. Marg, Allahabad
12.	D.P. Girls Inter College, 2 Master Dwarika Prasad Road, Prayag Street, Katra, Allahabad-211002
13.	Satyanarayan Inter College, Uruwa, Allahabad
14.	Ansar Girls Inter College, Mauaima, Allahabad
15.	Sarwajanik Inter College, Daser, Bhoopatpur, Allahabad
16.	Kulbhaskar Ashram Inter College, 2 Lowther Road, Allahabad-211002
17.	Vidyawati Darbari Girls Inter College, 118 Lukerganj, Allahabad-211003
18.	Indian Girls Inter College, 49 Vivekanand Marg, Allahabad-211003
19.	Mary Wanamaker Girls Inter College, 5 Mission Rd., Kutchery, Allahabad-211002
20.	St. Anthony Girls Inter College, 71 Dayanand Marg, Allahabad-211002

South 24 Parganas (Kolkata)

1. Jadavpur High School, 17, East Road, P.O. Jadavpur Univ., Kolkata-700032
2. Garfa Dharendraanath Memorial High School, 161, Garfa Main Road, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata-700075
3. N.K. Pal Adarsha Sikshayatan, 43/5H, Jheel Road, Dhakuria P.O., Kolkata-700031
4. Jadavpur Baghajatin High School (Boys), Baghajatin Pally, Regent Estate P.O., Kolkata-700092

1	2
5.	Ananda Ashram Balika Vidyapith, 352, N.S.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700047
6.	Gandhi Colony Ucca Madhyamik Vidyalaya, 1/64, Gandhi Colony, P.O. Regent Park Jadavpur, Tollygang, Kolkata-040
7.	Jadavpur Sammilita Balika Vidyalaya, Raja S.C. Mallick Road, P.O. Baghajatin, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata-700086
8.	Kendua Mahendranath High School, Ashok Road, Gangully Bagan, P.O. Garia P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata-700
9.	Gangapuri Siksha Sadan High School (Boys), Purba Putiari, P.S. Regent Park, Tollygang, Kolkata-700093
10.	Gangapuri Siksha Sadan (Girls), Ward-114, Purba Putiari, P.S. Regent Park, Tollygang, Kolkata-700093
11.	Netaji Nagar Vidya Mandir (Boys), 170/436 N.S.C. Bose Rd., P.O. Regent Estate, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata-700092
12.	Barisha Vivekananda High School, Barisha East, Government Colony, Thakurpukur, Kolkata-700063
13.	Behala Sharda Vidyapith for Girls, 36, Kazipara Road, P.O. Parnasree Pally, Kolkata-700060
14.	Metiabruz High School (Boys), Metiabruz School Road, R-50, Garden Reach Road, P.S. Metiabruz, Kolkata-700024
15.	Modernland Girls High School, 89A, Santoshpur, Avenue, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700075
16.	Childrens Welfare Association High School (Girls), 1, Rakhal Mukherjee Road, Sarsuna, P.S. Thakurpukur, Dist. South 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700061
17.	Pranta Palli High School (Boys), J-Block, Baghajatin Palli, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032
18.	Garfa Dharendraanath Memorial Girls High School, 161 Garfa Main Road, Kolkata-700075
19.	Santoshpur Vidyamandir for Boys (H.S.), 9C, Priyanath Ghosh Road, Santoshpur, Kolkata-700075
20.	Bansdrani Chakdah Vidyamandir for Boys, P.O. Bansdrani, Kolkata-700070

Parlivaljnath (Beed)

1. Saraswati Mashyamik Vidyalaya Parti Valjnath, Parti Valjnath-431515

1	2
2.	Vaidyanath Vidyalaya, Parli Vajinath, Parli Vajinath-431515
3.	Naveen Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Parli Vajinath, Parli Vajinath-431515
4.	Jagmitra Naga Vidyalaya, Parli Vajinath, Parli Vajinath-431515
5.	Z.P. Madhyamik Shalla (Boys), Parli Vajinath, Parli Vajinath-431515
6.	Z.P. Madhyamik Shalla (Girls), Parli Vajinath, Parli Vajinath-431515
7.	Z.P. Madhyamik Shalla Nagapur, At & Post Nagapur, Tq. Parli-431515
8.	Z.P. Madhyamik Shalla (Girls) Ambajogai, Ambajogai-431517
9.	Vivek Dynamandir Bardapur, Bardapur, Tq. Ambajogai-431517
10.	Somnath Vidyalaya Kaneherwadi, At & Post Kaneherwadi, Tq. Parli-431515
11.	Yashvantrao Chavan Vidyalaya Pattiwadgaon, At & Post Pattiwadgaon, Tq. Ambajogai-431519
12.	Jijamata Madhyamik Vidyalaya Dharmapuri, At & Post Dharmapuri, Tq. Parli Vajinath-431519
13.	Raghunathrao Munde Vidyalaya, Katkarwadi, Post Ujani, Tq. Ambajogai-431517
14.	Sant Bhagwan Baba Vidyalaya Pangri Camp, At & Post Pangri Camp, Tq. Parli-431515
15.	Shri Ratneshwar Vidyalaya Tokwadi, At & Post Takwadi, Tq. Parli-431515

1	2
16.	Zilla Parishad High School, Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri, Tal. Ambajogai
17.	New High School Thermal, Parli, Parli Vajinath-431520
18.	Maharshri Kanad Vidyalaya, Parli, Parli Vajinath-431515
19.	Vanketash Vidyalaya Sonhivara, At & Post Sonhivara, Nagapur, Tq. Parli Vajinath, Dist. Beed-431515
20.	Kholeswar Madhyamik Vidyalaya Ambajogai, Ambajogai-431517

[English]

Diphtheria and Measles Cases

2089. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

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

(a) the total number of cases reported of death of children due to Diphtheria and Measles in the country, State-wise during the last three years; and

(b) the percentage of immunization coverage with regard to Diphtheria and Measles, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Total number of children reported death due to Diphtheria and Measles State-wise and in the country during last three years is enclosed in statement-I.

(b) Percentage of children immunized with Diphtheria and Measles State-wise and in the country during last three years is enclosed in statement-II.

Statement-I

Deaths to Diphtheria and Measles

Sl.No.	State	Diphtheria			Measles		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	11	1	19	5	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	5	0	0
3.	Assam	NR	NR	0	NR	NR	0
4.	Bihar	NR	NR	0	NR	NR	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	20	16	3	4	9	10
8.	Haryana	0	1	0	0	0	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	0	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12.	Karnataka	0	2	0	4	5	4
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	1	0	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	6	7	5	12
15.	Maharashtra	8	11	0	4	5	3
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	2	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	1	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	1	0	0	1	4	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	16	7	17	15	5	3
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	2	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1	0	7	2	0
28.	West Bengal	30	42	1	53	25	15
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	0	3
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	41	16	12	26	54	62
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		125	107	40	153	119	116

Source : Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)

Statement-II

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory/ Agency	D.P.T. (III Dose)			Measles (Below 1 Year)		
		2001-02	2002-03*	2003-04*	2001-02	2002-03*	2003-04*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

I. Major States (Population >20 million)

1.	Andhra Pradesh	102.20	103.75	104.14	99.45	100.75	99.67
2.	Assam	73.42	63.60	65.59	64.78	64.44	63.51
3.	Bihar	63.52	53.50	45.86	51.14	43.91	31.88
4.	Chhattisgarh	98.18	107.08	104.44	108.07	112.93	100.38
5.	Gujarat	102.52	99.24	95.42	97.76	95.07	94.98
6.	Haryana	98.88	98.89	95.18	98.97	93.25	89.58
7.	Jharkhand	68.12	73.59	57.88	72.50	56.46	48.09
8.	Karnataka	97.95	94.79	91.37	93.17	89.84	81.91
9.	Kerala	95.96	97.92	96.98	88.80	93.01	89.63
10.	Madhya Pradesh	110.00	110.85	104.48	109.41	111.11	105.64
11.	Maharashtra	113.03	102.34	105.42	109.29	95.30	97.82
12.	Orissa	107.89	103.51	99.57	97.86	99.79	92.04
13.	Punjab	109.47	103.24	97.25	102.45	97.10	92.07
14.	Rajasthan	104.14	99.67	99.73	100.93	95.94	91.93
15.	Tamil Nadu	109.48	105.01	103.30	106.46	104.38	101.42
16.	Uttar Pradesh	111.75	107.43	93.71	105.02	100.83	94.78
17.	West Bengal	106.78	96.84	92.25	103.34	95.27	75.69

II. Smaller States

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.81	44.82	30.92	39.55	41.07	29.28
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Delhi		74.62	76.29	66.73	73.61	70.56	59.79
3. Goa		110.94	126.43	122.33	97.30	112.65	104.31
4. Himachal Pradesh		96.16	94.81	101.79	94.89	94.53	97.61
5. Jammu and Kashmir		130.76	143.31	134.21	117.88	128.54	125.26
6. Manipur		67.00	76.28	71.60	59.45	68.07	69.07
7. Meghalaya		57.35	60.46	87.66	45.08	48.82	47.21
8. Mizoram		328.30	107.98	133.24	108.92	114.56	94.16
9. Nagaland		63.48	46.46	64.32	43.00	41.26	42.51
10. Sikkim		96.22	99.43	90.09	89.77	91.83	91.27
11. Tripura		87.45	87.32	115.46	81.22	97.82	93.76
12. Uttaranchal		110.49	144.05	134.57	108.47	141.86	116.07
III. Union Territories							
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		73.60	134.73	179.86	65.16	88.38	76.45
2. Chandigarh		86.64	85.90	97.06	87.37	92.02	94.02
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		112.52	108.15	99.72	118.50	99.42	88.83
4. Daman and Diu		76.62	71.51	158.65	73.67	68.32	83.75
5. Lakshadweep		64.67	110.00	103.69	72.22	115.20	100.00
6. Pondicherry		96.10	99.02	90.52	88.03	92.44	87.99
All India		100.83	96.57	91.24	95.93	91.67	85.56

Source : E & I division of Ministry Based on monthly progress reports sent by State/UT Govts.

[Translation]

less than the consumption amount fixed at international level?

Per Capita Consumption

2090. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per capita consumption expenditure in rural areas is lower than that in the urban areas in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which the said consumption is

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASKEHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the latest large Household Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the NSSO during 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round), it has been observed that the per capita consumption expenditure in rural areas is lower than that in the urban areas in the country. The household per capita consumption expenditure at the national level is estimated as Rs. 486.16 per month and for rural areas and Rs. 854.92 per month for urban areas.

(b) The details of the per capita consumption expenditure during 1999-2000 as per NSS (55th Round)

Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for major states is enclosed in statement-I. One of the main reasons for the higher per capita expenditure in urban areas as compared to the rural is that the cost of living in urban areas is systematically higher than in rural areas.

(c) There is no comparable consumption amount fixed at the international level. In the Indian context, the minimum consumption requirements are reflected in the poverty lines specified for each State. The values of these State-wise Poverty Line for rural and urban areas are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

**Monthly Average Per Capita Consumption
Expenditure in 1999-2000**

(Rs.)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	453.61	773.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	648.00	762.66
3.	Assam	426.13	814.12
4.	Bihar	385.10	601.90
5.	Goa	868.77	1155.50
6.	Gujarat	551.33	891.68
7.	Haryana	714.38	912.08
8.	Himachal Pradesh	684.53	1243.30
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	677.60	952.84
10.	Karnataka	499.78	910.99
11.	Kerala	765.71	932.62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	401.50	693.56
13.	Maharashtra	496.77	973.33
14.	Manipur	537.80	707.77
15.	Meghalaya	563.45	972.18
16.	Mizoram	721.84	1056.60
17.	Nagaland	941.31	1242.40
18.	Orissa	373.17	618.49

1	2	3	4
19.	Punjab	742.82	898.82
20.	Rajasthan	548.88	795.81
21.	Sikkim	531.77	905.69
22.	Tamil Nadu	514.07	971.63
23.	Tripura	528.41	876.60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	466.63	690.33
25.	West Bengal	454.80	866.59
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	780.21	1114.30
27.	Chandigarh	989.19	1435.60
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	561.18	1207.40
29.	Daman and Diu	901.48	979.43
30.	Delhi	917.21	1383.60
31.	Lakshadweep	876.19	1018.20
32.	Pondicherry	597.63	784.27
All India		486.16	854.92

Statement-II

State-specific Poverty Line-1999-2000

(Rs. Monthly per capita)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	365.43	343.99
3.	Assam	365.43	343.99
4.	Bihar	333.07	379.78
5.	Goa	318.63	539.71
6.	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
7.	Haryana	362.81	420.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	367.45	420.2
10.	Karnataka	309.59	511.44

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	374.79	477.06
12.	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
13.	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
14.	Manipur	365.43	343.99
15.	Meghalaya	365.43	343.99
16.	Mizoram	365.43	343.99
17.	Nagaland	365.43	343.99
18.	Orissa	323.92	473.12
19.	Punjab	362.68	388.15
20.	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
21.	Sikkim	365.43	343.99
22.	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.6
23.	Tripura	365.43	343.99
24.	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
25.	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	307.64	475.6
27.	Chandigarh	388.15	388.15
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	318.63	539.71
29.	Daman and Diu	318.63	539.71
30.	Delhi	362.68	505.45
31.	Lakshadweep	374.79	477.06
32.	Pondicherry	307.64	475.6
All India		327.56	454.11

(English)

**Non-Payment of Salaries to
CIWTC Employees**

2091. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Inland Water Transport

Corporation (CIWTC) has not been able to pay salaries to its staff;

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) has been making losses year after year and the situation has not improved even after the sanction of a liberal revival package in June, 2001. This package envisaged assistance to the tune of Rs. 139.55 crore which was to be funded to the extent of Rs. 76.55 crore through budgetary support and remaining through the sale proceeds of Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) and other surplus assets of the Corporation. The RBD closure and disposal thereof together with other surplus assets has not yet materialized. As a result, CIWTC could not generate its own resources to meet the salaries/wages of its staff.

(c) Government has already sanctioned and released additional funds to the tune of Rs. 12 crore as non-plan assistance to the CIWTC in February, 2005 for disbursing salary/wages.

Digital Trunk Automatic Exchanges

2092. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

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

- (a) the details of the digital Trunk automatic modern telephone exchanges set-up in various States during the last three years, State-wise;
(b) the details of the exchanges proposed to be set up in various States during the current year, State-wise;
(c) the details of such telephone exchanges capacity of which has been enhanced during the current financial year; and
(d) the details of such telephone exchanges where waiting list has been cleared?

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

Derecognition of Kasturba Medical College

2093. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has recommended to the Government for the withdrawal of recognition of Kasturba Medical Colleges at Manipal and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether as per listing in the International Medical Education Directory, students from KMC are eligible to appear for the ECFMG examination during the period 1955-2003;

(e) if so, whether the KMC students in the current batches would not be able to sit for the ECFMG examination as the abrupt derecognition of KMC will jeopardise the future of many students; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (f) The Medical Council of India (MCI) has made a recommendation for derecognition of the MBBS degree awarded by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Deemed University) in respect of its constituent medical colleges viz., Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore in Karnataka. As per the MCI, the said recommendation was made in view of the excess admission of students in MBBS course made by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) against the NRI/foreign students quota beyond the limit of 15% laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As per the provisions of the Act, the medical qualification being awarded by any University in respect of the students of a specified college or institution affiliated to that University can be de-recognized only after following the procedure laid down therein and shall take effect only from the date as may be specified by the Central Government in this regard by a Notification in the official Gazette. The degree, if any, awarded to the students admitted in such colleges in the medical courses concerned till the date of such de-recognition shall continue to remain recognized. Accordingly the degrees

awarded by KMC continued to be recognized & as such the students are eligible to appear in the ECFMG Examination if they are otherwise eligible.

[Translation]

Disconnection of Telephone Connections

2094. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from Uttar Pradesh regarding disconnection of telephones without sending telephone bills to the subscribers by officers/employees of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from U.P. particularly from Bareilly division;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the instruments in telephone exchanges located in Bareilly division of U.P. are faulty and the Government proposes to replace those instruments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) BSNL has not received any such complaints.

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

(c) Bills are issued as per prescribed schedule and delivered through Department of Posts. In case of delay in issuance of bills, pay by date is extended. In case of non-receipt, subscribers can obtain duplicate copy free of cost from Customer Care Centres or check details through IVRS. Before withdrawing telephone facility for non-payment by subscribers, only incoming facility is allowed for 15 days so that subscribers can pay their outstanding bills.

(d) and (e) Te telephone instruments which are reported faulty are either repaired or replaced. During the year 2004-05, in Bareilly Division of U.P. 1173 instruments were reported faulty. Out of these, 950 instruments were replaced with instruments in good working condition and 223 instruments were replaced with new instruments.

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

**Check on Blackmarketing of
Telephone Lines**

2095. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :

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

(a) whether any steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to keep surveillance on and check blackmarketing of telephone lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to empower the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Government conducts raids to check illegal routing of calls by unauthorized service providers. In October, 2004 Government has set up Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cells in four cities as a measure to curb grey market in telecom traffic. Government as well as various service providers have also issued advertisements in the newspapers as a part of consumer awareness programme. Toll free telephone numbers have also been opened up wherein public can give information regarding such illegal activities.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

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

[English]

**Bringing Back Remains of Indians
Dying Abroad**

2096. SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN :
SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is always a delay in some of the West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia in the case of bringing back the mortal remains of the Indians dying there;

(b) whether it also takes months to bring the "bodies" even in the case of natural deaths;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are many unnatural and mysterious deaths which are not properly investigated there causing great agony and anxiety to such workers' families in India; and

(e) if so, the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Saudi Arabia, in some cases, there is delay in bringing back to India the mortal remains of Indian nationals dying there. The delay varies from 4-6 weeks in cases of natural deaths, and it could take up to 16 weeks, or even more, if the death has occurred due to unnatural reasons like road or industrial accident.

However, our Missions give top priority to the expeditious disposal of bodies and/or transportation of the mortal remains to India, if desired by the next of kin. Normally, a dead body is dispatched in two to three days' time, after release from the Saudi authorities.

(c) There are many reasons for the delays, the main reason for the delay in despatch of the dead bodies is the time taken for completion of necessary formalities locally. In certain cases lack of cooperation from Sponsors of deceased also delays the dispatch of mortal remains. In case of unnatural death, the body is released by the police only after completion of necessary investigation and post mortem. Occasionally, there are also delays in receipt of instructions from the next of kin of the deceased from India regarding disposal of the body or transport to India or due to difficulty in tracing the next of kin. In Oman, with the introduction of new rules relating to the regularization of civil status, i.e. visa and labour card for all expatriates, delays have started occurring even in the case of those deceased whose labour cards and visa have expired before his death, till the accumulated dues and fines are settled with the authorities. However, this issue has been taken up officially by our Embassy for issue of the required documents as soon as possible.

(d) and (e) In case of 'unnatural and mysterious deaths' arousing suspicion receipt of information about such deaths, the Missions approach the concerned Governments immediately who cause the necessary enquiries to be initiated and revert to the Missions explaining action taken on such cases.

Technology Policy 1983

2097. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Technology Policy 1983 promised to encourage Scientific Research and Development;

(b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to inordinate delay in granting approval and shortage of fund for carrying out Scientific Research works in the country;

(c) whether this is defeating the very purpose of developing indigenous technology as well as achieving technological self-reliance in critical areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (e) Technology Policy 1983 enunciated the principles on which the growth of technology in our country has been based over the past many years. It embodies a vision and strategy with emphasis on self-reliance which is very significant even today. However, in view of the major changes in science and technology around the world and to address globalization phenomena, the competitive environment and to recognise India's strength in the knowledge economy, the government announced a new 'Science and Technology Policy 2003' which encompasses the vision of Scientific Resolution of 1958 and the Technology Policy Statement of 1983.

There has been no shortage of funds or delay in granting approvals for carrying out Scientific Research. A substantial increase, more than double the 9th Plan outlay, in the tenth plan outlay for S & T Departments is a clear indication of the commitment of the Government in the overall development of science and technology in the country. Government is keen to promote and catalyse indigenous technology development through various new mechanisms/measures.

Widening of N.H.-17

2098. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA :
SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

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

(a) whether the land required for the widening of NH-17 passing through Trichur district in Kerala was acquired and marked few years back but the construction of the Highway has not yet started;

(b) if so, when the land acquisition was made and the reason for such a long delay in the construction;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the owners of the land have launched agitation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No land has been acquired for widening of NH-17 passing through Thrissur (Trichur) district in Kerala.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Pravasi Bhartiya Samman

2099. SHRIMATI BHAVANA P. GAWALI : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of delegates who attended the Third Pravasi Bhartiya Divas on January 7, 2005 from various countries;

(b) the numbers of NRIs who were awarded with "Pravasi Bhartiya Samman" on the occasion; and

(c) the contribution made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) 3061 delegates attended the third Pravasi Bharatiya Divas consisting of 1726 overseas delegates from 63 countries and 1335 from India.

(b) and (c) The overseas Indians who were conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards this year, their countries and the fields of their contribution is as follows :

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Shri M. Arunachalam, Hong Kong | Business |
| 2. Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati, USA | Economics |
| 3. Ms. Amina Cachalia, South Africa | Public Affairs |
| 4. Sir (Dr.) J. K. Chande, Tanzania | Public Affairs |
| 5. Prof. Alokaranjan Dasgupta, Germany | Literature |
| 6. Shri Ahmed Kathrada, South Africa | Public Affairs |

7. Prof. Sunil Khilnani, USA	Political Science
8. Shri Basdeo Panday, Trinidad and Tobago	Public Affairs
9. Lord Bhikhu Chhotalal Parekh, UK	Political Studies
10. Dr. Sam Pitroda, USA	Technology
11. Shri Vikram Seth, UK	Literature
12. Shri Manoj Night Shyamalan, USA	Cinema
13. Shri Vijay Singh, Fiji	Sports
14. Dr. Sant Singh Virmani, Philippines	Agriculture Science
15. Shri Yusuffali M.A., USA	Business

MTNL's Training Centre

2100. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MTNL's Ultra Modern Training Centre and Hostel at Powai in Mumbai has been commissioned;

(b) if so, the revenue earned by the Hostel during the last two financial years and current financial year so far;

(c) the present expenditure on this Training Centre such as water charges, electricity charges and any other Municipal charges;

(d) whether it is true that an enquiry through the Central Vigilance Commission has been set up to probe the expenditure incurred on the Training Centre and for the Hostel constructed by the authority of MTNL;

(e) if so, whether the report of the CVC has been received by the Government;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government on the report; and

(g) if not, the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Training Centre has been commissioned partly upto 2nd floor. Hostel has not yet been commissioned.

- (b) There is no revenue earning in view of (a) above.
- (c) The present expenditure on this training centre under various heads for the year 2004-05 (upto February, 2005) are as follows :
- (i) Water charges paid – Rs. 2,40,289/-
 - (ii) Energy charges paid – Rs. 68,79,732/-
 - (iii) Property Tax paid – Rs. 62,51,170/-
- (d) No, such information regarding any enquiry set up through CVC to probe the expenditure incurred in the matter is known.
- (e) to (g) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

Launching of Satellites

2101. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN :
SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has launched various satellites in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits accrued as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched satellites for communications in the INSAT and GSAT series and for remote sensing in the IRS series. At present, there are eight satellites operating in orbit for communications/meteorological applications and six satellites for Remote Sensing applications.

(c) The INSAT/GSAT satellites are providing services for tele-communications, broadcasting for cable head-ends, Television and Radio relay, Business application, VSAT connectivity, tele-education, tele-medicine, developmental communications, cyclone warning, meteorological earth imaging, data collection platforms and Search & Rescue.

Space-based remote sensing, due to its advantage of synoptic and repetitive coverage and provision of data in a quantifiable manner, has enabled the monitoring and assessment of natural resources and environment periodically

and thus, helped the decision makers to appropriately integrate the same with other conventional inputs.

[English]

Manufacture of Auto Disposable Syringes

2102. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that an Indian company 'Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices Limited' has manufactured auto disposable syringes which are better than the disposable and other syringes in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these will be available in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the information from the manufacturer, M/s Hindustan Syringes & Medical Devices Limited, Faridabad is manufacturing Auto Disable Syringes with self-locking system. These syringes cannot be reused again.

(b) and (c) The Auto Disable Syringes are marketed by the firm for last two years.

Vacant Posts in Government Hospitals

2103. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI D. B. PATIL :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

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

(a) whether the post of Doctors, Nurses and other services are vacant in the various Government hospitals;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet this shortage; and

(d) the time taken by which these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marketing of Products of Women Self Help Groups by KVIC

2104. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the KVIC proposes to market the products produced by women Self Help Groups (SHGs) through their retail outlets located in different parts of the country;

(b) whether it also proposes to provide marketing and other financial assistance to women SHGs for sale of their products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Under the Central Government's Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Self help Groups (SHGs), including women SHGs, are assisted in setting up village industries, by providing margin money assistance through the KVIC and loans through public sector commercial banks, etc. KVIC also provides marketing support to such village industries set up by SHGs, including women SHGs, by way of financial assistance to participate in exhibitions and in the sale of their products through outlets set up in the KVIC fold.

(d) Does not arise.

Bird Flu

2105. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether threat of Bird Flu has arisen just after the Tsunami;

(b) whether this epidemic is spreading rapidly in the Asian Countries;

(c) if so, whether according to WHO, no research has so far been done to find out its solutions;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to take

precautionary measures to fight against the said disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) among poultry was reported from Asian countries of Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia and human cases in Viet Nam, Thailand and Cambodia since December, 2003. As per information provided by World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence of any rise in cases of bird flu in the tsunami affected areas.

There is no strong evidence that it is spreading fast to other Asian countries. The only recent development has been the confirmation of one new human case in Cambodia in 2005.

Research in the areas of safe and effective vaccine development and case management is ongoing in WHO collaborating centres.

Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza in to India. The measures instituted are :

- Government of India alerted all State Governments/ Union Territory administrations to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population.
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Forest, Shipping and Railways were sensitized on the issue to prevent cross border entry through poultry, poultry products and migratory birds.
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had written to the Chief Secretaries and the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all the States/UTs enclosing guidelines for prevention and spread of the disease in poultry and proforma for reporting the disease.
- A ban was also enforced on import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak.
- A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research,

National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation and advising appropriate actions to the Government.

- Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as nodal agency to investigate any suspected case/outbreak among human population and the laboratories under Indian Council of Medical Research are kept in readiness.

Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of Avian Influenza from neighbouring countries in to India. No case has been reported in India either in humans or birds. Govt. of India is in a state of preparedness to treat and contain the disease if it has to appear in human population.

Pace of National Highway Construction

✓ 2106. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether an international conference on the role and Structural Engineers Towards reduction of Poverty was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the major decisions taken in the meeting;
- (c) whether the Government has accelerated the pace of National Highway construction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the short and long term solutions involving innovative cost effective technologies proposed by the Government for quick restoration of damaged infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian National Group of International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering has organized an International Conference on the Role of Structural Engineers towards Reduction of Poverty in February 2005 in New Delhi, wherein it was extensively deliberated that Structural Engineers are responsible for planning, design, construction and maintenance of shelter and infrastructure, which encompasses connectivity of all types, energy, irrigation, water and sanitation. Structural Engineers are also handling the tasks of disaster mitigation and rehabilitation with a holistic approach. It was emphasized that Structural Engineers are conscious of their societal

responsibilities in utilizing indigenous resources, ensuring sustainability by optimizing their use, minimizing waste and protecting environment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ongoing National Highways Development Project (NHDP Phase I & Phase II) covers about 14,000 km of National Highways. to accelerate the ongoing upgradation of National Highways, it is proposed to upgrade about 10,000 kms of National Highways on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Out of these 10,000 km, Government has recently approved upgradation of 4,000 kms under NHDP Phase IIIA at an estimated cost of Rs. 22,000 crore. The Government has also approved 'in-principle' the balance 6,000 km under NHDP Phase IIIB for which approval has also been given for preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

(e) Innovation of cost effective technologies in the road sector is a continuous process. Restoration of damaged National Highways is undertaken in a cost effective manner both on short as well as long term basis using innovative technologies and local materials depending upon the severity of damage and the site conditions.

Exhibition by SSI Sector

2107. SHRI VIKRAMABHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct any exhibition of parts produced by manufacturers of SSI Sector in Gujarat and other States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Eighteen National and State-level vendor development-cum-buyer-seller meets-cum-exhibitions were organized by the Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) in Gujarat and other States in the country during 2004-05 (upto February 2005). In addition, the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a central public sector undertaking, organized 4 exhibitions during 2004-05.

Expansion of Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

2108. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to increase the existing capacity of different telephone exchanges in Karnataka;

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

(c) the quantum of amount likely to be spent for the purpose; and

(d) the time by when expansion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) District-wise and location-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) About Rs. 68 crores is likely to be spent for the purpose during 2005-06.

(d) The proposed expansion is likely to be completed during 2005-06.

Statement

The District/Location wise detail of 34000 lines WLL Expansion under progress and likely to be commissioned by June 2005

Sl.No.	District	Location	No. of BTS	Capacity in lines
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bangalore	Anekal	1	750
2.	Bangalore	Bidadi	1	750
3.	Bangalore	Channapatna	1	750
4.	Bangalore	Devanahalli	1	750
5.	Bangalore	Doddaballapur	1	750
6.	Bangalore	Dommasandra	1	750
7.	Bangalore	Hebbagudi	1	750
8.	Bangalore	Hoskote	1	750
9.	Bangalore	Jigani	1	750
10.	Bangalore	Kanakapura	1	750

1	2	3	4	5
11. Bangalore	Kudur	1	750	
12. Bangalore	Magadi	1	750	
13. Bangalore	Nelamangala	1	750	
14. Bangalore	Ramanagara	1	750	
15. Bangalore	Sathanur	1	750	
16. Bangalore	Tavarikere	1	750	
17. Bangalore	Tyamagondlu	1	750	
18. Belgaum	Yeragatti	1	750	
19. Bellary	H.B. Halli	2	1500	
20. Bijapur	Mudhol	1	750	
21. Dakshina Kannada	Agumbe	1	750	
22. Dakshina Kannada	Byndoor	1	750	
23. Dakshina Kannada	Kadaba	1	750	
24. Dakshina Kannada	Karkala	1	750	
25. Dakshina Kannada	Kundapur	1	750	
26. Dakshina Kannada	Lady Hill, Inagudda	2	1500	
27. Dakshina Kannada	Manipal	1	750	
28. Dakshina Kannada	Punjalkatte	1	750	
29. Dakshina Kannada	Puttur M/W	1	750	
30. Dakshina Kannada	Sullia	1	750	
31. Dakshina Kannada	Veerakhamba	1	750	
32. Gulberga	Faratbad	1	750	
33. Hassan	Hassan	1	750	
34. Hubli	Shanthinagar	1	750	
35. Kodagu	Somwarpet	1	750	
36. Kolar	Chickaballapur	1	750	
37. Raichur	Sindhanur	1	750	
38. Shimoga	Soraba	1	750	
39. Tumkur	Madugiri	1	750	

1	2	3	4	5
40. Uttara Kannada	Bakkal	1	750	
41. Uttara Kannada	Sirsi	1	750	
42. Uttara Kannada	Umachagi	1	750	
43. Uttara Kannada	Yellapur	1	750	

The District/Location wise detail of Additional 75000 lines proposed WLL Expansion to be commissioned during 2005-06

Sl.No.	District	Location	No. of BTS	Capacity in lines
1	2	3	4	5
1. Bangalore		Channapatna	1	750
2. Bangalore		Dodballapur	2	1500
3. Bangalore		Hoskote	2	1500
4. Bangalore		Kanakapura	1	750
5. Bangalore		Nelamangala	2	1500
6. Belgaum		Ainapur	1	750
7. Belgaum		Belgaum	5	3750
8. Bellary		Bellary	2	1500
9. Bellary		Sandur	1	750
10. Bellary		Suraguppa	1	750
11. Bidar		Bidar	2	1500
12. Bidar		Humnabad	1	750
13. Bijapur		B. Bagewadi	1	750
14. Bijapur		Badami	1	750
15. Bijapur		Bagalkot	1	750
16. Bijapur		Bijapur	2	1500
17. Bijapur		Chadchan	1	750
18. Chikmagalur		Chikmagalur	3	2250
19. Dakshina Kannada		Bantwal	1	750
20. Dakshina Kannada		Belthangadi	2	1500
21. Dakshina Kannada		Mangalore	6	4500

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Dakshina Kannada	Shankarnarayan	1	750
23.	Dakshina Kannada	Udupi	1	750
24.	Davanagere	Chitradurga	1	750
25.	Davanagere	Davangere	3	2250
26.	Gulbarga	Afzalpur	1	750
27.	Gulbarga	Chitapur	1	750
28.	Gulbarga	Gulbarga	2	1500
29.	Gulbarga	Mashal	1	750
30.	Gulbarga	Shorapur	1	750
31.	Hassan	Belur	1	750
32.	Hassan	Channarayana Patna	1	750
33.	Hassan	Holenarsipura	1	750
34.	Hubli	Gadag	1	750
35.	Hubli	Hirekerur	1	750
36.	Hubli	Hubli	6	4500
37.	Hubli	Mundargi	1	750
38.	Hubli	Naragund	1	750
39.	Hubli	Ranebennur	1	750
40.	Hubli	Savanur	1	750
41.	Hubli	Shirahatti	1	750
42.	Kolar	Bagepalli	1	750
43.	Kolar	Chikballapur	1	750
44.	Kolar	Chintamani	1	750
45.	Kolar	Kolar	2	1500
46.	Kolar	Malur	1	750
47.	Kolar	Sidlaghatta	1	750
48.	Kolar	Srinivaspura	1	750
49.	Mandya	Krishnarajapet	1	750
50.	Mandya	Malavalli	1	750
51.	Mandya	Mandya	2	1500

1	2	3	4	5
52.	Madikeri	Madikeri	1	750
53.	Madikeri	Somwarpet	1	750
54.	Mysore	Chamrajnagar	1	750
55.	Mysore	Cowdahalalli	1	750
56.	Mysore	Gundlupet	1	750
57.	Mysore	Hunsur	1	750
58.	Mysore	Mysore	6	4500
59.	Mysore	Nanjangud	1	750
60.	Raichur	Gangavathi	1	750
61.	Raichur	Koppal	2	1500
62.	Raichur	Raichur	2	1500
63.	Shimoga	Sagar	1	750
64.	Shimoga	Shimoga	3	2250
65.	Tumkur	Gubbi	1	750
66.	Tumkur	Kunigal	1	750
67.	Tumkur	Tumkur	2	1500
68.	Tumkur	Turuvekere	1	750
69.	Uttara Kannda	Joida	1	750
70.	Uttara Kannda	Karwar	1	750
71.	Uttara Kannda	Salkani	1	750
72.	Uttara Kannda	Siddapur	1	750

[Translation]

Talks with IAEA

2109. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :

SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, USA and the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) held talks recently;

(b) If so, the details of matters on which the talks were held; and

(c) the understanding reached among the three as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) A joint delegation of representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the US visited New Delhi on 9 February 2005 for a meeting on the Regional Radiological Security Partnership (RRSP) programme. During the meeting, the three sides acknowledged their shared objective of enhancing globally the security of dangerous radioactive sources. The IAEA and the US delegates also expressed appreciation for India's offer of providing infrastructure and expertise on a regular basis for conducting international training courses in India under the aegis of the IAEA on issues related to the security of radiological sources and materials as also for locating orphan radioactive sources in countries which are unable to effectively deal with them and which seek assistance from the IAEA. The three sides agreed to continue further discussions on the subject.

[English]

Rural Health Care and Sanitation Facilities

✓ 2110. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate funds have been allocated for providing rural health care and sanitation facilities;

(b) if so, the details of such allocations made during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the NGOs engaged in such activities and funds released to them for the above period;

(d) whether all such NGOs have filed utilisation certificates to Government for having taken up the works; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the action the Government has taken against such NGOs?

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

Incentives to Hardware Sector

✓ 2111. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

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

(a) whether the Zero duty imports on information technology hardware has affected the growth of this sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any requests from the domestic hardware computer manufactures for some relief;

(c) if so, the details of their requests;

(d) whether the Government plans to provide some additional incentives for improvement of the hardware sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to make this industry more competitive and vibrant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Zero per cent customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) products (217 items) has been implemented from 1.3.2005. It is too early to see the impact on growth of IT hardware sector.

(b) and (c) A number of domestic IT product manufacturers have shown satisfaction with the zero duty regime on IT products.

(d) to (f) The Department of Information Technology receives suggestions from the domestic industry for improvement of the hardware sector and it is an ongoing process. In view of the requests from time to time, a number of incentives have been provided to promote the IT hardware sector. The details of the incentives provided are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Incentives provided by the Government to promote the IT Hardware Sector

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.
4. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 20% to 15%. Customs duty on project imports with investment of at least Rs. 5 crores in plants and machinery is @ 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. Customs duty on Metals (Ferrous & Non-ferrous), chemicals and plastics has been reduced from 15% to 10%. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs duty on specified electronic components has been exempted except Deflection parts, Air cored & ferrite cored transformers, RF/IF coils and Loudspeakers (cone type). An additional duty of 4% has been imposed on items bound by IT Agreement (except IT Software) and their inputs, raw materials, parts, capital goods covered under various customs notifications. Specified capital goods required in the manufacture of capacitors, electronic fuses, TDM, DC micromotors, PCBs, Relays, Switches have been exempted from customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%. Specified infrastructure equipment for basic/cellular/ internet, V-SAT, radio paging and public mobile radio trunked services and parts of such equipment are exempted from basic customs duty. Customs duty exemption to mobile switching centres presently available to cellular mobile telephone service providers has been extended to imports by universal access service providers. Customs duty on cellphones, parts of Set Top Box continues at 0%. Laptops brought as part of baggage are exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on passenger baggage has been reduced from 40% to 35%.
5. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty. Pre-loaded software on PCs, Audio CDs, Recorded VCDs and DVDs, Cellular Phones, Radio trunking terminals, Portable receivers for calling, alerting of paging; parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones, Set Top Box remain exempted from excise duty.
6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. Import of second hand capital goods and import of capital goods for pre-production and post-production facilities are permitted under the scheme. Import of spares is also permitted to facilitate upgradation of existing plant and machinery.
7. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
8. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.
9. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for EOU/EHTP units.
10. Customs clearances are based on self-assessment and selective examination.
11. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
12. EOU/EHTP units have been exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
13. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following special facilities :
 - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;

— Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.

15. All Star Export Houses (including Status Holders) which have achieved a minimum export turnover in free foreign exchange of Rs. 10 crore in the previous licencing year are entitled for a duty credit based on incremental exports substantially higher than the general annual export target fixed.
16. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries is permitted for import without a licence provided the depreciated value of such relocating plant exceeds Rs. 25 crore.
17. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

Upgradation of State Highways

2112. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the targets fixed for upgradation of State Highways/Roads into National Highways during Tenth Plan in the country;
- (b) the percentage of National Highways to total road length in Tamil Nadu as on date; and
- (c) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the percentage of National Highways in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) During the Tenth Plan, the national target for expansion of National Highways network is 2000 km against which a length of 7457 km of State roads have already been upgraded to National Highways up till February, 2004.

(b) The total road length in the State of Tamil Nadu as on date is about 61530 km. The present total length of National Highways in the State is 4183 Km. The percentage of National Highways to the total road length in the State of Tamil Nadu is 6.8%.

(c) The National Highway network in the country is about 65569 km. Huge investment will have to be made to upgrade these highways to the National Highways standard.

At present, emphasis is being given to the development of the already declared National Highways instead of further expansion. Considering the extent of investment required for upgrading the highways already declared as National Highways and their maintenance, at present, it is not feasible to declare more roads as National Highways.

Expansion of BSNL Network

2113. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the number of customers of BSNL mobile services is more and the lines are comparatively less;
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal to expand the network;
- (c) if so, the number of new lines proposed to be added; and
- (d) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The demand for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) mobile service is in excess of the available capacity.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) BSNL has already ordered equipments for expansion of the network by about 12 million lines. The network roll out is in process and the capacities are likely to be available progressively during 2005.

Central Assistance to IRCS

2114. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the Central Assistance given to the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science (IRCS) during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the IRCS has demanded more Central assistance; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Empty Capsules

✓ 2115. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware about the distribution of empty capsules Refampicin to the Tuberculosis patients in the Government hospitals in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the suppliers, distributors and the hospital authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Government of Karnataka that the drug in question bearing batch no. 570024 having manufacturing date as January 2004 and expiry date August 2006 was manufactured by M/s Karnataka Anti-biotics Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (a Government of India Enterprise). The said drug was procured by the State Government and supplied to various institutions in the areas not covered under the Revised National TB Control Programme at that time.

The State Government has taken immediate steps to seize the stock of drug of the said batch to stop its use. The State Government has also instructed the concerned authorities not to procure anti-TB drugs locally.

Since 2004, the entire State has been covered under the Revised National TB Control Programme and the full requirement of anti-TB drugs is supplied by the Centre.

BOT Scheme

2116. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some infrastructure development companies have shown interest in taking up road progress in the country under built, operate and transfer (BOT) scheme;

(b) if so, the States where various infrastructure development companies are constructing road projects;

(c) whether some such roads are being constructed in Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.

H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development & maintenance of National Highways. Infrastructure development companies are constructing some National Highways projects on BOT basis in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bridges on National Highways in Orissa

✓ 2117. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of NHs passing through Orissa;

(b) the names of the bridges on National Highways in Orissa which are in poor condition;

(c) the proposed bridge projects which have not been undertaken so far and the reasons therefor;

(d) the year-wise plan for reconstruction of the bridges till date which are in dilapidated condition;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for reconstruction or repair of the damaged bridges on the National Highways in Orissa;

(f) whether the Government proposes to connect all the districts of Orissa by National Highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) 16.

(b) to (e) There are 12 bridges reported to be in poor condition in Orissa. Out of it 4 bridges require re-construction and the balance 8 bridges require repairs. Development and maintenance of National Highways including bridges on National Highways is a continuous process. Re-construction/repairs of bridges are being taken up in a phased manner in various annual plans depending upon inter-se priority and availability of funds. For maintenance and repairs of National Highways including bridges on National Highways, funds are provided to the State Government under the non-plan head. During the current year annual plan, works for re-construction

of two bridges have been sanctioned and one bridge has been repaired.

(f) and (g) Out of 30 districts in Orissa, 27 districts are connected with National Highways. At present there is no proposal to connect all the district in Orissa with National Highways.

Combating of Jaundice

(2118. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

SHRI T. K. HAMZA :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the outbreak of Jaundice in different parts of the country;

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

(c) whether the States have sought any assistance to combat the outbreak of Jaundice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) As per information recieved from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, there were 35 cases of Infective Hepatitis in Satara District of Maharashtra with no death during the month of January, 2005. Sporadic incidences of Jaundice occur from time to time and the State-wise details of cases of Viral Hepatitis are at enclosed statement.

Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, hygiene are some of the important causes of Jaundice. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and treatment of Jaundice is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government through various schemes such as Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana—Rural Drinking Water, Accelerated Urban Water Supply, Total Sanitation Campaign School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention of control of outbreak of communicable diseases including Jaundice.

Statement

State-wise number of reported cases of Viral Hepatitis during the years from 2001-2004

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24530	16224	23094	28222
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	299	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	—	71	190	93
7.	Gujarat	124	2365	2752	5860
8.	Haryana	2891	384	1645	1845
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2731	1648	1748	1872
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1275	6245	8432	6959
11.	Jharkhand	4226	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	6663	23085	33140
13.	Kerala	26256	5323	7433	5405
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4532	5515	9599	15859
15.	Maharashtra	3267	29525	33515	48789
16.	Manipur	39911	397	310	136
17.	Meghalaya	1558	472	413	688
18.	Mizoram	500	1111	744	717
19.	Nagaland	1183	131	127	27
20.	Orissa	144	648	2500	1489
21.	Punjab	7334	3141	5169	1423
22.	Rajasthan	4881	1758	2076	2078
23.	Sikkim	2955	210	414	372
24.	Tamil Nadu	409	2320	—	8971
25.	Tripura	1632	105	86	891
26.	Uttaranchal	1784	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
27. Uttar Pradesh		—	518	2964	2
28. West Bengal		1885	7032	6527	5474
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		6303	368	467	258
30. Chandigarh		536	235	398	300
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		310	232	227	675
32. Daman and Diu		6	23	20	6
33. Delhi		3159	5053	7476	10656
34. Lakshadweep		71	22	19	20
35. Pondicherry		654	534	872	736
Total		146047	96273	142601	182963

**Widening of N.H. between
Bangalore and Mysore**

✓ 2119. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway between Bangalore and Mysore is very narrow but a single line causes a number of road accidents;

(b) if so, whether a project to expand and double this road has been taken up by Karnataka;

(c) if so, the share of the Centre released so far for this project; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The total length of National Highway from Bangalore to Mysore via Kollegal is 191 km. Out of this, 81 km is two lane and 110 km is intermediate lane.

(b) Widening of the above stretch of National Highway to two lanes has already been taken up in 27 km by the Government of India during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(c) and (d) Entire funds for the development and maintenance of National Highways are provided by the Government of India.

Mid-Term Review of 10th Plan

✓ 2120. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether mid-term review of the Tenth Five Year Plan has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in respect of North Eastern States;

(c) whether primary education and health care in rural areas had been identified as priority areas in the Tenth Plan;

(d) if so, the details of achievements made in these thrust areas in North Eastern States in the mid-term review; and

(e) in case of shortfall in these areas, the manner in which the Government proposes to achieve the target by the end of the plan in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Tenth Plan identified specific and monitorable targets for a few key indicators of human development which inter-alia include Primary education and health care.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecom Districts

✓ 2121. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telecom districts in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to declare Korba in Chhattisgarh a telecom district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There are 324 Telecom Districts

(Secondary Switching Areas) in the country as per the list given in enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Statement

No. of Telecom Districts/Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) in the Country at present

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Total No. of SSAs
1	2	3

BSNL

1.	Andaman and Nicobar	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Assam	07
4.	Bihar	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	06
6.	Gujarat	17
7.	Himachal Pradesh	06
8.	Haryana	08
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	05
10.	Jharkhand	06
11.	Kerala	11
12.	Karnataka	19
13.	Maharashtra	30
14.	Madhya Pradesh	34
15.	North East-I	03
16.	North East-II	03
17.	Orissa	12
18.	Punjab	11
19.	Rajasthan	24
20.	Tamil Nadu	17
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	32

1	2	3
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	14
23.	Uttaranchal	06
24.	West Bengal	14
25.	Kolkata (Metro)	01
26.	Chennai (Metro)	01
MTNL		
27.	Delhi (Metro)	01
28.	Mumbai (Metro)	01
Total		324

[English]

Garuda Mobile Service

/ 2122. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is facing problem in providing Garuda Mobile service connectivity to new subscribers;

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

(c) the details of the imports made by the MTNL during the last three years for providing mobile service in the country including names of countries and companies;

(d) whether all the imported equipments are being put to use; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The details of the imports made by the MTNL during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Yes, Sir. All the imported equipments are being put in use.

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

Statement

*Details of the purchase orders pertaining to Garuda WLL Mobile Service in MTNL
during financial year 2002-2005*

Name of item	Name of company	Cost	Main equipment imported from
2002-03			
92.23K lines IS95A CDMA network Expn. Equipment	Fujitsu India Ltd.	Rs. 85 crores approx.	Japan
15K CDMA WLL handset	XL Telecom Ltd./M/s. Kayocera	Rs. 7.56 crores approx.	Sourced in India
2003-04			
400 lines CDMA 2000 IX WLL network Equipment	HFCL/M/s. Huawei	Rs. 116.8 crores approx.	China
2004-05			
50K CDMA handsets	M/s. XL Telecom Ltd./Kayocera	Rs. 19.26 crores approx.	Sourced in India

Details of imports made by MTNL Delhi during last three years

Equipment	Cost	Import through	Country
Infrastructure Equipment			
Phase-I (50 KL)	\$69,93,406 (USD)	Imported form M/s. Motorola	USA & China
Phase-II (100KL)	\$1,05,43,411 (USD)		
(400 KL)	Rs. 94,87,12,412	M/s. HFCL	China, Israel, USA
Handsets and Wall Sets			
45000 (30000 HHT and 15000 FWT)	Rs. 76,77,57,000	HFCL	S. Korea
1000 HHT	Rs. 1,78,95,000	HFCL	S. Korea
3750 HHT	Rs. 5,31,18,750	LG	S. Korea
1250 FWT	Rs. 1,77,06,250	ITI	S. Korea
30000 HHT	R. 15,00,12,900	XL Telecom	USA
15000 HHT	Rs. 7,49,24,400	XL Telecom	USA
20000 FWT	Rs. 12,73,35,792	M/s. Surana Telecom Ltd.	China

**Construction of Sea Wall
Against Tsunamis**

to construct the wall and the financial liability on the huge maintenance costs to keep the wall strong and standing;

2123. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out regarding the wall able to bear the blow of the future powerful Tsunamis; and

(a) whether the Government proposes to erect a sea wall along the sea coast against future Tsunamis;

(d) If not, the details of other effective measures planned by the Government to meet the Tsunami threats?

(b) If so, the estimated investment likely to be made

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. The Department has not received any proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Warning System at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crores in about 2½ years with the following components :

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a center for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

These advisories will be communicated to Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate implementation.

Visit of Pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar

2124. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims who visited the Kailash Mansarovar during each of the last three years;

(b) the annual expenditure incurred and facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims on the lines of Haj pilgrims;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The number

of pilgrims who undertook the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra over the last three years is as follows :

2002 : 469

2003 : 316

(Yatra duration was truncated due to SARS epidemic in China)

2004 : 537

(b) Government of India pays Rupees Three thousand two hundred and fifty (Rs. 3,250/-) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by KMVN for the Yatra. In addition, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of pilgrims, who is responsible for their general welfare.

(c) to (e) Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Haj are pilgrimages which are essentially different in their nature so far as the mode of travel and the terrain are involved.

Alleged Nexus between Hospitals and Private Diagnostic Centres

2125. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that several private diagnostic labs and traders of medical equipments are having alleged nexus with the hospital administration/doctors of Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to probe such links;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) No report regarding nexus with the traders of medical equipment/private diagnostic labs in respect of hospital administration/doctors of Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital have come to the notice of the Government.

All the diagnostic tests which are available in the

hospitals, are undertaken in the hospitals itself. However, for any specialised test for which facilities are not available in the hospitals, the patients are advised to get the same done from outside. CGHS beneficiaries are advised to get the same done from any CGHS approved centres.

The Medical equipments for these hospitals are procured after following all codal formalities.

Separate Fund for Rural Telecommunication

✓ 2126. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has set up a separate fund for rural telecommunication facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of amount collected under this fund so far; and

(d) the extent to which this fund has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. The scope and manner in which Subsidy support is to be extended are governed by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules 2004. A USO levy is collected from various Telecom Service Providers and deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India. Funds are provided to the USOF through budgetary allocation.

(c) An amount of Rs. 6,187/- crore has so far been collected as USO levy till February, 2005.

(d) A cumulative amount of Rs. 1,700/- crore has been allocated by Ministry of Finance since inception of the Fund, which has been fully disbursed.

[Translation]

National Programme to prevent Diabetes and Cardio Vascular Problems

2127. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD :

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a National Programme to prevent Diabetes and Cardio Vascular problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the programme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) A working group on Non-Communicable Diseases strategies for 10th Plan had proposed a National Programme for CVD, Diabetes and Stroke which could not be taken up. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have now initiated steps to obtain the in principle approval of the Planning Commission in respect of the National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardio Vascular diseases.

[English]

New Road Tax In U.P.

✓ 2128. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement new road tax in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of road tax deposited with the Union Government by Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) the total amount of road tax likely to be received in 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Levy and collection of road tax falls under the purview of the State Government.

(c) The State Government does not deposit any part of the road tax with Union Government and this Ministry does not compile information on road tax collected by various States.

(d) Does not arise.

Frequency of BSNL

2129. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cellular services being provided by the BSNL are not upto the mark;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the frequency of BSNL is very low and the roaming systems also fails frequently;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government to provide better and more reliable services to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is inter-alia mandated for monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) provided by the Telecom Service Providers including Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), in general, is meeting the QoS parameters set by TRAI. However congestion in network has been observed in some service areas due to limitation in network capacity.

(c) and (d) The frequency of BSNL cellular services is appropriate and roaming system is working satisfactorily.

(e) BSNL has taken action to augment its network capacity by 12 million lines in the year 2005 to ensure good QoS and to meet overwhelming demand of the customers. Further, mobile network is being optimised for its performance continuously and monitoring of network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure better and more reliable services to its customers as per QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Postponement of SAARC Summit

2130. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of reasons regarding postponement of the proposed SAARC Summit in India;
- (b) the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to put it back on track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED) : (a) and (b) India formally communicated to the Government of Bangladesh that it would not be able to attend the SARRC Summit in

Dhaka on the scheduled dates of 6-7 February, 2005. This decision was taken against the background of recent developments in our neighbourhood, which had caused us grave concern, as well as the deterioration in the security situation in Dhaka following the fatal attack on the former Finance Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria. In our assesment, it is only in an environment free from political turmoil and violence that a Summit would yield the desired outcome.

(c) On February 2, 2005, when we had formally communicated our inability to attend the SAARC Summit in Dhaka on the scheduled dates, we had made a request for fresh dates to be worked out through consultations among the Member States. In discussions between External Affairs Minister and his Pakistani couterpart in Islamabad on February 16, 2005, the latter suggested that their preference was for an early Summit, and External Affairs Minister indicated a possible window during the recess of the Indian Parliament in March/April. Pakistan, as Chair of SAARC, is required to initiate consultations with the host Government (Bangladesh) and other member countries for identifying fresh dates for the 13th SAARC Summit which are mutually convenient to all SAARC members.

Achievements of Inland Water Transport

2131. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the National Transport Policy Committee, the potential of Inland Water Transport, known as cost effective & environment friendly mode of transport, has not been exploited fully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the targets fixed and achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector has remained neglected in India for long and suffers from several handicaps, most importantly, absence of basic infrastructural facilities.

(c) Government is committed to making the following interventions in order to improve IWT infrastructure :

- (i) Making the existing National Waterways fully functional by providing requisite infrastructure (terminals, navigational aids etc.).

- (ii) Engaging States in IWT infrastructure development through liberal Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- (iii) Assisting IWT Operators in acquiring suitable vessels through Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme; and
- (iv) Encouraging private sector participation and joint ventures between IWAI and private sector.

Training to Highway Engineers

2132. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any system to import training to highway engineers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of highway engineers from various States so far trained during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE) has been established for imparting training for highway engineers in the country. The institute offers training programmes in planning, design construction, maintenance of hill roads, disaster management etc. covering various aspects of Highway Engineering.

(c) The number of highway engineers from various states trained during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is 45, 367 and 606 respectively.

State Highways Improvement Project

2133. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any financial assistance from the World Bank has been sanctioned for West Bengal towards State Highways Improvement Projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken by the government with regard to West Bengal for the improvement of highways projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir. The World Bank has not sanctioned any financial assistance to West Bengal for State Highways Improvement Projects.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Selected State roads recommended by the Government of West Bengal are being improved through Central Road Fund (CRF).

Rusted Machines used in Safdarjung Hospital

2134. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that rusted machines are being used in Safdarjung Hospital for the treatment of cancer patients as has been telecast by Aaj Tak TV news channel on February 23, 2005 and as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated February 25, 2005;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) It is not a fact that rusted machines are used for the treatment of cancer patients in Safdarjung Hospital as per the telecast by Aaj Tak TV news channel on 23.2.05 and also news reported in Dainik Jagran dated 25.2.05. The photograph of the equipment shown in the Aaj Tak News is a condemned cobalt machine Eldorado-8 unit awaiting dismantling and disposal and it does not have cobalt source. The Cancer patients receive radiotherapy from Theratron-780 C unit which is fully functional. The Dosimeter is available in the Radiotherapy department.

Increase of Tobacco use among Teenagers

2135. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that a study funded by the Indian Cancer Association has revealed that the number of tobacco users among the teenagers has almost doubled in the Metros since 2001;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government to educate the younger generation about the health hazards of tobacco smoking or chewing; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enforce legal action against the smokers who smoke in public places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) A news item published in the newspaper Hindustan Times dated 2nd March 2005 reported that the number of tobacco users among the teenagers in metros has almost doubled since 2001. The said study was not commissioned by the Government and details of the report are not available.

While information, educational and communication activities are undertaken from time-to-time through print, electronic and other media, the Government has enacted the "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" banning smoking in public places including educational institutions; sale of tobacco products to minors; and sale around educational institutions specially to protect the health of children and youth.

(d) The State Governments, which are the main implementing agencies, have been requested to put in place appropriate mechanisms for proper enforcement.

[Translation]

Hospitals and Schools for Factory Workers

2136. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has formulated or proposed to formulate any scheme to set up hospitals and schools for the welfare of the workers employed in the factories in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The educational needs of the population including workers are being addressed through Centrally Sponsored Scheme

of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan for universalization of elementary education. This scheme is being implemented in all districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India's share is 85% and State share's 15%. The health need of workers are covered through Employees State Insurance Scheme which is financed by the ESI Corporation, New Delhi. 7/8th part of the expenditure (within the limit of ceiling is reimbursed by the ESI Corporation, New Delhi to the State Government. During Annual Plan 2005-06 of Uttar Pradesh, one static dispensary will be opened at Jaswanthnagar in Etawah, Sambhal in Muradabad, and Gajraula in Jyotibaraophulenagar districts under ESI.

Agro Industries in Chhattisgarh

2137. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the potential of agro industries in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which this scope is being utilized; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Government for the development of marketing facilities in the State in order to develop agro industries on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To develop and promote village industries, including agro industries, in the rural areas of the country, including Chhattisgarh, Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under the REGP, village industries are set up based on feasibility reports prepared by the entrepreneurs for which technical assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs by the KVIC, State KV Boards, etc. As such, separate assessment of the potential of agro industries in a State is not conducted under this Programme. 118 agro and food processing industry projects have been set up in Chhattisgarh State during 2003-04 under the REGP.

(d) To promote the marketing of KVI products, including those based on agro industries, 44 sales outlets managed by KVIC-assisted institutions are functioning in the

State of Chhattisgarh. In addition, KVIC organizes exhibitions at the national and sub-national level to market such products.

[English]

Safdarjung Out-Patient Facility

2138. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that Safdarjung out-patient facility is out of bounds for patients as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March 3, 2005;

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

(c) whether the idea of a single window system for the patients has failed;

(d) if so, the reasons for not handing over the building to the hospital authority by the CPWD; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The newly constructed Right and Left Wings of the OPD building have not yet been handed over by the CPWD as the clearance from the Fire Department is awaited. The idea of single window system has not failed as all the Departments are functioning from the OPD building except Ante-natal OPD, Burns and Plastic OPD, Dental OPD, Orthopaedics and Radio Therapy OPD. Once the new building is taken over, these Departments can be accommodated in the same premises, except the Burns & Plastic Department which requires special attention.

Demands for Expertise in ISM

2139. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received demands from other countries for providing expertise in Indian Systems of Medicine;

(b) if so, the names of such countries;

(c) the details of the worth (in Rs.) of medicines exported in 2003-04;

(d) the number of experts deputed for teaching and training; and

(e) the bilateral agreement/understanding that exists at present for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government has received proposals from USA, West Indies and Hungary for deputation of experts to teach Ayurveda.

(c) The Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathic and Bio-chemic systems medicaments worth Rs. 213.87 crores were exported during the financial year 2003-04.

(d) Nil.

(e) The bilateral agreements which include mutual cooperation in indigenous systems of medicine/traditional systems of medicines exist with six countries, namely United Republic of Tanzania, Government of Turkmenistan, Federal Republic of Brazil, People's Republic of China, Republic of Hungary and Republic of Yeman.

Telecom Action Plan

2140. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has laid out a 10-point action plan for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for effectively competing against the private sector telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has directed for preparing a detailed plan with yearly and monthly targets and called for an integrated professional approach in meeting the target of providing 200-250 million telephones by the year 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the time by which this plan is likely to be started; and

(f) the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Registered/Unregistered SSI Units

2141. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether 2.26 million small scale units are registered in the country whereas the number of unregistered such units is 9.15 million;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether most of the unregistered small scale units are not willing to get benefits from the Government by getting themselves registered;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of States in the country where the number of registered and unregistered small scale units is highest alongwith the names of the States where their number is the least?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCLAE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Third All India Census of Small Scale Industries (SSI), with the reference year of 2001-02, there were 22,62,401 SSI units registered upto 31.3.2001. During the census, a sample survey of unregistered SSI units with the same reference year was also undertaken. The estimates based on the sample survey revealed that 91,46,216 unregistered SSI units were functioning in the country.

(c) and (d) The survey indicated that out of 91,46,216 unregistered SSI units, 92.99 per cent units were either not aware of the provisions of the registration or not interested in getting registered. The reasons for non-registration among the unregistered SSI units in the country, as revealed by the said survey, are given below :

Sl.No.	Reasons for non-registration	Percentage
1.	Not aware of the provisions for registration	53.13
2.	Not interested	39.86
3.	Complicated procedures	3.87
4.	Local Laws/regulations do not permit	1.76
5.	Clearance not available from Municipality, etc.	1.38

As per the Third All India Census of SSI, the States with the highest number of registered and unregistered SSI were Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh respectively, whereas, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and unregistered SSI units respectively.

[English]

Central Assistance to Red Cross Society

2142. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Central Assistance given to the Indian Red Cross Society during the last two years and the current year;

(b) whether the Indian Red Cross Society has demanded more Central Assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Central Assistance released to Indian Red Cross Society in the form of grant-in-aid during the last two financial years is as under :

1. Rs. 18.00 lakhs during 2002-03
2. Rs. 18.00 lakhs during 2003-04

An amount of Rs. 20.00 lakh has been earmarked for releasing to Indian Red Cross Society during the current financial year 2004-05.

(b) During the current financial year no additional Central Assistance has been demanded by Indian Red Cross Society.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing Over Jinnah House to Pakistan

2143. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is in possession of the house of Mohd. Ali Jinnah in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the purpose for which it is used by the Government at present;

(c) whether Pakistan has requested the Union Government to hand over the said house for its use;

(d) if so, the purpose for which Pakistan wants to have the building; and

(e) the objections/reservations of the Union Government regarding the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to use the Jinnah House as SAARC Sub-Regional Cultural Centre under the administrative control and direction of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

(c) and (d) Pakistan had requested for the lease of the Jinnah House as the residence of their Consul General in 1979.

(e) After carefully considering the request, the Government of India had conveyed its inability to accede to Pakistani request.

Handling of New Generation Vessels at Ports

✓ 2144. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether the Indian Ports are unable to handle new generation vessels as the Shipping Companies are opting for bigger vessels for economics of scale;

(b) if so, whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has submitted expansion and deepening plan and financial modalities of sharing of the cost of the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Lack of globally comparable port infrastructure, mainly, inadequate depth in port channels and basins and cargo handling facilities which include berths, terminals, cargo handling equipments, etc.

limit the capacity of Indian ports to handle new generation vessels.

(b) to (d) Development and expansion of major ports is an on-going process to cope with the demands of maritime trade. As part of this process, major ports also undertake capital dredging for deepening of port basins and channels from time to time to keep pace with the draught requirements of vessels calling at these ports. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has prepared an Integrated Development Plan for the port in line with its potential to emerge as a leading container port in the region. The plan envisages deepening of the port's channel in phases to attract large size vessels, upgradation and augmentation of container handling equipments in its existing terminals as also their expansion, establishment of new container terminals, improvement in the internal circulation systems and back-up facilities in the port area to speed up evacuation of containers and enhancement in road and rail connectivity to its hinterland, keeping in view the future traffic projections. The total investments in these projects to be implemented over a period of 10 years through public private partnership is estimated at over Rs. 15,000 crores.

Appointment of Dealers/Distributors

✓ 2145. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dealers/Distributors were appointed for Mobile Service Marketing in U.P. (W) circle of BSNL for two years;

(b) if so, whether these were appointed through open tender;

(c) if so, whether there is provision in the tender for extending the terms and conditions beyond two years;

(d) if so, the details of the clause of the tender in this regard;

(e) whether franchisees have been appointed during the year 2004 under it; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The relevant clause of the agreement is reproduced as below :

"The agreement shall be valid for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of its commencement and may be extended for such period and on such terms and conditions as are conveyed by the BSNL to the dealer/distributors 2 (two) months prior to the expiry of the agreement."

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The franchisees were not appointed under the extension clause. However, the franchisees were appointed in the year 2004 as per BSNL's new franchisee policy. In this process, a total of 35 (Thirty Five) franchisee have been appointed till date out of a total of 42 (Forty Two) dealers/distributors.

[Translation]

Study Conducted on Tsunami Waves

2146. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tsunami waves had registered their presence in coastal areas in India three years ago;

(b) if so, the study conducted by the Government in that regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Incidence of Filariasis

2147. SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidence of filariasis in certain parts of the country;

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

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb it;

(d) whether Government proposes to include the filariasis in the list of handicapped people for getting the rehabilitation benefits; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per the reports received from National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) Units functioning in 18 States/UTs, there is an increase of Micro-filaria rate in Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Damman & Diu while the other States showed decrease of Micro-filaria rate. The State-wise Micro-filaria rate as reported by the States is given at enclosed statement.

(c) The Govt. of India has envisaged, in the National Health Policy, the Goal for Elimination Lymphatic Filariasis by 2015. The strategies for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (ELF) are as below :

1. Annual Mass Drug Administration for five years or more to the population excluding children below two years, pregnant women and seriously ill persons in affected areas to interrupt transmission of disease.
2. Home Based Management of cases who already have the disease and up-scaling Hydrocele operations in identified CHCs and hospitals and capacity building for home-based management of cases with Lymphoedema.
3. Integrated Vector Control Management using anti-larval operations at weekly intervals with approved larvicides, biological control through larvivorous fish, source reduction through environmental engineering, water management and personal protection by using insecticide treated bednets.

Govt. of India observes National Filaria Day each year during which annual single dose of Diethylcarbamazine Citrates (DEC) tablets is administered to eligible population in endemic areas.

(d) and (e) Presently there is no proposal to include Filariasis in the list of handicapped peoples for getting rehabilitation benefits.

Statement**State-wise Micro-Filaria Rate**

Sl.No.	State	Mf. Rate (%)				
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.85	1.36	1.14	0.78	0.57
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37
3.	Bihar	0.52	0.43	0.41	0.36	0.51
4.	Goa	0.03	0.05	0.14	0.05	0.10
5.	Gujarat	0.18	0.24	0.01	0.14	0.46
6.	Karnataka	1.27	0.77	0.62	0.57	0.50
7.	Kerala	0.42	0.51	0.44	0.27	0.22
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3.12	0.30	0.21	0.19	1.02
9.	Maharashtra	1.20	1.36	1.29	1.10	1.00
10.	Orissa	1.17	1.44	1.30	1.85	1.39
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.09	0.12	0.07	0.04	0.01
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1.22	0.70	0.75	0.89	1.81
13.	West Bengal	5.54	4.75	3.29	4.85	4.42
14.	Pondicherry	0.97	1.03	0.49	0.22	0.17
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.18	0.07	0.66	0.08	0.00
16.	Daman and Diu	0.17	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.41
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Jharkhand	-	1.07	0.25	0.03	0.15

Container Security Initiative

2148. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :

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

(a) whether India has decided to join the US promoted Container Security Initiative as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated February 7, 2005;

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

(c) the details of estimated amount likely to be spent for the implementation of the same; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has, after due consideration, decided to join the US promoted Container Security Initiatives.

(b) The details of the programme are to be worked out by a team led by Ministry of External Affairs with Central Board of Excise and Customs and others to negotiate arrangements with USA.

(c) The estimated amount likely to be spent for the implementation of Container Security Initiative cannot be ascertained at this stage in view of (b) above.

(d) The Container Security Initiative project will lead to benefits of imbibing the best prevalent practices in Container Security both for import as well as export. It would also create an atmosphere conducive to smooth trade relation with US and help in growth of our exports.

International Container Transshipment Terminal

2149. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA :

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN :

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

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

(a) whether the foundation stone for the proposed International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam in Kochi has been laid recently;

(b) if so, the details of the project along with the funds allocated for the said purpose;

(c) by when it is likely to be commissioned;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Transshipment Terminal at Kochi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cochin Port Trust (CoPT) has signed a Licence Agreement with India Gateway Terminal Private Limited, a subsidiary of Dubai Ports International, Dubai, UAE on 31.1.2005 for operation and management of Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) and development and operation of International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The Agreement envisages time-bound implementation of ICTT project. The BOT operator will initially take over the existing RGCT for further development and operation till the ICTT becomes operational. The Government will take necessary steps to ensure the provision of common user infrastructure facilities, namely, rail and road connectivity and adequate depth in the navigational channels for the terminal. Investment in the project to be developed in phases by the BOT operator is estimated to be Rs. 2118 crores. Investment by the

Government/Port Trust for providing the common user infrastructure facilities is estimated to be Rs.881 crores. On completion of the project, the terminal will have facilities to handle 3 million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) of container traffic. Vessels upto a size of 8000 TEUs can be handled in the Terminal.

(c) Under the Agreement, the Port Trust is required to hand over the RGCT to the BOT operator not later than 8 weeks from the date of award of the License. As per the time frames envisaged in the Agreement, the ICTT is scheduled to commence commercial operations within 4 years thereafter.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study in respect of the ICTT Project has been carried out by the Cochin Port Trust through the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Kochi. NIO has conducted detailed field observations covering the seasons and identified the impacts associated with the proposed activities as also the mitigation measures, wherever applicable. The anticipated impacts as identified are mainly those induced by the proposed dredging operations in the navigational channel. These include changes in morphology of Cochin Estuary and the resultant changes in the tidal flow, flushing rate, salinity variation/intrusion, sedimentation etc. The considered view of NIO is that these effects are localized, i.e. confined within the harbour basin only and there would be no impact on the upstream areas because of the special nature of the tidal regime of the Cochin Port area.

Increase in Per-Capita Income

2150. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per-capita income has increased during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for calculating per-capita income;

(d) the per-capita income of the urban and rural areas during 2002-03;

(e) whether the per-capita income of rural areas and urban slums are far behind the national average;

(f) if so, the facts thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income of rural and urban slum areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per-capita income in the country in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) has increased from Rs. 11013 in 2002-03 to Rs. 11799 in 2003-04.

(c) National Income by definition is a measure, in monetary terms, of the volume of all goods and services produced in the economy within a given period of time (generally a year) accounted without duplication. This includes the net factor income received from abroad. The national income at factor cost divided by mid-year population is known as per capita income.

(d) The available statistics on National Income, as estimated by the Central Statistical Organisation, provide information in respect of per capita Net Domestic Product (NDP) separately for rural and urban areas at current prices for the base years of National Accounts Series i.e. 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1993-94 only. Per capita income of urban and rural areas for the year 2002-03 is not available. However, the annual per capita NDP has been estimated as Rs. 5783 in rural areas and Rs. 13525 in urban areas at national level for the year 1993-94.

(e) The CSO does not compile estimates of per capita income of urban slums separately.

(f) In the year 1993-94, the latest year for which estimate of per capita income for rural areas is available, the per capita income in rural areas was Rs. 5783 as compared to per capita national average of Rs. 7834.

(g) There is a two-pronged strategy to increase the per capita income namely, (i) achieving a higher growth rate of Gross Domestic Product and (ii) through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor which include, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Rural Housing-Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and National Food for Work Programme for rural areas and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) for urban areas.

Donor Assistance from G-8 Countries

2151. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government in September last year received the decision and allowed the flow of donor assistance from G-8 countries;

(b) if so, whether this decision has been formally communicated to the G-8 countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India reviewed the policy of bilateral development cooperation to affirm the liberalization and reform orientation in India's economic policy. Bilateral development assistance will now be accepted from all G-8 countries, namely, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Russian Federation as well as from the European Commission. Further, such assistance will also be accepted from non G-8 European Union countries providing a minimum bilateral aid package of US \$ 25 million per annum to India. The policy also entails a simplified procedure to facilitate the flow of bilateral assistance to non-governmental organizations and autonomous institutions.

SSI Units In Tribal and Backward Areas of Lower Assam

2152. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMU-THIARY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is setting up some Small Scale Industries in tribal and backward areas in lower Assam with a view to generate employment for the unemployed Tribal youths and thereby augmenting economic growth and development in the region;

(b) if so, the funds allocated and released during the last three year;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has a proposal to set up an "Integrated Infrastructure for Industries, Trade and Commerce" in the said areas;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The development of small scale industries is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments/Administrations. The Central Government, however, supports and supplements

the efforts of the State/UT Governments/Administrations through various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc. These are implemented across the country including the state of Assam. The allocation of funds is made schemewise, not Statewise.

(d) and (e) The Government launched the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme which, inter alia, envisages creation/upgradation of infrastructural facilities like power, water, roads, communications, marketing outlets and common services to facilitate setting up of units and create employment. As per the provisions of this Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territories are required to formulate proposals and get these appraised by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). On the basis of the recommendation of the SIDBI, Government sanctions projects for setting up IID Centres. So far six IID Centres, one each in the districts of Nagoan, Darrang, Cachar, Sibsagar, Kamrup and Jorhat, have been sanctioned by Government of India. Out of these, the IID Centre in Kamrup district falls in the lower Assam. Central grant of Rs. 10.50 crore has also been released for these six centres, including Rs. 80 lakh for the IID Centre in Kamrup district.

(f) In view of the reply to parts (d) and (e), the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Functioning of Public Telephone Booths

2153. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public telephone booths functioning as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether it's a fact that these booths remain out of order;

(c) whether public telephone booths have been closed down during the last 3 years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring smooth and satisfactory functioning of public telephone booths at the railway stations/other public places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Number of PCOs functioning

State-wise by BSNL and MTNL as on 28.2.2005 is 21,06,150. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir. The Public Telephone Booths are generally working satisfactorily. However, at times some booths become faulty on account of reasons beyond control such as damage to under ground cables due to digging of roads by other agencies, heavy rains and natural calamities etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of PCOs closed during last three years are 269372 are given in the statement. The reasons of closure are :

- (i) Franchisee getting employment who was earlier unemployed.
- (ii) Franchisee shifting to some other city.
- (iii) Franchisee switching over to some other business.
- (iv) Churning to other private operators.
- (v) Death of franchisee.
- (vi) Closure due to non-payment.
- (vii) Decline in collection owing to revision in pulse rate.

(e) Steps taken for smooth and satisfactory functioning of Public Telephone Booths at Railway Stations/ other public places are :

- (i) Fault booking centralized at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centres) level.
- (ii) Daily testing of PCOs.
- (iii) Physical inspections by staff/officers.
- (iv) Priority in repair of faulty PCOs.
- (v) Creation of pole less network to reduce drop wire faults.

Statement

Number of Local and STD/ISD PCOs functioning as on 28.2.2005

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of PCOs	No. of PCOs closed during last three years
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1008	7

1	2	3	4
2. Andhra Pradesh	220387	35658	
3. Assam	22610	2078	
4. Bihar	55359	5249	
5. Chhattisgarh	8128	2112	
6. Delhi	102800	20597	
7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	593	137	
8. Daman and Diu	975	122	
9. Gujarat	140200	19787	
10. Haryana	35720	7341	
11. Himachal Pradesh	9790	515	
12. Jammu and Kashmir	15275	922	
13. Jharkhand	15906	847	
14. Karnataka	225925	17248	
15. Kerala	310	8371	
16. Lakshadweep	72	0	
17. Madhya Pradesh	52123	10685	
18. Maharashtra including Mumbai MTNL	437740	37268	
19. Goa	11886	1340	
20. Meghalaya	1895	203	
21. Mizoram	649	0	
22. Tripura	2355	220	
23. Nagaland	1547	620	
24. Manipur	1834	233	
25. Arunachal Pradesh	1534	149	
26. Orissa	31503	2634	
27. Punjab including Chandigarh UT	44188	12872	
28. Rajasthan	65149	9267	
29. Tamil Nadu	238251	37215	
30. Pondicherry	2855	337	

1	2	3	4
31. Uttar Pradesh	148622	15435	
32. Uttaranchal	12736	576	
33. West Bengal	107484	20921	
34. Sikkim	741	38	
Total	2106150	269372	

[English]

Stem Cell Research

2154. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a symposium has been organised at Hyderabad on ethical issues concerning stem cells;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such ethical guidelines on biomedical research have been prepared and approved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any regulatory body has been constituted to monitor stem cell research in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Bio Asia symposium on Molecular Medicine and Health was organised at Hyderabad in which Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) participated. One of the themes discussed in this symposium was "Stem Cell Research—Indian & Global Scenario". Another symposium on legal and ethical issues of Stem Cell Research was organised by Ranbaxy Science Foundation at Hyderabad on 5th March, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Central Ethics Committee on Human Research (CECHR) of Indian Council of Medical Research, has evolved a set of ethical guidelines, namely; "Ethical Guidelines for Bio-Medical Research on Human Subjects". The guidelines have been accepted and circulated among all the scientific institutions in the country involved in research on human beings for compliance. "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects" prepared by ICMR are being processed for legislation.

(e) and (f) There is no such body constituted as yet, though the guidelines suggest constituting a multi-disciplinary National Apex Committee to monitor Stem Cell Research activities in the country. Currently an Expert Committee has been constituted to monitor and review Stem Cell Research activities under ICMR.

**National Scientific Advisory Committee
on Natural Disasters**

2155. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formed an National Scientific Advisory Committee to play a greater role in India's strategy to address the problem of mitigation and management of the impact of natural disasters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Postal Services

2156. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to have franchising agreement/arrangements with private parties to provide postal services in areas where post offices are not available;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for privatizing postal services in such areas where there is no post office network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Franchising post office facilities is an option that the Department will pursue in future to expand the postal network. However, such franchising arrangements will not be limited to private parties. This option will be considered in places where it is not possible to open post offices due to non-fulfilment of norms in this regard on non-availability of accommodation.

(c) There is no proposal to privatize postal services.

Franchising is considered an optimum option to expand the access to basic postal facilities without enhancing dependence on budgetary resources.

Total Outlay in Annual Plan

2157. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether annual plan for 2005-06 has been finalized;

(b) if so, the total outlay and the target of economic growth, agriculture and industrial growth fixed thereunder, State-wise; and

(c) the allocations for social and economic infrastructure, including health, education, roads, power and environment, forests contemplated thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The size of Annual Plan 2005-06 has been finalised for twenty four States. Details are attached as enclosed statement-I. Annual targets of growth rates of States are not fixed in each sector/area.

(c) Sector-wise allocations of Annual Plan 2005-06 outlays have been finalised for five States. Details are as enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Annual Plan 2005-06 Outlays of States

(In Crores)		
Sl.No.	State	Agreed Outlay
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	#
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	950.00
3.	Assam	3000.00
4.	Bihar	#
5.	Chhattisgarh	4275.00
6.	Goa	#
7.	Gujarat	11000.00

1	2	3	1	2	3
8.	Haryana	#	19.	Nagaland	620.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	20.	Orissa	3000.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4200.00	21.	Punjab	3550.00
11.	Jharkhand	4510.12	22.	Rajasthan	8350.00
12.	Karnataka	13555.00	23.	Sikkim	500.00
13.	Kerala	5369.00	24.	Tamil Nadu	9100.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7471.00	25.	Tripura	804.00
15.	Maharashtra	11000.00	26.	Uttar Pradesh	13500.00
16.	Manipur	915.00	27.	Uttaranchal	2700.00
17.	Meghalaya	800.00	28.	West Bengal	6476.00
18.	Mizoram	685.00			

#Plan size not yet finalised.

Statement-II**Sectoral Allocation of Annual Plan 2005-06 of States**

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Major Heads/Minor Heads of Development	Jharkhand	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Uttaranchal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Agriculture & Allied Activities	227.90	384.71	219.99	854.69	242.73
II.	Rural Development	820.90	658.48	735.56	1255.72	161.53
III.	Special Areas Programmes	264.29	303.90	55.07	1133.62	4.57
IV.	Irrigation & Flood Control	450.00	1641.58	1045.07	1951.36	77.57
V.	Energy	415.00	1365.11	1999.08	715.33	475.08
VI.	Industry & Minerals	100.00	51.15	108.99	393.21	258.07
VII.	Transport	450.00	651.64	781.55	1757.96	399.66
VIII.	Communications	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IX.	Science, Technology & Environment	30.00	16.06	2.97	45.68	6.00
X.	General Economic Services	91.42	177.53	305.13	617.73	80.65
XI.	Social Services	1426.07	2113.67	2831.97	4735.62	920.14
XII.	General Services	184.54	107.17	264.62	39.08	74.00
Grand Total		4510.12	7471.00	8350.00	13500.00	2700.00

Mental Health Care

2158. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budget allocation during the last three years for Mental Health Care was less than one per cent of the total health budget;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds for mental health care in the current year 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in promoting mental health care. Out of a total outlay of Rs. 9253 crores for Central Sector Health Programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 139 crores has been allocated towards National Mental Health Programme, which is about 1.5% of the total allocation. Further, an amount of Rs. 120 crores and Rs. 50 crores have been earmarked for National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, respectively, for the 10th Plan period towards mental health care. This amount is in addition to Non-Plan funds released to these institutions.

During the current year 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 21 crores has been allocated for National Mental Health Programme at the Revised Estimate stage. An amount of Rs. 40 crores has been earmarked for the purpose for the year 2005-06.

Expansion of Telecom Network in Assam in Tenth Plan

2159. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals to expand communication network in Assam by providing modern and sophisticated telephone exchanges during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that mid-term review of the Tenth Plan has revealed that the achievement is below the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target by the end of the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The Telecom development work in all the Circles including Assam are planned on yearly basis. The details of targets and corresponding achievement in Assam Circle during Tenth Plan period are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir. The targets have largely been achieved and the achievement pattern is similar to other areas of the country.

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

(d) For timely achievement of the targets, mobile services have been planned to cater to a large population. The target for mobile connections for the year 2005-06 is 1,80,000. In addition, scattered rural demand is planned to be fulfilled by providing connections through WLL. Necessary switching and transmission equipment for the same is planned for timely procurement.

Statement**Details of Targets and Achievement of Telecom Development work in Assam during Tenth Plan**

Sl.No.	Parameters	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement upto 31.1.2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	New Telephone Exchanges	50	62	20	26	0	01
2.	Switching Capacity (Fixed+WLL) (Lines)	90200	95752	26000	68692	18000	6663
3.	Direct Exchange Lines (Nos.)	75000	64750	83000	49771	213600	140495

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Optical Fibre Cable (RKMs)		600	644.92	750	973.46	552	282
5. Microwave (RKMs)		100	215.1	75	174.8	Nil	217.5
6. VPTs (Nos.)		1000	1007	4300	1354	5021	1913
7. TAX (KC)		16	17	18	20	8	0

Affordability/Availability of Medicines

2160. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, Brazil and China have received a delegation from the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Commission on intellectual property rights innovation and public health;

(b) whether Commission's top agenda during the visit was to make provision of affordability, availability and accessibility to medicines for the people of India and other countries; and

(c) the extent to which drugs affordability to all the countries including India has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has constituted a "Commission on Intellectual property Rights, Innovation and Public Health" (CIPIH) to "produce an analysis of Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation, and Public Health, including the question of appropriate funding and incentive mechanisms for the creation of new medicines and other products against diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries".

This Commission visited India during November 2004 with a view to hearing presentations from public sector scientists, drug manufacturers associations, NGOs, senior government officials, representatives of biotech companies etc. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare presented the perspective on TRIPS Patents Act, 1970 and subsequent amendments and the implications for India's health and drug policies.

The Commission would submit its report to WHO which is expected to be shared with the member countries of WHO during World Health Assembly in May 2005.

Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

2161. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges set up in Gujarat during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) whether all the exchanges in the State have been provided with STD/ISD facilities and internet services;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the criteria adopted to provide these facilities to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The total number of telephone exchanges set up in Gujarat during the Ninth Plan period is 1827.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As on 28.2.2005, total 3290 telephone exchanges are in Gujarat. All these telephone exchanges have been provided with STD/ISD and Internet services.

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

(e) The STD/ISD and internet facility is extended to the customers on application.

[Translation]

Sea Floor Pressure Recording System

2162. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to install 'Sea Floor Pressure Recording System' on the entire sea-coast of the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early installation of this system in the wake of recent tsunami disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Sea Floor Pressure Recording System would be appropriately placed to monitor tsunamis generated by 2 identified tsunamigenic earthquake sources.

(b) and (c) The Government is setting up a tsunami and storm surges warning system with the following components at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crores in about 2½ years :

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of Bottom Pressure Recorders close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a center for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

[English]

Ayurveda Park in Karnataka

2163. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any project proposal for the establishment of an Ayurveda Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the present status of the proposal;

(d) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(e) the total funds earmarked for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

Atomic Power Generation by NPCIL

2164. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI RAJESH VERMA :

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has initiated steps to start a joint collaboration with some other Public Sector Undertakings to increase Nuclear Power Generation;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals mooted by the NPCIL in this regard;

(c) the funds earmarked for Nuclear Power Generation in the coming two years;

(d) the target set for Nuclear Power Generation in 2005-06;

(e) whether Thermal and Hydro Power Generation is expensive than Atomic Power Generation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The outlay proposed by Department of Atomic Energy for Power Sector for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 5139.96 crore. The expected outlay for the year 2006-07, based on the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the X Plan is about Rs. 7000 crore. These outlays are to be met through a combination of budgetary support, market borrowings, foreign credit for Kudankulam project and internal resources of NPCIL. These outlays are, to a large extent for projects under construction.

(d) The target set for Nuclear Power Generation in the year 2005-06 is 15560 Million Units (MUs).

(e) No, Sir.

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

Modernisation of Lighthouses and Lightships

2165. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ships entering and leaving Indian Ports make payments to Lighthouses and Lightships;

(b) if so, the details of the revenue earned thereby during each of the last three years, port-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen/expand/modernize the Lighthouses and Lightships in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the funds allocated during 2002-03 and 2003-04 and actually spent thereon, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. All foreign-going ships pay Light dues @ Rs. 8/- per ton on Net Registered Tonnage (NRT) basis once in 30 days.

(b) A statement indicating port-wise details of revenue earned during each of the last three years statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the 10th Five Year Plan, number of schemes are proposed for strengthening/expansion/modernization of Lighthouses and Lightships. One of the schemes is Establishment of Vessel Traffic Service in the Gulf of Kachchh, which will be one of the largest systems in the world. Apart from this, 16 new Lighthouses are being set up.

(d) The development of Lighthouses is not port specific but is based on the traffic, technology and requirement of the Mariners. The details of the funds allocated and actually spent during 2002-03 and 2003-04 are indicated below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	B.E.	R.E.	Actual
2002-03	20.00	16.39	14.92
2003-04	24.50	24.50	15.24

Statement**Port-wise Revenue Earned during the Last Three Years**

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of Port	Year		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai	59526883	53783236	67076279

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru	10130124	108255785	140409730
3.	New Mangalore	38856702	37439855	48442650
4.	Old Mangalore	55844	11592	5584
5.	Marmugoa	57924976	58753974	68403120
6.	Dahej	4069680	nil	nil
7.	Karwar	526306	2330542	1551560
8.	Dharamtar	7410426	8147622	6332522
9.	Ratnagiri	477480	373744	315364
10.	Revdanda	109384	504384	766808
11.	Gopalpur	67856	nil	nil
12.	Dhapoli	62680	nil	2528
13.	Jaigad	nil	nil	136616
14.	Bassein Port	3330	nil	nil
15.	Jamnagar (Bedi Port)	7575650	6941240	6582508
16.	Kandla	46288963	46517378	54267896
17.	Sikka	89719158	92514468	68712081
18.	Vadinar	52339201	40553648	55955728
19.	Muldwarka	2103176	2718896	2171576
20.	Veraval	16880	nil	nil
21.	Naviakhi	5154384	3968048	3199016
22.	Okha	6635040	2788032	3164240
23.	Mundra	14004727	10058732	17684514
24.	Pipav	1022352	8180192	12741195
25.	Bhavnagar	6058663	963452	2423686
26.	Bhavnagar (Alang)	10885913	27849968	18639799
27.	Salaya	248	nil	1351360
28.	Jakhau	nil	nil	240496
29.	Jetty	3991696	nil	nil

1	2	3	4	5
30. Chennai	57145039	59102456	67830984	
31. Tuticorin	21392995	23001574	24417085	
32. Pondicherry	233256	nil	273468	
33. Nagapatnam	101240	51368	82696	
34. Cuddalore	8056	61712	4829	
35. Visakhapatnam	97308850	107398172	86786159	
36. Kakinada	8505135	195066246	22493730	
37. Kolkata	19732104	25446546	28396340	
38. Paradeep	30895927	26484288	32640449	
39. Cochin	22451479	21977008	27286952	
40. Neendakra	71944	nil	nil	
41. Port Blair	100704	63704	231732	

Scarcity of Epilepsy Drugs

2166. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of epilepsy drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) As reported by Drug Controller General (India), there is no scarcity of epilepsy drugs in the Country.

Clearance of Welfare Programme

2167. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director, Information and Relations of Himachal Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Ministry for clearance of the welfare programme under the title 'Introduction of Information Technology for Public awareness in Himachal Pradesh'; and

(b) if so, the current status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Information Technology received a proposal from Government of Himachal Pradesh for "Introduction of Information Technology for Public Awareness in Himachal Pradesh" seeking recommendations for financial assistance under Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) programme through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Department of Information Technology has given its recommendations on the above proposal to the Ministry of I & B and Government of Himachal Pradesh for taking necessary action.

Laying Foundation Stone of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar

2168. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone of the Branch/ Regional Centre of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) near Bhubaneswar (Orissa) has been laid recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa has provided land for the Institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in implementing AIIMS project particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The foundation stone for construction of AIIMS-like institution in Bhubaneswar (Orissa) was laid on the 15th July, 2003 by the then Prime Minister. The Government of Orissa has provided 100 acres of land for the purpose.

The project for establishment of AIIMS-like institutions has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and will now be placed before the competent authority for approval. Pending these clearances, start up activities like construction of boundary wall, the process of selection of Project Consultant for providing comprehensive consultancy services and selection of architectural concepts/designs for AIIMS like institutions have been taken up.

Request from Afghanistan for Teachers/Doctors

2169. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Afghanistan has recently requested the Union Government to send more teachers and doctors to that country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether India has offered to import training to Afghani doctors and paramedics here; and

(d) if so, the various other fields in which Afghanistan has sought Indian help and cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Health and education sectors are among those which have been identified by both the Government of India and Afghanistan for India's contribution to economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. Under India's assistance programme doctors, English language teachers and IT specialists have been deputed to Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) Training has been imparted to Afghan doctors and paramedics in India. Ten doctors and twelve paramedics have completed their training and nine paramedics are currently undergoing training. Apart from health, India has undertaken, in partnership with the Afghan government, projects in a wide range of sectors, including power, road construction, agriculture, industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting and education.

Hospitals Along National Highways

2170. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to upgrade the hospitals situated along various National Highways in the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such hospitals have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount earmarked for the implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Health, under the scheme of pilot projects for upgradation and strengthening of emergency services of State hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways, provides assistance to the States. The scheme involves release of grant-in-aid for purchase of well-equipped ambulances and basic essential equipment, communication systems, infrastructure like Blood Bank, X-ray room, Minor Operation Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, beds, equipment etc.

(c) and (d) As per information available, Ministry of Health had till March, 2004 provided such assistance as per details enclosed as statement.

(e) Ministry of Health has kept an outlay of Rs. 110 crores the 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement

Assam

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency and Trauma Services in the Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari during the year 2002-03.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency care service at Pasighat General Hospital, Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01.
2. Rs. 116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Andhra Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Nellore during the year 2003-04.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Care Centre at Government Hospital, Kurnool during the year 2003-04.

Bihaar

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

2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.
5. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Sadar Hospital, Chapra, Saran during the year 2003-04.

Chhattisgarh

1. Rs. 109.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Unit at Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur during the year 2002-03.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital Nadiad District Kheda during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad during the year 2002-03.
3. Rs. 146.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital, Rajkot during the year 2003-04.

Goa

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

Haryana

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal during the year 1999-2000.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Sirsa during the year 2003-04.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 147.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening

of emergency facilities at Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla and Zonal Hospital, Bilaspur during the year 2002-03.

Jammu & Kashmir

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

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital Ernakulam during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Medical College, Kozhikode during the year 2002-03.

Karnataka

1. Rs. 136.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital & Research Institute, Bangalore during the year 2002-03.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs. 97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore during the year 1999-2000.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at District Hospital Shivpuri during the year 2003-04.

Mizoram

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

Manipur

1. Rs. 149.92 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of J.N. Hospital, Imphal during the year 2002-03.

Nagaland

1. Rs. 144.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthen-

ing of emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Medziphema during the year 2002-03.

Orissa

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of casualty and emergency facilities at S.C.B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack during the year 2003-04.

Pondicherry

1. Rs. 78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-01.

Rajasthan

1. Rs. 116.80 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospitals, Shahpura, Kishangarh, Bhim and Sojat City during the year 2003-04.

Sikkim

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

Tripura

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

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of accident and emergency services at District Headquarters Hospital, Omalur during the year 2003-04.
3. Rs. 143.00 lakhs for development of accident and emergency facilities at Government Headquarters Hospital, Villupuram during the year 2003-04.
4. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident Trauma Centre of Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital, Chengalpattu during the year 2003-04.

Uttar Pradesh

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

Uttaranchal

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of Doon Hospital, Dehradun during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of Goverdhan Tiwari Base Hospital, Almora during the year 2002-03.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at District Hospital Gopeshwar, District Chamoli during the year 2003-04.

[Translation]

WLL Services

2171. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
SHRI RAJESH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Wireless Local Loop (WLL) telecommunication services have been made available in rural areas of the country specially in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) whether WLL services are inoperative in many rural areas of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make WLL telecommunication services more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The WLL services are working satisfactorily in rural areas of the country. However, due to poor availability of electric supply in rural areas the in-built battery of the subscriber terminals i.e. FWTs does not get charged properly causing interruption of services to the subscribers.

(e) Following steps are taken to make WLL services more effective :

- (i) Rural WLL systems have been put under AMC with equipment suppliers.
- (ii) It is being planned to use the enhanced battery back up in rural areas with charger having wider input voltage range, so as to minimize failure due to acute power supply fluctuation in rural areas of the country.
- (iii) More Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) are planned to enhance the coverage of WLL system.
- (iv) List of Do's and Don'ts has been issued to customers to increase their awareness on proper use of FWTs so as to minimize FWT related faults.

Statement

Status of Telephone on Wireless Local Loop (WLL) in rural areas as on 31.1.05

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	WLL connections (Rural)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1321
2.	Andhra Pradesh	62727
3.	Assam	24072
4.	Bihar	86483
5.	Jharkhand	36052
6.	Gujarat	39802
7.	Haryana	36595
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11324
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7744
10.	Karnataka	42660
11.	Kerala	102575
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35829
13.	Chhattisgarh	39554
14.	Maharashtra	104724
15.	North East-I	9437
16.	North East-II	12516

1	2	3
17.	Orissa	57526
18.	Punjab	60160
19.	Rajasthan	49574
20.	Tamil Nadu	41118
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	79195
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	33898
23.	Uttaranchal	20267
24.	West Bengal	50543
Total		1045696

[English]

Introduction of Cell Phone of BSNL in Remote Areas

2172. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce cell Phone of BSNL in remote area of the country especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when this service is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has already covered 589 District Headquarters (DHQs) of the country including all the DHQs of the Karnataka. Further, BSNL has provided cellular coverage to 3552 cities/towns in the country including 319 cities/towns of Karnataka. "As per the terms and conditions of the license for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS), an operator for Telecom Circle Service Area is required to cover 10% of the District Head Quarters in the service area within one year and 50% of the District Head Quarter within three years. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of District Head Quarter. The choice of District Head Quarters/Towns shall lie with the licensee depending upon their business decision. It is not mandatory under the License Agreement to cover 100% of the service area."

BSNL is, however, in the process of expanding its cellular network up to Tehsil headquarters and important towns based on commercial viability during next financial year (2005-06).

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

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Chhattisgarh

2173. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided in all the villages of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if not, the number of villages which has not been provided with telephone facilities in the State, district-wise;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed by the Government for providing telephone facilities in every village of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of uncovered villages in Chhattisgarh is 5,051. This excludes villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. The district-wise list of uncovered villages is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The office of Administrator, Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has awarded the work of providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 5,051 villages of Chhattisgarh to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). These VPTs are planned to be provided in a phased manner by November, 2007.

Statement

District-wise list of uncovered villages in Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of uncovered villages where VPTs are to be provided
1	2	3
1.	Bastar	522

1	2	3
2.	Bilaspur	48
3.	Champa	0
4.	Dantewada	866
5.	Dhamtari	66
6.	Durg	103
7.	Jashpurnagar	95
8.	Kanker	346
9.	Kawardha	63
10.	Korba	19
11.	Koria	536
12.	Mahasamund	168
13.	Raigarh	141
14.	Rajnandgaon	432
15.	Raipur	332
16.	Sarguja	1,314
Total		5,051

[English]

Regulation of Private Ports

2174. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the emergence of private ports and the proposals of enhanced trade through them;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also looking at an omnibus infrastructure regulator to discourage monopolies and cartels;

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

(d) the extent to which these ports are being made globally competitive to improve our exports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There are 12 major ports under the control of the Central Government. None of these ports are private ports. Improving the efficiency of major ports is an on going process. However, comprehensive instructions have been issued by the Ministry for private sector participation in major ports with a view to mobilizing resources required for expansion of port infrastructure in the country, improving efficiency, productivity and quality of service as well as to bring in competitiveness in port services. These guidelines, inter alia, stipulate that the major ports should ensure that private investment does not result in the creation of private monopolies and that private facilities are available to all users on equal and competitive terms. Ports other than these twelve major ports fall within the domain of the respective state Governments.

[Translation]

**Density of Telephone Lines/
Telephones in Rural Areas**

2175. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

SHRI NARAENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

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

(a) the per-capita density of telephone lines and telephones in various States of the country as on date during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the total percentage of increase in this density registered as compared to the last year;

(c) whether there has been per-capita increase in this density in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of rural areas where telephones are available in very less numbers even today;

(f) the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government is contemplating to start any subsidized scheme for such areas;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the state-wise teledensity (number of phones per hundred population) as on December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2004, increase in teledensity during this period and rural teledensity as on December 31, 2004 are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The all India rural teledensity has increased from 1.4% as on March 31, 2003 to 1.69% as on December 31, 2004.

(e) and (f) The rural teledensity is lower in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, North East and Uttar Pradesh. The teledensity is low because the operators are not keen to provide telecom services due to the non-remunerative nature of the service in rural areas.

(g) to (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to fund telecom services in the rural areas including such areas in these states. The scope of support through USOF, inter alia, includes Village Public Telephones (VPTs), Individual household phones, Public Teleinfo Centres (PTICs) etc.

Statement

State-wise Teledensity including Rural Teledensity as on 31.12.2003 and 31.12. 2004

Sl.No.	Name of State	Teledensity as on 31.12.2003	Teledensity as on 31.12.2004	Increase in Teledensity	Rural Teledensity as on 31.12.2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11.41	12.42	1.01	8.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7.26	9.19	1.93	2.38
3.	Assam	1.97	2.71	0.74	0.60
4.	Bihar	1.59	2.01	0.42	0.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.58	1.68	0.10	0.51
6.	Gujarat	9.7	12.06	2.36	2.65
7.	Haryana	7.63	10.16	2.53	2.68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9.68	12.52	2.84	6.72
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.9	4.72	1.82	0.71
10.	Jharkhand	1.97	2.28	0.31	0.47
11.	Karnataka	8.92	11.80	2.88	2.47
12.	Kerala	13.78	17.85	4.07	9.47
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3.76	4.83	1.07	0.65
14.	Maharashtra-Mumbai	8.64	9.50	0.86	2.55
15.	North East	3.05	3.72	0.67	0.54
16.	Orissa	2.81	3.65	0.84	1.01
17.	Punjab	16.21	21.86	5.65	5.31
18.	Rajasthan	4.18	5.78	1.60	1.43
19.	Tamil Nadu-Chennai	8.78	10.91	2.13	2.60
20.	Uttaranchal	5.06	5.72	0.66	1.60
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2.74	3.88	1.14	0.49
22.	West Bengal-Kolkata	2.53	2.78	0.25	1.00
Metro-Cities					
1.	Kolkata	15.68	23.45	7.77	0
2.	Chennai	27.28	46.99	19.71	0
3.	Delhi	40.94	50.18	9.24	0
4.	Mumbai	28.39	42.97	14.58	0
Overall Teledensity		6.60	8.59	1.99	1.69

Shortage of SIM Cards

2176. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

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

(a) whether there is a long waiting list of SIM Cards/ Pre-paid SIM Cards in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make available the same in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) There is a waiting list for pre-paid mobile connections of about 6.5 lakhs in Uttar

Pradesh. However no waiting list is being maintained in Madhya Pradesh. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)'s mobile service is well received by the public due to wider coverage and good quality of service. Due to capacity constraints, the release of pre-paid cellular connections has been controlled temporarily. However, post-paid cellular connections are available on demand in both the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has placed purchase order for equipment required for expansion of cellular network in Uttar Pradesh. Sufficient numbers of SIM Cards for pre-paid connections are likely to be issued soon after availability of additional capacity during 2005. However, in respect of Madhya Pradesh, connections are under release with commissioning of additional capacity of around 1.5 lakh lines recently.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

2177. DR. K. S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone exchanges in Kerala;
- (b) whether capacity of these exchanges are adequate to meet the increasing demands;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to declare a special package for the clearance of waiting list of applicants in Kerala especially in Alappuzha district; and
- (d) if so, the time by when the package is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 1203 telephone exchanges in Kerala as on 28.2.2005.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, certain exchanges where adequate capacity is not available is being augmented.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. BSNL has no such proposal to declare a special package for the clearance of waiting list of applicants in Kerala specially in Alappuzha district. However, most of the present waiting list in Kerala is likely to be cleared progressively by 31.03.2006.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to MP

2178. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial assistance is given by the Union Government for patrolling in order to safeguard the National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making available the said amount to Madhya Pradesh Government after 1996-1997;

(c) whether this grant-in-aid will be made available as due to non-availability of this fund adequate number of vehicles equipments on the 4722 kilometres national highways are not possible to be installed; and

(d) if so, the time by which the grant-in-aid will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The provision of patrolling in order to safeguard the National Highways are made as integral part of the Operation and Maintenance contracts awarded for the completed stretches under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

(b) No Operation and Maintenance contract has been awarded in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Mobile Phones in Rural Areas

2179. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received suggestion for providing mobile telephones in Rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) The Government grants licenses for provision of mobile service as a Licensor and the Licensed Operators including Private and Public Sector Undertakings provide the mobile telephone service in the country. As per conditions of Licence Agreement, there is no mandatory requirement to provide mobile telephone service

in rural areas. It entirely lies on business decision of the licensed operator to provide mobile telephone service in rural areas.

Special Category Status to States

2180. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the special category States in the country;
- (b) the criteria laid down for accoding special category Status to States;
- (c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to accord special category status to any State not presently covered under it; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The following 11 States have been accorded Special Category status : Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal.

(b) Special category status has been accorded as approved by the NDC, to States which are predominantly of hilly terrain with large tribal population, located on sensitive international border areas with underdeveloped socio-economic infrastructure, low revenue base, non-viable finances and overall economic backwardness.

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

BSNL Mobile Services

2181. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding congestion and call dropping experience by customers of BSNL mobile services;
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints received in this regard; and

- (c) the action the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No specific records of complaints for all dropping and congestion are being maintained. However, traffic is watched closely with reference to meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) guidelines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Complaints of call drop and congestion are related to network capacities and action has been taken by BSNL to expand its mobile network by 12 million lines in 2005. Pending this expansion, continued optimisation of network is undertaken to meet TRAI guidelines.

[Translation]

Border Posts Set up by Nepal

2182. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Royal Army of Nepal has recently set up border posts on the Indo-Nepal Border;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) His Majesty's Government of Nepal has set up a Unified Command comprising the Royal Nepal Army, the Armed Police and the Nepal Police, to deal with the Maoist insurgency in Nepal. The Nepalese security forces have been deployed in various parts of Nepal including along the India-Nepal border.

(c) Government of India continues to cooperate closely with Government of Nepal to ensure peace and security along the India-Nepal border.

Repatriation of Mumbai Bomb Blast Accused

2183. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether one of the convicts of the 1993 Mumbai

bomb blast case, Abu Salem, is presently under detention in a Portuguese jail;

(b) whether the petition of the C.B.I. before the Portugal court to handover Abu Salem to India has been rejected; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get him repatriated to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Indian request to Portugal for extradition of Abu Salem has been approved by the High Court of Lisbon and the Supreme Court of Portugal. Abu Salem's appeal against the order of the Supreme Court of Portugal is before the higher court, namely the Constitutional Court of Portugal.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
USQ NO. 454 DATED 25.7.2001
REGARDING "BLACKLISTED SUPPLIERS"**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : In answer to part (b) of the Unstarred Question No. 454 answered on 25.7.2001, a statement was laid. SI.No. 4 of the statement read as under :

S. No.	Name of the firm	Reasons for de-registering/ blacklisting
4.	M/s. Pioneer Enterprises	Charging of higher rates than the market rates Godrej Multi Track Ribbon.

The S.No. 4 of the statement, as corrected is as under :

S. No.	Name of the firm	Reasons for de-registering/ blacklisting
4.	M/s. Pioneer Enterprises [De-registered for the supply of Godrej Multi Track Ribbon only].	Charging of higher rates than the market rates for Godrej Multi Track Ribbon.

The inconvenience caused is regretted.

Reasons for Delay :

The inaccuracy in the answer came to notice on 29.11.2004. After examining the matter in consultation with Kendriya Bhandar, correction to the original reply has been proposed.

12.00 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Group Photograph of Members

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Members are aware, a Group Photograph of Members of 14th Lok Sabha will be taken tomorrow, i.e. Thursday, the 17th March, 2005 at 09.30 a.m. between Gate No. 1 and the Central Hall, Parliament House, New Delhi.

Hon. Ministers and Members are, therefore, requested kindly to make it convenient to join the photograph by assembling at the appointed place by 09.15 a.m. sharp.

A chart showing the seating arrangements on the chairs has been displayed on the Notice Boards in Parliamentary Notice Office and the Outer Lobby for the information of the Members.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : On behalf of my colleague Shri Mahabir Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1739/2005]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1740/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1741/2005]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Levy of Oil Pollution Cess) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 66 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1742/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :

- (i) G.S.R. 39 (E) published in Gazette of India

dated the 20th January, 2005 approving the Madras Port Trust (Pay and Allowances, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 2005.

- (ii) G.S.R. 62 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2005 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employee's (Classification, Control & Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1743/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1744/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1745/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2003-2004,
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1746/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2003-2004.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1747/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :

- (1) S.O. 157 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of the four-laned stretches of National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (2) S.O. 15 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of the cable stayed bridge across river Yamuna at Allahabad/Naini on National Highway No. 27 (Allahabad-Mangawan section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (3) S.O. 180 (E) published in Gazette of India dated

the 9th February, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of the four-laned stretches of National Highway No. 8A in the State of Gujarat.

- (4) S.O. 1404 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2004 authorizing M/s Aryan Toll Road Private Limited, Mumbai or its legal representatives, to collect and retain fees on mechanical vehicles, for the use of four laning and strengthening of Pune-Solapur road of National Highway No. 9 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (5) S.O. 54 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for construction of bypass on National Highway No. 50 (outside the Sangamner town) in the State of Maharashtra.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1748/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1749/2005]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following detailed demands for grants (Hindi and English versions) :

- (1) The Department of Space for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1750/2005]

- (2) The Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1751/2005]

12.01½ hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Seventh and Eighth Reports

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :

- (1) Seventh Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)"; and
- (2) Eighth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the 18th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Wasteful Expenditure on Rent".

12.02 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Second Report

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, you wanted to raise some matter. Have you given notice for that?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Yes, Sir. Speaker Sir, whatever happened in the Supreme Court yesterday....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But I am making it an exception. Generally, one Member is not allowed to raise more than one issue. Very well, I would permit you today. But it should not be taken as a precedent.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the hearing of fodder case in the Supreme Court yesterday a Supreme Court Judge Mr. Varkey's statement to the effect that someone had approached him to change the Judge hearing the fodder case created sensation. There were efforts to get the Prosecutor transferred before this and Income Tax officials were actually transferred. We request the Hon. Prime Minister to assure us that there would be a reply on this matter....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a matter which really cannot arise here.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, it has come out in all the newspapers....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, now you have mentioned it, Malhotraji.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, we want an assurance

[Translation]

that no pressure was exerted on him....(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what can we do about Hon. Member's assertions?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri P. Mohan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balsore) : This is the right of the hon. Member....(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is not the forum to raise it here. Who has said this?... (Interruptions) Why are you raising it here?... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, somebody should assure the House... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ananth Kumarji, nobody is compelled to give an answer, you know very well. You had been a Minister also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to all the hon. Members to resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They have heard it. It does not really concern us directly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : So many hon. Members have given notices to raise their matters of urgent public importance and I want to accommodate as many as possible. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri P. Mohan.

Kindly maintain order in the House. If anybody wants to discuss, he may go outside to do so.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the need to increase correspondingly the commission given to the handicapped people operating the PCOs of the BSNL telephones. In the beginning from 1981 handicapped people were given priority in being allotted with PCO booths. Now there are also other operators operating such booths. Later on one rupee coin box PCOs were introduced and the booth operators were paid 40 paise as commission for every one rupee. Now the number of coins used in coin box PCOs is sought to be increased from single one rupee coin to two one rupee coins. But it has also been announced that the commission will be increased only by 10 paise. They were paid 40 paise for every one rupee but now they will be paid only 50 paise for Rs. 2 used every time. Instead of getting 80 paise they will be getting only 50 paise. There must be corresponding increase in the commission paid to these handicapped and other operators who have no other means of income. Considering price rise on every other commodity, I urge upon the Telecom Ministry to increase the commission paid to PCO operators especially the handicapped persons. This is necessary in the light of the fact that most of the handicapped people are not getting the benefit of 3% reservation in jobs both in Central and State Governments.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. If you do not maintain order in the House, I will adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of oil-seeds in this rabi crop season is comparatively higher than last few years and especially, the production of mustard is likely to be to the tune of 75 lac tonnes. The Government has fixed the support price for mustard at Rs. 1700 per quintal at the time of its sowing but the farmers are not getting the support price fixed by the Government now. The farmers are forced to sell it at the rate of Rs. 1300-1400 per quintal.

Sir, the Government had taken the responsibility of

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

purchasing mustard from farmers through NAFED. But, the number of purchase centres established by NAFED throughout the country are far less in number compared to the production of mustard. The same has forced the farmers to distress-selling of mustard.

Sir, I request the Government through you that mustard purchase centres should be set-up in good numbers in the prominent areas of mustard production in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, etc. to save farmers from distress—selling of their produce.

Sir, I request you to protect our rights and through you to the Government to open mustard purchase centres in the states known for mustard production without any further delay so that the farmers are not forced to sell their produce at lower rates.

12.08 hrs.

REPORTED ISSUE OF NOTICES BY THE MHOW CANTONMENT BOARD ORDERING EVICTION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a cantonment area in my constituency Mhow and it is different from other areas. Erstwhile Holkar State had allotted land for cantonment area in 1924 and habitation also started alongside. Now this area is facing acute problems. The Defence Estate Officer of the area has issued eviction notices to nearly 1000 people. These notices have been issued under Public Premises Eviction Unauthorised Occupants Act, 1971. This had resulted in unrest in entire Mhow city. The Government has reserved a few bungalows. It is always true that some portion of land is occupied by the cantonment. Cases are pending in respect of bungalows kept reserved and there is stay on them. Now the notices sent by the Defence Estate Officer have created a problem in the whole cantonment area. Construction of new buildings is not allowed in the habitation. Even renovations and repairs are also not allowed in the existing houses. The houses, which are around 1000 in number, are not built in a year or so. It must have taken 20-25 years. Therefore, I request for extending the civil area so that civilians living in cantonment area do not face any difficulty. This problem is faced in all cantonment areas but since all this is happening in my area, the problem is all the more prominent. The first and foremost point is to increase the civil area; the second is regarding regularisation of illegal constructions, either by some

compounding or otherwise and; the third one is regarding constituting municipal corporations. I request the Hon'ble Minister to reply to it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can everybody be permitted to speak at the same time? Please, have patience for half-a-minute.

[English]

Okay, you have made your position clear. Please sit down. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE) : Sir, eviction has been stayed; and there is no eviction.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, eviction has been stayed.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Issuance of notices is there. We are examining the matter....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not permit anybody speaking without my permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody's speech, howsoever high and mighty he may be, will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow you. You have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunathji, nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue in the Zero Hour. The work on national highway No. 2 between Makkhanpur (Tundala) and Etawah by-pass was scheduled to be completed by the year 2004....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak. It is very unfair to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this work has been suspended for the last two years. The work on national highway No. 2 is progressing at a fast pace but China and Company working between Makkhanpur (Tundala) and Etawah by-pass and Bhagirathi and Company working on Etawah by-pass have stopped their job. I had apprised of this situation to the Surface Transport Minister, Government of India in the Zero Hour and under Rule 377 during 13th Lok Sabha, but all in vain....(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I request the government through you to get this job done expeditiously through some other company and stringent action may be taken against the defaulting companies so that people can be saved from the difficulties and accidents owing to bad road conditions....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Shakya's speech is going on record. Why are you wasting your time?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no reference to the Cabinet Minister. Why are you saying this? Matters cannot be raised like this. This is a matter concerning judiciary. Hon. Supreme Court judges will take a decision. I cannot say anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to speak, Shri Modi?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Hon. Prime Minister is not responding, we are staging a walk-out.

12.12 hrs.

At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Modi, you please speak.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would walk-out after my speech...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given an opportunity to Shri Modi to speak. He wanted to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than ten days have passed since President rule in Bihar was imposed but no advisors have been appointed so far...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing, except Shri Sushil Modi's statement, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : As a result of this law and order situation had worsened and all developmental work has come to stand still. There is no advisor in Bihar. I won't

*Not recorded.

name them, it is a struggle of supremacy between two Union Ministers....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, that will not go on record.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : I am not taking the name...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are mentioning about the advisors. It is all right.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a result of internal bickering among the constituents of UPA.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This does not figure in your notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised an important issue and I have allowed you to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me please complete...(Interruptions) So far, there have been efforts to appoint Advisors of choice. The people who were in power there for last 15 years....(Interruptions)

[English]

They again want to rule Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let me speak, I want to complete my point...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot go on speaking without any limit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand for...(Interruptions). Law and Order is the biggest issue in Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If there is anything unparliamentary, I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Sir, I demand... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let me speak or I stage a walk out.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak,

[English]

I have given you time and you are again showing your red eyes. This has become a habit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people engaged in proxy-ruling since last 15 years wish to get their men of choice appointed as Advisors. Therefore, I request you that Advisors may be appointed immediately and without succumbing to pressure from any side. Favourite people should not be appointed as Advisors.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have another submission....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time for a speech now, what are you talking about.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Please, let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already spoken for five minutes. You continue to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not the speaker. I have not asked for your help. I will not allow these super-speakers.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Article 195 of the Constitution was suspended with the imposition of President rule in Bihar....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate. I am sorry to say that you are misusing my indulgence.

Shri Sarbananda Sonwal—Not present.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : With the imposition of President rule in Bihar, Article 195 of the Constitution was suspended. As a result of suspension of Article 195 the MLAs who have won the election....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : For how long will you speak?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please don't interrupt me, please let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER : What interruption, how long will you speak?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now time has come to name some of you. Would you sit down or not? I will have to ask you to remove yourself from the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Article 195 of the Constitution has been suspended as a result the legislators who have won are being denied all the amenities...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Even senior Members are behaving in this irresponsible manner.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : I would like to urge through you, Sir, that the Union Government should reconsider it and the Article 195 which has been suspended in Bihar should be revived...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I am not allowed to speak, I would stage walk out...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is on the record whether I allowed you to speak or not. Would you make a speech in the Zero Hour? Please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Am I making a speech? I am here to request you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are disturbing me, won't you protect me? I have only to say...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are misusing the authority given to you. I can only say this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please stop them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would go through the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Sir, Article 195 was not suspended during the President Rule in U.P. but it has been done in the case of Bihar. As a result the Legislators there are not getting their salary and are unable to discharge their

legislative duties. Therefore, I request through you...(Interruptions) These people are making noise because...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. For how long will you speak?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : These people are making noise because yesterday the Supreme Court said... *... That is why they are so noisy today in anger...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Sunil Khan to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Therefore, I request through you that...(Interruptions) I walk out from the House...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

Shri Sushil Kumar Modi then left the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Mr. Sunil Khan's speech would be on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : This is highly regrettable that in my constituency Durgapur, recruitment of SC and ST candidates pending in Durgapur Steel Plant since 1993 have not been made...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ansari, you are crossing your limit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Recently, 'SAIL' has issued a

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

circular that the candidates belonging to SC and ST categories will have to appear in examination in Mumbai. But, when their cases are pending how would they go to Mumbai? They can only...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House has become almost like a bazaar. I am not going to permit this. What is happening in the House? This is not the place for gossiping. Mr. Athawale, I am giving you final warning and do not take it lightly. Otherwise, I will have to ask you to go out.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : If you give him a warning like this he would not recite his poetry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So many hon. Members have given notices on important matters and I am going on-by-one. But you are showing your red eyes to the Chair. You are doing whatever you like and then you are saying that you are not given opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : The 'SAIL' has issued a circular that for the SC and ST posts lying vacant since 1993 in Durgapur Steel Plant, the examination would be held in Mumbai. But the Alloy Steels, which also falls under the 'SAIL', has appointed 15 members this month. When it is so, why the GOT/SIT members of Durgapur Steel Plant will have to go to Mumbai—this is so regrettable. The Minister concerned also belong to SC category, still the problem persists. I appeal that the SC/ST people of Durgapur may be absorbed in Durgapur itself.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also given a notice yesterday...(Interruptions) My notice is on a very important issue...(Interruptions). I have been sitting here since morning yet not been given a chance to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You go on speaking and let me see whether this House belongs to you alone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called a Member from your party to speak and you are interrupting.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) : Sir, the farmers are not getting benefits of the Crop Insurance Scheme as there are many anomalies in it...(Interruptions) The farmer invests money to get his crop insured but does not insurance-benefits when his crop is damaged. The Kharif crop in Madhya Pradesh has been totally destroyed by the pests and Rabi crop due to hailstorm...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice on the unemployment problem in Poonch District. Our demand is to open a railway reservation counter there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharma, would you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Would you take your seat or not?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also an elected member...(Interruptions) I also want to raise the issues of my constituency but you are not giving me an opportunity. I am walking out in protest.

12.21 hrs.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma then left the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Everyday I have given opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers facing crop damage due to natural calamities do not get proper benefit of the crop-insurance facility as the damage-assessment is done at the Tehsil level.

In co-ordination with the Centre, the State Government announced the Crop insurance in Madhya Pradesh from the

Kharif year 2003-04 in order allot the Patwari area number as unit of crop insurance Scheme. But the General Insurance Corporation is not ready to follow it as they say no order from Government of India has reached them in this context. The farmers are facing a lot of problems because of this. They do not get any benefit of the compensation scheme as the assessment of the natural calamity is done at the tehsil level. A sense of anger is prevailing among them. I request you to get the unit Patwari Area Number system implemented.

SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the House through you that no attention is being paid to the NGO volunteers sitting on hunger-strike since 7th March in Maharashtra. They had opened ashram-schools at the advertised call of Social Justice and Empowerment Development, but they have not received any assistance for the last four years. As many as ten thousand SC Students are getting education in these schools. Their future is dark in a way. About 1500 employees are also working there.

I request you to please provide funds to these ashram-schools alongwith their dues. It is necessary to help these children continue their education otherwise these ten thousand SC students would become helpless and distraught and their trust with education shall end. The Government claims the literacy rate to be higher there but this is not true. There is low literacy as the people of Scheduled Castes are not so literate. The Central Government should provide financial assistance to educate such children.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and National Highways, who is fortunately present now in the House, to an important issue. The construction of four-lane national highway is underway all over the country. A stretch of 55 kilometre of the proposed construction of national highway is to run through my district and the work for that is going on. There are about 50 crossings—that include railway stations, very densely populated bazars and localities—along this stretch of 55 kilometres of national highway in my district, but not a single over-bridge or underground subway has been constructed along this stretch.

Sir, I wrote about this to the hon. Minister of the previous Government Shri Khanduri and I also have written to the present Minister that in the absence of such over-bridges

and underground subways in this stretch a lot of accidents are taking place and also a lot of inconvenience is being caused to the public. At least 20 to 30 over-bridges and underground subways are required to be constructed along this stretch of 55 kilometres to avert accidents and ease out the inconveniences caused to the local people, but so far not a single has been constructed. I demand that the hon. Minister should take a note of this matter and do the needful thereby saving the people of our district from such inconveniences.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mahanadi Coal Company, a subsidiary of Coal India has issued a tender a month back in which it has been mentioned that three new mines would be made functional in Orissa. Three mines, namely, Kadiha, Bhuvaneshwari and Kulda having production capacity of 23 Million tonnes would be privatised for the first time. In Indian economy coal sector falls in central sector. This has not been privatised. This company undertakes all the work as a private company for mining purposes. UPA Government talks of giving employment to common man. All the machines and manpower would come from outside in these mines. Five thousand people would be displaced. They will have to loose their homes.

Through you, I would like to request the Government of India that those displaced people should be provided job. For the first time, coal India is going to outsource manpower in these mines keeping aside the interests of 5000 families and rehabilitation policy of Government of Orissa. This would be harmful. When we met with officers of the State Government and officers of coal field in this regard then they said that they were following the directions of P.M. office. Through you, I would like to request the Government that the Prime Minister should reply himself because the action which is going on is anti people and anti-Orissa. The displaced people were living at their ancestors land. They are going to suffer a lot. It is an important matter. Through you, I would like to place this matter before the Government.

[English]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi) : Sir, I just want to raise a very important issue regarding Delhi.

As you know, in the coming summer season, Delhi would be facing a lot of problem in getting drinking water.

In the year 1988, the Tehri Hydro Dam Project was approved by the Central Electricity Authority subject to the Government of Uttar Pradesh agreeing to supply 300 cusecs

of water to meet the drinking water needs of Delhi. Subsequently, the Government of Delhi constructed the Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant which shall, upon supply of this raw water coming from the Tehri Dam, be able to provide additional 140 MGD to the people of Delhi, ensuring stability of water supply to 30 lakh additional people.

The Secretary (Irrigation) of the Government of UP had communicated "No Objection" on behalf of his Government to supply this water to Delhi provided Delhi shares the funds for a proportionate value of construction of the Dam. That was subsequently fixed at about 2.18 per cent of the total construction of the Dam. Some payment has already been made and the Delhi Government and the Delhi Jal Board are ready to make the full payment. This commitment of supply of 300 cusecs of water was also agreed upon and therefore, it has become absolute. Subsequently, the Government of Delhi has also set up the Sonia Water Treatment Plant which has already been commissioned. On the special efforts made by the Government of Delhi, recently, the Government of UP very kindly has released 80 cusecs of water as a goodwill gesture for the flushing and cleaning operations of the Sonia Vihar Treatment Plant. This water supply has now been stopped and no water is coming from the Tehri Dam which managed by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation.

Delhi is the capital of the country and also the base for migrants from all over India. It is imperative that water due to Delhi from the Tehri Dam may be ensured at the very earliest and the citizens of Delhi are given their due share of water.

I appeal to the Government to urge the Tehri Hydro Dam Development Corporation to immediately release this water into the Upper Ganga Canal so that Delhi will be able to lift it from Murad Nagar. I appeal through you to the Government to immediately release 300 cusecs of water so that 140 MGD of water comes through. Water was released by the UP Government for cleaning functions and the Delhi Jal Board has already done it. As there has been a gap, the flushing operations will have to be redone now.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi) : Sir, I associate with him.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hemlal Murmu—not present.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma—not present.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, nowadays, gas is the lifeline of the economy. Throughout Eastern India, there is no availability of gas. We are hearing so many assurances

regarding supply of gas to Eastern India, particularly West Bengal. There is a talk among countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh that India will be getting gas from Myanmar. This not matured. The Gas Authority of India has announced a plan to lay a gas pipeline from Jagdishpur to West Bengal and also from Kakinada to West Bengal which will go upto Haldia.

Sir, you know that in our State there is no fertilizer factory. There, only gas-based fertilizer factory is viable at the moment. Nor is there any gas-based power plant in our State. Gas is very necessary to revive the fertilizer factory. Gas is necessary also to set up gas-based power plant. Apart from that, all the chemical industries and the petrochemical industries require gas for their viability.

I request, through you, the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to provide gas to West Bengal at an early date.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, when I raised the same matter the other day, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas said that I was misleading the House....*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will find out. I thank you for pointing it out. That should not have been done.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You think we do not do anything here. I always give chance to Members from every side. I am not refusing it, but if I have given chance to you, they are equally worthy of it.

[English]

Everybody wants to speak at the same time.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the issue of my state, Jammu and Kashmir, with your kind permission. The people of India and Indian Government are fully aware of its condition. Recently, there was rain and snowfalls in the state which led to avalanches. There was a great devastation due to it. The crops and several houses were destroyed. Some people lost their lives at some

*Not recorded.

places besides damages to the cattle-flock. When J & K was facing heavy rains and snowfall, our Prime Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi with others visited the state. The Government also issued instructions to send a team for survey-purposes. Declaration of providing relief to the damage was also made. In my constituency, Doda and Katua districts have been badly affected. I would like to appeal, through you, to the Government that priority be given to this area and arrangements should be made to rebuild those 20,000 houses under I.A.Y. which have been damaged due to the calamity, to provide relief to the poor public. You have given me this opportunity to speak, thank you very much, sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : I gave a notice yesterday also, sir...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to behave young man. I am trying to cooperate with everybody. I am only appealing for cooperation.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Tell me whom I have not called.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are 40 notices. Can I call all the 40 members together? It is very easy to show red eyes to the chair. This is the position of the Chair today. Are you adding to the dignity of the House, young man?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is almost a restriction imposed on filling up various posts under different departments of the Central Government. It is particularly affecting adversely, the personnels of Deptt. of Post. Out of the vacancies falling therein, 67% are being abolished while the rest i.e. 33% posts are to be filled through a screening committee. But these 33% posts are still vacant as no meeting of the said committee took place for the last two years and a situation of nearly a complete ban on filling the vacancies persists. The rural, hilly and tribal areas are the most affected out of this. People are engaged for hours together in queues in order to pay their telephone bills. The department says on this, that they cannot increase their staff-capacity due to restriction on the fresh appointments. I request

the Central Government through you that this policy should be changed. So far, nearly 38,000 posts have been abolished in the Deptt. Of Posts, but the posts under 'A' and 'B' categories are being filled, facing no restriction. Yet, the posts of subordinate staff are being continually abolished.

Actually, The 'workless-busy' employees create all the problem. If the policy is to be really adopted, the higher posts should also be proportionately done away with. The Government need to rethink over this and consider to fill the group 'C' and 'D' posts so that the problem being faced by the people of remote areas, arising out of the non-availability of postal staff, may be solved.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the coal India has sanctioned a quota of two lakh tonne coal to NCFIL two months ago; i.e. before the elections in Jharkhand, in violation of the rules. This supply of coal has been sanctioned at juncture when all the State Electricity Boards are in dire need of coal. But their demands have not been paid heed to and the sanction has been given to such a federation which is housing corruption. I allege that such a federation has been benefited with the supply of coal, where there is a scam involving crores of rupees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No notice has been given. The Minister's name is to be deleted. Do not keep it on record.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Hon. Prime Minister through you to stop the supply of coal to the said federation and issue orders of CBI probe in this matter.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Community Polytechnic Project run by Deptt. of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, which covers about 600 polytechnic colleges of the country, is running successfully in all polytechnic colleges of Madhya Pradesh since 1978-79. This project to promote rural development in the country is very crucial to provide employment-oriented training to the rural unemployed men and women. Laborious and committed employees have completed 25 years of their service associated with this project. But it is regrettable that their burning problems still remain the same. These employees are getting very negligible salary and working very hard to keep their bread-n-butter in tact in these times of dearth. The employees associated with this project have no future as neither they are treated employees of Central Government nor of state Government. They have crossed the age-limit required for any other job and do not enjoy any relaxation of

appointment to any other department. These employees, working under a scheme of Government of India, are paid wages at a rate lesser than that fixed by the District Collector himself! While the Central Government has fixed a new pay-scale for other employees from 1996, these employees are still under the guidelines of 1985 in their honorarium, with no revision thereafter. The Government are not providing them any facilities like insurance, interim relief, PF etc. too. The employees working under this project have crossed the age-limit required for any other job and their future is uncertain.

Therefore the government is requested to help increase the pay of staff of the project and relax their age limit for going on transfer/deputation to other departments.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to draw the kind attention of the Minister of Heavy Industries towards the Cement factories of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh which are sick due to mismanagement which are in the process of privatization. I want to say with protest that the cement factories whether they are in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal or Chhattisgarh which are in good condition should be run by the Government so that thousands of workers may not be rendered unemployed. The Cement factory, located in Naya Goan in my constituency is in good condition and good enough to be run. I request the Government to run this factory.

[English]

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has recommended to the Government of India that the Nyishi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh have to be included in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950....(Interruptions) They to be included in the Scheduled Tribes List. But it was very unfortunate that one of the major tribals in Arunachal Pradesh, known as the Nyishi, has been written as Dafia. It is considered as derogatory in the local dialect. Thereafter, the Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh also passed a resolution unanimously in this regard so that necessary amendment could be made. But till now there has been no action in this regard.

I would like to request the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to bring an immediate amendment to the Constitution for incorporating the necessary change of the word 'Nyishi' into 'Dafia' and for including Puroik and Bangru as sub-tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir,

I would like to draw attention of the Government towards those Pakistani citizens who were given Visas to watch Cricket match but some of them did not return to Pakistan. Sir, 2754 persons had come to India and 2720 persons returned to Pakistan but 34 persons are still not traceable. Sir, many Pakistanis are already living in our country who have connections with terrorism and have indulgence in terrorist activities. I want to know the stand of the Government whether these persons will return to Pakistan or not?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Sir, Crops of the farmers of Jalaun and Jhansi districts in Uttar Pradesh falling in my Lok Sabha constituency have been destroyed by unseasonal rainfall and hailstorm occurring from March, 01 to March, 10 affecting many farmers. Many farmers died and many injured due to this.

Sir, I demand that loan related to crops of the affected farmers should be waived off and collection of revenue be stopped. Compensation to the family of dead and injured farmers should also be given. Rs. Five lac should be given to families of dead farmers and Rs. Two lac to the injured farmers as compensation besides economic assistance.

[English]

DR. K. S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter pertaining to the life and livelihood of poor fishermen along the entire coast of Kerala.

Sir, I come from the coastal State of Kerala which has got 590 kms. of coastline. Out of that, almost 250 kms. are vulnerable to sea erosion during every monsoon. Tsunami is an occasional phenomenon, but sea erosion is a regular monsoon phenomenon in Kerala. During every monsoon, that is, during the months of June, July and August, when the sea is rough, sea erosion occurs in Kerala and due to that, the poor fisher-folk lose all their source of livelihood. I have got a reply from the hon. Minister of Water Resources that Kerala's loss of coastal land is 57.3 hectares during the last three years. This occurs because of the unprotected coastline and thousands of families lost their households.

Sir, we are spending crores of rupees for the protection of land frontiers, but we are not providing adequate attention to the coastline of the entire country. In this context, I would like to quote late Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda :

"If an enemy captured any part of India, the expenses will not be a bar to recapture that land."

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Sir, sea erosion must be treated similarly and the land captured by the sea must be recaptured and further loss must be prevented. But adequate importance is not given to the coastal land. To prevent sea erosion, construction of sea wall and reformation of the already constructed sea wall is a must. Though this matter comes under the purview of the State Government, the State Governments are not in a position to spend huge amount of money for the construction of sea walls. So, adequate funds must be provided from the Central Government to construct sea wall in the vulnerable areas of the seacoast of Kerala which is approximately 250 kms.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. You have made your point. It should be recaptured and there should be anti-soil erosion measures.

DR. K. S. MANOJ : Yes, as well as further loss will be prevented.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chhattisgarh is a new state. The Central Government allots Kerosene oil under public distribution system to Chhattisgarh state and the allotted national average per person is 0.96 litre. Since there is Bhartiya Janta Party government in the state therefore, less kerosene oil less than the prescribed quota is being allotted to the state by UPA Government under public distribution system. I would like to request that step motherly treatment should not be done with the State Governments in allotment of rice and kerosene oil to the poor. The step motherly treatment will lead to public anger and UPA Government will be blamed for that. The Government should ensure that every state gets rice at the rate of Rs. Two rupees per kg. meant for the poor and wheat and kerosene oil in sufficient quantity in proportion to their population.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Haribhau Rathod—absent.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshairpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well known that Punjab has been a victim of terrorism for 10 to 12 years. The peace has been established there with a great difficulty. Around 90 Bangladeshis have been arrested in Punjab some days ago. They were Bangladeshis was confirmed by investigation. They wanted to go to Bangladesh via Punjab. If this is true then it can be guessed how many loopholes are there in internal security. This is very clear. The Government should take steps to ensure that such incidents do not happen again and Bangladeshis do not get settled in Punjab.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, render my apology to you. You did not understand my point and I registered protest in haste. I apologize for this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please raise your issue.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA : My constituency consists of Hilly and Border areas. I am grateful to the UPA Government and Minister of Railways that they have announced in rail Budget the concession in rail fair to educated unemployed youths for going to appear in interview at places of other state. The population of Poonchh district is 3 lacs and the district stretches over 300 kilometres. Youths from their village will come to Poonchh district and catch the bus to go to Jammu railway station situated at 300 km from there and get their tickets booked and then will go to appear in the examination at the place situated in other part of the country. I earnestly request the Government and Hon'ble Minister of Railways to open a computerized Reservation counter at Head quarter, Poonchh district so that people and educated youths of the area do not face problems, do not incur more and avoid difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER : Sharma ji, you know the time consumed by us in discussing the Rail Budget. You had to raise this issue during the discussion on Rail budget but its all right. A little patience pays.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. You were not here when first time I called your name. This should not be treated as a precedent and not to be renewed in future.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this special opportunity.

Sir, as you are well aware Doordarshan's commissioned programmes were originally mooted as a part of the Prime Minister's special software package for the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir only. In doing so, the idea was to focus on these two regions of the country afflicted by myriad contemporary challenges and crisis, in the right perspective. The subjects for commissioned programmes were also accordingly chosen with the view to highlight the crisis-ridden societies of North-East and Jammu and Kashmir in the right perspective by competent local producers familiar with local nuances and challenges confronting the societies.

It may be noted here that the special software package in the form of commissioned programmes have been a fillip to the television industries of the North-East, particularly Assam and Manipur which already had established film industries. This has also resulted in the rise of trained and efficient technicians in the field of television production in the region. And in the absence of alternative production means, unlike the rest of the country, the local TV industry of the North-East is solely dependent on commissioned programmes for sustenance.

While the previous Prasar Bharati Notifications were specific on the commissioned programmes which were meant for the region only, the current Notification does not have any mention of the term North-East at all. Instead, the authorities have opened up commissioned programmes meant for PPC (North-East) to producers from outside the North-East. Such a move is grossly violative of the true purpose and spirits of the special software package which is a part of development initiative of the quaint region. The opening up of the commissioned programmes has resulted in large scale influx of outside North-East producers and big production houses of the country whose priorities and interests are far removed from development of the crisis afflicted region. Besides, such manipulation of the policy has occurred despite the availability of highly competent professional in the region capable of good quality productions, and who are also committed to North-East.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the occasion to read. Please conclude. You have made your point.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, I want to highlight this particular point because this particular programme was only meant for the North-East producers. Now, they are going to accommodate the producers from outside. Just to honour the sentiment of the North-East people, the Prasar Bharati should strictly allow the North-East producers to make movie and television programmes on the dialects of North-East and not in Hindi. I am not anti-Hindi. But just to encourage the local languages and local dialects, they should encourage, particularly the local languages and dialects. This has to be inducted into the programme. For your information, Sir, more than hundreds of producers are staging a hunger strike in protest against this particular move of the Prasar Bharati. So, this should be given special consideration. Thank you.

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House that presently 37.1 per cent of the people of Kerala is enjoying the benefits of BPL. Now,

as per the latest National Sample Survey estimates, the rural poverty in Kerala is only 9.38 per cent. The NSS survey is based on a very small sample and the details are not very transparent. The Ministry of Rural Development has instructed that the total percentage of the BPL population arrived at after the household survey, should not exceed the NSS figure by more than 10 per cent. This is unscientific, arbitrary and cruel. This will result in nearly 50 per cent of the BPL families losing their benefits. This would even cause unrest. I urge upon the Government to rectify this anomaly so that the eligible poor people continue to get the benefits under the BPL. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Francis George.

Do not refer to any State matters please.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, this is a matter pertaining to various States.

MR. SPEAKER : You raise it.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the recent spate of attacks on the Christian minority communities in this country. There have been attacks in Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and in various other States.

Sir, in Kerala, the sisters belonging to the Missionaries of Charity at Olavanna in Kozhikode were very brutally attacked. Sir in Alleppy, in a place called Budhanoor, the students belonging to the Believers' Church Group, while they were going to visit the workers in a local quarry, were very brutally attacked. They were taken to the local RSS *karyalaya* and severely beaten up.

There have been attacks at several other places also. There has been an attack on Christians at Amaravati. Pastor Narayanan has been murdered in Mysore. Pastor Gilbert has been killed in Orissa. There have been forced conversions. An entire village of Christians has been forcibly converted in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. There have been murderous attacks in Kota....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned Maharashtra....*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : He is entitled to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, this is most unfortunate. This is a democratic country....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Christian missionaries are resorting to conversion....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : It is a democratic right. This is a democracy. Every Indian has got his own right to follow his own faith.

MR. SPEAKER : He is an hon. Member of this House. He has got a right to speak if it is not unparliamentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has mentioned the names of many States.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Anybody attacking the faith of others should be squarely suppressed. I request the Union Government to direct all the States to take adequate protective measures to protect the minorities in this country.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country 'Rashtra Sant' Tukoji Maharaj was a great man. He awakened country's conscience by way of his bhajan-recitation going door to door during the days of Non-Independence. He united people against the Britishers. Rashtra-Saint Tukoji Maharaj was a vital force behind the revolution in Maharashtra as he awakened the masses for this. Even after Independence, he gave ideas for rural development too. He was the inspiratory force for the people to join the Non-Cooperation Movement. While Lord Krishna gave us 'Srimad Bhagvad Gita', Tukoji Maharaj wrote 'Gram Gita' about the villages. He made the country proud of its villages by this book and functioned as an inspiration for the youth. 'Gram Gita' is in Marathi language. The Government should consider to get this book translated in Hindi and other languages of the country. I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to include this book in the academic syllabi so that the philosophy of Rashtra-Saint Tukoji Maharaj may reach every village and household.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself to this subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is the way to do it. I would allow it. Your name would be recorded.

Next Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi. Mr. Bishnoi, you have not mentioned any particular matter. You just cannot refer to a Ministry. You want to raise something about a university. Please raise a specific subject, otherwise it would be difficult.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHONI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of hon. Minister of HRD, through you. There were two universities in Rajasthan—Bhojpura University and Jainarayan Vyas University, for which the State Government has written to the Union Government to accord them the status of a Central University. This matter is still under consideration. The Union Government has given the status of Central University to the North-Eastern University and Allahabad University so far. Rajasthan is a land of desert whose residents are mostly SCs and OBCs. Their children get very little opportunity to get educated. Rajasthan is the biggest state of the country. Therefore, I would like to request hon. HRD Minister through you that, as recommended by the Rajasthan Government, The Jai Naryana University, Jodhpur, may be accorded the status of a Central University. Thank you.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was an attempt to demolish atleast 8500 slums. Many poor head to cities in order to earn their livelihood. Mumbai is the Economic Capital of the country and people from different areas come here to earn their livelihood. I demand that the Government of India should make a legislation to protect the slums. After Smt. Sonia Gandhi asked the Maharashtra Chief Minister to authorize the slums set up till the year 2000, he authorized the same in the State. But this process has no clear cut out date. Almost every city is crowding up. If people from outside come to Mumbai to build homes for the citizens living there, to work in the Municipal and to contribute to beautify the Mumbai city, they have got a Constitutional Right to have their own home too. This responsibility lies with the Governments to fulfil the needs of the people....*(Interruptions)* Rawleju, you opposed the slums, that is why ruling alliance was displaced from power.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not looking at you. He is looking at me. Shri Athawale, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This is not a question of slums only, but it should be Government's responsibility to protect the poor. The slum-dwellers are also Indian citizens and they also vote. It is now Government's responsibility to protect them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, even you kind self should also look into this matter, you are a great leader of poor people, it's your responsibility also to look for a legislation to protect the people living in slums. Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am happy that 33 hon. Member have got opportunity to make submissions today.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take Item No. 11—Matters Under Rule 377. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy—not present, Shri S.K. Kharventhan—not present.

- (I) **Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Gujarat for constructing jetties in the coastal areas**

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 250-300 km. coastal area lies in between the districts of Porbandar, Junagarh and Bhavnagar in Gujarat. About 3 to 4 lakh families living in this area are mainly fishermen who operate from Porbandar coast, Veraval coast and Mangraul coast. These fishermen have with them about 20 thousands boats while the said three coasts have the total capacity of harbouring only 16 to 18 thousand boats. Besides, the sub-coastal area of Heerakot,

Sutrapara and Dhamlej have not been provided with any jetties. It restricts the fishermen from going into the sea along with their boats for fishing and coming back riding in their boats. That's a cumbersome business for them and creates a lot of damage to their boats.

With this view, the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to construct jetties at Heerakot, Sutrapara and Dhamalej sub-coasts in this coastal area. As per the information I hold, the survey for this purpose has been completed with a positive signal. But the Government of India has taken no action on the proposal sent by the State Government.

I request the Central Government to please take suitable and immediate action on the proposal of Gujarat Government regarding constructing jetties in the coastal area.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri A. Venkatesh Naik—not present.

Shri Harishchandra Chavan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Speaker Sahab says that your speech would not be recorded until you speak from your seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your speech would not be recorded so long as you do not speak from your seat.

[English]

- (II) **Need to take suitable steps to check deforestation in Malegaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Malegaon) : Forest are being destroyed by cutting thousands of trees and illegally occupying forest land in many districts of my Parliamentary Constituency Malegaon (Maharashtra).

Therefore, I request the Minister of Environment and Forests through you that all the necessary action should be taken to save the forests of my constituency.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Punnulal Mohale—not present.

Shri C. H. Vijayashankar

(iii) Need to review the Implementation of National Afforestation Programme with a view to making it effective

SHRI C. H. VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore) : The Government is spending millions of rupees under the National Afforestation Programme (Social Forestry). I am worried about the outcome of NAP. I have noticed personally that in Karnataka the species planted under the scheme are mainly Acacia and Eucalyptus. These species are neither useful for the mankind nor to the environment.

This social forestry, planting road-side trees, is not a new concept. During the regime of the great emperor Ashoka this concept was effectively implemented so as to provide shelter, food to the commuter, stop the erosion of soil, improve the underground water-table and the fertility of the soil by the complete usage of these plants. That is how our ancestors used to plant tamarind, neem, pepal, mango, jamoon, banyan, which were fruit-bearing, shelter provider, and were useful with medicinal values.

It is paining to note that the implementing agencies are planting Eucalyptus and Acacia against the very basic principles of natural forestry and against the wishes of the general public, which is harmful and a dangerous development, though there is specific instruction under the policy not to take such plants, particularly to malenad, and semi-malenad areas.

I, therefore, urge the Government to review the NAP and issue a strong directive stopping the planting of these unwanted and dangerous species.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I would like to mention that only the matter that you have given in the hon. Speaker's office, and has been approved by the hon. Speaker will go in the records.

(iv) Need to introduce pantry car facility in Vikramshila Express train running between Bhagalpur and New Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the passengers travelling by Vikramshila Express from Bhagalpur to New Delhi have to face inconvenience due to non availability of Pantry Car. This train starts at 11.00 a.m. from Bhagalpur and reaches at New Delhi in the morning, next day. In this long journey, the train has numbered stoppages.

Therefore, arrangement for Pantry Car should be made.

(v) Need to provide additional funds to the Government of Kerala for undertaking rehabilitation work in the Tsunami affected areas of the State

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, Tsunami tidal waves that hit coastal India, Andaman and Nicobar and particularly Kerala's coastal line on 26th December, 2004 engulfed long stretches of the State's 560 kilometres long coastal line.

The State lost about 200 precious lives in this killer Tsunami and about 200 persons suffered injuries. It also destroyed the life supporting physical infrastructure, like protective sea-wall, houses, drinking water supply systems, power installations etc. It affected a population of 4.5 lakh and they had to cope with the tragedy and damages that were unleashed by the killer waves. Two Panchayats, namely, Alappad and Arattupuzha, have completely been devastated. Houses have been razed to the ground; cattle perished; fishing boats, nets and fishing equipment were washed away; landing centres were flattered, and fishing harbours were silted up. About 7,000 houses were fully destroyed and 11,165 houses were substantially damaged.

The total requirement of the State comes to about Rs. 1,400 crore. Many of the coastal panchayats were severely affected. Though the Central Government has given immediate assistance, the total loss to the State is beyond our estimation. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to give additional funds for rehabilitation, construction of damaged roads and bridges, relief to the affected people and construct sea-wall not only in the affected area but also in the coastal area.

(vi) Need to protect the interests of students of universities established under Chhattisgarh State Law, which fulfils the criteria fixed by UGC

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Chhattisgarh State had given permission to open hundreds of Universities in 2002 by enacting law. When an assessment of these Universities was done in the light of yardsticks set by the University Grant Commission, only 27 Universities were found to be fulfilling the norms. Thousands of students were enrolled in these Universities. Students of many Technical Universities got good job in national and foreign companies through campus

recruitment. They were of good repute at national and international level. Hon'ble Supreme Court has quashed the law giving recognition to these Universities due to which future of thousands of brilliant youths became dark and they got disappointed. I make a demand to the Government of India that keeping in mind the future of the students, new arrangement of teaching and awarding degree should be made for the students who were enrolled in the Universities fulfilling the standards prescribed by UGC and Chhattisgarh State University Act and where the standard of teaching was high.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Kripal ji, speak as much as you can. But donot interrupt in mid discussion.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that donot speak much still allegation labelled against me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What I am telling is nothing against you.

(vii) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Bihar for undertaking development work in Patna City

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar State Water Board, Patna had prepared a proposal which is concerned with complete development of Patna under 'Integrated Development Plan' for Patna. This proposal is pending before Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India from November, 2002. This proposal amounts to nearly 1670 Crore rupees and it is to be implemented on external Finance Funding basis with the help of JB9c, Japan. Several meetings of the representatives of Bihar State Water Board, Patna, JB9c, Japan have been held with the officials of Ministry of Urban Development in this regard.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development through this house to give his consent to the proposal of Bihar State Water Board, Patna so that the work may be started and adequate development of Patna may become a reality.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Moh. Tahir—not present.

(viii) Need to Expedite Work on Sethu Samudram Project

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our nation's first dredged navigational route the Sethu Samudram Project which will be the first of its kind to handle high sea vessels to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1500 crore must be completed at the earliest. At a time when National Environmental Engineering Research Institute is reported to have completed its study about the impact of the project, according to experts there are still reports contrary to this. The feasibility of the project has been established even during the British regime and our great National Intergration Poet Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi had sung about this navigation as visionary dream adding to the national wealth. As such the Pollution Control Board of Tamil Nadu is reported to be delaying the issuance of No Objection Certificate to go ahead with this project. Sethu Samudram Project too can be an ever-continuing and employment-generating project like Suex and Panama canals where periodical dredging is an ongoing job to continue with navigation. Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister not to delay any further the Sethu Samudram Project.

(ix) Need to Increase Height of TV Transmission Tower at Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh to 150 metres and Introduce Fulfilled News Department with Uplinking Facilities at the Kendra

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Sir, the transmission tower of the Dibrugarh Doordarshan Kendra was originally meant to be 150 metres tall. Following the objections from Directorate General of Civil Aviation, height of the tower was reduced to 75 metres so that the civilian flight corridor was not obstructed. The DGCA subsequently modified the civilian flight corridor and clearances were received to restore the tower's height to 150 metres. As planned, the restored 150 metres transmission tower was to be equipped with a digital transmitter capable of telecasting six channels simultaneously. Now, after more than three years since the restoration was officially approved, the work has become time-barred and there seems to be no development plans for Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh.

The transmission tower of Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh must be taken up to 150 metres with no more wastage of time. This would enable better reach of programmes transmitted from the TV station to cover the

*Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

entire upper Assam and parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

A fullfledged news department along with uplinking facilities should be introduced at Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, if you have any trouble or difficulty there, then you can come in the front rows.

(x) Need to extend the policy of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the private sector and for admissions to educational institutions

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, the present policy of reservation in public sector undertaking of statutory corporations should continue even after the Government equity in such public sector undertakings or statutory corporations is reduced to below 50 per cent. Policy of reservation should also be extended to the services in the private sector and necessary legislative measures should be taken for this purpose.

A National Judicial Commission should be set up which should also have a representative of SC/ST. The policy of reservation should be introduced in the higher judiciary also for SCs and STs. Similarly, in matters of appointments in various offices like Vice-Chancellors, Chairman and MDs of PSUs/Statutory Corporations, policy of reservation for SCs and STs should be extended.

There should be provision for reservation to the SCs and STs in the matter of admissions in educational institutions like schools, colleges and universities; and professional institutions including super-speciality courses in medicine.

It is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard immediately.

(xi) Need to allocate adequate funds undertaking the work of cleansing river Yamuna at Mathura, U.P.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Sir, Mathura is pilgrimage centre visited by lakhs of people from all over the country and abroad every year. All pilgrims go to Yamuna to have holy bath. Bt the condition of Yamuna river is so precarious that it is highly polluted and dead bodies often float there. People of Mathura and Vrindawan city get drinking water supply from Yamuna river. It is unhygienic and filthy. Moreover, there are no ghats along the Yamuna river in Mathura and Vrindawan as in Haridwar. The lives of people and cattle in Mathura region are in danger.

I urge upon the Government to allocate adequate funds for cleaning the river and constructing ghats along Yamuna river in Mathura and Vrindawan and adequate funds should be allotted for sewer system in Mathura and Vrindawan city.

(xii) Need to declare certain State Highways in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, U.P. as National Highways

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is abundant mineral stock in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun-Garautha (U.P.). Sand and stone is being carried there in trucks for distant places. Potholes measuring 05 feet have come up on roads due to excess carriage of material to the tune of 40-40 tonne where standard capacity is of only 10 to 15 tonne.

Therefore, I demand Central Government that following roads should be included under NHAI so that high revenue may be earned. These roads are Urai to Etawa, Urai to Gopalpura, Urai to Rawatpura, Urai to Hamirpura, Urai to Rath and Urai to Mau Ranipur via Poonch and Garautha.

14.24 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET 2005-2006—GENERAL
DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON
ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2005-2006**

AND

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS 2004-2005 (GENERAL)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will have a Budget discussion. Item Nos. 12, 13 and 14 will be taken up together. We were allotted 12 hours. Time taken so far is four hours and 45 minutes. Time left with us is seven hours and 15 minutes.

I will be the happiest person if the hon. Members give fruitful and constructive suggestions in the debate.

When I adjourned the House yesterday, Shri B. K. Deo was on his legs. Now, I would request him to continue his speech.

Motion moved :

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and

Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005 in respect of following

demands entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 8 to 10, 12 to 16, 18, 20 to 23, 25, to 27, 29 to 32, 34, 36, 40 to 44, 46 to 50, 52 to 58, 60, 61, 63, 65, 68, 70, 71, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86, 88, 90 to 92, 95 to 100, 104 and 105."

Lok Sabha

*List of Supplementary Demands for Grants-Second Batch (General) for 2004-2005 to be
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. & Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha	
1		2	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3,00,000	20,91,00,000
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	1,00,000	...
3	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	1,00,000	...
4	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	1,00,000	
8	Department of Fertilisers	2996,36,00,000	
9	Ministry of Civil Aviation	89,90,00,000	...
10	Department of Coal	1,00,000	
12	Department of Commerce	1,00,000	25,20,00,000
13	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	1,00,000	
14	Department of Posts	10,78,00,000	1,00,000
15	Department of Telecommunications	2082,50,00,000	47,10,00,000
16	Department of Information Technology	1,00,000	
18	Department of Consumer Affairs	38,07,00,000	
20	Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	...
21	Ministry of Defence	959,10,00,000	
22	Defence Pensions	672,00,00,000	
23	Defence Services—Army	1334,41,00,000	
25	Defence Services—Air Force	30,00,00,000	
26	Defence Ordnance Factories	75,45,00,000	
27	Defence Services—Research and Development	66,91,00,000	...
29	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	...	2,82,00,000

1		2	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
30	Ministry of Environment and Forests	2,00,000	
31	Ministry of External Affairs	253,30,00,000	
32	Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	...
34	Payments to Financial Institutions	6,00,000	1,03,00,000
36	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	316,62,00,000	
40	Pensions	213,00,00,000	...
41	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	83,31,00,000	2,96,00,000
42	Department of Revenue	11,94,00,000	
43	Direct Taxes	23,95,00,000	
44	Indirect Taxes	53,47,00,000	
46	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	1,00,000	...
47	Department of Health	3,00,000	...
48	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	3,60,00,000	...
49	Department of Family Welfare	1,00,000	...
50	Department of Heavy Industry	...	1,00,000
52	Ministry of Home Affairs	8,87,00,000	
53	Cabinet	62,45,00,000	...
54	Police	434,80,00,000	6,00,00,000
55	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	135,00,00,000	...
56	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	147,66,00,000	4,00,00,000
57	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	1,00,000	
58	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	167,17,00,000	
60	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	18,52,00,000	...
61	Ministry of Labour and Employment	91,45,00,000	
63	Law and Justice	2,00,000	
65	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	1,00,000	
68	Department of Ocean Development	1,00,00,000	
70	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	1,00,000	...
71	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	...	2,00,00,000
79	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	82,45,00,000	1,00,000

1	2	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
80 Department of Rural Development		48,00,000	...
83 Department of Science and Technology		1,00,000	1,00,000
84 Department of Scientific and Industrial Research		2,00,000	
86 Ministry of Shipping		29,00,00,000	
88 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment		1,00,000	
90 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		64,00,000	...
91 Ministry of Steel		23,67,00,000	1,00,00,000
92 Ministry of Textiles		3,00,000	
95 Andaman and Nicobar Islands		111,66,00,000	...
96 Chandigarh		60,41,00,000	3,95,00,000
97 Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1,00,000	1,81,00,000
98 Daman and Diu		1,00,000	7,66,00,000
99 Lakshadweep		2,09,00,000	35,00,000
100 Department of Urban Development		8,01,00,000	300,01,00,000
104 Ministry of Water Resources		...	6,50,00,000
105 Ministry of Youth Affairs		2,00,000	...
Grand Total		107,00,40,00,000	793,14,00,000

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had just started my speech on the Budget yesterday when I rose to oppose the Budget. If I remember I think I was discussing and debating federal fiscalism.

As you know, we are a federal country. Federal fiscalism exists in the country. During the Twelfth Finance Commission, a Task Force was set up. It went to Canada and Australia. These two countries are supposed to have best Centre-State relationship. The Centre-State relationship is the healthiest and the fiscal relation between the Centre and the States is good. This Commission gave a Report. It said, "The fiscal transfer to States through all channels as a percentage of the Gross Revenue Receipt has increased from an average of 31.4 per cent in the Sixth Finance Commission. It went up to 38.1 per cent in the Seventh Finance Commission; it increased to 40.3 per cent for a period covered by the Ninth Finance Commission before coming down to 35.8 per cent in the Tenth Finance Commission and then again it improved to 37.2 per cent." From this, one can

know how the states depend upon the Central revenues and taxes. I am sorry to state that the hon. Finance Minister during his speech has only mentioned three regions of the country, that is, Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Bihar. Today, the economic indicators show that Bihar is the second poorest State from the bottom line and Orissa is the poorest State in the country with 47.7 per cent people living below the poverty line. I am sorry to say that he has been able to announce any package for Orissa.

Yesterday, the Finance Minister asked the hon. Member Shri Malhotra to go through the Yellow Book on Implementation of Budget Announcements. I will just go through that. Action has been completed in certain cases like water harvesting structure and restoring water bodies. Two pilot schemes on National Project on Repair and Restoration of Water Bodies have been directly linked to agriculture. He has given this. Then watershed scheme is also for the same purpose. It has been seen that in many places this money has not been properly spent. In the AIDB Programme, out of 178 projects, he has been able to

complete only 28 per cent. I do not know how he can achieve the goal of attaining one million hectare in these four years which are left. These projects have to be completed on a time-bound basis. If you go by the history of the Congress Government which ruled for 47 years in the country, it has been seen that they have left the projects incomplete. They have not rehabilitated the people who suffered due to evacuation. So, there was no static or strong programme for rehabilitation. If you go today to Orissa, the people who were repatriated during the time of construction of Hirakud Dam project, they have not been rehabilitated till date. This Dam was inaugurated by Pandit Nehru. You may say that it is a state subject. But the money is sanctioned from the Centre to the AIDB programme and other programmes. But nothing seems to go well. With this type of structure in the country, I hope, the Finance Minister will not be able to achieve his goal which he has announced. It has been seen that the States like Orissa are neglected. There were hunger death in the region known as the 'KBK Region'. During the NDA Government, there was not a single case reported of hunger death or migration. But during the congress regime, there were reports of starvation deaths and the Supreme Court also gave directions.

A Commission was set up and it was established that due to the neglect of the then Government, which was the Congress Government at that time, the starvation deaths had taken place in kalahandi. We, the NDA Government, fought against this problem and we solved it to a great extent. Today, in the Kalahandi district, we have the irrigation potential created for nearly three lakh hectares, which is getting perennial water.

As regards mines, we had opened all the mines including the bauxite mines of the area. Orissa is very rich in mineral resources. But this State has been perpetually neglected in the establishment of steel plants, in the establishment of chromeplants, etc. Big companies had taken mines on lease, but there was no value being added to our produce. They used to either go to Bengal or Bihar or Maharashtra or Orisa for ore. So, in a way, in regards to mines, the people of Orissa were stripped naked.

But today, for the first time, the Government of BJD-BJP Alliance has taken some strong steps in that direction. We are getting one lakh crore of rupees for the State of Orissa to establish 5 steel plants and 3 alumina plants. But I hope the central Government does not create any hindrance for us to put up these plants. I hope, the Central Government would cooperate with us so that the people of Orissa can sustain their livelihood, because that is the only source of income, Orissa State has. Though we have agriculture, it has to be improved.

But it was first the revolutionary steps taken by the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to give the agriculturists a security shield, crop insurance, Kisan Credit Cards. Everybody knows that because of lack of credit today in Andhra Pradesh, farmers are committing suicide there. They have been the victims of moneylenders. So, we want to erase this problem in Orissa. It has gone a long way.

I am happy that your Government is carrying on the programme initiated by the NDA Government. We want to have some fresh look and programmes from this Government. Have you, Mr. Minister, given us any fresh look or any fresh programmes? For example, the NDA Government started a revolution in the rural development sector, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sakshak Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme. These advance steps had been taken by the NDA Government.

Sir, in his very speech, the hon. Finance Minister had stated that there had been a decline in the business confidence, and he had got back the business confidence. But when the UPA Government came, the stock market lost by 60 points. On the first day the UPA Government came, they disbanded the Disinvestment Ministry, and today, they have given a different name to the Disinvestment Ministry to please their Left friends, the Communist Parties by calling it 'restructuring of public industry'. What do you mean by restructuring? Those enterprises, those industries which employ about 30 lakh employees have gone sick. What steps have you taken for a turnaround?

Sir, I would like to say that the Indian economy during the NDA regime recorded an impressive broad-based growth of 8.2 percent in 2003-04 supported by a turnaround in agriculture, which has been the mainstay of the Indian economy. In addition to agriculture, there was a bouncing back from a decline of 5.2 per cent in the previous year 2002-03 to a growth of 9.1 per cent. Similarly, in 2003-04, the industry and service sectors grew at 7 per cent and 8.7 per cent as compared to 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent in 2002-03 respectively. So, all these problems are created by them.

Sir, please do not ring the bell. Yesterday you were ringing the bell much that I was not able to concentrate on my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yesterday, you have spoken for six minutes. Today, you have started at 1424 hours. Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, let me now say something about the taxation proposals.

Therefore, I would like to say here that during the NDA regime, the business confidence came back. Now, there has been a retard. I am seeing it in the stock market. They have registered a very high sensex; there is no doubt about it. But whatb steps have been taken to restructure the public sector enterprises which are sick? Steel made a turn around; up to 2001, the steel industry was completely sick and many plants were closed. It was during our time in the NDA Government that it made a turn around, which is clearly evident from the mid-term review. In the mid-term review, it is stated that Indian steel industry, after recession until 2001, had been showing definite signs of revival with strong performance on construction and manufacturing sectors. Finished steel production registered a growth of 7.1 per cent.

Therefore, we were trying to restructure the destabilised and destroyed economy which was created by the Congress, and it took us six years to restructure it. If we had been voted back to power, things would have been different....(Interruptions) But today, the Left Front is maintaining double standards. They are maintaining double standards for supporting the Government. They are saying something in the Parliament; they are telling something else to Press; when they go to Bengal, they say something else and when they go to Kerala, they say something different. So, they are maintaining double standards...(Interruptions) What is our fault?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. There is no need for running commentary. It will not form part of the record. Nothing is to be recorded except the speech of Shri Deo.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the Left Front is maintaining double standards, which has to be defeated.

Here is the report of the mid-term review. Does the left Front approve of the enhancement of FDI ceiling in civil aviation from 40 per cent to 49 per cent? Here, the status of implementation is given as 'it is already implemented'. Does the Left Front have the will to support this stand? So, it is a complete *pradarshan* of double standards by the Left, just to cling on to power, Somehow or the other. If they want, go to the people again and face them. Tell them to give a full mandate; ask them why did they give a fractured mandate.

*Not recorded.

The people of Orissa have responded well and the BJP-BJD partners swept the polls in Orissa...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Did I ask anybody to speak?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already said what you had to.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, I am talking about the interest of the poor. Please let me speak since it is concerned with common people and the poor. This report has been published in Times of India.

[English]

It is official. Half of the poor people are still suffering. The last Government in 2003-04, gave *antyodaya* and various other schemes for the poor people to get benefit from them. But I am sorry to state that the States which have misappropriated them are Bihar, ruled by the UPA partner, RJD, Punjab being ruled by the Congress, Haryana, which was ruled by INLD, which is neither with the NDA nor with the UPA, and Uttar Pradesh, which is ruled by SP, is supporting the Government from outside....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Scindiaji, you have already spoken. Now let others speak.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, it is a matter of regret that the Targeted PDS has been failing in this country. In this poor country, 22 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. So, the Government should take strong measures on this. Persons responsible for this act should be penalised to the maximum. It is the poor man's food and it has been snatched away from his hand. It should be completely restored back to him. Those States, which are misappropriating and committing scandalous acts and acts vandalism should be penalised. This is regarding the poor man, *aam aadami*.

I will talk about an other *aam aadami* the Government srevant who puts in nearly 39 years of service for the Government. The hon. Minister has withdrawn the facility of

*Not recorded.

80 L. After retirement, for the Senior citizens having an income of Rs.225.33 lakh, rounded up to Rs.225.30 lakh after availing of standard deduction of Rs.30,000, Section 80 L deduction of Rs.12,000 has been withdrawn. I request the Minister to kindly restore it back so that those people who have put in 39 years of self-less service and served the country should be able to get the pension benefits. Otherwise, it is a big slap on the stomach of these poor people.

[Translation]

You can punish someone but one should not be deprive of one's livelihood.

[English]

It is a kick on the stomach of the poor people. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to kindly restore it.

The Government has been able to fill up the post fallen vacant against the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. If the Government wishes to do it with all seriousness, it can do it. No young blood or the unemployed youth will come to get the benefit of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. I would request the Finance Minister to kindly reconsider it.

Now, I will just speak about Orissa, my constituency. Kalahandi, as you know, is a backward State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot give you more time.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : A lot has to be done. I am sorry to say that the Finance Minister has mentioned nothing about the labour reform. A lot of labour reform have to be undertaken. The Labour Commission has submitted its Report.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now give chance to other members of your party also to express their views. 42 members are yet to take part in this discussion.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : We get very little chance to speak. I have got a chance, so please let me express.

[English]

Kalahandi should not be neglected. The Finance Ministers belongs to South. It is a plantation growing area and includes Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. There are other non-traditional areas. The plantation activities in the North-East, Orissa should be encouraged because we have got conducive agro-climatic zone in the area. Whenever, in

future, the Government takes a decision it should mention about the North-East. The biggest terror in North-East is the Maoist terrorism. The backwardness of the region is responsible for the growth of MCC, and such other naxal groups. It is because of the neglect of the region by the Government such type of activities are taking place. Unemployed youth are not getting the job.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Thank you, Sir, I rise to support the Budget. Many-many congratulations to hon'ble Finance Minister. He has presented a Budget based on social justice and equity. He has raised a hope in millions of people. It is for the first time that any party has announced national common Minimum Programme publicly. It is for the first time that matters raised in his Address to nation by the Hon'ble President of India has been reflected in the Budget also.

[English]

There is a whole chain of what the UPA has promised to the people. It got reflected in the National Minimum Programme and again in the President's Address.

[Translation]

Finally Budget speech and all provisions have been made. It has been for the first time the unemployment and poverty have been attacked through Budget. I am very happy that the thinking as to how to allocate resources keeping employment in center, how to take forward the economy to provide employment to millions of people has been reflected in Budget. Earlier, our friends who were in power used to say that one crore people would be provided with employment every year. When we asked how would you provide employment to one crore people, how would you generate employment, they did not have any answer. Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech has states as to how and in which areas the employment would be generated. Opportunities of employment with the development of textile, agriculture, khadi and village industries, small scale industry would be generated for millions of people. Yesterday, hue and cry was made about tax proposal. I want to draw your attention towards this issue also. I had observed that Corporation Tax was 23.25 % of Total Revenue Receipt in Budget estimate of 2004-05 but this time it has increased 25.87%. In the same way, the percentage share of taxes on income other corporate tax under revenue receipt was 13.39% which would increase to 15.50% Custom Tax in the year 2003-04 was 14.34% which will be 12.44%. Union Excise

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Duty which was 27.45% in 2002-03 will be 28.43% in 2005-06. Service Tax which was 3.73% will be 4.09%. Taxes have not been increased much. I want to draw your attention to Non Tax Revenue. We will get more than 1 Lakh 25 thousand rupees as non-tax Revenue this year. Share of economy activity is Rs. 80 crore and dividend Revenue receipt would come within this. I want to say that whosoever has collected the money.

[English]

It is because of the Government policies and programmes.

[Translation]

The wealth has increased due to thinking of government. The middle class has emerged due to the policies of the government. Now when the time has come to bring the poor forward with the help of tax then this kind of atmosphere is emerging that nobody wants to pay tax. Everybody wants service but nobody wants to pay tax for the betterment of the poor. Eleven thousand crore rupees are needed for the development. From where this money would come?

How the money received from other sources would be invested for the welfare of the poor? Small schemes are being talked about. There was a serious mention of the Sixth Pay Commission here. The finances of Central and State Governments got disrupted in implementing the Fifth Pay Commission. Our interest payment in 2001-02 increased to 29.66 percent. We have reduced it, I congratulate the Finance Minister for the same. He has reduced it to 26.04 percent in 2005-06 which is not a mean achievement.

[English]

It is because they went on borrowing.

[Translation]

The interest payment has increased by Rs. 10 thousand crore per year. This interest payment this year has gone up to the level of Rs. one lakh 33 thousand 945 crores. I am focussing so much on interest payment as there was a fiscal indiscipline. Money was borrowed and interest paid upon it and a very meagre amount was allocated to the poor from it. This was the situation. I request the Government and the Finance Minister to start such a large scale campaign that [English] we have have to tell the people of this country

that if they want development of this country, then they have to pay tax. There is no other alternative.

[Translation]

Income gap was built in the country due to their policies. More than two classes were formed in the society due to finance allocations. The income of one class increased in thousand while of the other it got a raise in lacs and crores. There is another class which does not have cash income of even rupees five. This is the situation. This gap was created due to the priorities fixed by you. I congratulate the Finance Minister to turn the tide.

[English]

It is for the first time that financial resources have been diverted towards the rural areas covering the poor people, the dalits, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities and the people belonging to the other Backward classes.

[Translation]

The money has been allocated for all these classes.

It was stated yesterday that provision has been made for minorities in the Budget. But what has been done for them? They always talk advantage of minorities and nothing else. The population of minorities has figured in Economic Survey. In the minority communities, the number of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis is 13 crore 81 lacs 81 thousand and 240, 2 crore and forty lacs, 1 crore and 92 lacs, 79 lacs and 69 thousand respectively. This break-up has been submitted by them. It is for the first time that a National Finance Development Corporation was set up last year. Rs. 71 crore were allocated for that by the hon'ble Finance Minister last year while some more fund has been made available this year for this purpose which they don't like. But they do not want to show it. They adopt dual policy...(Interruptions) One the one hand, they oppose minorities but on the other hand while discussing in the party they support them so that they can mention it in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mistry, please address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, I am addressing the Chair only. Through you I am telling them. I am replying to the queries that had raised yesterday during the debate.

[Translation]

If you want to express your views regarding budget, you can do so. Yesterday, a mention was made here about 'Dandi March' but I think you have nothing to do with it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing, except the speech of Shri Mistry, would be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : You talk about Gandhiji because you did not get vote in the name of Godse. When the people across the country were taking part in freedom struggle and Dandi March, they were organising Shakhas.

[English]

What have they to do with Gandhi?

[Translation]

They have nothing to do with the poor people as well as Khadi. Have they ever participated in such marches? Have their Ministers been imprisoned?...(Interruptions) I am replying to what had been asked here yesterday. I am not talking much. Yesterday, their members asked some questions. Yesterday, it was asked as to what has been by the Congress during the last fifty years. I would like to submit...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the speech of Mr. Mistry will be recorded and nothing else.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I would like to state as to what has been done by the Congress...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am not Yielding... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

The Congress has provided right to vote to the people of this country during the last fifth years while during their rule, democracy was murdered in Gujarat. The opposition in Gujarat assembly was suspended yesterday for the entire session. Their Chief Minister told the Additional DCP about taping the phones of their MP Shankar Singh Vaghela.

[English]

It is on record.

[Translation]

They are murderers of democracy...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak on the budget.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am coming to the budget.

[Translation]

They themselves had raised this matter yesterday.

[English]

Sir, it is only that they are beginning it. I am only replying to what Mr. Harin Pathak was saying...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I would like to know what they have done during the last fifty years? It is on record that their Chief Minister of Gujarat had told the Additional DCP about the taping of phones of Shri Shankar Singh Vaghela. Today, democracy is being murdered in Gujarat. I would like to draw attention of the Government to their policies. Their another issue is related to the defence services. I want to submit that during their rule the total budget allocation for defence was 14.96 per cent in the year 2001-2002 but thereafter this percentage came down to 12.74 in the year 2003-04.

[English]

It is only that the UPA Government is concerned with the Defence forces of this country and hence the Finance Minister has allocated 16.14 per cent of the total money to it from the Budget.

[Translation]

They have no moral right to raise the issue of nationality,

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

communal harmony and tribals. The allocation for tribals in the tribal plans has been enhanced from Rs. 497 crore to Rs. 700 crore.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From your party, 28 more Members are yet to speak. Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I know it, Sir and I have taken only nine minutes.

[Translation]

This is for the first time that the hon'ble Finance Minister has given a good package to the farmers and allocation for seeds has been increased by Rs. 86 crore in the budget. Rs. 350 crore have been allocated for micro irrigation and Rs. 550 crore for crop insurance. Dairy development, marine fisheries and national horticulture mission have got place in the budget. Budget allocation has been enhanced for NAFED for the purchase of agricultural products. But they did not like that. I would like to throw some light on the priorities of NDA Government.

[English]

They have created two classes in India and thus created regional imbalance among the states with their priorities.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

It is to see that the educated people get jobs but at the same time, it should also be ensured that the crores of poor people also get their due share.

[English]

Proper allocation of financial resources is the key to the development of poor people of this country. It is the motive of this Government, it is the motive of the Prime Minister, and it is the motive of the Finance Minister to see that the poor people of this country get their due share.

[Translation]

I have visited many countries and I have seen the poor people sleeping on the footpath in front of the president's house of rich countries of the World. I have also seen a person picking rotten food from the dustbin and eating it.

[English]

I have seen people begging money from me in developed countries.

[Translation]

Do they want to create a situation that in the developed countries?

I participated in Dandi March and walked for 10 km. I saw the school children shouting Vanda Mataram with enthusiasm. Among them there were children from Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities who were shouting Vande Mataram. I want to ask them that to create hatred in the hearts of these children.....*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That word is deleted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : To create hatred in the hearts of innocent children and rule the country, for that...* I want to submit to you that...(Interruptions)

[English]

Budget allocation is the only instrument through which we can create parity in various sections of the society.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except Mr. Madhusudan Mistry's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Our Finance Minister has made budget allocation for the welfare of the poor people but the opposition Members are provoking the traders to oppose VAT. they have affiliation with traders. They favour traders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me time to speak. I support the budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I support

*Not recorded.

this Budget 2005-06 presented by the hon. Finance Minister in this House. I support this Budget on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme accepted by the UPA Government. I would also support the verdict given by the people in the last Parliament election. The essence of the verdict was to form a secular Government at the Center and not in favour of communal forces again coming to power. The second most important thing, is that the Government should be responsive toward the needs and demands of the common people in India. This Budget, as stated by one of our leaders, is in the direction of meeting the needs of the common people.

The issues that we now face are rural economy, agriculture, drinking water supply, employment situation, and health. I think most of the issues are addressed in this Budget. Since the funds allocated are not sufficient, I have an apprehension whether the Government will be able to achieve what it is trying to achieve. When we go through the details under the different heads, we find that the allocation are really insufficient. Anyway it is a new beginning. We have to start with these limited funds. We have to see as to how we can meet the demands. I say this because last year we were not able to mobilise the estimated revenue to meet the demands. I think there was a deficiency to the tune of Rs. 11,000 crore in our revenue income. So, when we speak of all these things, we have to look at the revenue mobilisation also. Now, the Finance Minister has given a number of tax concessions and the corporate tax has also been reduced.

So, we have to take forcible action in respect of the resource mobilisation when we have to fulfil all these things. The resource mobilisation is contained in the Budget proposals.

With regard to the aim of this Government, I would like to say that not only in the last Budget but also in this year's Budget, the programmes outlined have to be continued. We have to take a consistent stand to fulfil the demands of the people because in the last election, people have given such a verdict to this Government.

The tax reduction mentioned in the Budget is helpful to workers as well as some of the industrial concerns. I welcome the steps taken in respect of the textile industry as also the handloom workers where they may get a number of benefits. I also welcome the measures contained in the Budget to give assistance to tea and coffee sectors. In the last Budget discussion also, I myself had raised the issue. Not only in Kerala but also Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, there are a number of estates which have been

closed down. Though not fully sufficient, the steps taken by the Finance Minister may give some assistance.

The programmes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Drinking Water Scheme, assistance to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are really admirable ones. This may be for the first time in the budget in India the gender-sensitive Budgetary allocation is seen. It aims at the welfare of the women and children. I especially congratulate the Finance Minister for giving such a new idea.

The programme of Bharat Nirman also gets importance. There are many other measures of which the Finance Minister can be proud. At the same time, I have some other observations and some opinions with regard to this Budget.

In the Budget Speech, it has been stated that as far as agriculture is concerned, there should be a diversification. The diversification is in the method of raising crops.

15.07 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

Instead of cultivating paddy, the farmers have to convert to raising other crops. The Finance Minister may be under the assumption that there is some excess food grains in our FCI godowns. There may be excess food stock also. But the reality is that a good section of the people of India is not able to buy food grains because of poor purchasing power. It is not wise to diversify agriculture to other crops. Of course, we should strengthen the other crops whichever is possible and which is suitable to any State or any other place.

It is a welcome step to increase the ICDS in addition to the 1,88,168 centres. At the same time, the honorarium given to the poor helpers and teachers is very low. In reply to a Question, the HRD Minister, stated that the Government is going to think of increasing the honorarium. Anyway, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to do something in this regard. Teachers and helpers are doing their best to fulfil this idea. So, in this Budget itself, there should be an increase in the honorarium given to these people.

Now, I come to *Sarvashiksha Abhiyan*. It is also an intervention in the basic education for the children. There is an increase in the allotment also. So, as far as our experience is concerned, we know that the status of education differs from State to State. Take, for example, Kerala. Kerala has achieved cent per cent literacy. So, there should be a flexibility

[Shri P. Karnuakaran]

in respect of the fund allotted to the *Sarvashiksha Abhiyan*. There should also be scrutiny, monitoring and accountability as far as the Scheme is concerned. For that, our suggestion is to entrust the present Scheme, which the Government has initiated, with the districts, blocks and panchayats. Anyway, we are giving funds to the States. So, the funds should be utilised for the creative purpose.

It is sad to state that as far as Kerala is concerned, the main work force is the traditional workers. About 40 lakh workers are there. Most of them are women workers and they are getting very low wages.

So, the traditional sector is really having a dominant role in the economic stream of Kerala. Coconut cultivation is very dominant in Kerala and that is really facing serious problems. Lack of proper marketing facility in coir is one problem. Then, sufficient working capital is not available for the coir cooperatives. So, the Government should pay special attention towards export promotion.

Cashew is another segment which gives a good amount of foreign exchange not only for the State of Kerala, but for the entire country. But the workers get very low employment. The main issue here is, lack of raw cashewnuts. This problem is not there only in Kerala, but is prevailing in other States also. So, the Government should take necessary steps to help the cashew growers.

Bidi industry is one segment where 99 per cent of the workers are women. They are getting very low wages and also very low employment. I congratulate the Finance Minister because when he imposed some taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, he exempted bidi from that. It is a very good step. But at the same time, bidi cooperatives in Kerala have to compete with private companies. The excise duty on bidi is calculated on the total production of bidi tubs and when 20 lakh bidis are produced, they have to pay excise duty. Then bidi cooperatives have to give proper accounts. They are bound to give it and they are giving it. But at the same time, the private companies are not giving it. As a result, they are not paying the tax. Due to these reasons, the bidi cooperatives have to compete with private companies. So, I would request the Government to levy tax on tobacco instead of on the total production of bidis. I have to make another request to the Finance Minister. I mentioned it in the last Budget debate also. The poor bidi workers have also to contribute to the Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund. If Re. 1 that is levied on them is taken away. It would be a very big grace to the bidi workers.

With regard to textile and handloom, the Finance Minister has given some relief. At the same time, khadi and village industries face a really difficult situation. The Central Government can do one thing. If the Central Government directs all the Central Public undertakings, State Public Undertakings, Government Guest Houses and other Government offices to use the goods produced by khadi and village industries, there is no doubt that we would be able to uplift the khadi and village industries. We have the example of the Railways in front of us where Lalu Ji has successfully introduced it. So, the Government can give such a direction to the Central as well as State Government offices to use the goods produced by khadi and village industries.

Sir, we all witnessed the Tsunami tragedy. As far as Kerala as concerned, lakhs and lakhs of fishermen are staying in the coastal area from one end to the other end of the State. We cannot change their habitation from there because they have to depend on the seashore and the sea for their livelihood. I do not want to go into the details of the Tsunami tragedy. I would request the Central Government to give more fund to the State Government for the construction of sea walls and also to plant special trees—*kandal vanangal*—along the coast to prevent sea erosion. For this, the Central Government has to give some financial assistance to the States.

As far as Kerala is concerned, we have raised the issue of farmers in the last Session also. About two weeks ago, all the MLAs of Kerala were on a *satyagraha* before the Kerala Legislative Assembly building because paddy farmers were not able to sell their produce as they were not getting remunerative price. This is true in the case of pepper farmers also. I have met the hon. Finance Minister regarding the problems faced by arecanut farmers. In my own district, about 300 arecanut farmers have committed suicide because the price of arecanut has declined from Rs. 160 per kg. to Rs. 40 per kg. This is true in the case of paddy also. So, a special package has to be drawn for the farmers. Of course, it is true that the State Government has to take the initiative.

But you see that we also have the responsibility not only with regard to floods or droughts but also with regard to the policy that the Central Government has taken with regard to imports. that is also one of the reasons for the fall in the prices.

In this context, I would like to say something about our import policy. The Indo-Sri Lankan Accord has really affected the farmers in many of the States, especially, farmers of Kerala. That is true in the case of arecanut, pepper and other things. Our exports have increased. It is true that there

is an increase of 25 per cent in exports. But it should not be at the cost of the Domestic industry or at the cost of domestic agriculture. We have to take special care in this regard.

I am very glad to hear the last portion of the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister. The hon. Finance Minister conclude his speech by quoting Saint Tiruvalluvar, "health, wealth, produce, the happiness, that is the result, and security". These five, the learned Saint says, are the ornaments of the polity. I think, I am correct. I am very glad to hear these words and that he has given high priority to health. Really health is the wealth of the nation. But I am sad to note wheather these words would be kept in practice because our hon. Minister of Commerce has come in this House with the third Patent (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The hon. Member can talk to the hon. Minister of Commerce.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : There are very serious criticisms from different walks of life. It is true that we have obligations to the international communtiy since we became the member of WTO. What is more important is whether this Amendment will give any benefit to the comman people or not.

Now, the product will be patented. Earlier the process was patented. It is reported that every medicine that we produce, we would need to pay a crippling fee to the patent holder. This fee will be reflected in the price, pushing the drug out of the poor patient's reach.

We see the alarming news of the HIV-AIDS affected people.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already taken more than 15 minutes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : There are a large number of cases of cancer, TB, malaria, leprosy, heart diseases, etc. Now, we are in a position to get these medicines at a cheaper price, thanks to the Patents Act of 1970. But we are going to change it. In India, though we are the member of the WTO—you see that in 2001 in Doha Declaration it is agreed to implement TRIPS—in a way that would allow member States to protect human, animal and plant lives, health and environment. TRIPS itself gives its members option to adopt measures to protect the public health. We need to press the button. The question before the Government is whether we press the button or not. It is not for you, Madam, to press the button.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I am not pressing the button, but you please conclude now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : So, the Government should take it seriously whether we give the medicine at a cheaper price or not. There are safeguarding provisions in the Doha Declaration itself.

Before I conclude, I wish to say something about the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The recommendation is, to a large extent, against the interest of Kerala. It is true that in health, education, and housing sectors, Kerala has attained tremendous growth. But this singificant progress has become a punishment to the State of Kerala because the Finance Commission's main assumption to backwardness. We are not at fault in having this prestigious position in health and education. It is because of the cooperative societies and also the individuals that we have worked in the fields of educational sector as well as the health sector. There is thick population in Kerala. So also in the judiciary, in the police and in many other places, the ageing population is high in Kerala because we have to spend more.

So, I can give the statistics. Two years back, the share of Kerala was 3.50 per cent. Then, it declined to 3.05 per cent and now it is 2.65 per cent. So, the Government has to take some steps to assist Kerala.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Madam, with regard to the National Sample Survey, as far as the poor people are concerned, at present 37.10 per cent of the people are below the BPL in Kerala. But according to the new survey, it comes to about 9.38 percent. How is it possible? People have got anything more. The survey is not correct. So the State Government has also taken up this issue and submitted its representation on this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, within half-a-minute, you have to conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Because of the hike in excise, especially on medicine, the excise free zone are suffering. Some of them may be closed down. at least 10 lakh employees may be made out of employment. That point also has to be taken into account.

My last point is that I congratulate our Finance Minister because he is going to take a strong action against black-marketing. Now, I do not think the proposal that the Government has made before us, that is, charging 0.1 per cent tax on the deposits that we have made will serve any useful purpose. Though we fully agree with the sincerity and intention, but at the same time we have to take some other steps.

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, you have to conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : I will make only one sentence. Observing and considering the functions of this Government and considering the non-co-operation of the Opposition, the NDA parties, the quotation given by Shakespeare is still valid. "To be or not to be" is the question--to be served with cakes and not to be served with Kicks--The people of India have been getting kicks from our hon. opposition friends. Now, 'to be' is the main question. The UPA Government surely understands this. It should go to the depth of this message and try its maximum to fulfil the ideals.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Madam Chairman, how this budget will affect the common man of the country is a different issue and what is the rating of this budget is a totally separate issue but the language of budget is quite appropriate. The budget for this year i.e. 2005-06 is of 5,14,334.10 crore rupees, which is 8553 crore more than last year. We can say that this year's budget has been increased by 1.79 percent, but in reality inflation rate has increased 5 percent. The Government too have accepted. Keeping this factor in view, the budget funds are more than 3% less than last year's budget.

Madam Chairman, our country is mainly agricultural based country. 65-70 percent people depend on agriculture, but I am sorry to say that agriculture has been continuously ignored in independent India, which gives maximum employment to the country. They talk of removing unemployment, but employment cannot be generated at any cost by ignoring agriculture in the country. The hon'ble Finance Minister has talked about giving 1 lakh 8500 crores rupees more loan to the agriculture sector. Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for giving 18 percent of total loan to agriculture sector. I understand that it has to be looked into provision of only Rs. 6425 crore rupees has been made in the Budget for agriculture sector. I would like that our traditional industries and agriculture should be protected and promoted. Mr. Finance Minister, there is a need to strengthen this sector further. There is need to do more work in the field of research and science in the country. During the decade of 1990s we accepted the challenge to compete with the developed countries. The annual budget of Indian Agriculture Institute is of 120 crore rupees. This Institute conducts research and exploration work with these funds only. This year the Government has increased it by 50

crore rupees. This Institute should be upgraded to international standards. It is very essential to make available the benefits of research work of agriculture being conducted in laboratories to the farmers. I understand that keeping in view the people who are in competition with us, the amount being spent on this research institute is negligible and if farmers are not aware of research works of this institute which are meant for them, then, these research works are of no use.

All hon'ble Members have expressed concern on suicides of farmers. The hon'ble Finance Minister said in his budget speech that the Government will make arrangements for providing more loans to the farmers. The Government had been giving evasive replies in the House regarding suicides of farmers, but Roop Raghuvver Reddy the Minister of State of Agriculture of Andhra Pradesh, the State ruled by Congress had himself admitted that 690 farmers have committed suicide. How much loan we are giving to the farmers is not an important issue. The basic issue is that the farmers have lost his loan repaying capacity as agriculture has become non-profitable business. There has been steep hike in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, electricity, water and other agriculture inputs used by farmers. As a results of it, agriculture has become non-profitable. We have opened our economy for the international market, but we are not in a position to stand in international competition. When the farmers do not get remunerative prices of their produce, then, the most important and basic issue is that unless the agriculture is made profitable, the farmers will not be able to get rid of problems being faced by them. The real and basic question is as to how to make agriculture profitable and how to protect the agriculture? How to make items used by farmers to raise crops cheaper? Unless the attention is paid to these issues, I am sorry to say that the question of farmers' agony and suicide will not get resolved.

They key to development depends on availability of basic amenities. The Planning Commission also admits that road, electricity, petroleum cement, and steel are basic amenities, and the amount provided in the budget for this purpose is not appropriate. In 1990, this amount was 6 percent of Gross Domestic Product. In the year 2000, it was reduced to 5.2 percent. Keeping in view the countries against which we are competing, this amount should be increased. As I have submitted, it was 5.2 percent in the year 2000. In China it is 20 percent of Gross Domestic Product. If we do not spend the amount in proportion to the countries against which we are competing, we would never be able to stand in competition against them. Chidambaram Ji, I would definitely like to say that in last year's budget the Government

imposed 2 percent education cess and Government earned revenue of five thousand crore rupees from that education cess, but only two thousand crore rupees were spent on education. Three thousand crore rupees which should have been spent on education, were deposited in Consolidated Fund. This kind of tendency is not at all justified. This matter has to be looked into.

The National Highway Authority of India proposed to spend 5790 crore rupees during the years 2004-2005, but last year only 2248 crore rupees were spent on development of highways. This time, the hon'ble Finance Minister has proposed 50 Paise cess on diesel and petrol. the amount allocated earlier has not been fully utilized and now the common man is being burdened by imposing 50 paise cess on diesel and petrol.

It has also been mentioned in the budget that if a person withdraws Rs. 10 thousand from bank in a single day, he will have to pay an additional Rs.10 on that. A person withdraws Rs.10 thousand for household expenditures. The Government have been asked a number of times in the House. How much blackmoney is there in the country they have always been giving evasive replies. They have never given clear-cut reply in this regard. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance should make some efforts to unearth the blackmoney of this country. According to the estimate of an International agency blackmoney amounting to 90 billion dollar is lying in U.K. 72 billion dollar in Germany. 175 billion dollar in Japan and 240 billion dollar in India. If this black money comes into circulation it will help to solve the country's problems to a large extent. But under the existing tax system blackmoney cannot be brought out at any cost. Therefore, there is a need for revision in the taxes.

It is a different question as to how far this budget would benefit the poor but the rich have been benefited immediately. Soon after hon'ble Chidambaram ji read the budget speech, Shri Narayan Murti and family, who are running the business of information technology registered a profit of Rs. 90 crores, Shri Nandan Nile Kani, who is in IT business gained a profit of Rs.59 crore, Shri A. Premji got an immediate profit of Rs. 1,441 crore, Shri Kumar Mangalam, who owns Grasim company registered a profit of Rs.54 crore and Shri Sunil Mittal accrued a profit of Rs.451 crore. I would like to say that his budget has benefited the rich immediately then what kind of direction does it provide. This straightaway means that this budget is for the welfare of rich and no way it is in the favour of the poor. What are we doing today? India is a member of the billionaires group and has a special role to play. There India holds Eighth position amongst the 10 biggest billionaires club of the world. What

do we want to do? In this country eleven people die every hour due to starvation, unemployment, and poor conditions. The condition of the whole country can not be assessed only with the status of a person or the membership of a particular club. Therefore the main question is related to the problem of starvation, unemployment poverty, and the farmers problems in the country. Until the budget of the country is based on agriculture and the industries are agriculture oriented the country cannot be transformed at any cost and that is required today.

Small-scale industries is a major sector and this sector is being neglected continuously. The Government have given rebate to the small industries an excise duty, earlier it was Rs.3 crore and now it has been increased to Rs.4 crore. Besides, out of 108 items reserved for production 30 items were related to textiles industry. Now they have been removed textiles sector is the next largest employment generating industry after agriculture. The Government have neglected that textiles sector also. Therefore, I can firmly say that the direction to which this budget is going is not proper by any means. Water conservation was mentioned in the last year's budget speech and it was announced that this system would be strengthened further. But with heavy heart I would like to say that only 16 districts have been identified in the entire country for this purpose and merely Rs. 180 crore have been allotted for this programme. I requested earlier also that 550 cubic meter water goes waste from the Ganga and Brahmaputra Basin, particularly from the Ganga Basin.

Until and unless proper arrangements are made for water conservation in this country, the crisis in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar would not sort out. This requires serious consideration.

Hon'ble Madam, Chairman, iron, cement and all other things are becoming costlier. He talks about Indira Awas Yojana. When the Construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana started the prices of the materials to be used for that increased quite a lot. In today's changing times the prices of these items have become more than double whereas the allocated amount has not increased to that extent. Hon'ble Finance Minister, in which world are you living. He has standards for constructing houses costing Rs. 20 to 25 thousand which include toilet and kitchen. I believe that such houses cannot be constructed with such a meagre amount.

In the end, I would like to ask hon'ble Chidambaram Ji as to what kind of standards he has set for providing special economic package to the various States? I want to know whether unemployment, poverty and people living below

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

poverty line is the only criteria for providing this assistance he is politicising this issue. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav submitted a document to him. Showing comparison in this regard, and met him and hon'ble Prime Minister personally also. We have requested him a number of times that Uttar Pradesh is a vast State and we have our own problem. Our State is facing the problem of poverty and unemployment but he has done nothing about that. We are not against the special economic packages being given to the eastern States; Bihar and Jammu-Kashmir. However we have right to know as to why our rights are being taken away. We have been requesting repeatedly that Uttar Pradesh needs a special protection. But the Government are not willing to do anything in this regard.

Through you, I would like to urge upon hon'ble Minister that once this discussion is over the he give his speech, we would him to give sympathetic consideration to the special economic package demanded by the Government of Uttar Pradesh as we believe that the Government is deliberately neglecting Uttar Pradesh.

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut) : Madam, Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of Finance Minister to the fact that though he has presented the budget with the objective of progress and development of the country but there is no special scheme in this budget for the poor, people of the weaker section, unemployed, farmers, particularly Dalits, minorities and backward classes. Who are in large number in a country and anxiously look forward to the Budget each years. The funds under the various announced schemes have not been declared clearly.

The Congress party has remained in the power for last 40 years and today it is for everybody to see as to what has been provided particularly to the minority community. Some points have been mentioned in this Budget keeping the minority community in mind but it is not clear whether it is for the purpose of giving something to them or just for the announcement sake. I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Finance Minister that in the Budget he has mentioned to bring minorities further into development process. I propose to increase the required equity assistance fund for National Minority development and Finance Corporation but announcement has not been made clearly as to how much funds have been raised and what is being provided.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, the people are not going to be satisfied merely by listening to announcements. The poor people of the country are expecting from you. Minority

Community and Bhai Mistryji are thinking on the same wavelength for Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Education Trust and Minority Development and Finance Commission. I would like to thank him. The previous Government led by NDA had also provided about Rs. 70 crore for this purpose though they did not do such thing openly. It is very unfortunate that he has made an announcement but has not made any mention of a single penny for this.

Moreover, I would like to draw your attention towards this fact that a fixed percentage of new schools to be opened under Literacy for All Campaign would be set up in districts and development blocks with sizeable population of minorities. New anganwadi kendras would be set up in minority dominated development blocks or villages in a fixed proportion under the campaign. He has stated that Rs. 3057 crores were allocated in the budget estimates of 2004-05 for this campaign while the allocations have been increased to Rs. 4754 crores this year. Primary Education Fund has been set up for the private funding of this programme. I propose to increase the allocation to Rs. 7156 crores during the year 2005-2006. He has made a proposal of Rs. 7156 crores for Literacy for All Campaign for this year. Accordingly, a fixed percentage of new schools to be opened under Literacy for All Campaign and Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya Yojana would be set up in districts and development blocks with sizeable population of minorities. The total population of minorities be it sikhs, muslims or buddhists is estimated to be 18.5 percent of total population of the country. I request to allocate Rs. 7100 crores in this budget for them as per their population. The announcements are being made for the last forty years and the break up showing utilisation of funds allocated for the minorities by the department for this campaign or schemes announced should be made available. The country would not be satisfied with mere announcements. People have expectations from the hon. Minister of Finance. The weaker section and the poor have not been offered basic amenities even though 57-58 years have passed since we gained independence. Therefore, it is my request that funds should be allocated under this head as per the population of minorities.

My constituency Meerut is at a distance of 70 km. from Delhi. On my way from Delhi to Meerut, I have noticed many poor people living in hutment deprived of water and roads and their children do not get basic amenities like education. I request him to take some time off and see for himself in Gaziabad which is 15 km. away from Delhi. People who come from abroad take a very wrong impression of our country that lakhs of people are living in slums without basic

facilities like water, electricity and education. The Union Government should at least give a special package for the poor living within the radius of 150 km. around the NCR area so that we can project this area as a model. The Government states that it has provided 100 percent fundamental rights to the poor. Our constitution says that everybody should get equal opportunity of employment but I would like to know from the Government whether equal opportunities of employment are being offered to the poor. Our constitution talks about making equal opportunities of jobs available to everyone but is it being done in the case of the poor and weaker sections?

The hon. Minister has stated just now that Indian agriculture has started on path of diversification to produce other than foodgrains and there is a need to diversify it further. The Ministry of Agriculture would prepare an action plan for diversification in agriculture wherein attention would be focused on the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers, milk, pulses and oilseeds, poultry farming and fisheries. Meat is also exported from our country which fetches lakhs and crores of rupees as foreign exchange, it should also be included in it. Hindu-Muslim and people from the entire cross section of society are associated with this business. A big chunk of poor workers and persons from Muraish community are engaged in it. This business is being run in this country but it has not been provided any help by the Government.

Maulana Azad Education trust provides funds for the education of the poor and promising students. It does not find mention in the budget. Moreover all the other announcements made in the budget lack clarity and have been spelt out in uncertain terms.

Apart from this, I agree with what my hon. colleague was saying about Uttar Pradesh that it is a backward state. A large number of poor people live here. This State should also be provided same opportunities and treated at par with Bihar, Bengal and other States. Sir, They can make whatever announcements they like, I have tried to apprise them of the aspirations of the poor whom I represent here.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Does he want that all our animals should be killed and their meat exported?

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The next speaker is Prof. Mahadeo Rao Shiwanekar—not present.

Dr. Chinta Mohan—Not present.

Shri Ajay Maken.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Madam, Chairman, many Members from my party are waiting to speak.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Karuna Shukla. Shri Ajay Maken, you can speak later.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) : Madam, Chairman, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak. I seek your protection. I rise to oppose the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Madam, I am on a point of information. Usually, the Members are called on the basis of the numerical strength of the party to which a Member belongs.

[Translation]

New convention should not be laid.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : A lady has risen to speak, please let her continue with her speech.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Karuna ji, please address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Madam, Chairman, a wrong convention is being laid by the Chair.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Madam Chairman, I am a new Member of this House and I have been elected to this Houses for the first time. In addition to the discussion on the budget in the House a number of issues have been raised so I need your protection to express my views. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance that during his Budget speech on 8th July, 2004 he had stated that good administrators are those who have a good moral conduct, do not commit an offence and follow the path of courage and honour.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Finance to the fact that in the absence of ideology, conduct can not be observed. What happened to his conduct and morality when a few days ago the entire country witnessed the incidents of Jharkhand and Goa.

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : You are absolutely new, there is no doubt about it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Madam Chairman, I am compelled to make such statement because these comments were made from the other side. When you were not in the Chair, at that time hon. Member made these remarks...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The speech of Shrimati Karuna Shukla will go on record only.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : I have been given an opportunity to speak so please let me continue. His conduct and ideology are not reflecting in the budget. The budget is far removed from reality, he is making castles in the air, that is why he is talking of building a new India. He has used the words "Bharat Nirman" for that concept in the budget. What kind of Bharat he intends to construct. Bharat has already been built on 15th August, 1947 when martyrs sacrificed their lives. Patriots like Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Asfaq-ul-lah Khan before hanging uttered these words :

'Dil fida karte hain, Kurban jigar karte hain
pas jo kucch tha, woh maan ki nazar karte hain,
Sookh jaya na kahin pandha azadi ka,
Khoon se apne isliye ise tar karte hain'.

Thus Bharat has already been constructed. The Government have not built that India. They remained in power for 52 years. They are going to build a family, which is the main part of the Budget and this is the Ideology of their budget. The people who built India sacrificed their lives. They are building a family. This is what I want to tell to the House.

I will not take much time of the House and will not beat about the bush. As far as the NDA Government is concerned, they have been in power for six years. During which the erstwhile Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji tried to give a direction to the country and determined a direction for the country. In the last 50 years these people have done nothing in the name of poverty, starvation, unemployment and misery of the country. Even today they

talk of alleviating poverty, being with the poor. I would like to ask hon. Minister of Finance whether he has ever thought of the poor? Price of Kerosene has been hiked.

Injustice has been done to Chhattisgarh. Our quota has been cut. Poor women reside in the rural areas and are not getting kerosene to light lamps and chimneys in their houses. He has given figures of the villages where electricity is proposed to be provided. I am quoting from his book wherein he has given assurance to electrify so many villages. There is neither electricity nor drinking water in the villages for the last 57 years. There are no schools in villages. If there are schools, they do not have buildings. He is talking about Anganwadi. The NDA Government increased the honorarium of the Anganwadi workers from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 then to Rs. 1000. The Government propose to construct Anganwadi Buildings but it would carry no use. The NDA Government has laid a very strong foundation upon which they claim to raise a sound edifice.

In the House neither a male nor a lady Member has paid attention to the fact that even after 57 years of independence our rural women residing in jhuggis have to sit in the open along the road while attending to the call of nature. It must have been a mental agony and pain when they are not able to relieve themselves in daytime. Even after 57 years of independence the Government has not been able to formulate a policy for constructing one toilet in each panchayat, where the rural women would easily relieve themselves and would be liberated from the humiliation of sitting along the road.

He talks of black money, how they would be able to check it? Hon. Finance Minister says that prices will not be rolled back. Prices will definitely be rolled back. Black money is neither deposited in banks nor withdrawn openly. He knows who possess black money. It is not correct to levy tax on withdrawal of Rs. Ten thousand from banks and I know that this decision will roll him back.

Nobody has ever thought about the interest of farmers. Most of the population of the country reside in rural areas and they are the backbone of our economy. He should have adopted three measures. He said that action will be taken to enhance agricultural growth. I would like to state that the Government has failed to comprehend the actual problems of farmers. Farmers have three requirements. Firstly, their income should be increased. How the income of farmers will increase until the inputs to develop agriculture infrastructure are provided. Secondly, until he gets remunerative price of his yield, his income will not increase,

Unless he pays attention towards these factors this country will not progress. Measures to increase the income of farmers have not been taken which may facilitate them to increase their production. The Government should make efforts in this direction.

Madam Chairman, through you, I would also like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards provision to the tune of Rs. 630 crore for the installation of horticulture machines but no benefit is likely to accrue to the medium and small farmers since India holds first position in the world for fruits and vegetables production. Per capita 780 gms of vegetables and fruits are daily available, which the per-capita daily requirement is 90 gms against the per-capita consumption of 40 gms daily. Since the labour of plucking the crop of tomatoes is high apart from the cost of production, the farmers abandon the standing crop as it is. Only the big farmers are being supported, nothing has been given to the small and medium farmers.

Hon. Madam Chairman, today our leftist colleagues are not present...(Interruptions) I hear them daily in the house. I would like to draw their attention towards these words that "Sir na Jhukao zulm ke aage, warna yahi dastoor ban jayega". Do not bow before injustice, otherwise it will become a practice.

Our colleagues from Left Parties are not happy with the style of functioning of Hon'ble Finance Minister but they are helpless because they want to stay in the Government. Please do not call your compulsion to be your helplessness. If they keep on compromising and yielding like this they would never be able to maintain their dignity and respect in the country.

I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Finance Minister towards one more thing. They should remove the stigmas like starvation, illiteracy, drugs, crime and unemployment etc. from the rural areas. I come from a very poor area which is predominantly a tribal area.

16.00 hrs.

My tribal sisters are living there where even after 57 years of independence hunger and unemployment are prevailing. Hon'ble Minister has said about providing employment. I would like to ask him as to how many days of employment would be provided to how many youth? Please make a mention of this.

Chhattisgarh is a newly formed State. It is only four years old. Please do not discriminate with it. We used to

receive 298 megawatt of Power from Central Water Grid. It has been reduced to 100 megawatts since this Government has come into power. The quota for kerosene and grains has also been reduced. You are giving economic packages to other States, special assistance to Uttaranchal but it seems that you are deliberately not helping the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is a State which requires more funds. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, I am very sure that you would help the State of Chhattisgarh.

In the end I would like to say regarding the budget that there is nothing to praise in it but rather it draws flak and evokes pain. I, on behalf of the opposition, am pained to say that both your direction and objective are not correct. The analysts could not understand your speech that day. Now gradually after reading it they are realising that you want to help those industrialists, who were mentioned by an hon'ble Member just now. In these 57 years the rich have become more rich and the poor more poor. You remained shouting slogans that the poor are with you. This has only remained to be mere slogan. You have not played any role in the building of nation. We are opposing your budget because of the way you are only serving your vested interests.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajay Maken.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My name was before him.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Your name is after him.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, he was on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is decided on the basis of numerical strength of the Parties in Parliament...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : We are doing it accordingly to that only.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You are not doing it accordingly. Which is why I have protested.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi) : Hon'ble Madam Chairman, today I rise to support the budget presented by hon. Chidambaramji. Performance of our Government during

[Shri Ajay Maken]

last one year and the policy framework laid for the future is assuring enough about the strong economic condition of the country. The economic growth which has risen to 6.9 GDP is due to the strong growth of industrial sector and service sector which is 1.9 percent and 9 percent respectively. There is nothing else to be more happy about. We have a strong economy and nothing can be more reassuring than the present condition of our economy. I was expecting Vijay Kumar Malhotraji to be present here. Had he been present in the House, I would have replied to the issues he raised yesterday. He raised the issue of Sixth Pay Commission. Central Government Employees are living in my constituency. Earlier also I have raised the issue of 6th Pay Commission twice or thrice in the House. Even now I speak in the favour of Sixth Pay Commission. I believe that the BJP has no right to talk about the Sixth Pay Commission. Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji has no moral authority or right to talk about the Sixth Pay Commission. It was the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission that the Sixth Pay Commission should be constituted on the 1st of January, 2003 so that it can give its recommendations by the year 2006. The gap of period of 10 years between one Pay Commission and another could have been adhered to only if Sixth Pay Commission had been constitute on the 1st January, 2003. The National Council of JCM had recommended it twice. The Cabinet Secretary chairs the National Council. He recommended it twice in the Cabinet and the Cabinet rejected it both times that it would not be able to constitute Sixth Pay Commission. While they were in power themselves, the Cabinet of their own Government rejected Sixth Pay Commission twice. They had a time of one and a half years between January 2003 to 2004 before the elections were held, they did not recommend the Sixth Pay Commission during that one and half year.

Now they are levelling allegations against our Government and are asking as to what have we done in these nine months. There can not be anything more shameful than this. I would urge upon them that they should not misguide the public and Lok Sabha by making such statements.

Tsunami disaster that struck our country affected 2260 kilometers of coastline and six States. The hon'ble Finance Minister announced that Rs. 3644 crore have been approved for Relief Package and Rs. 10216 crore were promised by him. I welcome his step. The manner in which our Government have faced Tsunami deserves to be appreciated. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a statement that our country is capable enough and we will generate resources

for relief on our own and we do not require any assistance from any other country. In my view it has brought pride to every countrymen and it raised their self-respect. This is the right way that we generate our sources from within the country for relief and face the natural calamity that has struck the country. I believe that every countrymen has been honoured.

The Government of India has made its presence felt at the international level during last one year. India is not seen as a follower of any country. Is it not surprising that during the G-7 Nations Summit india was invited alongside China. Is it not surprising that the European Union that have USA, Russia and even China for the last 5-6 years as its strategic partner chose India as its sixth strategic partner. Whereas neither Pakistan nor any other country was chosen for this. Whether it is not surprising that whenever there is any problem in the entire world keenly watches as to what stand India would take and the same is followed by them. Today prestige of India is at it pinnacle in the entire world. Today India-Pakistan hyphenation has been relegated to background and if we look at the international level we find India-china hyphenation coming up. This proves that India is being viewed in terms of an upcoming economic power not in context of India-Pakistan hyphenation. It has always been seen that India has never been seen as a lackey of any other powerful country. This is the biggest achievement of our Government.

Today information revolution is required to regain our lost image and respect in the world. Today information revolution can not be sought without the need of resources and industrial and manufacturing sector reforms. Our Government have proposed the establishment of National Manufacturing Competitive Council. This year, as I have said earlier that we have registered growth in GDP. The biggest reason for this is that our manufacturing sector has shown improvement and a growth of 9 percent has been made.

It is on record, that since 1995-96, growth rate in manufacturing sector has been fastest during the 9-10 months of our Government. One of the most important thing that has happened after the arrival of our Government if power is that while the developing countries achieve their target of GDP growth, the contribution of agriculture sector shrinks alongwith the growth in GDP and that of manufacturing sector increases. In China, 59-61 percent of total GDP component is of industry, but this has not happened in India, when we adopted the model of liberalisation contribution our GDP increased and when the contribution

of agriculture sector shrunk, the contribution of service sector increased vis.à vis. agriculture sector and industry sector.

Today the service sector is not stable. The components that determine the growth of service sector are not showing a stable pattern. We would be able to get that stability only if we increase the share of manufacturing and industry sector. Our Government is paying attention in this direction, whether it is a question of reducing custom duty on capital goods—the Finance Minister has made announcement in this regards. As a result of initiative taken by the Government in this direction, 9 percent growth has been registered in manufacturing sector. I feel this is a commendable task. Economically we were never as strong as we are today.

The hon'ble Finance Minister had mentioned about scarcity of water in last year's budget speech. We have ample resource of natural water. Our country receives an annual average rainfall of 1100mm. If we start harvesting even one percent of total rainfall, we can get 44 billion cubic water. By this calculation, per capita 100 litre water per day would be sufficient. Former Governments adopted the criteria of taking into consideration the factors like availability of the ground water and the surface water resources excluding the factors like the availability of rainy water. However, for the first time the water available through rain fall has been reckoned amongst the other sources. He has used to calculate quantity of water on the basis of sources ground water and surface water, but they did not took rainwater into account has happened first time that the hon'ble Finance Minister has treated rain water as other sources. He has introduced new schemes in regard to recharging the water bodies, to augment the water harvesting and has also allocated funds in the budget for this purpose. Last year, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has cautioned about the impending water crises looming large in the present century and had stated that if at all, any war of struggle were to take place among the Nation States or the States in the country, the bone of contention would be water. There may be dispute or controversy over water between the states and between the countries. Therefore, we must have to take measure to tackle this situation immediately.

Madam Chairman, I would like to mention one more thing. Economist Angus Maddison wrote a book in the year 2001, in which it has been stated :

[English]

"India was the world's economy in the first millennium, producing a third of global GDP. By 1500 its shares had declined to 25 percent. It further lost its share because it could not catch up with industrial revolution."

[Translation]

It means that till 1000 A.D, India used to produce one-third of world's GDP, and in the course of time, this share had declined to 25 percent and at present our country is an under-developed country and is heading towards developing country. It all happened because we could not catch up with other countries in industrial revolution, we could not participate in industrial revolution. but today's, we are moving towards knowledge based evolution. Now, the time has come to overcome those shortcomings. India can again become superpower. We can again contribute upto one third of the World's GDP. We should not repeat the mistakes of past. Therefore, our Government have been making people aware of new programmes from time to time.

On 6th January, Prime Minister made a mention of knowledge Commission. He talked of making education available to more and more people by imposing education cell. 11 crores children were covered under Mid-day Meal Scheme. Next year, our target is to cover 30.10 crore children as compared to 16.75 children last year. Whether it is setting up of National Mission for education for All Movement or other schemes, our Government is seriously considering over this issue.

Madam Chairman, as per figures central plan allocation for education head in the budgetary estimate in the year 2003-04 was 7025 crore rupees. Which was increased to 8225 crore rupees in the year 2004-05 and for the next year, a provision of 13928 crore rupees has been made in the budget. It means, earlier this amount was Rs. 7025 crores whereas with in a period of one year our Government increased this amount to Rs. 13928 crores. It shows as to how far our Government is serious in bringing knowledge revolution in the education sector. All these are achievements of our Government. If former NDA Government is to be discussed, I would also like to quote figures of that Government if we look over the percentage of total expenditure it was 11.3 percent in year 2000-01, it means 11.3 percent of total plan outlay was spent on education. During NDA regime, next year it declined to 10.4 percent and in year 2002-03 it further declined to 10 percent and in the year our Government came into power, it was mere 9.1 percent . It was expenditure on education during their regime, which gradually got reduced from 11.3 to 9.1 percent in 4 Years. Today, it sounds very odd, when they accuse our Government of spending 6 percent of GDP on education. First, the opposition should see in its backyard, what they have done in the education sector, then they should raise questions mark on our performance.

[Shri Ajay Maken]

Madam Chairman, while thanking you, I would like to say in the end that our Government works, but it does without making any uproar. Our Government talk of 'India shining' not for selected people, but for all. Our Government not only talks of 'Bharat Uday', but of 'Bharat Nirman' also. Our Government not only talks of 'Bharat Uday', but talks of taking initiatives in rural areas under 'Bharat Nirman'. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I rise to oppose the budget though I do not have any personal grievance or anything against the Finance Minister.

Whichever Government comes to power, it is its constitutional duty to present Budget. The Government has the freedom to frame its own Budget. It is not possible for me to discuss earlier budget presented before the House because of paucity of time. I would rather concentrate on specific schemes and proposals.

I do not think this Budget, as Shri Manmohan Singh had said on the day Budget was presented, is pro-people Budget.

[Translation]

Madam, we expected the Budget to be prepoor but found it to be stock market friendly.

[English]

This is very unfortunate. Though I do not want to say all these things yet I am compelled to say it because I know the financial problems. We know the problems faced by our country. The Government is going for globalisation. I would like to know from the Finance Minister, whether in the name of globalisation are we not going to finish the interest of common people, the farmers, unemployed youth, salaried class, including senior citizens.

First of all, I would like to point out the unusually high rise, one of the highest in the decade, in the non-Plan revenue expenditure. For the year 2005-06 it has been estimated at Rs. 3.31 lakh crore as compared to Rs. 2.96 lakh crore in the RE of 2004-05. This leaves a lot of questions unanswered. It is a significant jump. The reasons for such a jump are not clear. Budget at a Glance, Page no. 1, Sl. No. 1/3.

My second point is regarding plan capital expenditure which in 2005-06 is expected to come down from Rs. 47,714 crore to Rs. 27,515 crore.

The reason for sudden decline in the plan expenditure is not clear. I think for this reason, the GDP growth may lead to more unemployment problems in the next few years. You will appreciate that every person of this country loves the people living below poverty line. The Government has started giving cards to them. It is also giving subsidy through Public distribution System, Food for Work Programme and several other programmes including Mid-Day Meal Scheme. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is trying to fool the people of this country, but this is a serious complaint which I am having. For the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a sum of Rs. 11,000 crore have been provided but for providing 100 days work to BPL families, you would require Rs. 40,000 crore. It means like the promises of the last Budget, this Scheme will also not be implemented. It is the greatest joke.

As regards borrowings, earlier the Central Government used to borrow for the State Governments and around 70 per cent was given to the State Governments. But now to save Rs. 19,000 crore, they have said that the State Governments can borrow the funds. There are some poor States and there are Union Territories also which do not have the capacity to borrow the funds. I think this is a big disaster for the State Governments. Of course, now they are able to borrow from ADB and World bank. There are so many problems before the country but we are talking about Bharat Nirman. Of course, we love it. Some are talking about 'Desh Nirman' or 'Swadesh Nirman'. You are going to serve the country through some programme and you are talking about Bharat Nirman and Bharat Darshan and you are saying that you are going to save the nation. What is this? You are allowing the State Governments to borrow...*(Interruptions)* You can say anything to me but you have to reply to the people. You please listen to me. If you are not convinced, you can oppose it when you speak. I am telling the factual position. I may be wrong. You can correct me...*(Interruptions)* You do not try to disturb me. Please sit quietly.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BENERJEE : As regards FDI, I want to know the opinion of Left Front. What about 74 per cent FDI in telecom sector, 74 per cent in the banking sector and 74 per cent in the civil aviation sector? Can you differ with me in this point? Everyday you say something on the television. I cannot accept that the Central Government is doing all these things without consulting the Left Parties.

You are having lunches and dinners with them. You have allowed them to do all this. You say something inside and you say something else outside. You stop this double standard and this hypocrisy....(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Madam Chairman, whenever Mamataji rise to speak, the Members of other side start interrupting her...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, is it proper? When others speak, we listen to them. This is not proper and this is not fair also. They are not allowing me to speak... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Whether you are talking of man and woman...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am also a member of the human family. You do not say like this. I lead a party where there is no difference between man and woman. we do not differentiate like this...(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson, what is this nonsense going on?...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is not proper. please maintain silence.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Truth is always bitter ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Madam Chairperson, I seek your permission to make a point here...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : She has to yield before you could speak. She is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Madam, I want to support her only. When you are giving chance to everyboby to speak,

then she also should be allowed to speak. But when she is speaking, why is everybody howling? Please allow her to express her views. This is freedom of expression.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to Shrimati Jayaprada that at least she has understood the reality.

Madam, my next point is on the tax proposals. For an income above Rs. 2.5 lakhs one has to pay 30 per cent tax. Before cut, savings account interest on income is 3.5 per cent. After cut, it is 2.45 per cent. On SBI fixed deposit of above five years, before cut, the interest is 6.25 per cent and after cut it is 4.38 per cent which is lower inflation. If anybody's income is in the 20 per cent bracket, that is within Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh, then after cut, the effective return is 6.25 per cent and interest would be reduced by five per cent. If anybody's income is within the 10 per cent tax bracket, then after cut, the income will be reduced by 5.63 per cent.

Madam, the salaried class people will be affected because of the withdrawal of standard deduction of Rs. 30,000/-. Senior citizens used to get a rebate up to Rs. 20,000 in income tax. But the same provision has been withdrawn now. This will put a heavy burden on the senior citizens. They were exempted from paying any income tax on interest earned up to Rs.12,000 per annum. This also has been withdrawn. Salaried class people will not get tax benefit on their retirement amount. Now they have to pay tax on interest earned from General Provident Fund and pension amount. I strongly believe that this Government is least interested in providing social security to the citizens of this country.

Senior citizens whose income from pension was up to Rs. 1,72,000 were not required to pay any income tax. But now they will have to pay income tax of Rs. 2,244/-. Employees whose income were up to Rs. 1,47,000/-, they were not required to pay any tax. But now they will have to pay an amount of Rs. 4,284/- as tax. A working woman whose income up to Rs. 1,47,000/-, she was not required to pay any tax. But now she will have to pay an amount of Rs.2,244/- as tax.

Sir, Governments face economic crisis. Everybody will appreciate that aspect. We all can sit together and discuss such problems and decide something in the larger interest of the country. But the problem today in our country we are unable to properly make use of the assests that we have. There are hunger deaths taking place in my own State of West Bengal. In Amlasol in Midnapore district, in Jalangi in

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Murshidabad district, in Chanchol in Malda district, and in Purulia district a lot of people have died because of hunger. The people who died they all belong to the below poverty line families. They include women, children and people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the minorities.

Madam, I am grateful to Shri Sharad Pawar that he has replied to a letter which I had written to him. In that letter, he has mentioned that the State Government has said that there are no hunger deaths there. If hunger deaths are there in Kalahandi, they will shout. but if there are hunger deaths in Chanchol or Amlasol, they will digest. If it happens in Jalangi, Purulia and Bandowan, they will digest it. This is the problem which is existing. Hunger death is different from political death. All the deaths may not be due to hunger. There may be death due to terrorism or there may be State sponsored killings. But of course hunger deaths are different from other sorts of deaths. We appreciate it...(Interruptions) If I mislead the House, you should correct me. Tell this to West Bengal Government that hunger deaths are not occurring in Jalangi or Amlasol...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I never interrupt anybody. They know the facts. They are people of double standards. They always speak in two different ways. They say something and do something else. This is the problem with them...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am showing this book to the House. Let the Leftists oppose this also. This book is about the bank defaulters. The details are upto 2001. The default is more than Rs. 1,50,000 crore. Why Government is allowing 74% FDI in Banking Sector...(Interruptions) This is the latest letter and you should not say that this is also a distorted one. This letter is from AIBMS which is a Leftist affiliated Union. The figure is Rs. 1.50 lakh crore. When it suits you, you will support and when it does not suit you, you will oppose it...(interruptions) This is public document.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, if half of my time is re taken by them, then how will I speak? I am showing them this book and I am grateful that the Leftist Union has given me this book. The names of defaulters are given here. Now, if a farmer or an unemployed youth or a common man takes loan from a bank and when he is not able to repay the

loan due to family conditions or economic conditions or other reasons, then the bank seizes his property. There are captains of industries whose names figure here. The default amounts to Rs. 1,50,000 crore. They are the bank defaulters...(interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : There should be no comments like this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This letter shows the details upto 2005. During the time of NDA Government also, I had raised this point and now also, I am raising this issue. Have we got any justice? Even your Government is ten months old now. Now you say that when you withdraw an amount of Rs. 10,000 from a bank, you should pay one percent as tax. But what about the blacklisted bank defaulters who are few industrialists? They are taking loan from one bank by a particular name and after that, they close their unit, they open another unit and take loan from the same bank or other banks resulting in the suffering of the country. That is why, I request the Government to have a thorough inquiry regarding this issue. There should be a White Paper on this issue...(Interruptions) I have heard you saying 'no Trina and no Mool'. You are not in the Left now. You are in the right now.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair and try to conclude. Please to not listen to them.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am speaking here as a Member of this House and they are abusing me using some words.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Leftists are always right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is not the right track. Leftists mean rightists. You are a great friend of the congress. You say something and do something. Why should you disturb them?

If you are supporting them, then why are you disturbing them?...(interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please keep quiet. Madam, please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Do not adopt double standards. That is why, I think, that this Government must look into the matter seriously. If you have any intention of curbing the black money in this country, then why are common people made to suffer instead of the black money holders? You cannot compare black money with white money. Those who are paying the income tax and those who are

keeping the money in the banks have the right to withdraw their money. But the black money holders are finishing our country and the economy. That is why the parallel economy is going on.

Some States suffer from bankruptcy. There are good schemes, whether it is in the NDA Government or in the Congress Government. There are some good schemes for the poor people. But the money is not reaching the people because of the middlemen. They are eating the money. I remember what Shri Rajiv Gandhi said about this. He said that 90 percent of the money does not reach the common man. That is why I would request that there should be some audit. Are you receiving any audit for the money that is released from the Centre? Do you have any system for auditing that money? In my State, I can tell you that the debt is more than Rs. 1,00,000. It is foreign debt and other debts. If you allow this to go on like this, I do not know whether we will be able to digest this from the economic point of view, social security point of view or from the internal point of view.

Last but not least, the point is about Calcutta. It is a very important city. The State of West Bengal is also important from the historical, geographical and traditional point of view.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is Kolkata.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What is wrong if I say Calcutta?

Madam, Calcutta and West Bengal are the gateways of North-Eastern region. They are gateways of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. North-Eastern region is the gateway of Burma and China. You will be surprised to know that in North Bengal foreign currency is used. If you go to Government office, you will see them using foreign currency, not Indian currency. As it is a very serious matter, I would request the Government to look into the matter. I would also request the Government to withdraw the tax on the withdrawal of Rs. 10,000. In respect of senior citizens, the *status quo* should be maintained. In respect of salaried class also the *status quo* should be maintained. There is already a hike in the prices of kerosene, petrol, diesel and domestic gas. Everywhere the hike is going on. Already there is two percent Education Cess. Now, we have this 50 paise Diesel Cess. I would request you not to increase the prices every time. Prepare some action plan so that the common people are not made to suffer....(interruptions).

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, this is not good.

This is not the way to behave. No running commentary please.

...(interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am not your enemy.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Madam address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I think enough is enough. If prices rise so high, then it is only the common man who suffers a lot. We all are representatives of the people. That is why we have to take care of the interests of the people. So, whatever you can do for the people, please do it. Please do justice to them. You should check the blacklisted people. Then I think, people will give you full support for that.

There is no hanky-panky for that. With these words, Madam, I am sorry to say : "Please give me some instructions sometimes - the directions - whether in this House I will be able to speak or not." We are not the beggars....(interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Do you say something like this. You have every right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please one minute. I beg to apologise for this. I am asking one minute from you. Madam, I may not be liked by these people. But, it is also my Sixth term.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It is nothing like that.

...(interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If every time they disturb me like this, I am sorry, I am ready to tender my resignation. Do not disturb me like this, because I have also sacrificed everything in my life. I have been attacked ten times because I fight for the people. Madam, I will not take any lesson from the Leftists or the opportunists.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur) : Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. My thanks go to Dr. Kalaignar, my leader and a senior Statesman of India and also dynamic leader of the young generation in Tamil Nadu, the Jupiter of Tamil Talapathi M.K. Stalin.

I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister Thiru Chidambaram for this beautiful Budget, especially that the hand-made matches are fully exempted from excise duty. I also congratulate him for reducing 4 percent excise duty for fully mechanised match production, and for cluster approach

[Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi]

to help handloom units by which the sickness of the textile industry can be minimised. Raising income-tax ceiling is a great relief extended to the middle class. Knowledge is power. Our Finance Minister has very generously extended funds for the development of the Indian Institute of Science.

By reducing tax, our Finance Minister has brought out taxation. More and more tax on cigarette is good for health also. For rural development, *Bharat Nirman* Scheme has been specially introduced for developing rural development. The Government has asked the Reserve Bank to give loan to industry and for agriculture at a lesser interest. It is a welcome approach.

Sir, since palm tree work is of a seasonal nature, these people remain unemployed in the remaining period. So, during unemployment period, they should be given monetary compensation and also group insurance scheme should be extended to the palm tree tappers. Moreover, their work involved risk to their life.

In my Tiruchendur constituency, there are a large number of *bidi* workers. Most of them are not having identity cards because they are recruited mainly by the agents or contractors only. So, they are lacking in all the benefits announced by the Government. The Government should abolish this contract system and introduce Monitoring Committee.

Sir, the Central Government has announced a student's scholarship scheme for *bidi* workers' children. But, it has not reached the children properly. This should be streamlined. For the handicapped children of *bidi* workers, suitable Government job should be provided.

In southern Tamil Nadu, there are often communal clashes. To solve this problem, our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaignar has appointed a panel under the leadership of (Retd.) Judge Thiru Rathnavel Pandiyan to find out the cause for communal clash.

16.44 hrs.

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*)

The panel submitted the report stating that the main reason is due to unemployment problem. To put an end to this problem, our leader Dr. Kalaignar and the then Trade and Commerce Minister, renowned and learned Thiru Murasoli Maran had planned to set up a hi-tech park with free zone in Nanguneri. This will provide jobs to one lakh

people directly and more than 2 lakh people indirectly. In my constituency's three districts, namely, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Kayankumari, there are many literates. The literate people after completion of their education migrate to various other states and countries since proper job is not available for them in their birth place. People who could not get job resort to violence which results in communal clashes. Hon. Minister of State for Commerce has already visited Nanguneri hi-tech park site with me and the people living in my constituency are expecting this hi-tech park to come up immediately.

This will curtail communal clashes in southern Tamil Nadu. The hon. Minister should expedite this.

Sir, in my Tiruchendur Constituency, due to the improper flow of the Thamirabarani river, millions of cubic feet of water is being allowed to get into the sea. To prevent this, a suitable project is needed to divert this surplus water to save the masses of Sathankulam, Rathapuram and Nanguneri where water scarcity is a major problem.

I want to request the hon. Finance Minister that he should constitute Welfare Boards for the unorganised sector workers as constituted by our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi during the DMK period.

Welfare Boards are constituted as social security providing various benefits for the members who contribute the initial one time payment of Rs.100. I want to remind the hon. Minister that though in the President's Address there was reference to the unorganised workers yet it is missing in the General Budget.

Even though the Budget has all good aspects, there is a small blemish, that is, the 0.1 percent tax for the withdrawal of Rs. 10,000 and above a day. This will cause sufferings to the middle class people. I humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to waive the 0.1 percent tax for the withdrawal of Rs. 10,000 and above a day. Our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi also want the Minister to reconsider this scheme. I hope our Finance Minister will consider our leader's request.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me this opportunity. *Vanakkam*.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, thank you. I had lost hope that you would give me opportunity to speak. I am the Deputy Leader of

RJD. The tradition is to call the Members as per the strength when turn of the party comes...*(Interruptions)* I am letting it go. There is no need to discuss it because it relates to the Chair but it should not be repeated in future. Besides, I am not protesting on any other point. My submission is that the number of members of a particular party in Lok Sabha should be kept in mind while calling members to speak. The members are called as per the strength of their party. It had no precedent. I do not want to mention this.

Mr. Chairman, I have risen to support the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. This budget has a pro-village approach. Efforts have been made to make this budget employment oriented that is why much emphasis has been laid on infrastructure. Seven sectors have been accepted as priority sectors and the budget discusses basic facilities be it roads, Irrigation, health, proper use of water, education or construction of houses for the homeless people and particularly in case of farmers, the budget discusses decentralized procurement. Decentralized procurement would be carried out in the states with surplus foodgrains. It is a laudable effort. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for making good effort.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague Shri Harin Pathak was talking about India shining and feel good factor yesterday. I had raised this issue during NDA regime also. I would like to ask whether the six years of rule of these 2 percent people who created such a hype about India shining have not contributed to the economic disparity. Is not it the work of those people who talked a lot about feel good and India shining. Now some people are getting restive about Bharat Nirman. I am amazed that people are opposing the budget meant for 'Bharat Nirman' i.e. the Real India. Actually it is India versus Bharat. The NDA regime was for a certain section of people i.e. those living in the metropolitan cities. Now these people are not liking it as Shri Chidambaram has taken initiatives for Bharat Nirman. My colleague was expressing this agony only. I respect him. Shri Harin Pathak is not here...*(Interruptions)* The Members of his party are present. Shri Harin Pathak put a lot of emphasis on the blackmoney. We opposed at that time also when the NDA Government raised the prices for the BPL families...*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yadavji, please address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : They did nothing about poverty alleviation. In fact the budget presented by the then Finance Minister in 2000-2001 added to the burden of the poor. We opposed even then that the prices should

not be raised for the BPL families. 35.97 percent people are living below poverty line. As per the National Survey and estimates of 96-97 conducted by Planning Commission it was 35.97 percent, about 37 percent. The Minister of Finance would correct this, I do not remember exact figures. He was told to increase the economic cost of the food grain. The Minister of Finance of NDA Government discussed at length about the poor. These people have said just now that this budget is pro-capitalist. That is why I was saying that the NDA Government raised the prices of 1 kilogram of wheat and rice by 37 paise even for the BPL families. We had opposed it at that time also. We had met the Prime Minister and Shri K. Yerrannaidu from their allied parties too had met him with delegation. He said that it would be considered in the Budget. Then we raised several questions at the time of the supplementary budget and then, it was said that expenditure commission would be set up. This Commission would consider this issue after calculating the economic cost. The people below poverty line were provided foodgrains at higher cost for three months. The prices for BPL and APL were lowered in the entire country. By then, their offtake of foodgrains meant for BPL families came down. It was said after three months that price hike is much more than the economic cost and then prices were lowered once again. This has been the attitude of the NDA Government towards the poor. I just wanted to highlight this.

Not only this, Disinvestment Ministry was set up. There is no such ministry anywhere else in the world. 98 percent people in the villages used to ask as to which Ministry was this and what did its Minister do. We used to tell the people in villages that Disinvestment Ministry is meant for sale of national property...*(Interruptions)* This is the achievement of the NDA Government. All the profit making companies and public undertakings have been sold off at very low rates during the NDA regime. No one can say that I am saying so only today. One can look at the proceedings of the House. We always used to oppose the moves of disinvestment and raise issues whenever the Disinvestment Minister used to rise...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : It is not a big thing. You would not understand it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What is not a big thing. I would not understand it because 2 percent people speak English. You would not understand the spirit of Bharat...*(Interruptions)* It would take years before you can understand Bharat...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yadavji, please address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Madam Chairman, he has been a Member of Lok Sabha only twice. He would be able to understand my language only when he has spent atleast 10 years in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yadavji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : There is nothing to get heated about....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : D.P. Yadav ji, please stick to your subject, you were speaking quite well. Please address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, I was saying that several profit making undertakings were sold at very low rates. The procedure followed for disinvestment lacked transparency. The procedure of selling these undertakings at very low rates was not done in a transparent way. Nobody knows about the commission they received, it is a matter for enquiry. Time is shut otherwise I would have given examples as to which profit making undertakings have been sold.

Sir, it was being discussed a short while ago that over last 47 years, bad loans or non productive assets have increased upto 47,000 crore rupees. But these people have not told that during their six years, NPA increased at the rate of 10,000 crore rupees per year. That is why NPA increased by approximately 60,000 crore rupees during their six years in rule.

As a result the rate of interest gets slashed on the deposits that a poor man makes out of his hard-earned money in banks and post offices etc. The 12 percent rate of interest has now come down to mere eight percent...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing except the statement of Shri Devendra Prasad ji will go on record. Shri Devendra Prasad ji, please address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, I would like to ask these people that in their six year tenure civil suits were filed against how many people?

17.00 hrs.

The party during the regime of which NPA was to the tune of Rs. 47,000 crore ruled for 50 years, but they ruled for merely six years and increased the NPA to the tune of Rs.

96 thousand 84 crore...(Interruptions)

(English)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Can he prove it?

(Translation)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have got the figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Devendra Prasadji, why do you argue with him? Please address the Chair only.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am addressing the Chair only...(Interruptions) You may go through the proceedings.

MR CHAIRMAN : Why are you talking to him. What they are speaking is not going on record. Please make your own submission.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I was making a request that the NPA which is to the tune of Rs. 96 thousand 84 crore upto March 2004 should be recovered. It was not done during the regime of NDA, neither any action was taken upon it nor any civil suit was filed against anyone. The big industrialists, big industrial houses were their men so they did not take any action. They were rather saying that the people having black money have become bigwigs. They are in their party. I would urge upon hon. Finance Minister that these people should definitely be taken to task and black money should be unearthed from them. For this purpose, he should either file a civil suit or take some legal action. Their names should be published in the newspapers continuously for three months so that the people come to know who have the blackmoney. This way, the black money deposited in Swiss Banks abroad and in the domestic banks will be unearthed...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : A team should be commissioned from here to determine the amount of blackmoney in Swiss Banks...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Please do not worry....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down and do not interrupt. Order should be restored in the House.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Devendra ji, would you please yield for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Devendraji, please continue and address the Chair.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, he is yielding
...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am not yielding,
Sir...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Devendraji, you please continue and address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am addressing you only when talks began on World Trade Organisation during the years 2001 and 2003 it was proposed to do away the quantitative restrictions by the year 2003. I do not wish to name anybody but a letter was received from the Commerce Minister. It shows the extent to which these people have been lackeys of America. Khurana ji who was Member of Parliament from NDA raised his voice against it in the Press. I would like to congratulate him for this. They had no compunctions. The proposal was to lift quantitative restrictions from agriculture and other products. The then Commerce Minister should have been firm while negotiations regarding imports were going on. He should have spoken in the interest of the country, should have been firm. But he was not assertive. The present Commerce Minister, Shri Kamal Nath ji is assertive. He has maintained a firm position in the larger interests of the country. India has become a dumping ground for agriculture products. Now wheat, rice, vegetables, tomatoes, fruits etc., can be dumped in the country. These people are cooperating with them to convert India into a dumping ground. It was totally ignored even when budgets were introduced by the NDA Government. They did not impose counter-vailing duties.

This time the Hon. Minister has paid attention to impose even counter vailing duties...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Hon. Arun Jaitley Ji, represented India in the World...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Devendraji, please conclude now. Address the Chair.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What did the last Government do....(Interruptions) The small investors were throttled by the UTI scam. Poor people had invested money in UTI and they destroyed two crore people

completely. This institution....(Interruptions) this sound financial institute was failed by them....(Interruptions) They did not do anything in regard to providing loans to farmers...(Interruptions). This Government has resolved to give Rs. One lakh 8 thousand crore to farmers....(Interruptions) Till date no Government has ever proposed to disburse such a huge amount of loan. The funds earmarked for loan have been increased by 30 percent....(Interruptions) During their regime the process of disbursement of loan was not easy, it was difficult, coupled by the higher rate of interest ranging from 14 to 19 percent on loan from various banks which the farmers had to pay...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Farmers had to pay 14 to 19 percent rate of interest on loan which they used to take for agriculture works and implements. This Government has slashed the rate of interest from 9 to 12 percent. They completely ignored the guidelines of RBI...(Interruptions) It is alright that the cooperative banks are under the control of State Government, but it should be reviewed....(Interruptions) Guidelines to this effect should also be issued by the RBI...(Interruptions). The CD ratio of Bihar is merely 15-16 percent. Entire funds flow to big cities...(Interruptions) The poor man who deposits money in these banks...(Interruptions) Our farmers do not get remunerative price for their yield. Only three four states get the benefit of procurement. At the time the technical apparatus balance, bank loans were not timely available. But now the benefits of decentralised procurement have accrued to the farmers in this budget with a bid to ameliorate their standard of living...(Interruptions) Hon. Finance Minister through his budget proposal is providing an approach to people. The people who believed in the notion of India-shining took care of only two percent people. There is an old saying that rich man rides only tall elephants.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Economic disparities should be removed. Poverty line has been determined. Now also determine line of wealthiness. This will bring them back to the ground. Line of wealthiness means not more than thousand and not less than hundred ...(Interruptions) This is the need of socialism.

This requires to be fixed. The economic disparity which has grown so much would be controlled with this. Only two percent people fly at 35 thousand feet and there are a large number of people below at five feet. In the older times rich people use to sit on elephants. In those times the difference

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

was merely 12 feet. Today this gap has widened to 35 thousand feet. Which is why violence is taking place and law and order situation is deteriorating.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude. Your yourself are in the panel of Chairmen. You have already spoken for half an hour.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Now I would like to mention about Bihar. Our Finance Minister is a learned person. I have few suggestions to make. A poor person deposits 10 thousand rupees in the bank for the marriage of his son or daughter. The budget proposes that Rs. 10 would be deducted on the withdrawal of Rs. 10 thousand. I suggest that this tax should be deducted on the withdrawal of Rs. 50 thousand.

The national per-capita income is Rs. 12870 as on date. How will Bihar reach this level? The per-capita income of Bihar is Rs. 3,345...(Interruptions) Bihar requires an economic package to be given. Condition of Bihar is becoming worse since its partition. They are responsible for this. After the formation of Jharkhand our economic resources have become null. We are suffering from floods and drought...(Interruptions) We had opposed the Bill regarding Bihar partition at that time itself when Hon'ble Home Minister presented this Bill in the House. Bihar is not left with any source of income after its partition. A special package needs to be given to Bihar to bring it into the main stream. The Government have given a special package of Rs. 400 crores to Bihar whereas a provision of Rs. 7100 crore was made for this purpose. Bihar is a backward State. Out of the one thousand crore rupees only Five crore rupees have been received by Bihar for the up-keep of forests. Merely Rs. 40 crores have been received for preserving the historical heritage...(Interruptions)

Allocation of funds should be made after looking at the population, poverty and backwardness of Bihar. Assistance to Bihar should be provided on the basis of Gadgil's basis formula. Our condition is similar to that of North-Eastern States. Our economic condition is poor due to the floods and drought. The water from Nepal's rivers brings destruction into Bihar. It damages crops worth crores of rupees. We should be given an economic package on the basis of our requirement, poverty and backwardness. It is only then that our plan would be well formed and Bihar can be linked with the nation's main stream. The Growth rate of Bihar is minus three percent. It is five and six percent in other States. North Bihar has always remained under

loss. We suffer a loss of one thousand crore rupees every year.

An approach has been formed in the common Minimum Programme regarding floods and drought. Looking at this kind of situation, special attention needs to be paid to Bihar. 2000 Megawatts of electricity is required there. Only 320 megawatt of Generation capacity has remained with Bihar and the rest has gone into Jharkhand. Therefore 7000 megawatts is required for future planning in the stalled capacity. Due to the problem of water drainage a situation of water logging has developed on lakhs of hectares of land over there. Water is accumulated over ten lakh hectare land. Therefore I request that a special economic package should be given for Bihar.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget for the year 2005-2006.

Providing stability, progress, development of the country, and also food, clothing and housing to all countrymen is the intention of every government and this influences the Budget every year.

I read the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance very carefully. I came to the conclusion that it is nothing but a good essay with things like Bharat Nirman.

Over the last 58 years, the Congress has been ruling the country for 50 years. Sometimes they come up with slogans like 'Garibi hatao' and sometimes they declare programmes like the Twenty-point Programme but what is the achievement?

About 30 per cent of our population is below the poverty line and about 27 per cent of our youths are jobless. This is the achievement of successive Congress Governments.

While going through the Budget Speech, I found that the hon. Minister of Finance has cleverly taken the credit for the implementation of programmes initiated by the National Democratic Alliance. For example, in the case of agricultural credit, all of us know that for the first time in the history of this country interest in single digit, that is, nine per cent rate of interest loans were declared for the farmers of this country during the tenure of the NDA Government. The farmers were also provided 50 per cent crop loans, and loans up to Rs. 1 lakh for tractors and other equipment.

Secondly, the hon. Minister of Finance has taken credit also for providing educational loans. It is a creation of the NDA Government. The NDA Government started providing educational loans to students at a low rate of interest up to a period of 15 years.

The Antyodaya Yojana for providing rice at Rs. 2 per kilograms to people below the poverty line was launched by the NDA Government. For the first time in the history of India, Kisan Credit Cards were issued by the NDA Government. The creation of self-help groups was also initiated by the NDA Government.

The financial aid to the self-help group was given by the NDA Government.

Whatever intentions are there, unless proper infrastructure is created, they will be useless. If infrastructure facilities like roads, water supply, electricity connectivity and telephones etc. are not there, whatever you say in the Budget will be useless. I would say that for the first time in the history of India, former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched the scheme for road connectivity to the villages of more than 1,500 population because of which all schemes were easily reaching the common people.

Our hon. Minister of Finance declared about job creation through irrigation; one crore hectares of land will be brought under irrigation within a period of five years and ultimately one crore jobs will be created. But no specific scheme is there nor any financial provision is there. I cannot understand how these jobs will be created. Secondly, he has taken credit for the textile industry. Our NDA Government had given a package to the textile industry because of which a number of jobs were created. That was the creation of the NDA Government.

I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance. Mumbai city is giving one-third of the revenue of the country to this Government. It is essential to restructure that city and it is under consideration also. It has been declared to equal this city to Shanghai. But not a single pie is provided by this Government for Mumbai city from which we are getting a good and heavy revenue.

I wish to bring one more thing to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance about the cooperative banking industry which is the lifeline of the common people in the country. They are now in crisis. The hon. Minister declared that he would do something regarding this cooperative banking industry. He has declared a package for the sugar industry and I definitely congratulate him for this. But, at the same

time, you may please declare a package for the cooperative banking industry it will definitely help the common people.

Lastly, I join with hon. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the Deputy Leader of the BJP regarding the concerns expressed by him about senior citizens, women and also the salary-earning people. Because of the new taxation structure they are in some loss. I hope it will be restructured and they will be helped.

I think this much is sufficient. Thank you very much.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, I rise to dwell upon a few aspects of the budget proposals presented by hon. Finance Minister of India. The budget proposals have been churned out after due consideration of the needs and aspirations of the common people of India. He has displayed his sheer brilliance and acumen in the preparation of budget proposals. However, a few minor hiccups still remain there and I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will reconsider certain issues, especially the withdrawal tax because he has already admitted that he is not a stubborn person; he is very affable, amenable and polite person.

Some hon. Members have argued regarding the Bharat Nirman. Actually, Bharat Nirman is an integral part of the development philosophy India has been pursuing since Independence. The Budget of this year has been prepared against the backdrop of tsunami disaster, against the backdrop of the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission, spiralling crude oil prices and liquidity hang overs. Already, the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission have impacted Rs. 26,000 crore on the economy and it has further aggravated the FRBM norms. However, if we go through the budget proposals, we see that this Budget is intended to provide succour, to provide employment to the poor people of our country.

Sir, as you know, the UPA is founded upon NCMP which is regarded as the Bible of this Government, which is a beacon light of this Government. We follow the six principles on governance and seven priorities on policy action. It is promised to grow the economy to the tune of seven to eight percent and to generate more employment for a safe and viable livelihood to the common people, welfare and well-being of the farmers and of the unorganised sectors so that the social security could be ensured and there are equal opportunities of employment and education, especially to the SC, the ST, the OBCs and the religious minorities and to unleash creative energies of entrepreneurs, professionals, businessmen and other areas.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

Sir, the budget proposals have put a special emphasis on the rural sector. Already a new deal for rural sector has been announced. As far as Antyodaya Annapurna Yojana is concerned, 2.5 crore families are proposed to be included. For ICDS, Rs. 3,142 crore are allocated. For Mid-Day Meal Scheme, allocation is to be increased for next year to Rs. 3,010 crore.

As regards the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the allocation is to be increased to Rs. 7,156 crore; for Drinking Water Mission, the outlay is proposed to be increased to the tune of Rs. 4,750 crore; for SC & ST programme the allocation proposed is Rs. 6,253 crore; for Backward Region Grant Fund allocation is Rs. 5,000 crore; for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) outlay is to be increased to Rs. 4,800 crore; and for textile sector the investment has been estimated at Rs. 30,000 crore.

As regards the priority sectors, and flagship programmes falling under the NCMP, the Finance Minister has proposed to provide an additional sum of Rs. 25,000 crore; allocation for education in 2005-2006 will be Rs. 18,337 crore; for rural development, allocation will be Rs. 18,334 crore, subsidy for fertiliser will be Rs. 16,254 crore, expenditure on health is estimated at Rs. 10,280 crore; for National Rural Employment Guarantee, the allocation will be increased to Rs. 11,000 crore; outlay for National Highway will be increased to Rs. 9,320 crore; and the outlay proposed for the National Urban Renewal Mission is Rs. 5,500 crore. However, the Opposition is not contented with these measures.

A man who is not contented with what he has will not be contented with what he would like to have, and there lies the problem. Herodotus said that: "I am satisfied that people are less confident of what we say than what we do." Actually, the former NDA regime had strived hard to deceive the Indian people by some high-blown rhetoric or by some high-blown rigmarole under the rubric of India shining. We also plead for a shining India, but we plead India to shine for all. We do not plead India shining for a few. Therefore, our reform is directed to create public good, instead of private wealth.

A new deal for rural India has already been announced because it has been observed that a fast developing economy like India cannot afford to ignore agriculture. It has been found that between 1992 and 1997 agriculture has been growing at 4.7 percent, and later it was receded to 2%. In 2003-2004, we got a bonanza of 9 percent because there

lies some lacuna, and gap specially, in maintaining the irrigation assets, agriculture investment, etc. Therefore, the new deal for rural India has prescribed a number of measures, namely, to reverse the declining trend in investment in agriculture; the credit flow to the farmers has already been stepped up to the tune of Rs. 1,08,000 crore; there is increase in public investment in irrigation and watershed development; there is increase in fund for agriculture research, and extension; a single market for agricultural produce is being created; there is investment in rural healthcare, and education; investment in rural electrification and rural roads; steps are taken for setting up of commodities future market; ensure against risk in farming, and rural business; etc....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude your speech. The time given to speak on an issue is given to the party.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Under the Crop Insurance Scheme, we have not been able to cover much sown area. Secondly, private insurers have not been induced into the agricultural insurance sector, which needs to be looked after. How much sown area has been covered by insurance?

Our Government has been able to contain inflation. The Wholesale Price Index which shot up to 8 percent has been brought down to 5.01 percent. The consumer price level which shot up to 5 percent has been reduced to 4 percent. It has been possible by reducing the import duties and tightening the monetary policy. Already we have the privilege of a robust foreign exchange reserve and a modest external debt.

Sir, the engine of growth of any economy depends upon trade. A developing country like India has various advantages in production of primary products such as tea, pulses, coffee on the one hand, and engineering goods, software etc., on the other hand. We are a developing country and we have the privilege to direct the flow of investment to that sector where we can derive more benefit. Keeping this in view, the Indian Government has been pursuing a longterm trade policy, which has been yielding tangible results. Already our foreign trade has touched 75 billion US dollars and within a span of five years, according to the promise given, it will reach 150 billion US dollars. Now, the share of Indian trade in the world market is as meagre as 0.8 percent. It has to be increased to 1.5 percent within the next few years. In that direction, we have been pursuing our trade policy.

I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for

allocating Rs. 52 crore for undertaking an anti-erosion programme in West Bengal and other States. Over the years, people of West Bengal in general and Murshidabad in particular have been agitating over the erosion problem, which has drastically altered the geographical expression of Murshidabad, Malda and other districts. I would again request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate more funds because given the magnitude of the erosion problem, this fund seems very meagre.

Starvation deaths have been occurring in West Bengal. In Amlasol, Jalangi and in various places, starvation deaths have occurred. The fact is that our Government has already acknowledged that due to poor delivery mechanism, food has not been reaching the poor people. The Government has been trying to revamp the system, but the primary responsibility lies with the State Government. That is why, we cannot accuse the Central Government for the starvation deaths occurring in West Bengal.

Actually, Sir, we are now passing through the age of post multi-fibre arrangement as the quota regime has been phased out. In the Post-ATC, wide opportunity has been opened up for the Indian textile sector. In the textile sector, jute industry is also a component.

Sir, I represent West Bengal which is the largest producer of jute in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Other Members of your party will not get a chance.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the problem of jute Sector.

More funds should be allocated to ensure that jute industry in West Bengal survives. Already a Technology Mission has been approved with a corpus of Rs.500 crore. However, that fund has not yet been made available so far as my knowledge goes. About forty lakhs of cultivators are growing jute in the State. Jute sector is providing direct employment to about 2.41 lakh workers, and in tertiary, employment to about 1.41 people. So, special emphasis must be laid on the jute sector.

Before I conclude, I would like to quote a few lines from Kautilya's *Artha shastra*:-

[Translation]

*"prajasukhe, sukham Rajyah; prajanam che hite
Namnapriya Hitem Rajyah, praja na tu priya hitem"*

[English]

They can be roughly translated into English as :

"In the happiness of his subjects,
Lies the King's happiness;
In their welfare, his welfare;
He shall not consider as good, only
That which pleases him;
But treat as beneficial to him,
Whatever pleases his subjects."

The Kings have now been transformed into Governments. Our Government is very much sensitive to the poor people, and to the plight of the common people in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh—Not present.

Shri B. Vinod Kumar—Not present

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, undoubtedly the king of jugglery of figures shown by hon'ble Finance Minister is a commendable job. Whether the Finance Minister would reply that as stated by him there would be a growth of 25 percent income, but where from this 25 percent increase would come? It would only be known after a period of one year. Practically they had said the same thing last year. In the year 2004-2005, there was plan of 1,45,590 crore rupees and it came down to Rs. 1,37,387 crore after direct tax deductions- which means that deduction upto 5.5 percent were made till that very end. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister as to how much deduction was made in the plan he formulated since he must be knowing well as to how much was to be deducted? I would like to ask hon'ble Minister to speak his mind.

17.44 hrs.

(SHRI ARJUN SETHI in the Chair)

Sir, I would like to request hon'ble Minister that if there was a way to look inside someone's heart, then it would have been easier to find out what lies in beneath as otherwise it is very difficult to understand this. In the economic resolution the 25 percent growth as told by him seems to be a large portion. In the end this plan will also meet the same fate as of the current plan.

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

Now I come to Rural Employment Guarantee scheme but there is not guarantee in this scheme. Employment Guarantee Scheme exists in Maharashtra if work is not given there then some small allowances are given. Just now he made a mention of Employment Guarantee Scheme, but what provision has he made in the budget for someone who does not get employment? There is no provision for that in the budget. Not only this, if we calculate Rs. 5,400 crore cash component and 50 lakh metric tonne of food grain component together, it comes close to Rs. 11,000 crores.

But how much money would be invested upon this? How much it would cost to include the rural people of the country under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. According to my calculations it will require Rs. 20 thousand crore approximately. A total provision of Rs. 11 thousand crores of cash component and food grain component has been made by him, which means there would be a deficit of Rs. 10 thousand crores and these schemes would not be implemented.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had launched developmental works to take our economy in the new direction and the Minister of Finance had also made the same efforts by starting this scheme last year but now does he want to discontinue this? He has talked about "Bharat Nirman" scheme under which 1000 villages would be linked with roads, 60 lakh extra houses would be constructed, drinking water facilities would be provided in 74 thousand villages, 25 thousand villages would be electrified and telephones would be provided in 66,822 villages but where would the funds come from? where have the provisions been made for this scheme? Budget requires public investment and it does not reflect here. As a result the announcements by the Finance Minister would remain only on paper and the "Bharat Nirman" scheme would meet the same fate as the announcement of creating socialist society, poverty alleviation scheme and the hype that was created after bank nationalization. There should be clear provisions in the budget as to how much allocations would be made if drinking water is to be made available in 1000 villages, the hon. Finance Minister has not made any calculations in this regard.

These are 170 backward districts in the country. A provision of 5 thousand crore rupees have been made for this purpose. As per calculation each district would get 29.4 crore rupees. Whether this provision of 29.4 crore rupees is sufficient to make these backward districts move ahead.

Similar is the case of National Labour Development Scheme. I looked into the funds spent under DRDA and Labour Development Scheme in the districts of Bandara, Chandrapur, Garhchiroli and Gondia which falls in my constituency and found that not even 50 percent of the funds have been spent during the last three years and if this state of affairs continues then this scheme would, also meet the fate of remaining only on paper.

Last time he gave a special package to Bihar and I welcomed it as a good thing thinking that it would contribute towards the development of Bihar, it was his job to elaborate upon the results of the package but he has not made any evaluation in this regard. There is no allocation for 12th Finance Commission in the Budget. As a result this announcement would remain an announcement only. It has been said that additional one thousand crore hectare land would be irrigated, how many ponds are there? Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of Gocharkhurd Plant in Bhandara district. It was worth Rs. 300 crores and now its worth is 3500 crores rupees, there is no provision to commission this plant in this budget.

80 percent farmers of the country live in villages and we have been saying since we gained independence that it is a country of the villages and agriculture. The hon. Minister of Finance has told about an increase in allocations by 1300 crore rupees in this regard. It has been stated that this allocation of 1300 crore rupees is for the development in agriculture and cooperative sector but infact this money has been provided to the cooperative banks and sugar mills. What does the farmers have to do with it. They are committing suicide. Has he given it a thought to find out why they are committing suicide. Actually the interest rate is different in nationalized and cooperative banks. The farmers have raised this issue several times. It became 9 percent in nationalized banks during the regime of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee but it remained same in cooperative banks. The Government intervened only after the question was asked in Lok Sabha. This will not do. The hon. Finance Minister is a learned and intelligent person, no doubt about that but he would have to remove the difference in interest rates between nationalized and cooperative banks. He should formulate a law at national level in this regard. When our farmers would compete at WTO level, you and I are farmers...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : I have just begun. There the rate of interest is 4 percent and here it is 9 to 13 percent. How would we be able to compete with

them in such conditions. Won't it be a dream to bring the rate of interest at 4 percent and we would have to do so by planting our feet firmly on ground.

I know that crop insurance scheme was formulated during the regime of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee but it has some loopholes. The farmers are not getting benefits of that scheme even now. I have requested to make improvements in it. The rates of paddy are very low. If rates of paddy can not be fixed on the basis of cost of production then the essential commodities act should be withdrawn. We would sell it in the world market. If essential commodities act is retained then the rates of paddy should be fixed at 1000 rupees per quintal on the basis of production cost which he can not do. The rates of paddy are fixed at Rs. 520, Rs. 580 due to which farmers are committing suicide.

Shri Vajpayee ji had announced a programme to link rivers for irrigation. The Irrigation Minister has charged that nothing has been done in this regard. I would like to tell that Dr. Rao gave the programme of linking rivers in 1955...*(Interruptions)* I would elaborate upon this issue. The programme of linking of rivers was taken up in all sincerity and he has tried to make a mockery of it. It was expected from him that he will make same provisions to continue that programme but he has not done anything in this regard.

Villages with a population of 4 thousand people should be computerized. Whether there is any thing that he can do to link the market committees of the country with the world market. There is a need to do this in the field of IT...*(Interruptions)*. How would one know about medicinal plantation etc. Atleast the large villages need to be computerised.

I want to say something about Kisan Credit Card. Its limit is Rs. 50 thousand regarding crop loan which needs to be increased up to two lakh rupees. He only makes announcements on paper, this will not do. If he wants to do something in the interest of the farmers, the poor and the villages then he would definitely have to consider this.

I would conclude after raising two-three issues regarding my constituency. There are several iron ore mines in Surajagarh and Lohargardhi of Chandrapur in Chimur constituency. Tata conducted an inspection of Surajagarh before embarking on mining in Tatanagar. My submission is that these mines could be offered on lease and an iron factory could be set up there, it should be considered. Similarly there are coal mines in Manjori etc. in Chimur

constituency. I have tried to raise this issue several times but new mines have not been commissioned. We are importing coal from China and its rate is atleast three times more. Nothing is being done to start coal mines there. The farmers who have encroached upon forest land have been living there for generations. They have their houses and farms there. Nobody thinks of offering them that land on lease. The tribals living in villages should be offered ownership rights.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that fake currency is coming in the country on large scale from Pakistan, Nepal and Dubai, how does he propose to check it. Plastic notes made by modern technology are prevalent all over the world. Has he given it a thought, I feel there is nothing for the villages, the poor and farmers in the budget. That is why I strongly oppose this budget. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you since you've given me an opportunity to speak on General Budget. It is very good that hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here today. Yesterday, the Minister of State was available as hon. Minister of Finance was late to arrive. I would like to say that the Budget has been presented before the House quite cleverly. Hon. Minister has highlighted certain things so much so that the attention of commonman can be attracted towards those things and other items can easily be passed by. He has done it quite cleverly. He has hiked the ceiling of rebate on income tax. Hon. Minister is going whereas we are sitting here to listen to him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of State is present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : He has hiked the ceiling of rebate on income tax and income upto Rs. One lakh has been made net off tax. It is a respite for salaried class. Similarly, to please women, income tax limit for them has been increased to Rs. One lakh and 25 thousand and that for senior citizens to Rs. One and a half lakh. It is a good step indeed. In addition, he has imposed tax on cash withdrawals from banks. On a withdrawal of Rs. 10 thousand it would be 0.1 per cent. There are many more provisions like that but I will not like to go in details.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

On the other hand, a cess of 50 paise per litre on petrol/diesel has been provided for construction of highways. I would like to say that he has over burdened common-man, especially farmers. The marginal or small farmers use diesel pumps and tractors for ploughing their fields. So this way, he has directly burdened them.

On the one hand custom duty on certain items has been lowered to a great extent and on the other hand excise duty has been imposed on certain items. Rebate in custom duty has been provided on air-conditions, shoes, socks, ties but some other items have been made costlier. If we analyse it properly, we come to the conclusion that he has burdened the commonman and provided relief to rich. A cess has been imposed on tobacco to generate revenue for health mission. Many a questions has been raised in the house relating to diseases caused by tobacco. I do not say that cess should not be imposed on tobacco to strengthen health mission. But the Government should contain certain fatal diseases caused by smoking.

Hon. Minister has made announcement regarding launching of three new schemes, viz. Bharat Nirman, Horticulture Mission and development of backward areas. I would like to draw his attention towards horticulture mission.
...(interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shailendra Kumar, please wait for a minute. Please hear me.

There are many hon. Members to participate in this discussion. If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House by another two hours.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, thank you. Shri Shailendra Kumar, you may now continue your speech.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Now I would draw his attention towards my constituency. Guava and mango are produced in abundance in my constituency, Guava of Allahabad is especially famous. This variety of Guava is not available in any part of India. It is good that the Government has made a provision of Rs. 630 crore but there is a need to

set up a research centre and a factory for making jam and jelly so that it could be exported. Secondly, the Government have announced that it would develop backward areas. Special emphasis has been laid to agriculture, education, health and rural development.

As human being needs air, sunlight and water on the same lines I would like to quote a slogan of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, "Roti, Kapda Sasta ho, dawai padhai muft ho". Hon. Mulayam Singh's government in Uttar Pradesh has done a lot in this direction. My submission is that special attention should be paid to food, clothing and health and education. U.P. Government has made education upto intermediate level free and education for girls free upto B.A. I would like the Government to provide budgetary support to U.P. so that the country's heart, Uttar Pradesh can progress and so can the whole nation.

No provision has been made in the current years' budget for education to SCs/STs students. I would like hon. Minister to clarify his position in this regard during his reply on budget 2005-06. Budget shows deficit of Rs. 95,000 crore. A plan expenditure of Rs. 1.72 lakh crore has been earmarked for Budget 2005-06. Here I would like to say that hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has written to hon. Prime Minister demanding budgetary allocation of Rs. 18,230 crore for U.P. He has met with the Finance Minister and has placed his request before the Planning Commission also. This year has been an year of all round price-rise. Therefore, in view of it, I would request the Central Government to provide Rs. 20,000 crore for Uttar Pradesh so that development work can be taken up. So far as implementation of VAT w.e.f. 1 April in various states is concerned, in this regard I would like to say that implementation of VAT would be better on the basis of economic, commercial and geographical condition of a state. Business community is up in arms against its implementation in Uttar Pradesh. Bihar has been identified as a state requiring special grants. Though I am not against Bihar, yet I would say that as the Government has announced that it would pay special emphasis on education, health. On the same lines Uttar Pradesh, being heart of the country should be provided special grants so that it can progress. The Government is committed to provide power to 1.2 lakh villages and to set up a power sub-station in each block. The scheme has been in vogue since last year but we have seen no new power sub-station has been established nor any provision has been made in this regard. Therefore, special attention should be paid to it.

As per the Budget, 170 districts are proposed to be

identified. A provision of Rs. 5000 crore has been made in Budget for 2006. I would like to say that Bundelkhand and Poorvanchal in U. P. are far from development. Negligible development has taken place in these areas. My submission is that at least Bundelkhand and Poorvanchal should surely be included in 170 districts proposed to be identified. On the other hand urdu teachers are proposed to be appointed in primary and senior secondary schools to appease the minorities. Though Sikhs, Jains, Parasies etc. are also included in the minority population of the country, however, Muslims are most backward among them. Comparatively more funds should have been allocated for the educational development of minorities. The Government have increased agriculture budget by 38 percent but it will be beneficial mainly for rich farmers who have invested more money and are engaged in horticulture etc. Marginal and middle class farmers will not be benefited more by this. We are discussing the issues of farmers in the House, however, today farmers are committing suicide. Nearly 500 to 600 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, arrangement should be made by the Government to provide remunerative price of the agricultural produce to the farmers. The farmers and not the middlemen should get direct benefit of their agriculture produce.

Sir, the Government have increased Rs.65 crore 99 lakh in the Budget for the promotion of sports in the country. It is a commendable step. There is no dearth of sport talents in rural areas, rather there is need to provide them opportunity and proper coaching. 'Yuvak Mangal Dal' are performing this task in the villages. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister for Finance that efforts should be made by the Government to setup at least one Mini stadium at the block level. Along with that, I would like to extend my thanks to you. However, I support some part of the Budget and oppose some part of the Budget.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, I only want to dwell on two aspects, namely, agriculture and WTO. It is commendable that the hon. Finance Minister has said that we would give a lot of credit to farmers. You are creating infrastructure for farmers. It is all very good. But will it help them in the long run? Now we are discussing agriculture in Geneva. I do not want to go into the details of that. What will happen? By the time we conclude the whole thing, the entire market will be open to the multinationals. They will come here and occupy our agricultural sector. The World Bank is asking us not to give domestic subsidies. What is happening? Subsidies are given whether in the green box or otherwise.

There is domestic subsidy worth 375 billion dollars. They also get export and other subsidies. In our negotiations, they have said that they are prepared to reduce export subsidy by 20 percent every year for the next five years. But other subsidies would continue. With such a loaded subsidies, when the food grains are imported from those countries even with all the infrastructure and credit which we are giving to the farmers, will they be able to face them? They can compete in the farmers of the United States if they are given a level playing field. But can they face the Government of the United States? So, this is going to destroy our agriculture.

The World Bank have told us to diversify our agriculture to horticulture. The funds are being provided. It is wonderful. What is the argument? One of the arguments is that—if I am quoting correctly—since production of wheat and rice is water intensive, we go to horticulture. It would increase your export. It has been found that by resorting to organic farming, seven times less water is necessary for wheat and rice production. So, now we are going to divert the entire thing to horticulture for export. What will happen?

India is a country which is self-sufficient in food grains. But now we are driving the entire economy, by diversification on the instructions of the World Bank and the WTO, to be totally dependent on the United States of America and other Western countries. Should that be allowed? Whenever it comes to the question of agriculture, we say it is a State subject. Two days back, in the Kerala Assembly, the Agriculture Minister said that the import of pepper is destroying the economy of that sector.

Sir, I am coming from the Waynad area where percentage-wise suicide is the highest in India. Prices are coming down. Did ever the Government of India discuss with the State Government when they entered into FTA with SAARC and other countries? The Agreement was signed in Delhi but the consequences of that Agreement would have to be suffered in states. Who takes the decisions? Should Government be only a communicating agency for the decisions taken in Geneva or in Washington just to tell us that these are mandatory things and that they cannot do anything about it? Could it be allowed to go on like this? Only two percent of the entire economy of the United States is associated with agriculture. What about us? What is going to happen to all that we are providing for agriculture? The Government says that it is a mandatory agreement.

Sir, in 1994 in Marrakesh we signed an agreement. Was Parliament informed? Over a hundred crore people in India, we are bound by this agreement but we do not know

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

what is happening. Do you not think that our sovereignty is impinged? Should anybody tell us as to what we should do and what we should not do? Institutions like the World Bank, the IDBA, the ADBA are imposing conditionalities and saying that we have to do this. As if they are sitting in the Government and telling us what to do and what not to do and how to restructure the Government. Just to borrow some money from these institutions, should our sovereignty be impinged? Should we be so helpless that we cannot do anything to save our country? Privatisation is all right. But what happening, is it not corporatisation?

Sir, I would like to mention just two points. First, take the case of agriculture. We are talking of BPL people here. In the United States, the Multinational Corporations are controlling agriculture. I want to inform the House about two people who are getting agricultural subsidy in the United States. One is Mr. Ted Turner, who is a multi-billionaire and the other man is Mr. David Rockefeller. They are recipients of subsidy in the United States. Here, we have no responsibility towards the people of our country. The people in Geneva and Washington tell us as to what we should do. They have the authority and we have the responsibility. Do you not think that this is the time to think collectively as to how to stop this plunder? Should we give ourselves in to the Multinational Companies to dictate terms to us? Should we allow these Multinational Companies to come to this country and sell genetically modified seeds and transgenic seeds and dictate terms to us, allow them to destroy our agriculture, destroy our poor people? We cannot allow this and it is time to fight back.

Sir, on the water front I would like to submit that for thousand days people in a place called Placcimada in the State of Kerala are struggling for their rights to get water. I have the figures with me here. About 650,000 cubic metres of water every year is drained from that place by companies like Coca Cola and Pepsi. It is their own revelation. The actual figure is much more than that. As a result of that not only ground water has been depleted but surface water has also been polluted.

Sir, about four to five days back, one lady by name Mailamma, a *dalit* woman—she is still fighting with the MNCs to get water—came to Delhi. She told me that she wanted to meet the Prime Minister and other important people here. I asked her as to why she wanted to meet them. She has come here neither to get any subsidy, nor for getting any infrastructural facilities, but to get redressal of her grievance and the grievance is that the Mailamma should be allowed

by the Multinational Companies to fetch water from her own well. The mighty Government at the Centre spends Rs. 80,000 crore a year to defend our country. But would this Government be able to give drinking water to Mailamma in Placcimada? We can fight enemies, we can fight armies. But today the question is, how do we fight the Multinational Companies? Are we not responsible for the people of Placcimada who want their water? It is because we cannot disturb the corporate entities in Atlanta. They decide whether Mailamma should have water or not and the mighty Government of India cannot give an adivasi woman her own water from her own well and get an entry there. What type of Government we are running?

Coming to watershed management, what is the directive of WTO? Cost water! Do not subsidize water. Should we treat water as a commodity? Without water can any species live? Water is a right. Can we agree that water is a commodity? When we have lost power to regulate people from taking ground water, whether it is in Kalapara or Mediganj or Plachimada, the multinational companies are entirely draining ground water from here. Can we stop them? How can we tell them that you go for rainwater harvesting? Can we control them? Sir, they are taking away our rivers. Tehri Dam is being built. Water is going to be taken, to be sold to whom? To those companies? If you do not get them enough water, they fine Rs. 50,000. For whom? The multinationals can export water and they can plunder out water. What type of dictation is this from the World Bank? This is very painful. I do not want to comment on this. There are poor people in this country.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram is my great friend. I had worked with him in 1996 when I was the Minister of State for Finance. I had the great luck of coming with him when he presented his Budget to Parliament. He is a wonderful person. But did he go to Warangal of Andhra Pradesh? Did he go to places in Karnataka where farmers have committed suicide? With all my respect to my great friend, Mr. Chidambaram, he goes to find the sensex figures of Mumbai Stock Exchange. Farmers do not know about sensex figures. There are poor people in the country and their problems have to be addressed with all our analysis and with all our concern. Don't you think that you are slowly being driven to a position where we are handing over our country to the interest of the corporates? I do not want to dwell much on that.

Coming to the service sector, why should we open the service sector to the multinationals? What happened to the Mumbai route? When our own people in this country can

run it and can manage it, why should we invite them here? Is it a doctrine? Are we saying that we do not do whatever we can do, so do it for us. Is FDI such a sanctimonious thing for us to accept? Are we not allowing 100 percent FDI investment in agricultural land? Tomorrow some multinational may be buying hundreds and thousands of hectares of agricultural land in this country. Do you want another colonial country to come and occupy us? They will buy our country. They are not coming with military. They are coming with dollars and they are more dangerous than bullets. On this, I am cautioning the Government. Of course, my party is supporting the Government from outside. We are supporting this Government. But this Government must be concerned with our future. What is going to happen to this country in future? When we talk about Globalisation and when we point out as to what is happening with globalisation, immediately fingers point out at us that we are against development. Development does not need surrendering our rights, our sovereignty and our country's destiny to multinational corporations.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget. In fact, I find it very unusual that people are opposing this Budget. It is essentially a breakthrough Budget and I will explain how. This is a Budget which is oriented towards development. It takes forward the policy of the liberalisation that was initiated by our Prime Minister fourteen years ago, when he was the Finance Minister. It is one single reason for India's economy being what it is today. Our Finance Minister was faced with the difficult task of relating the Budget to the common man, the *Aam Aadmi*. It is this *Aam Aadmi* about whom Soniaji has been talking about to which the people of India have reacted with great enthusiasm and expectation.

I am very happy to say that the Finance Minister has balanced the heavy demand for development, with concern for the common man. he has laid down a road map for India's development. It is rare that a Finance Minister can find resources worth Rs. 1,72,500 crore as Gross Budgetary Support, which is 17 percent more than the last year's Budget. He has earmarked an amount of Rs. 25,000 crore for some flagship programmes. I would say that he has performed some kind of a miracle mainly because, while he has done all this, he has done it without any substantial rise in either direct or indirect taxes, or increase in the fiscal deficit or abetting inflation. Above all, he has produced a Budget which has national consensus.

I am firmly of the view that it has set India on its way to becoming very soon a member of the developed nations

of the world. It will be possible for us to wipe off the tears from the eyes of every Indian and 'keep out tryst with destiny', that Pt. Jawaharlal had spoken of. If I say this, it may appear a little high sounding. But the stock market, which is the *sutradhar*, had registered a push of 6,000 to 7,000 points immediately after the Budget was presented. This is very rare and in fact, it has never happened in the immediate post-Budget weeks. That is one great certificate that the Finance Minister has been given. We should accept it. I also commend the Finance Minister for widening the scope of poverty determination. This also has happened for the first time. He has gone beyond the calorie-based poverty indicators and instead has used illiteracy, disease, infant mortality, malnutrition, absence of skills and unemployment as indicators.

This, of course, will bring me to my home State, Bihar. As I go along I will come back to it. I shall confine myself to some observations about the Budget. We should praise the Finance Minister for displaying immense courage in pushing through the Employment Guarantee Scheme about which I have heard much skepticism. But we must understand that this Scheme is not merely a lollypop. It is a means to pump purchasing power into the hands of the people who are living in absolutely rural areas of this country. Of course, the money will have to go to the roots and I am sure good governance will enable this to reach the roots. When that happens, I foresee the regeneration of the economy. With the incremental rural purchasing power, however small it is, there is bound to be an aggregation in the demand for goods and services. It is this demand for goods and services that needs to be addressed if we have to build up on our efforts to increase employment potential.

There is another sector in which the Finance Minister deserves commendation. It is in 'Skill Development'. I fully endorse what he has said about employability of young people. The Rs. 500 crore that he plans to spend on this is a very worthy investment. In fact, it is here that I must refer to what my colleague had earlier said. He had said that India, even before it could pass through an Industrial revolution it is already in the Information Age and Knowledge Age. It is indeed a fact. It is this which the Finance Minister has accepted, acknowledged and has addressed this Budget in a contemporary manner. He has done it knowing that the days of the lathes and milling machines are over. These were machines of the mechanical era and they have very little use in the new environment of computers and numerically controlled machines. In fact, who knows that even these machines may be replaced by the Nano-

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

technology very soon? Therefore, the amount of Rs. 500 crore which he has earmarked for this sector is okay. If, at all, I have an objection, it is that it seems to be a little insufficient and needs to be increased. But, along side this, there is need for the mindset of our young people to change. There seems to be a mindset that they must do only on type of work. They must do work only on some kind of a machine. This mindset has to change. I would suggest that the Government should take upon itself the task of organizing continuous skill upgradation. For example, retraining people upto the age of 50. Otherwise, we will soon have people who are unemployable over the age of even 40. Then, we will be faced with a serious problem. So, skill upgradation has to be kept in mind. The Finance Minister spoken of ITIs tying up with local industries. This is good as far as it goes. But the ITIs will need to tie up also with bank credit and self-employment schemes so that people can set up businesses in mechanical repairs, car servicing, tractor mechanics, diesel pump maintenance, computer maintenance and so on. This is very necessary to enable people to survive productively in the current century. If this is not done, then we will have in our hands many ITI-trained young men who will be unemployable and who are unemployed. They will have to settle for such jobs as railway porters and gangmen. They certainly do not look forward to that kind of a future. That will be creating some kind of discontent. As you all know, already we are in a stage where there is a great deal of discontent which has led to the spread of left-wing extremism. If, at all, the problem of leftwing extremism has to be countered, it has to be done by seeing that the people in this country have employment and are more contented and, therefore, this suggestion of tying up ITI trainees with the bank credit, self-employment is good and should be implemented.

Another initiative that I must commend the finance Minister for, is his grand plan to take roads and the broadband connectivity to every village, the move to complete electrification of all villages, putting up a chain of agro-processing industries, railways and port development as well as upgradation of airports. But, that will mean, once again, a change of mindset. There is a general feeling that...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Please allow me to conclude. I will not take more than 5 minutes. We must get out of the mindset of getting only the Government jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can complete it within two minutes.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : I will try my best. But the jobs will now be in development projects like ports, airports, Hotels and hospitality business. Huge public and private investment in these areas will have to be done.

It will come and when it comes, it will create a great deal of employment potential.

I now come to my State of Bihar. I would repeat what my colleagues have said earlier that Bihar is extremely backward. If we see the *per capita* income, it is only Rs. 3707 against the national average of nearly Rs. 13,000. It is estimated that Bihar's *per capita* income will rise to nearly Rs. 15,000 by the year 2009 – 10 while the national average by that time would have gone up to Rs. 28,045. If we manage to achieve a national growth rate of 10 per cent by the year 2020 as desired by the Rashtrapathiji, Bihar will have to grow at the rate of 15 per cent from now on for the next 15 years. That will need an annual investment of nearly Rs. 38,000 crore. I am well aware of the fact that this is a highly impractical amount for us to find. So, even if we go by what the Rashtrapathiji has said that there should be an annual national growth rate of 10 per cent by 2020, it will still mean that Bihar will need something like Rs. 25,000 crore as additional investment. I know the hon. Finance Minister is wise. He is ingenious. I would appeal to him to find somewhere, through some ingenuity this amount for investment in Bihar. Because, if you leave out Bihar, you cannot have a developed India. Therefore, for a developed India, this investment is very necessary in Bihar....(Interruptions)

I would also like to make some small suggestions. Please give me a little more time. I will make a few suggestions.

First of all, the withdrawal tax and the fringe benefit tax need a re-look. I am told that the Finance Minister is already thinking about it. If he is, he is welcome and we hope he will do something about it.

The second is the restructuring of the personal income-tax. It is good. It leaves about Rs. 1 lakh with the middle-class to do whatever it feels like with it. But I would suggest that some concession should be given to those who spend money on looking after aged parents. This is a particularly India social phenomenon. We would like our parents to be looked after by the sons and daughters rather than sending them to old-age homes. My request to the hon. Finance

Minister is that he may kindly consider giving some kind of a concession to this.

The third point about a very ambitious scheme of Food-for-Work throughout this country and 150 districts have been selected. I am unable to understand why my district of Aurangabad in Bihar was left out of it especially because it is a backward area and is infested with left-wing extremism. Particularly, this year, it was struck by drought. It should have been the first one among the districts of Bihar to have been so included. But it has been left out most inexplicably. I hope that the Finance Minister will kindly redress this grievance by providing additional funds. It will have to be included in the districts meant for Food-for-Work. Programme. ... (Interruptions)

The next point is that power in Bihar is a problem. It has an assessed need of 1500 megawatt of which Bihar produces only one third. This is a serious position because the rest of the power comes from outside. This is so despite the fact that Bihar has today Barauni, Kanti, Barun power projects. But, of these, only Barauni, is working and that also is working to only one-third of its capacity. There was a proposal mooted as far back as 1989 to put up a 2200 megawatt power project at Nabi Nagar in Aurangabad district. It was to cost Rs. 8000 crore. Now, it is 16 years. There has been no progress in this... (Interruptions) I would appeal to the Government of India to do something to see there is provision for expenditure to be incurred on the Nabi Nagar Super Thermal Power Project.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : I will conclude. Bihar is always inundated with floods. I am going to be very brief about it. We need to see that some kind of an arrangement is made for permanent protection against floods. This is possible only if there are suitable preventive arrangements made on the rivers coming into Bihar from Nepal particularly Bhaghmati, Kamalabalan, Gandak and Kosi. Apart from this there is another river that comes to India from Nepal on which we can put up bydel projects... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Now package has been given to his State so he should not further speak on that.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already mentioned everything.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Please listen to me. A lot is said about Bihar and it is said there it is very backward. I am telling how Bihar can be developed. Why dams are not constructed on Kamla and Bagmati rivers? Why dam is not constructed on Koshi High Canal? Why the treaty made in 1996 regarding the Pancheshwar dam is not implemented? I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that sufficient financial provision should be made for this as what will happen if the required fund is not arranged after the agreement with the government of Nepal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : ... Provided the Nepal Government agrees. Please conclude. I am very much constrained of time.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : In the end I would like to submit that shallow tube wells were used on large scale at the time of drought in Bihar. However, the farmers had to suffer heavy loss on account of use of the said tube wells. The farmer had to suffer.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : From the Congress party's side, 21 hon. Members want to speak. From the opposition's side more than 30 hon. Members want to speak. How can I accommodate?

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, in the Shallow Tubewell Water Project which was implemented in our State, 20 per cent share is born by the farmers and thirty per cent is given as subsidy. Shallow Tubewell could have been provided to many farmers but due to this provision, they are unable to install them. I would like to appeal the hon. Minister of Finance that the amount of subsidy should be increased more than thirty per cent and the share of farmers should be reduced from twenty per cent to ten per cent. It will make Shallow Tubewell project more popular and the people will be benefited by this. I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not possible for any Minister of Finance or the Government to incorporate large scale changes in the Budget since India has signed the world Trade Agreement and we have followed

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

the policy of economic liberalization whether it is UPA Government or the NDA Government. However, some points should be taken into consideration. The export from our country should increase more and more and the import should be reduced. It is essential for the Government to ponder as to how export of our agricultural products and the materials produced by our industries especially small scale industries from our country can be increased. The Government enjoy the support of almost all the political parties. The Government also enjoy the support of left parties and there is no hurdle in the way of hon. Chidambaram ji, however, the Government should especially keep in mind that unless backward States are developed, we cannot emerge as developed India. I would like to request that Government should pay special attention to backward States.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have some doubts in my mind regarding the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance and I want clarification in this regard. He has brought out a book. The question is how financial target fixed by him will be achieved. That is the main objective and it should be. The title of the book is "Implementation of Budget-announcement". The announcements have been made however, how these will be implemented? The moment I went through the first paragraph of the Budget some doubts here arisen in my mind and I would like to have clarification from him in this regard. Chidambaram ji has used these words. I would like to quote :

[English]

"Under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, I am obliged to wipe out the revenue deficit by 2007-2008. However, the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has proposed that we do so by 2008-2009".

[Translation]

He further mentions—

[English]

"In my view, 2008-2009 is a more credible terminal year. It will also coincide with the term of this Government."

This is where I have my doubts.

[Translation]

Revenue deficit could have ended in the year 2007-

08. The Government of NDA had set a target to wipe it out by the year 2007-08, but just to have the credit that they have worked on it and have increased it further by one year. Now there would be revenue deficit for another one year only because they want to take credit for it, but we object to this step as its burden would have to be borne by the people of the country. If they work with this kind of attitude that they should get the whole credit and to no one else then it would not be in the interest of the country and I want this to improve.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have received an open letter. A young man from Madhya Pradesh has written a letter to all the Members. This young man belongs to Khajuraho. He has expressed some doubts regarding the budget. Although Khajuraho is famous for art but still a young man is also there who understands economics and he has raised a very good point.

[English]

This is about Securitisation Act, 2003. With your permission, I would like to quote what he writes and I will take a little bit of time. He writes :

"Meanwhile the Securitisation Act, 2003 has transformed the so-called NPAs of public sector banks into a treasure trove. Such PSU banks with NPAs in the category of one crore and above alone are valued at three lakh crores and command a lien over property worth 60 lakh crores. Now, this is the treasure which every foreign bank is eyeing.

[Translation]

He doubts that Government's permission to foreign banks to enter here is leading of other dangerous consequences. What he writes next is :

[English]

"The provision in paragraph 86 of the Budget Speech 2004-2005 to make this debt tradable will enable the banks and their prospective new owners to appropriate a sizeable chunk of these riches."

This is where his doubt is and you have to look into it very seriously.

[Translation]

Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill and many other such schemes that they have brought,

were already running. Since they found coffers full, they want to take credit by allocating more funds to this scheme. They have raised the allocation, this is good, but all these schemes are old. I would like to read what has been published in "The Pioneer"—

[English]

"In the name of modification, it seems the UPA Government has reproduced a pilot project of the former NDA Government for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector. The unorganised sector workers Bill was introduced earlier."

[Translation]

The unorganised Sector Workers Bill has been introduced but I would know from the Government that when are they bringing it to the House at the earliest. Since the Government are following the footsteps of the previous Government. I am reminded of a famous saying in Bundelkhand. It is said in our Bundelkhand that:

"Tej Jale Bati Jale, Naam Diya Ka hoye
Palna mei Lalna Khele, Nam Piya ka hoye."

The schemes are of NDA Government and the present Government is taking the credit of running those scheme.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, Congress has been getting votes for years in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Recently also a huge Dandi March was organised. Our Minister of Small Scale Industries and Minister of Agro and Rural Industries is an old follower of Gandhi ideology. What has he done? He has published a book.

[English]

"Milestones of UPA Government in 6 month." What does page 51 of this book say? It say :

"that Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)..."

[Translation]

When we talk about Khadi, an image of Mahatma Ghandhi comes to our mind.

[English]

You have disbanded the KVIC with effect from 14th October, 2004. This is what the Government has done which talks Gandhism. Now you have abolished KVIC.

[Translation]

The KVIC has been dissolved after ignoring all the facts that the KVIC registered maximum record sales of Rs. 11589 crore in the year 2003-2004, as never before and Khadi Gramudhyog provided employment to 6257000 people in year 2003-2004, provided 6207 projects to the backward class people and was running around 500 projects for the handicap people. They have dissolved KVIC ignoring these facts. Why did they do so? Whether after dissolving the KVIC the Minister has formulated any new schemes for providing employment at the rural level? I would like the Minister to mention this in his reply. A large number of our mothers and sisters are engaged in various agriculture works. The Government had allocated Rs. 1 crore 40 lakh 50 thousand to run a programme for them but only Rs. 17 lakh 50 thousand have been spent for the said purpose. The rest of the money has remained unspent. I want that further schemes should be formulated to spend this money. There was a National Mission for the development of Bamboo. There is a scheme for Bamboo Plantation on six lakh hectare land during the tenth and eleventh plan but the Government does not seem to be serious about it. If he does not raise the target then how the work will progress on Bamboo plantation over 6 lakh hectare land. Bamboo is one such thing that the poorest of poor are connected with it. A small farmer grows bamboo on the boundaries of his field and earns from it to meet his requirements of fertiliser, seed etc. Therefore, Bamboo Mission should be run throughout the country.

There is 3290 lakh hectares of land in our country. Out of which erosion is taking place on 1730 lakh hectares of land. At some places it is being salt affected. The land is becoming revine. Decoit problem is raising its head. The Government have not thought anything about it. The Government should run intensive programme to check it because Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajsthan are turning into revine land. If these areas are levelled we can have several hectares of land. We can provide that land to landless people and do farming on it.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir a special Agriculture Produce Scheme was started. It was started to increase our agricultural export.

[English]

This was to boost our exports of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minus forest produce.

Now, you have to make sure about one thing.

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

[Translation]

A provision was made that one who exports and pays custom and Excise duty separately will be accepted as CENVAT creditor and double duty will not be imposed upon him. This will boost export. The previous Government had done a good job of making storage arrangements in the rural areas. 4851 godowns were constructed and Rs. 1300 crores were spent. 105 lakh metric tonne storage capacity was increased in rural areas. I want that this capacity should be increased further. 2005 has been marked as year of International Fund for Agriculture Development. We are talking about micro credit but I would like to say that in the book he has written that they would provide micro credit benefit to 2 lakh families through Self Help Group during the year 2005-06.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, I have to speak. I have hardly spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken more than ten minutes. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : That means their target is only two lakh families in two years. It is 2 lakh families in the second year also. This target needs to be increased.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You just mention point only.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, this is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But there no time.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Hon. Minister has not mentioned anything in regard to environment and forests in his speech. Hon. Prime Minister talked of the ongoing Tiger Projects in his statement. The number of tigers is repleting and today it has been reported in the newspaper

[English]

I would like to quote from the Indian Express. It has come out today after the Prime Minister gave a statement.

It says, "Meanwhile, the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is reportedly asking for further proof that there is indeed a crisis.

[Translation]

When hon. Prime Minister observed that the number of tigers was decreasing in the National Park then their Environment and Forests Secretary through a letter seeks confirmation of the situation described by hon. Prime Minister, if it was really true? Would Tiger Project be implemented in this manner. It should be taken seriously, since they have no money. They do not get sufficient funds to run Tiger Project.

Sir, you are ringing the bell, I have two more points

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. There is no time.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : They had a target of electrifying 24584 villages under Non-conventional Energy. 24584 villages have to be electrified through non-conventional energy sources, whereas only 1563 villages have been electrified. So, I want that special attention should be paid to this work.

[English]

Shri Chidambaram quoted the words of Saint Thiruvalluvar. If you do not look after the backward States, they will not improve. You have got a Backward State Commission.

[Translation]

A corpus fund to the tune of Rs. 25 thousand crore has been set up. But its Chairman is an IAS Officer. The Secretary, Planning Commission, has been appointed as its Chairman. This Chairman will decide as to how much amount is to be sanctioned to which backward state. I would like that representatives of these backward States like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, U.P. and Bihar should participate and have an active role there in and not just be a sleeping member. Saint Thiruvallur has said:

"Pini Inmai Selvam Vilaivu Inbam Emam
Ani Enba Nattirkku Iv lyndhu."

[English]

My Tamil language is not good. I want to learn it.

[Translation]

His words and the dream are going to be realised only when proper attention is paid to the backward States resulting in over all development of the country. It would only be possible when all the States are covered.

Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Prof. M. Ramadass.

You have only six minutes' time. Please speak.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Pattali Makkal Katchi and its Founder-President, Dr. S. Ramadoss, I commend the Union Budget for 2005-2006.

In fact, we compliment and congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting a full-fledged and an all-embracing Budget which is very widely hailed in the vernacular Press as well as by the different sections of the society. In our view, the Budget addresses not only the issues of economic growth but also for the first time, there is an explicit recognition in the Budget that growth is meaningless unless there is social justice to the common and downtrodden people of this country. In that respect, we consider this Budget as a Budget for growth and social justice. What is admirable is that in the backdrop of a number of constraints, both economic and social constraints, facing the Government, the Finance Minister was able to balance between the needs of social spending as required by the Common Minimum Programme and the needs of fiscal consolidation. He was able to arrive at a balance between them. Therefore, we fully appreciate the measures of the Government as shown in the Budget.

Budget, as we all know, cannot find permanent solutions to the permanent problems. It has to address the current issues facing the people and the economy. And looked at from this perspective, this Budget carries forward all the messages of what is required in the present context. For example, the Common Minimum Programme has mandated certain things. The Tenth Five Plan has asked the Government to do certain things. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act calls upon the Government to do certain things. The macro economic issues of the country also require certain imperatives.

Now, we find that this Budget combines all the

measures that are required, and carry forward the message of the common man. Besides, the economic reforms that we have initiated are carried forward, and the Budget promises, assures employment, income and food to the people. What else can we expect from a Budget?

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, when he opened the discussion, made a statement that this Budget is an anti-people Budget. I am afraid that he was uncharitable in his remarks. What does he mean by that? In what respect, the Budget happens to be anti-people? Has the Budget unleashed tax burden on the people? Or has it reduced the expenditure on schemes meant for poverty or employment or for water supply or for sanitation? It has increased the outlay for all the social sectors. Therefore, there is no grain of truth in saying that the Budget has become anti-people. On the other hand, the Budget tries to please every section of the society. It only reminds me of Professor Jeremy Bentham, a renowned economic philosopher, who said that the objective of a Government should be to ensure the greatest happiness of the greatest number. If you look at this Budget, you will find that it touches on every section of the Indian society. Therefore, it has to be hailed as a Budget for maximum welfare with minimum cost. What else is not there in the Budget? You take, for example, employment issue. The Hon. Finance Minister has converted the National Food for Work Programme into a National Rural Guarantee Scheme, and has increased the outlay from Rs. 4020 crore to Rs. 11000 crore; an increase of 173.6 per cent. This is something unheard of and unprecedented in the Budgetary history of India. For any scheme, on a year to year basis, there has never been such an increase of 173.6 percent, and this Budget shows the concern for employment generation in the country.

The announcement of a National Rural Health Mission, increased coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, expansion of ICDS Scheme with the creation of 188,168 additional Anganwadi Centres, increased allocation to Mid-day Meal Scheme, creation of non-lapsable fund called Prarambik Shiksha Kosh under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme, efforts to provide drinking water facilities, extension of total sanitation campaign, programmes for SC/ST, women & children, minorities and the establishment of Backward Regions Grant Fund and Rural Infrastructure Fund would bring cheers to rural masses and add impetus to the rural initiatives.

Now, the launching of Bharat Nirman Scheme, from all points of view, is a laudable effort on the part of the

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

Government, and for the first time the Government tries to understand that the spirit of India lives in villages or in the rural areas. It only reminds me of Mahatma Gandhi. The speaker who spoke ahead of me quoted, rather misquoted, Mahatma Gandhi and said that this Government is crushing the philosophy of Mahatma. But, through the Bharat Nirman Scheme, the Government is trying to revive the rural area, where the heart of India lives. Therefore, the fractured heart of India would now get good diffusion of blood, and it would remain hale and healthy when the Bharat Nirman Scheme is implemented. It is a unique feature, which appreciate on behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi.

18.58 hrs

(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*)

The other aspect of the Government Budget is that it has really realised the significance of investment. Investment, coupled by a multiplier effect can create additional income and employment in the economy, which alone is the surest antidote to poverty and unemployment in this country. The Finance Minister has really realised the need for finance in the agricultural sector, in the public sector enterprises, in the industrial sector, in the infrastructure. Wherever it is required, he has increased both the capital expenditure and the revenue expenditure, which needs to be appreciated. Moreover, in agriculture, he has understood that the priorities are infrastructure, water management, crop diversification, horticulture and research. Textile and sugar industries have been given a greater importance, and the most important aspect of this Budget is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I was given at least 6 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 8 minuts. I am saying, please try to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMDASS : I have to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Try to conclude. Time is according to what we have allotted to different political parties.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am only saying the deserving part of the Budget.

19.00 hrs

The next important aspect which fascinates me is the continuation of the tax reforms which were initiated in 1991

by the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. We have now simplified the tax procedures. We have introduced an element of modernisation of tax rates, which leads to greater compliance. We have tried to increase the share of tax revenue in the total revenue, which increases the progressivity in the total structure; the revenue neutral effect of indirect taxes has been ensured and there has been a rationalisation of indirect taxes also.

Another important aspect of this Budget is that it has accepted all the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. It has opened up a new era in Centre-State relations in the country. The Sarkaria Commission and various other Commissions which have gone into the issue of Centre-State relations have said that the non-devolution of resources in adequate quantities to the States has been a matter of dispute....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry for interrupting you again. Please be very brief in your points. The time allotted is over. Please make your points very briefly. That is all could tell you. Please try to conclude in two minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am the only Member to speak from my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I just hate to interrupt you but the time allotted is already over. I would not like to do that.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : If I talk anything irrelevant, you can stop me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know, you would not talk anything irrelevant. That is why I hate to ask you to conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Although the Implementation of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission would cause a greater fiscal impact on the Government the Central Government has taken up all the recommendations in toto and said that it would provide necessary assistance to the States. This year alone, the Government is going to bear a responsibility of Rs. 26000 crore for transfers from the Centre to the States, which is equivalent to 0.7 per cent of the GDP of this country. This means that the Government is establishing the principle of 'Cooperative federalism', which was propounded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his Ph. D. dissertation. He said that the "Centre was for all the States and all the States were for the Centre". Therefore, a real approach of co-operative federalism has been established by this Budget. It has to be appreciated.

I should also say that there are certain concerns which

must be addressed by the Government. The first concern of mine is this. It is not the question of the total investment that is important; it is the quality, to what extent the investment that we make brings impact on the people, which is more important. The second concern is that there are many overlapping schemes both in the Rural Development and in the Urban Development Departments. These schemes have to be streamlined so that we could have maximum benefits at minimum cost.

The Budget provides some relief for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, women and children but unfortunately it has not taken care of Other Backward Classes, which constitute nearly 60 per cent of the population. I hope, the hon. Minister of Finance would be providing some relief measures for the OBCs as well, when he makes the reply.

The fourth concern is that the growth rate in the economy is now just 6.9 per cent as against 8.3 per cent. This is another cause of concern. The soundness of the Budget is reduced because the hon. Minister of Finance has not been able to keep up the promises under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. The revenue deficit today in the Revised Estimate is more than what it was last year; the fiscal deficit is more than what it was last year. If these slippages are allowed to continue, we would end up with a greater amount of deficit-induced inflation, money supply and widening of trade balances, which would lead to a foreign exchange crisis like the one we have seen in 1991....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ramadass, I hate to interrupt you again but I am bound by the time allotted.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Another cause of concern is the increasing indebtedness of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you wish to lay the remaining part of your speech on the Table, I would permit you to do that; but I am sorry, I cannot permit you to continue.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I would have finished it if you had not intervened.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for your party was five minutes but you have now taken 13 minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : It cannot be 13 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have a record.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : All right, Sir, I do not want to argue with you. I would rather put up some more ideas.

The growing debt burden has to be taken care of.

The interest payment which the Government makes is about Rs. 1,37,444 crore which means that India is making per day an interest payment of Rs. 376 crore and per hour Rs. 15.6 crore, which is unproductive. We do not know what is the return for it. This issue has to be addressed immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ramadass, I am sorry, I cannot let you continue. Please understand my position. I have to call the next name.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : The introduction of VAT from 1st of April, 2005 has to be seen in the light of the fact that a State like Tamil Nadu is not prepared for bringing a legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Munshi Ram will begin his speech now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : The self-help ground programmes and agricultural credit programmes have to be given to the poor people in right earnest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am so sorry, Prof. Ramadass.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : These points would help us all....(Interruptions) Sir, I come from the land of Bharati Dasan :

"Pudhiyathor ulagam seivom
Ketta poridum ulaginal verodu saippom
Podhuudamai kolgai thisaiyettum serppom
Punithamodathai yengal uyirendru kappom
Idhayamellam anbu nadhiyini nanaippom
Idhu yenathu yenumor kodumalyai thavirppom
Unarvenum kanalidai ayarvinai yerippom
Oru porul thani yenum manitharai sirippom
Iyalporul payanthara maruththidil pasippom
Eevathundam yenil anaivarum pusippom".

This is the meaning of that poem:

We will make a Brave New World.

And uproot the one on bitter war bent.

We will spread the socialist-doctrine in every direction.

And cherish it chaste as our dear life.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

We shall fill our hearts full, with the flood of love and
ban the bane,

"This is mine alone."

We shall our feelings of indolence burn, in the fire of
our awareness

And laugh at men who declare, "for me alone this is"

Starve we shall, if denied the privilege of things
produced,

If provided, all shall part-take then.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ramadass, you have not given
notice that you will be speaking in Tamil also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no pleasure in ringing the
bell but we will have to adhere to the time limit fixed for this
purpose. I would request rest of the hon. Members to follow
the bell. You are given five minutes time to speak.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on
behalf of the Rashtriya Dal Chaudhary Ajit Singhji's party
supporting the budget 2005-2006, I would like to submit that
providing 100 days employment to each family under the
National Employment Guarantee Scheme is a commendable
step. But unfortunately, the proper implementation of any
scheme is a difficult job. Provision of 50 lakh metric tonne
foodgrains worth Rs. 5400 crore has been made by way of
this scheme of Rs. 11 thousand crore, which is not utilised
properly. Out of the total grant given by the Union Government
to the rural folk in the form of either foodgrains or kerosene
oil not even 30 per cent of it reaches the beneficiary which
means 70 per cent is misappropriated. For example, instead
of 5 litres only 2 litres kerosene oil is distributed to each
family living below poverty line. It shows that grant to the
tune of Rs. 30 only is received by each family. Similarly,
inordinate cost is incurred in the storage, maintenance and
procurement of foodgrains given as grant. Then it is given at
lower rate i.e. at Rs. 2-3 per k.g. to people living below
poverty line. The loss thereupon is borne by the Government
in the form of grant. If the Government intends to provide
assistance to people living below poverty line and to the
lower middle class through these grants then it would be
better to give these grants in the form of direct payments.

Thus providing assistance to a poor family directly would be
right step. Two and a half crore people have been covered
under BPL list. If Rs. 300 per month is given to each family
as grant for poverty then Rs. 9 thousand crore would reach
the poor families directly whereas presently these poor do
not receive Rs. 100 as grant. If Rs. 500 are given to a poor
family in the form of a grant then the Government would be
giving them grant to the tune of Rs. 1500 crore directly.
Similarly, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 3010 crore and Rs.
7156 crore has been proposed for midday meal scheme
and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan respectively. Greater portion of
the assistance proposed for the poor families and children
who are targeted to be covered under the midday meal
scheme and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan is spent on paper. If the
Government actually intends to help the poor families and
children then expenditure should be incurred on appointment
of qualified teachers after opening primary, junior schools in
each village in proportion to their population.

Similarly, in view of the growing problem of
unemployment, Employment Exchange Officers have been
opened in every district in which even after registration by
crores of unemployed youths no such scheme has been
evolved by the Government ensuring employment to people.
I support the decision to give employment allowance in any
way or employment after serious consideration thereon.
There are 30,000 registered unemployed persons in my
district Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.

We are incurring expenditure under various schemes
for development. Through you, I would like to urge upon him
to formulate a comprehensive development package for
developing urban and rural areas as per need in every district
in which funds should be spent out of the development
schemes and Members of Parliament local Area
Development Fund. I feel that it would ensure more
development in shorter period and lesser funds in our urban
and rural areas.

In view of the ensuing water crisis every drop of water
will be precious in near future, whereas on one hand, we
pay attention to the position of water above land and that of
the ground water. On the other hand the water utilised by us
is drained out in sewage or gets collected on roads in the
form of sewage which can be harvested to be used for
irrigation purpose which will result in tremendous
achievement in the use of water and sanitation system.

AIBP is a very useful scheme for farmers. Every year
we have proposals of thousand crores of rupees under this
scheme but we have not been able to accomplish these

AIBP schemes for the last 10-20 year due to which the benefits which the Government intends to provide to the farmers despite the expenditure of thousand crores of rupees is not accrued. We should ask for progress report every quarter and time limit should be fixed for schemes so that benefits should accrue to the farmers without delay.

The stamp duty on loan drawn by farmers from banks should be waived. The unutilised land should be allotted to the landless agriculture labourers after their identification. Particular attention should be paid at the time of allotment of land to ensure that it is not improper. That is why the Revenue Officers should be given instructions for strict compliance. 0.1 per cent tax on withdrawal of Rs. 10,000/- in single day should be withdrawn.

The income certificate of the parents and not that of the Guardian of the student receiving scholarship should be considered valid in order to provide maximum scholarships to the poor children belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes category so that the share of ineligible students is distributed among the poor students.

The cooperative sugar mills should be given permission to sell sugar at fixed rates but this permission should not be given in the name of a particular individual or a firm which results in benefits accruing to that particular individual or firm and loss to the cooperative sugar mills that would make direct impact on the sugar cane producers.

With these words, I support the budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chali Haji, I would give you 10 minutes and ring the bell after 8 minutes.

(English)

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the revival of the Indian economy took place in the early 1990s when the Congress Government led by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao took the reins of the Government in Delhi. I had been fortunate, as a young Member, to witness the epoch-making changes, which were taking place in this country at that time.

I was a youth with a slightly leftist state of mind. At that time many new terms were spoken by the then Prime Minister like liberalisation with a human face, continuity with change, etc. Even many Members from the Treasury Benches looked at these terms with suspicion because changes were taking place. These apprehensions were there at that time. I remember that Dr. Manmohan Singh, while presenting his first Budget in 1991, reassured us in this very House by

dedicating his first Budget to the inspiring memory of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This is how the beginning was made. I still remember the then Finance Minister, and today's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh speaking on the sad state of the India economy at that time, and explaining the need for economic reforms. I think he quoted Goethe and said:

"No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come."

But there were sceptics galore. There were many people who thought that the reform process, which was started by Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Congress Government at that time, was a sell-out to the IMF, and the World Bank. There were many sceptics from everywhere, that is, on this side and on the other side. But, today, when we look back at *Manmohanomics*, it has proved to be the greatest blessing for the people of this country, and it is because of *Manmohanomics* that we can look to the future with confidence. Even the successive Governments that came after Congress, namely, the BJP Government or the United Front Government had followed the same principle of reforms. Shri P. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister at that time also, and all apprehensions about the sell-out became a figment of wild imagination.

There were aberrations in the last six years, but the broad principles continued to hold sway. Today, even some socialists are sitting on the extreme right side of the House. There were people who thought that free access to the market economy or dictation by the market forces alone is good economics. It was thought that concession to the poorest people, concession to the backward regions, relief to the common people are petty compulsions of politics, and not good economics. This is the reason for emphasis getting shifted in the last six years, and the rich getting richer, and the poor people being forgotten.

I compliment the Finance Minister for once again bringing back the economy in the right direction with the right kind of focus by fixing the right priorities, and by emphasising on the true value of *Manmohanomics*, which was doing-- as one of my friends has said--the greatest good to the greatest number of people in this country. It is because the market forces did not dictate *Manmohanomics*. It was a means to achieve greater economics resilience for the Indian economy, which was at peril because of various reasons.

19.18 hrs.

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN in the Chair)

I would not like to dwell on various plus points of this

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

Budget. Most of my friends have already praised the pro-poor tilt of the Budget. I would not like to be repetitive, but I would say that a frontal attack on poverty; on improving rural health; a new deal on education; concrete steps to improve the lots of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Minorities; steps to improve rural credit, and rural debt; improvement of agricultural sector; irrigation; and above all a very ambitious project of "Bharat Nirman" has set the priorities right. Shri Chidambaram should receive a deserving pat from all of us for all this, and he has been receiving it too. I would not like not like to do more. He should receive a double pat because I have found that all the criticisms that have been made against him from people—who are supposed to be in the Opposition—have been more in terms of quantity. Even Shri Malhotra was not opposing the targets.

I have heard my friend, Shri Lakshman Singh, emphasising the need for getting more, doing more and more on what we are proposing, and, of course, the feeble expression of where the money will come from. Except that, I hardly found any basis or any basic opposition to the principles laid down in the Budget. That is why, I compliment the Finance Minister. After joining the chorus of praise with the friends from my side, I have to now come to the unpleasant task of pointing out to him some of the areas where I feel that more emphasis is needed, more efforts are needed, and more concrete steps are needed. I am talking about regional imbalances.

Regional imbalances, as the President himself had said, had been accentuated not only by historical neglect, but also by distortions in plan allocation. You will remember, our Rajivji had continuously talked about and emphasised the need for creation of parities between regions and regions, States and States. That is why, I would like to straightaway go to the heart of the matter and talk about North-East and Assam, my home which is also very much a part of India.

Sir, I do not like to give statistics to Mr. Chidambaram. I do not think I have to explain to him the plight of the North-East. He has been dealing with the North-East time and again. But suffice it to say that the *per capita* income of the United Assam was higher than the national average in 1951, and today, it is lowest at the table. Mr. Chidambaram was talking about the great divide between rural India and urban India, and his determination to set it aright. I would like to hear Mr. Chidambaram talking more about 'advanced States' and 'less advanced States' and 'less advanced States'. I agree that Mr. Chidambaram, the Finance Minister, need

not be an accountant. However, I want Mr. Chidambaram to be a visionary and if the visionary in him does not set right the huge regional imbalances that are taking place in this country over the years, who else will do it? Disparities between regions must be minimised and economic priorities must be set right and must be set at the top the agenda because that is not only good economics, that is also good politics.

Ten per cent of the national Budget is earmarked for the development of North-East. This ten per cent goes back to a Corpus Fund called NLCPR (Non-Lapsable Central pool of Reserve.) The allocation for this Fund over the last so many years had constantly been at Rs. 550 crore. We have the NEC which implements the developmental activities in North-East. Fund for NEC also has been constantly at Rs. 500 crore for the last three years, and not even the inflation part is being covered. Have we been increasing the neglect of North-East or decreasing it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : You have to allow me to speak a few words.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are taking the time of your colleagues. You must conclude in one minute.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : I will just refer to the main points. You know that 10 per cent of the national Budget is earmarked for development of North-East. However, do you know that the NLCPR Fund, over the years, has been accumulated to such an extent that as on 1st April, 2003, as per my information, the balance was standing at about Rs. 3500 crore? There is no scheme for disposal of this Fund. This Fund is still lying in the Finance Ministry; it has not been given for the development of the North-East. How long will this neglect continue? We have no roads, and the only roads that are being built in Assam are in Guwahati. Do you know that out of Rs 30,000 crore subsidies that are given nationally on food and fertilisers, North-Eastern State do not even get one per cent? How long will this neglect continue? How long will these things continue? When will you correct these things? When will you take a giant leap to rebuild North-East? Will it be a giant leap for reconstruction or will it be a mere lip-service? That is the question that I want to ask Mr. Chidambaram.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Mr. Chaliha, during our time the percentage of BPL. ... (Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Manvendra Singh.

...(Interruptions.)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, let your colleague speak. Nothing is going on record. Time is precious.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : They should give it in writing that they have made a mistake...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please set down. Sandeep ji, please sit down.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer) : I am thankful to you for giving me time. It is the tradition and culture of India to protect cows. Our country has followed the tradition of protecting cows for ages and many speakers before me have discussed the issue that poverty has increased in Bihar during last 15 years. I want to draw your attention towards this issue. It is natural that poverty would increase. When the fodder of cattle is stolen as it does not augur well for the country.

[English]

In the last one year we have heard a lot about the mandate.

[Translation]

However, mandate word has not been discussed anywhere that

[English]

there is a mandate.

Everybody in the Treasury Bench is, of course, a psephologist. How they use the word mandate is up to them. I would not get into the detail of that.

[Translation]

Time is short so I would just enumerate the points. Hon. Minister of Finance has said in his speech that

[English]

he seeks the blessings of women, the women voters. So, there is gender budget in this Budget.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

There has been a cut in the provisions for the working women's hostel under the head of gender budget.

[English]

There has been a cut in the support for training and employment programmes allocation under Swawambi Yojana and National women's fund has been reduced.

[English]

There has been a cut in the provisions for Scheme for rescue of victims of trafficking. It is strange that provisions for National Commission of Women have been cut down. The provisions for prevention and control of juvenile social maladjustment. Treasury Benches also claim that they have the monopoly and the sole authority on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I respect their opinions. I am not getting into the statistics because all previous speakers have given enough statistical data to fill volumes. I am just giving pure, black and white details that are in the printed form, that has been given to us as Member of Parliament. SC and ST girls hostels and boys hostels and pre-metric scholarship.

[Translation]

There has been a cut in the provisions for three heads.

[English]

There is a cut down in the plan outlay of Hostels from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Translation]

The provisions for National and State ST Finance Development Corporation have been cut down. The Union Government allocates funds for ST Development Corporation in various States. There has been a cut in that too.

[English]

State Scheduled Castes Finance Corporation is essentially to empower the weaker sections of society. Now, the Budget is cutting back on that. I fail to understand how the Treasury Bench claims that Budget is for the weaker sections of society.

What concerns us today and for the future are matters of environment and nothing is more important than today's

[Shri Manvendra Singh]

growth-driven economy where all figures are created to suggest growth. Nothing is more significant than the utilisation of non-conventional energy. Now, in that sector, for solar power, there has been a cut back; for bio-gas utilisation, there has been a cut back; for wind power generation, there has been a cut back; and for Integrated Rural Energy Programme, there has been a cut back. I fail to understand how the environment will benefit in this massive industrialisation phase when you are cutting back.

In between, the Home Minister mentioned the disaster manager with the seriousness with which the UPA is taking up disaster management. I compliment them for that. It is a matter of great concern for the country. But in the MHA head, in the Plan outlay for the Home Minister, in the head 'disaster management' there is a cut back. I find that astonishing. I hope, it would be rectified.

Defence is a concern not just because I have had the honour of being in uniform but also a concern as a citizen. One of the great schemes for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen that the former Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee ji had started was the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme in which all over the country, there will be health centres created for Ex-Servicemen and their families on the basis of a small contribution. This includes widows and other dependants of Ex-Servicemen. Unfortunately, that scheme has seen a cut back. A number of State Governments are dovetailing the rural health programmes based on the scheme. Unfortunately, it has been a cut back.

For service soldiers, I saw in the list in the Plan outlay that there is no consideration for increasing of accommodation for married people. I see construction head for various civil agencies of the Ministry of Defence but none for the serving soldiers who serve extended periods of time in extreme field conditions. Do they get a chance to bring their families to stations where their children can be education, where the family can have live together? Unfortunately, that does not feature in this Budget.

What is most important in the Defence outlay is the fact that the Capital outlay for aircraft and aero engines for the Air force and for the Navy have seen a cut back. Air Force and Navy, we all know, are highly hardware intensive process and there is a lead time before utilisation of funds in the sense that machinery comes in. In this situation, if we have a cut back, there is a serious worry that has been expressed that this cut back is in order to utilise funds for a

second-hand purchase of aircraft—that is what is being whispered currently in the South Block area. There has been a cut back in the Naval Dockyard.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, from where I belong, the most severe cut back is in the *Maru Gauchar Yajana* which was implemented for a period and has been discontinued by them. It is a Yojana that benefits the cattle the most. We are a cattle rearing State where the density of population of cattle is very high. This scheme was to regenerate pasture land. That scheme does not feature any more in the Budget and it makes us believe that the concern of the cattle is not their concern.

The *Shiksha Karmi Yojana* for Rajasthan has been cut back. This is another serious loss for us. If education is a concern for them, then how could they be cutting back on *Shiksha Karmi Yojana*? There is no provision for rural electrification. They have provided for household electrification. Whether they have urban interest or rural interest is obvious from the allocation. The highest increase in the Budget has been on e-governance and the sharpest decrease has been on rural electrification. That, I think, fully captures the priorities of the Budget and the UPA Government.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR) : Thank you for giving me this opportunity. After the Independence, the Congress has ruled for more than 50 years. Whichever party comes to power, it talks about reformation and economic reformation. Practically, when they come to the field, I think the poor is becoming poorer and the rich is becoming richer.

Today, I consider Shri Chidambaram as one of the most intelligent Minister and I appreciate him. Today, the Budget has been presented under the guidance of our Prime Minister. But, I am surprised to see that there is substantially no difference in this year's Budget as compared to that of the last year in spite of the fact that all the efforts have been put to see that there is more improvement. We feel that there is some compulsion, some pressure, because of which he is unable to come forward and choose between the human rights and the trade rights. There is a big conflict between these two, whether to back the BPL level sector or the trade sector.

One more thing I would like to say about the measures they have announced before the Budget to promote more liberal policies of foreign direct investment. The Budget 2005-06 provides substantial increase in allocation to education. Still, the Compulsory Education Bill is pending its introduction in Parliament. Today, six crore children are out of school and

more than a double of it are the dropouts. I want to say one thing. We concentrating in three areas—health, education and rural development.

The Central plan outlay on agricultural and rural development has been increased by 47 per cent over the original budget provision in 2004-05 and while that on social services has been up by 49 per cent. However, when compared to the revised estimation of 2004-05, these increases are smaller. They cannot ensure universal coverage of beneficiaries.

I would like to put it this way. When the Congress comes, it says about 'Bharat Nirman' and when the NDA comes, it says about 'feel good'. But what about the common people? How they have to feel, whether they have to believe on 'Bharat Nirman' or they have to feel that there is 'feel good' in their life.

Still we are struggling for the power generation and education. We are still at the first step of development. How are we going to reform ourselves? How are we going to meet the globalisation?

Sir, under this Bharat Nirman scheme they have announced an additional one crore hectare of land under irrigation, to connect all the villages by road, to construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor, providing drinking water to 74,000 habitations and electricity to 125,000 new villages in a span of four years. It sounds mere rhetoric with the kind of total expenditure of the Government.

Sir, out of 57 years of our Independence, for more than 50 years we have been ruled by the Congress Government, but still we are lagging behind. A large number of villages are without any power, without any electricity. The total expenditure of the Government in 2005-06, as they say, would be up by only 1.7 per cent, that is, Rs. 8.500 crore which, in real terms, is down by 3 per cent after accounting for the 5 per cent inflation. I am worried about the expenditure with the kind of announcement that they are going to meet up.

Not only this, today the most disappointing point is about the allocation for the National Food for Work Programme. It had been announced a few weeks ago. But the expenditure budget indicates that Rs. 6.408 crore were spent on rural employment during 2004-05, and it is to be increased to Rs. 9.000 crore in 2005-06, which includes an allocation for Rs. 5,400 crore for Food for Work Programme.

Sir, the Infosys survey says that the rural labours are

migrating from the villages to the cities. This migration is increasing more and more every year. I am really worried about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I have just started my speech. Please give me some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you have already taken 5 minutes. Now, you have to conclude within two minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : I would try.

Sir, I am really worried about the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. Then about the National Food for Work Programme, they have planned for only 150 districts. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that it has to be improvised. and it has to include all over the districts.

Sir, there is one more thing which I want to submit. I belong to Uttar Pradesh and my Constituency, Rampur is very backward. The women folk there are mostly involved in the bidi work. They depend more on this profession. But whatever wages they are getting today is not at all sufficient. They have to struggle for two meals a day. Moreover, out of every 1,000 bidis that they make, they have to pay Re. 1.

So, how will it happen? I would request the co-operative sectors that they concentrate on this and give the beneficiaries support for these kind of things for the poorest of the poor women in villages. Not only that, in Rampur, we have this patch-work and *zardoji* people. Today, they do not have any work because they belong to a certain region. I know that the Finance Minister is a very kind-hearted person who can concentrate on this so that the womenfolk can be supported by the Government.

In Uttar Pradesh, which is a big place, we are really struggling for so many things. If you take farmers, they are very unhappy. On the one side, in Andhra Pradesh, they are committing suicide, on the other side, in Uttar Pradesh, the cane-growers and the farmers are struggling. From the Government side, our CM is always supporting them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I want an assurance from the Central Government so that some additional funds are allocated to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Sir, one more thing I would like to tell here. I belong to film industry and from where I have come. Sir, this is very

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

very important. In the last Budget, as also in this Budget, our hon. Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about the film industry. I belong to that family or *biradari*. I am concerned about it because the film industry is such a big industry and the film industry....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : I will mention the names of the persons who have not paid tax properly in the industry.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, I objects to this. When I was in the Rajya Sabha, I used to speak on the status to be given to the industry so that the industry could be sustained. Today, the piracy is going on and the industry is degrading and deteriorating. So many families are dependent on this profession—daily wagers, light-boys and the artists. An artist's span is very short. When it is declining, why cannot the industry have a pension scheme? Why is the artist not getting the pension? Artists are on the roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Give me just one minute, Sir. I will conclude.

I would like to say one more thing and it is about banks. A week ago, when I participated in a meeting with the bankers, all the bankers showed their apprehension. Sir, it is very dangerous and alarming that the Government is going to privatise the banks. It is a very very serious problem. It is a very wrong thing the Government is thinking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you Madam.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, one more thing I wanted to say. I am just concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. That was the last thing. This is not fair. Others also have to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, if the poor people have to pay tax, if they take back a sum of Rs. 10,000 from the bank, how will they enjoy their lives? I humbly request our Finance Minister and the House to support on this and not to tax the poorer people.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak though you have called me after a long wait. I endorse this view that

hon. Minister of Finance's concept of 'Bharat Nirman' is reflected in the Budget. India is a country of villages. Most of the population of our country lives in villages and the budget reflects the vision of development of villages. Therefore, I not only support the budget but also thank the Finance Minister.

Sir, Antyodaya Yojana has been mentioned in the budget. Earlier one and a half crore people were getting its benefits now it is covering around 2 crore people. It is laudable yet I would like to tender a suggestion in this regard that the remaining families should also be identified and provided the benefits of this Yojana.

Sir, secondly I want to say a few things about Indira Awas Yojana. I thank him for increasing the amount of construction cost of a house by Rs. 5000. And making it Rs. 25000 as dwelling unit can not be constructed with Rs. 20000 in this era of spiraling prices. Further, he has increased the provision for this purpose from Rs. 2500 crore to Rs. 2700 crore in the budget. It is also commendable. I want to make a suggestion that people from the poor and weaker sections who do not have their own houses should be identified all over the country and dwelling units should be constructed for them. For this purpose provision should be made every year in the Budget.

Food for work Programme is another scheme for the development of villages. It also provides employment and helps in the development of the villages 150 districts in the country have been covered under the food for work programme. There are only 15 districts in Bihar that have been identified for this purpose. I feel that Bihar is a very backward and poor State. There are neither jobs nor resources in Bihar after it division and creation of Jharkhand out of it. That is why it is my request that all the districts of Bihar should be covered under this programme. The districts which are below poverty line like Sitamarhi, Motihari, Bettiah etc. are deprived of this Programme. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to consider this issue in the current budget session and implement this programme in those districts also.

Apart from this, he has stated several other schemes for the development of villages. Hon. Member was saying that the UPA Government has got coffer full of money. The NDA Government handed over coffers full of money to UPA Government and increased the poverty of the country, if the coffer was full then who prevented them from using it for the welfare of the people? Who stopped them from using that money for the poor? Hon. Member was saying that it is the same scheme which has been implemented by the previous

Government for 6 years, in this matter it can be said if previous Government did not implement it in a effective way, there is nothing to be gained with this kind of attitude when the opportunity is provided, it should be utilized for the welfare of the people of the country. I would say that they had launched programmes for the development of villages and roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted for your party was 11 minutes and your party has taken more time. Please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : Sir, it is a good thing that funds have been allocated under pradhan Mantri Gram sadak Yojana. I think that more funds should be allocated under this scheme. I would like to mention in particularly that the share of Bihar has always been cut. There would be quite a furore If I would mention the Government responsible for this. I want to sate in clear terms that the share of Bihar has been cut down and we are being neglected since the division of Bihar. I have the details with me.

I would like to say that a special package was to be given to us but not a single paise has been provided. Rs. 400 crore which have been provided in the budget do not fall under the package. That is our share just as other States are also given. More funds should be allocated for this purpose.

There is an important issue regarding Bihar. It has always faced ruin and losses due to floods and drought. If irrigation is essential to prevent drought, there is a need to control floods. The Government of India need to talk to the Government of Nepal. Provision have been made in the Budget for this purpose and it has been said that they would take steps but there is a need to include it into agenda, and formulate a well planned programme to find the permanent solution to control floods only then Bihar could prosper. Two third Members of this house belong to the agriculture class.

MR. CHAIRMAN : please conclude quickly.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : I won't behave in an undisciplined manner. I would talk about farmers of my country. Please give me a minute more. The farmers have not been provided in the budget what they deserved. Infrastructure sector has been neglected. The Government may do anything, by unless and until the farmers are paid remunerative price for their produce they won't get real benefit. How they would be able to repay their loans.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thanks, please conclude now.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : The Government should take a decision on crop insurance. A concrete policy should be formulated for alleviation of poverty and generation of employment. Now UPA Government is in power and they have made no mention of employment generation. They have addressed Food for Work Programme and creating employment for labourers but nothing has been said of unemployed youth. Hon. Finance Minister is sitting here. I would like to say that the Government will have do something for employment generation. The Government promised to bring a Bill during budget session. Though it has been highlighted in the Budget yet they should give employment guarantee. Everyone should be provided job. The time is going by but nothing has been done with regard thereto. My submission is that it should be implemented at the earliest as we have to face the public. The Government orders banks in the name of employment. In fact, who controls the banks? PLRI Scheme has been implemented but no money is being paid to unemployed persons, Banks act arbitrarily. Who controls the banks? 10 persons are to be granted loan in each block.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Thanks, and do not say anything further.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : I too conclude my speech with thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHANASWAMY(Sriperumbudur) : Sir, the time of the House was extended up to 8 O'clock . It is already 8 O'clock.

SHRI S.S PLANIMANICKAM : Sir, it may be extended for another half-an-hour.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The house is extended for half-an-hour.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA(Andaman & Nicobar Islands) : Sir, I support the Budget 2005-2006 presented by hon. Finance Minister. Many of my colleagues have praised this budget by quoting figures. I have been a Member of Lok Sabha for the last 20-22 years.

20.00 hrs.

After being a Member of Lok Sabha for 20-22 years I have observed that almost all the Opposition parties have supported this budget. As I have never seen so many vacant

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

seats during a discussion on budget before. It proves that all have liked the budget. But since they are in opposition, so as a ritual they got to oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister has done hard work in presenting the Budget and therefore, all sections are happy with it. There is only one objection, withdrawal tax of Rs.10 on withdrawal of Rs.10,000 from bank. All are of the opinion that it will create difficulty. Therefore, my submission is that hon. Finance Minister should reconsider and withdraw it.

Sir, all the Members spoke about their respective constituencies. I hail from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Tsunami affected place. It is a Union Territory which is governed by the Central Government. Since it is a Union Territory, so the Union Home Ministry and other Ministries of the Union Government are responsible for providing good governance in it. I have been pointing out from time to time that one person cannot manage the affairs, be it Lt. Governor or anybody else. A State like machinery should also be provided there so that development work in Andaman and Nicobar Islands could take place.

20.02 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

The number of unemployed youth in my constituency has been increasing constantly. There is a problem of educated unemployed youth and the farmers there. Farmers face difficulty in irrigating their fields. Concrete measures are required to be taken for betterment of farmers in my constituency. But I am sorry to say nothing has been provided in the current Budget for this Union Territory. This House is both an assembly and the Parliament for it. There is no other forum where I can raise my point. My submission is that I should be given extra time to speak as the Parliament acts as an Assembly and the Parliament for us. Further, I urge the Government to take steps for progress and development of our Union Territory. At last hon. Minister should have made a mention of steps proposed to be taken for its development, but not a para has been added about it. I hope hon. Finance Minister would appreciate my difficulty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to all hon. Members as entire Parliament stood by us in time of great difficulty that my area faced and hon. Members provided funds out of MPLAD scheme for rehabilitation and reconstruction. I, on behalf of islanders thank everybody. Further, I would like to thank hon. Speaker especially as during the hour of crisis

he took special interest in sending help. Also, I would like to extend my thanks to people of all States, speaking different languages and followers of different religions who stood by us during the hour of crisis and provided us all kinds of help. I am also grateful to all the political parties in each state who left no stone unturned in helping us. It has strengthened my belief that India is one. We may have divergent views but in the hour of crisis we stand united and it is a very good thing. I congratulate and thank each one of you for it. I would like to say that we have never seen Tsunami waves earlier and I hope that no one else may have seen them earlier.

Though earthquake shakes everything but it is not that disastrous. But Tsunami is highly disastrous. Suddenly 15-16 metric high tides approach the coast and hit the nearby structures with same speed. The tides will have a speed of 500-700 kms and would destroy everything which comes on their way. It entirely swept Car-Nicobar based Air Force Station. Earthquake lashed Andaman but it left less dead than Tsunami. It paralysed entire communication system.

The saline water gushed into the machinery due to which it got damaged. Consequently communication could not be established. The wireless operator was dead.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want in the budget. Give your suggestion in that regard.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I would like to add only one thing regarding the provisions which have been made in the budget that if the Government intend to restore the business which has been paralysed and to reconstruct the godowns that have been damaged extensively, caused by water then the Central Government will have to give a package for it. The interest on their loans taken from banks will have to be waived after negotiating with the banks. Refinancing of bank loans through a Moratorium will have to be done. They will have to be given fresh loans so that they may be able to revive their business. The package given by the Government for their rehabilitation is not sufficient at some places. For example, Rs. 20 given as compensation for one coconut tree against the coconut trees that fell in Tsunami is very little. Rs. 20 are earned from the sale of two coconuts only. That is why attention should be paid in this matter. We had raised this question and we hope that we will get some support. The compensation fixed for paddy and vegetable crop Rs. 2000/- per hectare is meagre, it should be increased. Andaman is not so affected by Tsunami, rather the impact of earthquake is more there. Hence the concrete houses have developed cracks.

Sir, the Union Government has provided assistance but more assistance is required so that Andaman-Nicobar could be rehabilitated. With these words I support this budget and express my gratitude for your generosity.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY (Mangaldai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Budget. At the outset I would like to refer to a commitment made by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech which has not found reflection in the Budget proposals that followed.

Sir, at page 10, serial number 45 of the Budget speech the hon. Finance Minister had mentioned that the Plan Outlay in 2005-06 for flood management and erosion control for eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and the North-Eastern States would be Rs. 180 crore in keeping with the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the hon. Prime Minister after the devastating flood in July, 2004.

But it is not mentioned specifically as to what will be the share of Assam out of Rs. 180 crore. But while going through the State Plan given at page 47, statement 17, Volume-1 of the Expenditure Budget of 2005-06, it is seen that in the column "Critical flood control and anti-erosion scheme in Brahmaputra Valley and Barak Valley". Not a single rupee is allocated. I feel that the commitment in the Budget speech is not reflected in the Expenditure Budget of 2005-06. I want to bring this very serious concern of ours to the notice of the Finance Minister because last year, the devastating flood had caused much damage to people. If the breached embankments are not repaired immediately, then, in the near future, there will be flood again and there will be a very serious situation.

At Sl. No. 105 of page 23 of the Budget speech, it is stated that the Plan Expenditure is estimated on a like-to-like basis at Rs. 1,72,500 crore. However, the Budget shows the Plan Expenditure at Rs. 1,43,497 crore and the balance amount of Rs. 29,003 crore will be raised as loans by the State Government Directly. Will the hon. Finance Minister clarify the details of this amount of Rs. 29,003 crore to be raised by the respective State Government?

Under the circumstances stated above, I feel that the interests of Assam and the North-East have been totally ignored in the current Budget. If the breached embankment and erosion caused by the devastating flood during the last year is not repaired, then the plight and the misery of the people will be doubled this year. As a matter of fact, such

damages caused by flood are to be controlled on a war-footing. If the Finance Minister has left the problem to the State Government to raise loans and repair them, then I feel that great injustice would be rendered to the people of Assam and the North-Eastern States.

There is a common feeling that Assam and the North-East get stepmotherly treatment from the Centre. I would like to draw the attention of the House in general and the Finance Minister in particular to look into the matter and the Budget be passed after providing necessary remedial measures in the matter.

Coming to the BTC Agreement which was signed with the Assam Government during the NDA Government it was agreed that Rs. 100 crore will be allocated yearly for five years as a development package. Apart from this, there was a commitment to provide funds for technical institutions for educating the boys of the BTC areas. But there is no specific mention to the effect in the Budget.

Assam and North-Eastern States shares international boundaries with China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The border roads need specific attention. The National Highway No. 52 and another road in my constituency which leads to Bhutan, namely, Mangaldai Bhutiachar Road, which leads to the foothills of Bhutan are actually in a bad condition. At least, for the consideration of Defence purposes, these roads should be constructed properly on priority basis. The Government of India should provide necessary funds for the construction of these roads by providing budgetary allocations immediately.

I would also like to say that the funds that are released for rural development are not being properly monitored. Actually, the villagers at the grassroot level are not benefited from the funds meant for rural development schemes.

Lastly, I would like to request the Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the entire House to consider the flood problem of Assam as a national problem. It should be declared as a national problem. Otherwise, with only the funds of the State Government, this problem cannot be solved upto the expectations of the people. Since you want this Budget to be a people-oriented Budget, my request is that this Budget should provide adequate funds to Assam and other North-Eastern States for the relief of flood victims of that region.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Parasnath Yadav, you have

been given five minutes. If you follow this time limit, other hon. Members can speak.

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur) : Mr. Chairman. I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak... (Interruptions). I express my gratitude to all the members sitting in the House....(Interruptions)

Sir, I support the budget prepared with the use of figures by our astute hon. Finance Minister wherein ameliorating the condition of the country has been envisaged. The people dreamt of developing the biggest democracy in the world through their elected representatives. This is the biggest House of the country. We always hear our learned friends in this House where opposition and the ruling party Members express their views. When this country became independent, its population was 35 crore and today it is one billion seven crores. Only a handful of people may understand the objective of Independence but I have no hesitation in saying that even today 70 per cent of our population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture for earning a livelihood. Even in our Constitution it has been enshrined that ours is an agriculture country and agriculture would be one of the main sources of generating income for the development of the country. But where are our farmers and agriculture. Gandhiji said unless every field is watered and every hand gets a job this country will not prosper. Other learned men have also said that the road to prosperity of the country passes through agriculture. Dr. Lohia said unless the country adopts socialism it will not develop. In view of all these things the budgets are prepared every year in which we may juggle with figures. But unless there would be a smile on the face of the last man and a square meal is prevailing to him the real India will not be built. The slogans of shining India, Bharat Nirman, Feel Good were definitely given but there are still one per cent of such people in the country who do not get food and are compelled to have leftover food of big hotels in Metros. There are three per cent people who do not have clothes to cover themselves, do not have a shelter. When our learned colleagues discuss in the House, instead of discussing such problems, they level allegation against each other. Only discussion in the House will not sort out our problems of basic needs. Education and health are our basic needs.

In view of the development of farmers, it can be stated that only four per cent of the people are engaged in agriculture in USA. Despite U.S. Government provide them \$ 31 thousand as subsidy. Ours is a agriculture oriented country. Farmer is our God. What to talk of providing him subsidy we even do not make arrangements for quality

fertilizers, water and insecticides. If drought lasts for a month, we are not able to provide for drinking water what to talk of irrigation. In the event of continuous heavy rainfalls in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and a part of Bihar hit by flood, what happens, everybody knows. We have not made arrangement for drainage. It has been proposed to make arrangement for drainage system in 16 districts of 9 States in the budget. But it is like 'Kanglai San Purote Dhan', it is a saying in my area that carries the meaning that ostentation cannot bring prosperity as paddy crop cannot be grown without water. We had envisaged for the development of education and if we had provided education to the people of our country and ameliorated the condition of farmer, India would have been the most powerful country in the world. I would like to say that the Government should spend 6 per cent of the budget on education.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh. There Adi-Ganga Gomati rivers flow from the midst of Gomati city. As far as the question of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Samajwadi party is in power there. Hon. Mulayam Singhji is the Chief Minister. He demanded a special package to the tune of Rs. 18,230 crore from the Government for the development of Uttar Pradesh as his intention is clear. The funds were sought with the honest intention to educate people, provide them employment and to electrify the villages. Uttar Pradesh is the most backward State so funds should be provided for its development. But the intention of the Union Government was not noble so the funds have not been released as on date. It is my belief that hon. Mulayam Singhji is committed for the development of Uttar Pradesh and he will succeed in his efforts. Since he is executing a project of 4 thousand megawatt to supply power to the people. Simultaneously, he is working for the development of education.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You said that you would take the time limit in mind. Please stick to your word.

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : I would like to raise a very important issue of my constituency. Gomati river flows through Jaunpur district which is my Parliamentary Constituency. Every year it is in flood. Whenever there is flood not only the city but the villages are also affected. The roads get submerged in water so much that boats are used for the movement. I propose the hon. Finance Minister that the course of the river which flows through the city should be diverted so that the water could be used for irrigation purpose. Moreover, our city will also be protected against flood. I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. It is a night and time is very short I would try to express my views in brief. I would like to respond to what the senior leaders of opposition have spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in five minutes.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : I will conclude when you ask me to. The opposition had stated that they do not find any novelty in the schemes launched particularly through budget by the UPA Government, several old schemes with old features are in vogue. I would like to tell that most of the schemes introduced during the regime of the previous Government were either introduced by Congress Government or Congress supported Governments or by those who were supported by the Congress. Maximum numbers of schemes introduced by the previous Government whether it is Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna, Gram Rozgar Yojna, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna or Samanvit Gram Yojna or IRDP are the changed form of the schemes introduced by the Congress Government. It is not that much important whether new schemes are launched or not, but more important is how far a Government is committed by for the implementation of the said schemes or programme and also whether the Government is keen to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted people by its successful implementation through its official machinery. Also important is as to what kind of a message delivered by the Government through its speeches and policies. We heard the word 'poverty' again in the speech given by the hon'ble Finance Minister. Earlier, I was not a Member of this House, but the word poverty was missing in last five or six budget speeches that I had listened in the House. It appeared that nothing was discussed about neither poverty nor irrigation. I respect the people of this country, who gave such a mandate after so many years due to which every Member of the house is again willing to discuss the issue related to the poor and farmers. This was the biggest lesson given by the mandate. I would like to salute this budget as it reflects the sentiments of all parties of UPA, which are members of the Government and are supporting us. I would particularly like to mention 2-3 points. Every year, when budget is formulated provisions are made in it and development also takes place. There are no two opinions about it that development has taken place at some levels. But development takes place for everyone when every citizen is empowered to use alternatives offered by the process development. It happens only when every citizen is educated, and there exists conducive environment for him for maximizing his production, and output whether it is

agricultural or non-agricultural. Several effective steps have been taken in the budget in this regard. The most important issue raised in this budget is the expenditure on water.

Sir, I am a representative of Delhi. But I have a rural background. Most of the Members hail from rural areas. Water is the lifeline of India. The most important achievement of this budget is the particular attention given to the water. The farmers here are so capable, once water is provided to them, they will not ask for anything else. The development rate of States where irrigation network has been laid by our Government is more than the other States of our country.

The second most important achievement of this budget is allocation of funds for rural development. I would like to appreciate the hon'ble Finance Minister as he is going to present Employment Guarantee Bill. Therefore, inspite of facing several constraints and pressures him, he has not made any budgetary provision for it in a hurry. Many Members ask as to why the provision for Employment Guarantee Bill has not been made in the budget. 40 to 50 thousand crore rupees would be needed for Employment Guarantee Bill. The hon'ble Finance Minister has repeatedly assured the House that he will make provision for money as per requirement. I am of the opinion that to make budgetary allocation in all schemes, in a hurry and without giving it a thought will not be appropriate. Secondly, I think this act of him is also praiseworthy that he has taken an initiative to pilot this programme in some selected districts. Usually programmes one launched in 476 or 500 districts at once, and then problems arises in their implementation and the Government also fail to get the feed back on time. Therefore, a programme is implemented gradually, then we would be able to implement it in a better way in the entire country.

In the end, I would like to take a minute time only, 35 per cent of Indians reside in cities. Earlier, this figure was 15 to 17 per cent. Therefore, today India resides in cities also. It is a fact. I represent a city and would like to submit though he has introduced a programme for urban renewal, but more attention is needed in this regard. Today the cities does not belong to any particular State and have assumed metropolitan character. People from all the States migrate to cities in search of employment. The Urban Development has to be seen in the light of national development. The infrastructure of cities should be upgraded in view of needs of people migrating to these cities. Today, Delhi or Mumbai are not the cities of Delhi or Maharashtra, but belongs to every Indian citizen of the country. With these words, I support the budget.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget.

I rise to oppose the General budget for the year 2005-06. Shri C.P. Chandrasekhar has described this Budget in the "*Front Line*" dated 25th March, 2005 as down-size and go-off Budget. He has further stated that caught between the desire to see India as a globalising economy with a fiscally prudent Government and the compulsion to pay obeisance to goals rendered imperative by democracy. Coalition politics and the National Common Minimum Programme, the Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram emerged more as a manipulator of accounts than as a prudent Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gadhaviji your speech will

continue tomorrow, since the time is over, it is 8.30 pm. Therefore your speech will continue tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow. 17th March. 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

20.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Thursday, March 17, 2005/
Phalgun 26, 1926, (Saka).*

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