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Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Vaisakha 3, 1930 (Saka)

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(English Version)

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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 23, 2008/Vaisakha 3, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 421, Shri Ranen Barman—not present. We are starting with 'Absent'. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni.

Shortage of Coal

+
*421. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of coal in the country at present;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to import coal to tide over the situation;

(d) if so, the source thereof and the likely cost per metric tonne at which it is likely to be made available in the country; and

(e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Major part of coal demand in the country is met from indigenous production. However, as there is limited availability of coking coal and low ash non-coking coal, various consumers import coal as per their requirement. During the year 2006-07 (for which final figures of import are available), against indigenous production of 430.83 million tonnes, the import of coal was 43.08 million tonnes (17.88 million tonnes of coking coal and 25.20 million tonnes of non-coking coal). During the year 2007-08, the indigenous production increased to 456.37 million tones (provisional). During the year 2007-08, the import is expected to be around 50 million tonnes. As per the projections given by the Working Group on Coal for the terminal year of the 11th Plan (2011-12), the indigenous coal production is expected to increase to 680 million tonnes as against the projected demand of 731 million tonnes. The gap of 51 million tonnes is expected to be met from import.

(c) and (d) Government does not import coal. Since coal is under Open General License (OGL), consumers are free to import coal. Presently, non-coking coal is being imported largely from Indonesia, China, South Africa etc. and coking coal mainly from Australia. As reported by International Coal Report, Asian Marker price (including insurance and freight) for steam coal (non-coking coal) was about US $ 160 per tonne in March, 2008.

(e) Following measures have been taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal:

(i) a comprehensive New Coal Distribution Policy has been introduced to streamline coal distribution.

(ii) a large number of coal blocks have been allocated to augment indigenous availability of coal.

(iii) supply of coal to critical sectors like power, cement and steel is closely monitored by the Infrastructure constraints review committee headed by Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.

(iv) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries companies and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are augmenting coal production by introduction of high capacity shovels and dumpers, mechanization of underground coal mines and by taking up new coal projects.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, the Government has been rightly encouraging captive mining of coal to meet the growing demand of coal. I understand that about 182 coal blocks have been so far sanctioned to a large number of public and private sector companies

for captive as well as commercial mining. The Government is targeting a production of 104 million tonnes of coal from these 182 blocks in 2011-12 as against the estimated production of only 25 million tonnes during 2007-08 with only about 17 blocks. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what step the Ministry is going to take regarding demand and gap.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that up to 2003 only about 40 blocks were allotted and the balance blocks have been actually allotted during 2004, 2005 and 2006. Most of the blocks are open cast blocks and underground blocks, and they take 3-4 years to start the production. Actually, it is not seven blocks as the hon. Member has said. It is actually 13 blocks which are operational and with a total production of 22 million tonnes. By 2009-10, 17 blocks will be operative. I do not think there should be any problem to achieve the production of 104 million tonnes at the end of the next Five Year Plan.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, we have about 253 billion tonnes of coal reserves in the country which is the third largest in the world. These reserves are available up to the depths of 600 metres and beyond. But our coal mining is presently limited only to about 150 metres and in some cases up to 200-300 metres. In view of the growing demand-supply gap and in the interest of proper utilization of available coal reserves, we need to reorganise our mining methods.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is going to take any step regarding this issue.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: The deepest open cast coal mine in India is working at 216 metres depth at the moment. It has been planned to attain up to 300 metres depth. The average depth of open cast mine is around 100-150 metres. Over the years, the depth of these mines will increase from 300 to 400 metres wherever coal seams exist. When we mine the coal, obviously, we cannot take the coal from below. It has to be taken up from the top, and slowly we go down. That is how the process is going on. So, in about two decades, we might go up to 300-400 metres also. In fact, we have mines which are underground mines and are being operated as low as 750 metres. So, we have the technology. We can go at any depth. It is the question of need. Whenever it will be required, it will be done.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said in the answer that "New Coal Distribution Policy has been introduced to streamline coal distribution". But regarding railway freight, we have observed that Gujarat is getting coal for the power plants from the Eastern Coalfields.

There are enough chances that we can get coal from the Western Coalfields. The Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with it.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, the Government of Gujarat has requested.

MR. SPEAKER: Just because the Government of Gujarat requested, does it become relevant? Let us see.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, I want to know when the Government will allow it. The cost of the power will be reduced. It is a relevant question. The Government of Gujarat is demanding coal from the Western Coalfields so that the cost of the power production is less. When will the Union Government consider this request of Gujarat to supply coal from the Western Coalfields?

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the linkage is required regularly. The coal production is coming from different places in the country. Wherever coal is available, to expedite the supply to different States, we definitely try that the distance is the lowest. But despite that, if coal is not available we have to allocate the coal from wherever it is available in the interest of the demand.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, to stop import of coal, whether the Government is ready to invest money for mining coal in the areas of Barjora, Ghutguria, Maliara Morza of Barjora Panchayat Samiti area in the district of Bankura in West Bengal where good quality of coal reserves are there according to the GSI report and it is also found in the P.S. of Saltora area in the same district.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: In Saltora area, the mafia is mining the coal illegally. I want to know whether the Government is ready to give permission to the local cooperatives so that, like China, mining can be done... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Can you ask specific mining, here or there?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to control mafia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, these blocks have been mostly allotted to the private parties. We have no objection to any party, even the cooperatives if they can come under the parameters of the policy. We can consider the cooperatives also.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 422—Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy—not present.

Q. 423—Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

Road Accidents

+

*423. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) whether a large number of persons die in India due to road accidents as compared to other countries of the world;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to scale down casualties as a result of road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Road accidents and fatalities are caused by a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather etc.

As per the details available, in the year 2005, the total number of road accident related deaths in India was high as compared to other countries of the world except China. During the year 2005, China reported 98,738 deaths as compared with 94,968 deaths in India due to road accidents. However, the number of road accident deaths per one lakh population was 8.6 in India in 2005 while this figure ranged between 1.82 to 144.98 in case of some other countries of the world.

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Department has taken several steps to improve road safety, which are given below:

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/ Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for road safety activities by the Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vii) Conferring of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme by Department of Road Transport and Highways. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 km. on each of

its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently formulated a Plan scheme for Rs. 732.75 crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period wherein trauma centres would be set up along the National Highways i.e., the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West corridors. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would be placing ambulances under this Scheme at a stretch of 50 kms. on the Highways built and operated by them. The Department of Road Transport and Highways would provide specialized ambulances to identified hospitals along the National Highways.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, is the Government aware about the Sundar Committee report? I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the suggestions made by the Sundar Committee which has submitted its report to the Government in February, 2007. I want to know whether the hon. Minister can clarify why it has not been tabled in Parliament and whether the Government is taking steps to set up State-level Road Safety Boards and whether the Motor Vehicles Act is being amended to introduce strict penalties for traffic rule violation besides rigorous punishment for causing fatalities.

MR. SPEAKER: How can Central Government say?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Sundar Committee has given the report. The Committee's report has been discussed very much in detail in the Ministry. It is receiving attention. At the same time it has gone to the Committee of Secretaries. The Committee of Secretaries have advised that it should go before the EFC. It will now be going before the EFC. After the EFC it has to go to the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: What is EFC?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is Expenditure Finance Committee. It will be definitely, very shortly, before the Parliament after getting the concurrence from the Cabinet.

The Sundar Committee has also recommended that in the Centre the Government of India has to establish National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board. Likewise the same Boards have to be established by the State Governments also.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, is it true that the funds allocated to the Ministry for road safety are not fully being utilised during the last four years, that too 14 to 30 per cent every year? If the reason for non-utilisation of funds is because of human failure what steps have been taken against the erring officials if any? Is it true that cranes and ambulances were not procured in time which were supposed to be given to respective States?

What is the position now? Can the Minister assure the House that the funds will be fully utilised henceforth?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as the expenditure on road safety is concerned, in the Tenth Plan we have had a total expenditure of Rs. 166.64 crore. The proposed provision for it in the Eleventh Plan is Rs. 448 crore. As far as the Eleventh Plan is concerned, in 2007-08, there was a provision of Rs. 41 crore and we have already spent about Rs. 42.87 crore. There is no dearth of expenditure as of now.

As far as cranes are concerned, we have purchased cranes and we have already extended these facilities to various States. Further, we are also taking care of purchase of cranes and supply of the same as requested by the NGOs also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is absent, but he has taken my permission yesterday. This is what I expect. He, for some reason, is unable to be present today, and he had showed the courtesy to the Chair to say that he is sorry that he cannot come and please excuse him.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the accident ratio in our country is very high. I have seen that work is in progress at several places on NHs. The work is also in progress on the only traffic intensive road in my State. It results in death of 4-5-6 persons daily because of accidents. It is so because the adjoining old road has been closed, which is in bad condition. The Government is responsible for its reconstruction. Three years have elapsed, yet the road has not been reconstructed resulting in deaths of people in road accidents. The hon. Minister has stated that no sooner the accident occurs, the crane is made available for clearing the damaged vehicle. My submission is that ambulance should also accompany the crane. At the same time there is a need to repair old

road. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is suggestion for action.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is not a fact that we are not having any safety measures during the construction or after the construction. We provide all facilities including ambulances, vehicles at each and every 50 kms. of the road stretch so that if any accident takes place, then the person will be lifted and taken care of within the first golden hour itself. The person could be given treatment at the wayside hospitals, and there is a provision made along with the Health Ministry where we have an integrated approach to see that if any accident takes place, then the person will be taken care of. We will be shifting the particular person to the nearest hospital and that too within 50 kms.

Further, the Government of India, through the Health Ministry, has provided about Rs. 733 crore, which has been recently approved by the CCEA. They already have a programme for upgradation of district hospital in every 100-150 kms; upgradation of medical colleges in every 300 kms; and upgradation of super-speciality hospitals and Universities also. Moreover, the NHAI has already provided 91 ambulances as built in the particular plan of action. According to the scheme, about 140 ambulances have to be given to the identified hospitals in particular States.

NHAI has to provide ambulances at each and every 50 kms. stretch, and NHAI has provided 91 ambulances and 97 patrol vehicles on the roads.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am not concerned about how much amount the Government is spending on these works. I am talking about a road in my State...*(Interruptions)* He has not said anything about the road in question...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will look into it.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No answer has been given to my question.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you. The hon. Minister in his reply has admitted that India comes second after China in the world so far as number of road accidents on national highways is concerned. But so far as safety measures are concerned, I would say that there is acute shortage of safety measures such as ambulances and cranes. NH-7 and NH-75 across my Lok Sabha constituency covering a road length of approximately 150 kms. and we find no ambulance on the said road length nor the broken side walls of culverts have been repaired. Two three cities are there on NH-7 and NH-75 including my city Satna. A bypass was proposed in Satna, but so far it has not been approved. There is also a proposal to convert this portion into four lane.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask precise questions.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the hon. Minister consider providing such facilities on NH-7 and NH-75?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, all safety measures have been taken on each and every constructed road structure. There are ambulances; there are vehicles on each and every National Highway...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: If any aggrieved Member of Parliament wants to meet me, he can come and meet me today evening...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to remain calm.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you feel the sense of the hon. Members. There is a feeling that there are not adequate facilities everywhere. Therefore, this is a matter which should be looked into, and I believe the Centre must motivate the State Governments, and also the Members of Parliament, if they have time, to look into this matter.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: At the same time, Sir, if any aggrieved Member of Parliament has got something to discuss with me, he can come at 12 o'clock itself and I am ready to hear him...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your take your seat. You have been given a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have expressed, on behalf of all of you, that it is not satisfactory. I am so happy to find unanimity.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: In the reply itself, the hon. Minister mentioned that road accident fatalities are caused by a number of factors. One important factor is the bad condition of the roads, especially the National Highways. I can quote some of the important National Highways in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not quote.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: For the last more than ten years, there is no periodical maintenance that is taking place. In my State, in respect of National Highway 47, for the last more than eighty years, there is no periodical maintenance that is taking place at all.

MR. SPEAKER: For 80 years! There is no road now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is almost in a dilapidated state. It is not 80 years; it is eight years.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I am coming to the point; I am putting my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I would like to know whether the Government, the Ministry, will take care of such dilapidated roads before the start of the monsoon season and in this very year itself, especially taking up the periodical maintenance of National Highway 47 and allotting sufficient funds for the same.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Kerala is known for torrential rains and the frequency of rains when compared with other States is more. It means that periodical repairs and maintenance is required. At the same time, the hon. Member should not forget the fact that we are spending money on each and every road structure. They may contest the claim but the fact remains that in 2005-06, the allocation was Rs. 868.10 crore, and the expenditure was Rs. 838.32 crore. In 2006-07, the allocation was Rs. 814.38 crore and the expenditure was Rs. 784.29 crore. In 2007-08, the allocation was Rs. 1001.68 crore and the expenditure was Rs. 814.15 crore. In all the States, maintenance is taken care of by the local Governments only. Wherever maintenance is required, it is more important, they have to prioritize their requirements. Wherever the damages are more, they have to send the estimates quickly and get it approved, and as and when we sanction the money, they have to spend the money. After spending the money, they have to send us the utilization certificates. Without sending the utilization certificates, if they want more money, where is the chance to do that?

MR. SPEAKER: That agony is there.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There are some procedures and systems in place. Kerala has to ask for more money after sending the utilization certificate.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members are unanimous on national highways. Lucknow-Kanpur national highway passes through my constituency. The work on this NH has been going on for the last seven years. I think during the said period thousands of people have died on this stretch as 4-5 accidents occur here daily.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Everybody is asking the same question.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I want to know when the work on said highway is likely to be completed?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If every hon. Member asks separately about his constituency roads, then it becomes impossible to answer such questions.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, constructions are going on, and they have to be completed within the stipulated period. If there is any delay, definitely I will look into the

matter. At the same time, the fact remains that 290 people die everyday; after every five minutes, there is a death; after every one minute, there is an accident.

MR. SPEAKER: Very unfortunate.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: If you take the pressure on the road, including vehicle and human population, it is worth to note that in 1950-51, the vehicle population was three lakhs only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make these running commentaries.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In 2006, the vehicle population was 879 lakhs, which means the vehicle population increased by 293 times. As far as human population is concerned, it was 36 crores in 1950-51, and now it is 111 crores. There is a three-time increase. There is increased pressure on roads by human as well as vehicle population.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: At the same time, the fact also remains that in 2001, the fatality rate per 10,000 vehicles was 14.7 and in 2004, it was reduced to 12.74. In 2001, accidents on National Highways was 28.55 per cent, whereas in 2006, the accidents got reduced to 22.17 per cent. In 2001, the number of persons who died on the National Highways was 39.7 per cent in 2006, it was reduced to 35.99 per cent. There is some improvement; people should not forget this improvement because the required improvement is taking place. At the same time, it cannot be done overnight.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, have you considered my request?

MR. SPEAKER: It will be done when your turn comes.

[English]

Private Sector Investment in Rural Infrastructure Projects

*424. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing provisions regulating investment by private sector in farm and agriculture infrastructure in rural areas alongwith investment made so far during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to encourage private sector investment in rural infrastructure projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

'Agriculture' being a State subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in facilitating investment both public and private in farm and agriculture infrastructure. The existing provisions to encourage private sector investment in farm and agriculture infrastructure in rural areas comprise of formulating appropriate supportive policies, enabling legal framework, financial incentives and awareness creation.

The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation estimates capital formation in the economy. Information on private investment, in terms of Gross Capital Formation, in the agriculture sector for the latest 3 years is presented in the following table:

Investment (Gross Capital Formation) in Agriculture at 1999-2000 prices

Year	Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture (Rs. in crore)			GCF in Agriculture as Percent of GDP from Agriculture		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
2004-05	12273	36835	49108	2.8	8.3	11.1
2005-06	15006	39899	54905	3.2	8.5	11.7
2006-07	17749	43013	60762	3.7	8.9	12.5

The Eleventh Five Year Plan continues to encourage higher private sector investment in farm infrastructure and other agriculture support services. Some of such areas with substantial potential for private sector investment include marketing infrastructure, post-harvest management of farm produce, horticulture, food processing, micro irrigation, agricultural extension, seed production etc.

Some of the programmes under which financial assistance is provided to encourage private investment in agricultural infrastructure include (i) National Horticulture Mission under which financial assistance is provided in the form of equity participation up to a maximum of 49% of the total project equity; (ii) Gramin Bhandaran Yojana under which capital investment subsidy is provided for construction of rural godowns (iii) Central Sector Scheme of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization under which capital investment for agricultural marketing infrastructure projects.

Bharat Nirman through its emphasis on strengthening of rural infrastructure such as irrigation, roads, electrification, telecom connectivity, drinking water supply and housing would facilitate flow of private investment in agriculture infrastructure and other support services.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am happy that the Government has realized the importance of making more investment in rural areas in agriculture. It may not be to the extent that is required. If the Government does not have enough funds to invest more, it is time for us to motivate the private sector to enter into this with large investments.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: We are aware that due to shortage of the foodgrains in this country, the prices in the international market have gone up substantially. The price of wheat has increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 16 in a couple of months, thereby we have paid about Rs. 1600 crore extra for importing two million tonnes of wheat. If the same situation were to arise for rice, it will be much awful. We are also aware that there is a shortage of oilseeds and pulses in the country which we are importing to a great extent from outside the country.

I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government—both State and Centre or through the Centre the State—will give more and more incentives to divert the crops from traditional crops to oilseeds and pulses.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question and what is your Supplementary?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the Government's job is to give incentives and appropriate support prices.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Now you are talking of diversion. Please take your seat. This is a very important hour. Put specific questions so that the Ministers can also be caught off the guard. Do not give them opportunities to skip through.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Government motivate and give incentives?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Put specific questions to get specific answers. Utilize this hour properly.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, private sector participation in the agricultural infrastructure has been steadily increasing. According to the Central Statistical Organization, private participation in 2006-07 was to the tune of Rs. 39,899 crore which has increased to Rs. 43,013 crore. However, there is a problem as far as investment by private in agricultural and farm infrastructure sector is concerned. For the purpose of construction of godowns for agricultural purposes the Government of India is giving 25 per cent subsidy to agriculture graduates and cooperatives. For SCs, STs and for the North-Eastern Region, 33 per cent subsidy is being given by the Government. When it comes to the question of marketing infrastructure, the same analogy is being applied. For the purpose of micro-irrigation also subsidy is being given. For horticulture also the Government is giving an equity of 49 per cent. Therefore, from the Government side there is support being given to the States for creating agricultural infrastructure. Agriculture is a State subject. The Central Government is supplementing the activity of creating infrastructure by the State Governments concerned. Bharat Nirman is a scheme under which a lot of money is being given for roads, rural telephony, water, irrigation, etc., so that people in the rural areas can go and set up godowns. That infrastructure is being created by the State Governments.

In reply to the hon. Member's question, for the purpose of oilseeds and wheat production, Government of India has earmarked about Rs. 25,000 crore for the States. The Government is giving incentives to the States which are bringing more investment in this sector.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for your maiden reply. I wish a little brevity would have been preferred. Very well done, as expected.

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is time for us to attract private investment in the rural roads and transportation sector also. As we are doing the schemes of annuity, BOT, etc., in the National Highways and other State Highways, will the hon. Minister think in terms of attracting the transport organizations which are running buses in the villages to take up construction of the roads where they are running their vehicles and to cover the gap, if necessary, by giving incentives to the private sector towards the cost of the roads?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: As far as rural roads are concerned, under Bharat Nirman, under the hon. Prime Minister's Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana certain schemes are being implemented. Under Bharat Nirman Rs. 1,76,000 crore are being earmarked for the Eleventh Plan period for all the six schemes. Apart from that, the allotment made to the Rural Development Ministry every year was about Rs. 54,000 and odd crore. The total allocation in the Tenth Plan was only Rs. 56,748 crore. However, Rs. 90,014 crore have been allocated for the entire 10th plan for the Rural Development Ministry alone. I would like to submit one more thing. Rs. 22,134 crore have been given for creating infrastructure and facilities for agriculture in the Tenth Plan.

Now, in the 11th Plan, Rs. 54,801 crore, a two-fold increase, has been made. Regarding the hon. Member's query about the transport subsidy, I would state that the Government would consider this aspect.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present I find acute shortage of investment in agriculture and the yield is also not good. Agriculture growth rate is just 1.98 per cent. In view of it, will the hon. Prime Minister be pleased to state, whether the Government propose to prepare any special plan for agriculture sector on the lines of railways presenting separate budget for agriculture and also ensuring growth rate of 4 percent in agriculture as there is shortage of public and private investment in agriculture.

[English]

I asked about the investment, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action. You want a separate budget.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I want to know about the measures the Government propose to take separately for accelerating agricultural growth rate? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I asked him a very clear question...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, my question should be answered.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that it arises out of this question. I am sorry, I cannot allow.

Since he is there, can you ask any question?

Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It has been our experience that the big business and multi-national companies who are engaged in the private sector for rural infrastructure development, are mostly interested in their business only. Apart from the public sector and the private sector, including big business and multinational companies, there is a cooperative sector in different parts of the country who are contributing a lot. 'Cooperative sector' comes under the State List. May I know whether the Government is willing to frame a national policy to provide support to the cooperative sector for a meaning role, with the assistance of NABARD and financial institutions, for the development of rural infrastructure?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This question relates to the Minister of Agriculture. Even then, I would limit to submit that the Government of India for the purpose of enabling and strengthening the APMCs, for going for more farming and marketing, is also urging the State Governments to amend the Act so that some of the participation can be done with the private sector and also with private-public participation, if they are required.

As far as the hon. Member's question is concerned about strengthening the cooperative sector, I would say that the hon. Agriculture Minister has convened the meeting of the Cooperative Ministers of various States and he is also considering it.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 425—Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'—Not present.

Ramji Lal Suman—are you aware that thee is a question in your name?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Capacity Utilisation of Coal Mines

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*425. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is optimum capacity utilisation in coal mines under the Coal India Limited (CIL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether coal production can be increased from the existing operating mines by using the latest technology in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the technology available; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to augment the production of coal in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The overall system capacity utilisation in terms of percentage in the last four years in Coal India Limited (CIL) is furnished in the table below:

Company	Year	Capacity utilization in %
Coal India Ltd.	2003-04	95.04
	2004-05	96.04
	2005-06	99.28
	2006-07	96.97

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The coal production from the existing mines can be increased using latest technologies. Measures have been taken in this regard by adopting mechanisation in the existing mines wherever it was found technically feasible and economically viable. A number of manual workings in underground mines have been converted into mechanised/semi-mechanised operations by deploying technologies using Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs), Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs), Continuous Miners (CMs), Longwall mechanisation etc. Manual loading into tubs has been replaced with mechanical loading onto Chain Conveyors, Belt Conveyors etc. wherever it was found feasible. The new mines are invariably being planned for mechanisation. All the open cast mines are mechanised.

For existing opencast mines, wherever feasible production is being enhanced by adopting higher capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) and also by hiring HEMM. In some mines adoption of Surface Miner technology has also contributed in enhancing production.

(e) CIL envisages taking up 119 new projects during Eleventh Five Year Plan for a total capacity of 271.63 mtpa of coal production. In addition to this, Government has so far allotted 182 coal blocks to various companies in private sector and public sector whose contribution is envisaged to be 104 million tonnes in 2011-12 the terminal year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Coal companies have also taken steps to deploy higher capacity equipments; to improve utilisation of equipments; mechanisation of existing underground mines etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji lal Suman, you came at a wrong moment.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have you found it out?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I do not think you have any Supplementary. I am sorry. There is no time to read such a long answer.

Does anybody else want to put Supplementary on this question?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Supplementary from him because he does not know it. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I have sent a slip to ask supplementary to Question No. 426.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, are you interested?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, Coal India Ltd. is engaged in increasing coal production. Efforts are being made to increase coal production through Coal India Ltd. but it has not been able to increase desired quantity of coal. Efforts are being made to increase maximum production through the said company. But I want to know as to what other steps the Government propose to take to increase coal production?

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the production of coal in the country is sufficient. We really do not have actual shortage. We are trying to match the supply with whatever demand we have. Despite this, it is a continuous process. We are also using the world's best state-of-the-art equipment for this. We are using heavy earth moving machinery. There is a complete plan, not only the current plan but also beyond this plan, as to the kind of production we would like to achieve or the equipment we might be introducing. All these plans are there. It is not that we are not increasing the production. For the information of the hon. Member, in 2006-07 the total production was 430.85 MT whereas in 2007-08 it was 456.37 MT and it is planned to be increased to 680 MT by 2011-12.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 426—Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar—Not present.

Shri A. Sai Prathap.

Inadequate Infrastructure Facilities in PHCs

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*426. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

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

(a) whether people are not getting proper treatment in Primary Health Centres and in Government Hospitals due to insufficient infrastructure and staff;

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

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The primary health care services are provided in rural areas through a network of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 Primary Health Centres and 4045 Community Health Centres as on March, 2007. Based on norms and 2001 population, there is a shortfall in availability of Primary Health Care. Besides population, it has now been decided to also consider case load and distance while approving the expansion of primary health system.

(i) Sub-Centre

Sub-centre is the first peripheral contact point between Primary Health Care system and the community. It is manned by one Female (ANM) and one Male Health Worker and one LHV for six such Sub-Centres.

(ii) Primary Health Centre (PHC)

PHC is the first contact point between village community and the Medical Officer. It is manned by a Medical Officer and 14 other staff. It acts as a referral Unit for 6 Sub-Centres and has 4-6 beds for patients. It performs curative, preventive, promotive and Family Welfare services.

(iii) Community Health Centre (CHC)

CHC is established and maintained by the State Governments manned by four Medical specialists i.e. Surgeon, Physician, Gynaecologist and Pediatrician supported by 21 paramedical and other staff. It has 30 in-door beds with one OT, X-ray, and Labour room and Laboratory facilities and serves as a referral centre for 4 PHCs. It

provides facilities for emergency obstaetrics care and specialist consultations.

While NRHM provides for expansion of primary health care facilities based on population, distance and work load, the effort is to first consolidate the existing institutions before undertaking large scale expansion. As per Rural Health Statistics Bulletin updated upto March, 2007, the following positions have been reported against 2001 population norms with reference to PHCs and CHCs:

(1) Primary Health Centre (PHC)

There are a total of 22370 Primary Health Centres functioning across the country as on March, 2007. There is a shortfall of 4833 PHCs across the country. A total of 17080 PHCs are functioning in Government buildings, 3002 in rented buildings, 2330 in Rent Free Panchayat/ Vol. Society Buildings, 1845 buildings are under construction while 3618 buildings are required to be constructed. 10522 number of PHCs are functioning with labour room, 9273 number of PHCs are functioning with operation theatre, 12727 number of PHCs are functioning with 4-6 beds and 4644 number of PHCs are functioning with 24 hours delivery. A total of 807 PHCs are functioning without a doctor. The detail of the staff in PHCs is as under:

Sl.No.	Staff	Requirement	In Position
1.	Health Assistants [Females] at PHCs	22370	15546
2.	Health Assistants [Males] at PHCs	22370	20234
3.	Doctors at PHCs	22370	22608

(2) Community Health Centre (CHC)

There are a total of 4045 Community Health Centres functioning across the country as on March, 2007. There is a shortfall of 2525 CHCs across the country. A total of 3692 CHCs are functioning in Government buildings, 26 in rented buildings, 306 in Rent Free Panchayat/Vol. Society Buildings. 449 buildings are under construction while 199 buildings are required to be constructed. The detail of the staff in CHCs is as under:

Sl.No.	Staff	Requirement	In Position
1.	Specialists Doctors	16180	5117
2.	Radiographers	4045	1740
3.	Pharmacists at PHCs and CHCs	26415	17919
4.	Lab. Technicians at PHCs and CHCs	26415	12101
5.	Nurse Midwife/Staff Nurse at PHCs and CHCs	50685	29776

(c) National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] provides the State Governments the opportunity to present their Programme Implementation Plan [PIP] based on their requirements. These focus on accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: The PHCs are mainly meant for the rural people in remote areas. Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji launched National Rural Health Mission scheme in the year 2005. In his reply the Minister has accepted that there is inadequate staff. Actually, the requirement for the specialist doctors is 16,180 whereas only 5117 are in position. In case of nursing staff also, the requirement is 50,685 whereas only 29,776 are in position. We all have experienced and noticed that most of the PHCs are not functioning upto the expectation. Keeping in view this problem, in my State Andhra Pradesh the hon. Chief Minister has launched a new scheme named Rajiv Arogya Sri Scheme for the benefit of the BPL families. Out of this scheme, Rs. 2 lakh will be assured to the BPL families to obtain medical treatment at any time necessary, in any corporate hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: I am putting it, Sir. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Union Government will study Rajiv Arogya Sri Scheme to extend such assured facilities to the BPL families throughout the country; if so, the details thereof.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Firstly, to take care of the shortfalls in the Primary Health Areas the National Rural Health Mission was launched by the hon. Prime Minister on April 12, 2005. We know that this is a social sector; in fact in social sector the primary health sector. The shortages which I have mentioned in my answer are not only in the PHCs but also in the CHCs as well as District Headquarters Hospitals that is in the entire primary health areas. It is not that we could just do it overnight. There is a requirement of nearly 16,000 specialist doctors and today we have put in place about approximately 5,117. In fact, when we took over there were only about 3,500 specialists and today it is nearly about 5,100. The problem not only with the specialists but even with the MBBS doctors is that nobody is willing to go to the rural areas to work. So, we are giving them some incentives to make them go there. The National Rural Health Mission has really taken on in all the States, including Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is very appreciative of the work done under the National Rural Health Mission to improve the rural infrastructure; having health workers, having equipment, machineries, un-tied funds for maintenance of all these centres, modern drugs, mobile medical units, manpower, auxiliary nurse, midwife, ASHA. A whole lot of things have happened. I would say that there is a complete revolution in the health sector in rural areas which has been acknowledged by national as well as international forums.

Coming to the focussed question about Rajiv Arogya Sri Scheme which is a health insurance concept in Andhra Pradesh under the National Rural Health Mission, we are giving funds to different State Governments for having health insurance concepts as pilot based projects. Taking the best pilot which has been successfully implemented in these States, we will make it a national project as well. We are taking the examples of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. According to the sustainability and availability of the funds, we would take decisions. So, it is not that we would just take it on our liking but according to the sustainability of the project, we would take a decision. Infrastructure and the service providers all that will be taken into consideration.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Sir, PHCs are opened in rural areas as per the population norm, namely, one PHC for 30,000 population in general rural areas and one PHC for 20,000 population in tribal areas. As on March, 2007, a total number of 22370 PHCs were functioning across the country in rural areas. Will the PHCs be converted and facilitated with infrastructure by increasing public expenditure on health care from the current 0.9 per cent of the GDP to 2 or 3 per cent of the GDP to facilitate the services keeping in view the rural population growth? If so, please give the details thereof.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I wish my good friend had gone through the National Rural Health Mission, what is the project and what is the implication of the project. Taking this opportunity, I would also request you to bring in a wider discussion in this august House about the functioning of National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall be very happy to permit a discussion if a notice comes.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If there are any shortfalls in the National Rural Health Mission, I would be happy to remove them. The whole programme is meant for the shortfall of this sector.

Earlier we had a population-based strategy where for a population of 20,000 to 30,000, one PHC; for a population of 2000 to 5000, one sub-centre; and then for a population of 80,000 to 1,20,000 one community health centre was given. But the Prime Minister has said that in addition to the population, we should have it need-based and load-based. So in a hilly region, you cannot have a population of 5000 or 10,000. So, according to the need and load, we have changed the norms and accepted that according to the States Programme Implementation Plan which begins at the beginning of each financial year, we are giving them funds according to their criteria to expand a new PHC. The problem is that we are first trying to consolidate the existing facilities and then expand. There is no point in just giving new facilities and then they are all lying empty without any faculty or without any personnel. We are upgrading and modernizing approximately 23,500 PHCs. We are having Rogi Kalyan Samities (Patient Welfare Societies) put up there. Then we are giving untied funds to them. So, a lot of activities are happening. For example, for the first time in the country, a PHC in Tamil Nadu has conducted a caesarian operation for delivery. It is the empowerment of PHCs. In Tamil Nadu because of the improvement of the PHCs, the money has been put in the PHCs and nearly 77000 deliveries have been conducted in addition to what it was last year. These deliveries were supposed to go to the private sector. So, we are seeing, for the first time, that patients who were supposed to go to the private sector are using the public facilities because of the

National Rural Health Mission. So, there is so much of empowerment and addition. The funds and medicines are being made available. I would like to state that all the Members of Parliament has to make use of this opportunity to bring in any focussed queries of their constituencies as well in regard to National Rural Health Mission.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that the doctors and para-medical staff do not want a posting in rural, hilly or tribal areas. So, do the Government propose to give them some special allowance so that they go there and serve?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody wants more money to do his duty.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the issue of more money, but, if there is some kind of incentive, people will go there and work as the concept of population is no more in vogue, now it is need based programme. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government propose to take such step in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question but we should also address the doctors to behave.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the question of providing manpower rests with the State Governments. We give the over all funds and the State Governments according to the priorities distribute the programmes.

We are providing incentives to doctors who are going to rural areas through a national programme. Already the State Government is providing incentives to go and work there. There are categories like hard rural areas and urban areas in different States. Successful States have implemented more incentives like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh where the State Governments have involved themselves and have given incentives for doctors.

Today, the problem is, when the doctors are not there, we are looking at the para-medics and the nursing community. We are trying to have nurse practitioners. When the doctors are not going there, we are having nurse practitioners who will be empowered to take up these activities. We are having drug kits for ASHAs as such. As you know, till date, we have enlisted about 5,44,000 ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists). We have trained about 4 lakh ASHAs. It is a training period of about 28 days per year with seven days in a period. With such an empowerment, by the end of this year or early next financial year, every village in India is going to have an ASHA. There are approximately 6,20,000 villages and the ASHAs will have drug kits to take care of the elders for their basic common ailments and in the sub-health centres, we are having one more Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). We are paying the salary for the ANM, male health workers and we are giving untied funds to the sub-centres so that they could look after the maintenance. We are giving Rs. 10,000 for the maintenance and Rs. 10,000 for procuring drugs. AYUSH doctors are being put in place. I would like to say that in the National Rural Health Mission, nearly about 2000 specialists, 6000 MBBS doctors, 4000 AYUSH doctors, 40,000 staff nurses and ANMs, 4000 other paramedical staff and about 5,44,000 ASHAs have been put in place for the last two years.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: In the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is stated and it is true that Ph. D. doctors and even the MBBS are not willing to go to the rural areas. Earlier, there was a system to give grace marks to the doctors who go to the rural areas when they appear for their MD and MS courses. It was really an incentive besides the monitory benefit that they get because of their profession and all that. I think it has stopped now. Will the Government consider giving it because this is the best way to encourage doctors to go to the rural areas?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government of Kerala has brought out a scheme for this and in fact, most of the State Governments have a scheme where any doctor who is working in the hard rural areas or rural areas is given grace marks as an incentive to apply for his post-graduation course. We, the Government of India have supported this proposal. But, unfortunately, the judiciary thought otherwise. And the case went to the High court and the Supreme Court and they said that they cannot give those marks for them. So, we are trying to revise that proposal. We have supported the Government of Kerala in their affidavit and we will try to sort out a programme as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that there is shortage of doctors in the country. He has also admitted that there

is shortage of medical staff in the country and also that the rural areas do not have proper infrastructure. There are no doctors, staff and infrastructure and he has admitted that the rural population is not getting the medical facilities as a result thereof. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would ensure medical facilities in the rural areas by giving directions to the State Governments for making appointments on contract basis at places facing shortage of doctors or staff as appointments on contract basis are being made in many States of the country?

MR. SPEAKER: This experiment has also failed. I know about West Bengal. An effort was made there. Doctors want more money.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Absolutely, Sir. Under the National Rural Health Mission, the State Governments are empowered to appoint doctors, nurses and paramedical staff on contract basis. They are empowered and we are giving them the funds, their entire salary, etc. We are empowering them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to say that a student has to pay about Rs. 20-30 lakh as donation for medical studies. In my opinion, no student would dream of spending Rs. 20-30 lakh on medical studies and then work in a rural area for such a meagre pay. It is a very complicated matter. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make the medical education affordable so that the students go to the rural areas on their own volition.

Secondly, you were talking about the ASHA scheme. The rural women working under ASHA are not paid salary for upto 5-6 months due to which they are forced to charge Rs. 25-50 from the villagers because they also have to make a living. Will you take any action in this regard?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as regards ASHAs, we have consciously decided that ASHAs would not be paid a salary. They will be paid according to the work they do. If they take a child to be immunized to a sub-centre, they will be paid money; if they take a lady for ante-natal check-up they will be paid money; and they will be paid a lot of money if they take a pregnant woman for delivery. They have to be with that woman for two days, till the delivery and for post-natal check-up. For all these procedures, ASHAs will be paid money accordingly. If ASHAs are given another salary as such, then it is going to be another worker sitting idle in the village doing not much work. So, we have consciously decided this. As per the deficiencies pointed out by some States we are taking action. The main aspect of this National Rural Health Mission is its flexibility. We are giving flexible programmes according to the individual States. If Tamil Nadu is a progressive State in health sector, we are giving a different concept to it; if Bihar is less progressive in health indices, then the focus and priority in that State is on different areas. An amount of Rs. 12,000 crore has been allotted for the National Rural Health Mission. So, this is the importance that we want to give to the primary health areas. The Prime Minister has been focusing on those areas.

Coming to the first query raised by the hon. Member regarding MBBS seats and capitation fees, I would like to say that no college is permitted to take capitation fees. But unfortunately it is being done...*(Interruptions)* I accept that it is being done clandestinely. If any hon. Member likes to bring it to our notice, definitely we will take severe action against those who are guilty. The State Governments are empowered to take action against them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Some people secure admission by giving bribe. This is a peculiar situation. They secure admission by paying money. Therefore, there are bribe takers as well as bribe givers. This is the real problem.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Government is spending Rs. 12,000 crore under the National Rural Health Mission for making available medical facilities to the common man. But, it is quite regrettable that medical facilities are not available to the rural people even after spending of such a large sum of money by the Government. This is fact. You have also admitted that the Government is not able to provide proper facilities to them for want of sufficient number of doctors and medical staff. Do what you may but the doctors will not go to the villages. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will create some system so that the doctors and medical

staff work only in the villages? You should make some special provisions so that their services are meant exclusively for the villages without having any connection with the cities. Will the Government make such a policy and ensure that medical facilities are provided to the rural people and they get the bonefit of the expenditure of Rs. 12 thousand crore.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not living in an ideal world.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This is a suggestion for action. It depends on the State Governments. The State Governments can have policies for having rural cadre of doctors and pay for that. They could be meant only for the rural areas. I think one State has already gone ahead in doing that. I do not remember the name of that State. It is either Kerala or Maharashtra. It has a rural cadre. They will be absorbed and enlisted only for this purpose.

When you say health human resources, it does not mean only doctors. It also includes nurses, paramedics, the ANMs, the ASHAs, etc. For example, in Bihar there is no single B.Sc. Nursing college. So, where do nurses get produced from Bihar?

That is precisely why the allocation has been increased in the Eleventh Plan as compared to the Tenth Plan. In the Tenth Plan, the total allocation was nearly about Rs. 48,000 crore for the Health Ministry. But for the Eleventh Plan, the hon. Prime Minister has earmarked an amount of nearly Rs. 1,36,000 crore.

It is nearly a 300 per cent increase in the health sector, out of which nearly about one-third, that is, nearly 30 per cent to 40 per cent will be on infrastructure.

As far as nursing is concerned, in the 11th Plan nearly Rs. 2,500 crore has been earmarked to start nursing colleges, nursing schools and to start centre of excellence in all the States at different regions, to produce more nurses and to have more ANM schools, to have more GNM schools and ASHA training centres and all that. So, a lot of manpower is produced under the National Rural Health Mission.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: This is a fact that the people in the rural areas are not getting proper medical treatment in the PHCs, in Sub-Centres and also in the Community Health Centres. The Government has also admitted that a number of posts are vacant, of doctors, male and female nurses etc...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been said, ask your question please.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Do the Government have a plan to fill up all those vacancies, and if so, what are the details thereof? That is the most important thing. Infrastructure means not to create buildings alone. Infrastructure means doctors, para-medical staff, even lab assistants etc...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, please do not repeat. Please put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I know that the people are dying in the rural areas...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am asking one question. Is there any time-bound programme to fill up all those vacancies, if so, the details thereof? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is unnecessary.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The simple answer is the National Rural Health Mission. Every State is empowered. We give funds to fill up the posts of doctors, nurses, ANMs, ASHAs. Every State is given money for that which includes Andhra Pradesh also to fill up all these vacancies. This is a social sector. I have inherited this Ministry with all these lacunae, and all that and I wish I could do this overnight, but it is very difficult to go through all these things. There is no manpower available in this country.

Sir, I would like to say here that we are producing nearly 32,000 graduate doctors every year and we need to produce one lakh doctors every year. We have only about 9,30,000 nurses and we need about 20 lakh nurses

in this country. So, we need to produce more. That is precisely what we are trying to plan for the human resources for the next 40 years for our country and that is precisely what the 11th Five Year Plan is focusing on, improving infrastructure. By infrastructure I mean not only material infrastructure but human infrastructure as well, so that we have more centres launching them.

Sir, the infant mortality rate is 58 per thousand live births. To bring it down by just one point—bring it down to 57—it takes millions of people working day and night cohesively which includes State Governments, Central Government, NGOs, all together. It is a social sector and it is very difficult to go through that. We are trying to address the problem in a right manner which has been appreciated and acknowledged nationally and internationally.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 427—Shri L. Rajagopal—not present.

Q. 428—Shri Anandrao V. Adsul.

Awareness about Climate Change

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*428. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to train and appoint climate managers to create awareness on environmental issues at the village level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide financial assistance to Gram Sabhas and village Panchayats for training and capacity-building to cope with natural calamities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Government to appoint climate managers to create awareness on environmental issues at the village level. However, the Government undertakes several measures to create awareness about environmental issues which include, *inter alia*, the following:-

(i) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is being implemented with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level through designated Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) appointed for specific States/Regions of the country.

(ii) Workshops/conferences/seminars are organised with the support from the Ministry of Environment & Forests on the issue of environment & climate change and publications are brought out.

(iii) Eco-clubs are set up with the assistance of the Ministry of Environment & Forests in schools throughout the country.

(iv) A project for Strengthening of Environmental Education in School System (Stress) is being implemented.

(v) Various events are organised/observed for creating awareness regarding preservation and conservation of the environment e.g. World Environment Day, Earth Day, Ozone Day etc.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir the question is very specific. It is: whether the Union Government has any proposal to train and appoint climate managers to create awareness on environmental issues at the village level? In the answer it is mentioned that there is no specific proposal under consideration of the Government to appoint climate managers to create awareness on environmental issues at the village level...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Not much time is lost. You please ask the question.

[English]

It is provided in the written answer. You need not read it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: However, it is stated that whatever measures are taken, they are taken at the national level, State level and regional level. But I am asking about the village level because some natural calamities are taking place at village level just like earthquake, flood and fire.

That is why I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether there is any proposal to provide financial assistance for the gram sabha or village panchayat for training and capacity building to cope up with those calamities.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as such, today there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government, as suggested by the hon. Member. But I would like to tell him that whosoever comes forward in awareness campaign is welcomed by the Government. I would also like to inform him that under the Biological Diversity Act, there is a BMC (Biological Management Committee) at the panchayat levels.

12.00 hrs.

All the Panchayati Raj Institutions are involved in protecting, conserving, documenting and doing sustainable use of bio-diversity. There is a set up under the Act itself. This is a very important aspect. Under the UNFCC Convention, various Ministries and my Ministry are doing a lot of work. There is a scheme. I have already stated in my reply that we are running it. 91,000 Eco-Clubs are working.

We are providing them financial assistance. They are the civil societies, NGOs and the State Governments. A lot of work is being done under this campaign. This is a suggestion. I assure the hon. Member that we will examine your suggestion in the Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Regulatory Mechanism to Monitor Human Organ Transplantation

*422. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any regulatory mechanism to monitor the human organ transplantation within the realm of legitimate surgical procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such a regulatory mechanism will be in place?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 (THOA) [42 of 1994] and the Rules framed thereunder, already provide for a mechanism for regulating transplantation of human organs. The Act provides for the registration of Hospitals engaged in removal, storage or transplantation of human organs and penalties for (i) removal of organs without authority, and (ii) commercial dealings in human organs.

Specifically Section 13 of THOA provides for appointment of Appropriate Authorities, with Central Government notifying Appropriate Authorities for each of the Union Territories and the State Governments notifying the Appropriate Authorities in respect of States. The Appropriate Authority performs the following functions:

(i) grant registration under sub-section (1) of section 15 or renew registration under sub-section (3) of that section;

(ii) suspend or cancel registration under sub-section (2) of section 16;

(iii) enforce such standards, as may be prescribed, for hospitals engaged in the removal, storage or transplantation of any human organ;

(iv) investigate any complaint of breach of any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules made thereunder and take appropriate action;

(v) inspect hospitals periodically for examination of the quality of transplantation and the follow-up medical care to persons who have undergone transplantation and persons from whom organs are removed; and

(vi) undertake such other measures as may be prescribed.

Section 9 (4) provides for constitution of Authorisation Committees that are mandated to accord prior approval

for transplantation of organs from a donor who is not a near relative of the recipient.

Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan

*427. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan (PMSA);

(b) whether any assistance from the National Commission for Women has been sought in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Conference has been held to promote the aims and objectives of the PMSA in the country specially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the names of places where such conferences have been held?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The objectives of the Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan are to enable women Panchayat leaders to come together to:

(i) Articulate their problems as women Panchayat leaders;

(ii) Discuss issues regarding the institutional mechanisms for their empowerment;

(iii) Come up with a charter of issues to be mainstreamed into policy and advocacy support so that their concerns are addressed by the process of development adopted by the State and the three-tier PRI system; and

(iv) Form associations of the Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) with elected office bearers and with cascading representation of EWRs from the panchayat level to State level.

(b) and (c) The Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan was conceived to function in tandem with the *Chalo Gaon ki Ore* programme initiated by the National Commission for Women in February 2006. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj partners with the National Commission of Women for organizing the PMSA sammelans in different States. PMSA sammelans were started in 2006-07 itself even before the scheme was notified in the month of September, 2007 as a Central Sector Scheme with a total allocation of Rs. Rs. 4307.47 lakhs for the 11th Five Year Plan. For the North Eastern States, Rs. 410.47 lakhs has been earmarked. The National Commission for Women has so far contributed an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh for organizing the PMSA State level Sammelan on 23rd & 24th April, 2006 at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. PMSA State level Sammelans were successfully conducted in the following States including Andhra Pradesh.

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Place	Date
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajasthan	Udaipur	23-24 April, 2006
2.	Punjab	Patiala	17-18 July, 2006
3.	Karnataka	Bangalore	5 September, 2006
4.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	24 September, 2006
5.	Manipur	Imphal	4-5 October, 2006
6.	Goa	Panaji	19 October, 2006
7.	Sikkim	Gangtok	25-27 April, 2007
8.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	26-27 July, 2007
9.	West Bengal	Kolkata	2 September, 2007

1	2	3	4
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	18-19 October, 2007
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	22-23 November, 2007
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	28-29 January, 2008
13.	Maharashtra-Vidharbha Region	Nagpur	1st & 2nd March, 2008
14.	Bihar	Patna	8th & 9th March, 2008
15.	Karnataka	Mysore	27th to 29th March, 2008

Decline in the Population of Precious Birds

*429. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of precious birds including the national bird, Peacock is decreasing in the country;

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

(c) whether the incidence of killing of such birds has also been recently reported in some States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty and to check the declining population of such precious birds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wildlife is a natural phenomenon. There are no reports to indicate a declining trend in the population of birds including the national bird, Peacock. However, over the last few years, decline in the population of three species of vultures i.e. White-backed vulture, Slender billed vulture and Long billed vulture have been reported. The main reason for the decline in the number is the presence of poisonous substances in the food chain due to intensive agriculture, horticulture, dairying, etc. Other reasons include loss of habitat, anthropogenic pressures, etc.

(c) and (d) Incidents of large scale killing of birds have not been reported. However, it is possible that there may be some stray incidents.

(e) It has been the constant endeavour of the Central and State Governments to prevent hunting and illegal Grade of wild animals and birds. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has stringent provisions against hunting and illegal trade of wildlife including birds. The steps taken by the Government to check decline in population of precious birds including peacocks are as follows-

i. Threatened birds including Peacocks, Vultures, etc. are included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving them the highest protection. Hunting of peacock is prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

ii. Protected Areas, *viz.* National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat.

iii. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries, 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

iv. Provisions have been made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for establishing Community and Conservation Reserves outside the National Parks and Sanctuaries to provide protection to birds including peacock that inhabit natural habitats outside the Protected Areas.

v. The penalty for poaching of peacock and illegal trade of its parts and products has been enhanced from minimum of one year to three

years and maximum of six years to seven years. Provision has also been made for forfeiture of property of the habitual offenders.

vi. Programmes for awareness for protection of wildlife including birds are conducted.

Research on Vector-Borne Diseases under AYUSH

*430. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote research activities under AYUSH for the prevention and treatment of Vector-borne diseases like chikungunya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) AYUSH systems are known for their strengths in the treatment of chronic and metabolic disorders. However, AYUSH Research Councils have in past undertaken research on treatment of vector borne diseases like Malaria, Filaria etc. One Ayurvedic medicine for treatment of malaria has also been included under the Golden Triangle Project for standardization and clinical trials. Treatment of vector borne diseases like Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis by Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopahty remedies has been reported from various States. Details of these treatment are being compiled by AYUSH Research Councils. National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, also organized a seminar on use of Siddha medicines for the treatment of Chikungunya in which researchers from various systems of medicine, including modern medicine, participated. Researchers of AYUSH systems are currently engaged in examination of classical texts for matching symptoms described in classical texts with symptoms of vector borne diseases like Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria and Filaria etc. for finding leads.

International Assistance for Polio Eradication

*431. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether India has been running the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP) in collaboration with international agencies like WHO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of developed countries and international agencies assisting India in eradicating Polio from the country;

(d) the terms and conditions of such assistance;

(e) the details of funds allocated to various States for eradication of Polio during 2007-08 along with the number of eradication campaigns launched during the said period; and

(f) the names of States benefited by the said assistance during 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP) was established in 1997 by World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with Government of India for surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP). AFP surveillance is one of the four basic strategies for polio eradication.

For AFP surveillance, more than 10,600 disease reporting units report weekly. They comprise of government and private hospitals and health centres. In addition, 18,500 informers comprised of medical practitioners, traditional healers and temples/shrines report AFP cases.

The NPSP Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) ensure AFP case detection, reporting to district/State health authorities and undertake investigation including stool collection. The stool specimens are transported to WHO accredited laboratories for polio virus detection.

The results of the stool specimens are received from the laboratories on weekly basis by NPSP. NPSP links the laboratory results to the cases and based on the detection of the type of polio virus in the stool of AFP cases, classifies the cases as polio type 1 or polio type 3 or non-polio AFP. Data generated through the AFP surveillance system are reviewed by the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) at regular intervals which recommends appropriate strategies for polio eradication.

There are 300 surveillance medical officers (SMOs) working with National Polio Surveillance Project and are

covering 613 districts of India. They are supervised and supported by 27 Sub-regional team leaders and 7 Regional team leaders. The average number of districts covered by an SMO varies between 1 district per SMO (polio endemic States—UP and Bihar), 3 districts per SMO (areas of moderate risk like Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi, West Bengal) and around 5 districts per SMO in other States.

Through its extensive network of Field Volunteers (1200) and additional temporarily hired monitors (1000) mainly in U.P. and Bihar, NPSP undertakes extensive monitoring of the planning and implementation of polio vaccination campaigns. Data generated through the NPSP monitoring is extensively used by the State, district and sub-district Governments to take corrective actions and improve the quality of the polio campaigns.

The NPSP also provides guidelines to the districts/ States for micro-planning for polio immunization campaigns. They also provide training support for vaccinators and supervisors in the high risk States of U.P. and Bihar.

(c) and (d) World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kfw Banken Group, Germany provides assistance for Oral Polio Vaccine for the Pulse Polio Immunization Campaigns. The world Bank assistance is reimbursable, the Kfw assistance is partly grant and partly soft loan and the interest on the loan amount at the rate of 0.75% per annum. The support of JICA is directly accessible by UNICEF and is used for OPV.

(e) and (f) The details of funds allocated to various States during 2007-08 are given in the enclosed statement. During 2007-08, there had been 2 National Immunization Days (NIDs) during January and February, 2008, which were conducted throughout the country. 8 Sub National Immunization Days (SNID) were undertaken in U.P., Bihar, Delhi and in other high risk districts of polio affected States during April, May, July, August, September, October, November 2007 and March, 2008. Mop up immunization rounds in response to the detection of polio case were undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka.

Statement

Funds Released to the States for Pulse Polio Immunization Programme During 2007-08

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Released Amount (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.02
2.	Assam	735.46
3.	Manipur	64.99
4.	Meghalaya	79.04
5.	Mizoram	25.09
6.	Nagaland	53.98
7.	Sikkim	14.65
8.	Tripura	79.16
9.	Bihar	6233.56
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1097.10
11.	Orissa	564.06
12.	Rajasthan	1430.47
13.	Uttar Pradesh	17616.78
14.	Uttaranchal	585.52
15.	Chhattisgarh	372.56
16.	Jharkhand	781.73
17.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14.70
18.	Andhra Pradesh	2710.10
19.	Chandigarh	14.38
20.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.97
21.	Daman and Diu	2.25
22.	Delhi	1079.46
23.	Goa	9.78
24.	Gujarat	1300.49
25.	Haryana	827.03
26.	Himachal Pradesh	102.93
27.	Jammu and Kashmir	179.38
28.	Karnataka	786.51

1	2	3
29.	Kerala	203.13
30.	Lakshadweep	2.84
31.	Maharashtra	2516.63
32.	Pondicherry	19.60
33.	Punjab	657.29
34.	Tamil Nadu	512.65
35.	West Bengal	1484.96
	Total	42211.27

Outstanding Dues to Empanelled Hospitals/ Diagnostic Centres Under CGHS

*432. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether most of the empanelled hospitals/ diagnostic centres under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) have refused to treat the CGHS beneficiaries owing to non-payment of dues by the Government as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated March 29, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the dues which are yet to be settled by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for payment of dues to such hospitals/diagnostic centres?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise. A statement indicating details of dues of the private recognized hospitals, yet to be settled, is enclosed.

(c) Bills are likely to be cleared during the current financial year.

Statement

Status of Bills of Private Recognised Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres Pending as on 10.04.08

Sl.No.	Name of the hospital	No. of pending bills	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Escorts Hospital, Faridabad.	12	1.1 Crore
2.	Jeewan Anmol.	10	46.00 lakhs
3.	Jeewan Mala Hospital.	10	48.40 lakhs
4.	Jeewan Nursing Home, Pusa Road.	10	54.60 lakhs
5.	Batra Hospital	8	12.25 lakhs
6.	Kalyani Hospital, Gurgaon.	10	17.07 lakhs
7.	Metro Hospital, Noida.	12	1.60 crores
8.	Metro Hospital, Lajpat Nagar.	10	56.70 lakhs
9.	Apollo Hospital.	17	2.00 crores

1	2	3	4
10.	Yashoda Hospital.	10	89.70 lakhs
11.	Narender Mohan Hospital.	5	1.80 crore
12.	Prakash Hospital.	5	40.11 lakhs
13.	Rajiv Gandhi Hospital.	2	40.78 lakhs
14.	Rockland Hospital.	10	2.04 crore
15.	Sheetla Hospital.	10	18.05 lakhs
16.	Kukreja Hospital.	6	43.70 lakhs
17.	Kalra Hospital.	7	50.20 lakhs
18.	Park Hospital.	5	90.70 lakhs
19.	G.M. Modi Hospital.	5	35.07 lakhs
20.	Orthonova Hospital.	6	1.20 crore
21.	MGS Hospital.	10	87.50 lakhs
22.	Maharaja Agrasen Hospital.	6	3.18 crores
23.	St. Stephens Hospital.	10	97 lakhs
24.	Dharamshila Hospital.	1	3.03 lakhs
25.	Jaipur Golden Hospital.	2	15.00 lakhs
26.	Kailash Hospital.	14	1.10 crores
27.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital.	6	87 lakhs
28.	Bapu Nature Cure.	6	15.90 lakhs
29.	Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre.	12	8.90 crores
30.	Tirath Ram Shah Hospital.	6	4.89 lakhs
31.	Centre for Sight.	6	68.70 lakhs
32.	R.L.K.C. Hospital.	10	32.06 lakhs
33.	Satya Medical Centre.	6	3.48 lakhs
34.	Sant Permanand Hospital.	8	23.58 lakhs

1	2	3	4
35.	Venu Eye Institute.	6	12.67 lakhs
36.	Sunder Lal Jain Hospital.	10	59.8 lakhs
37.	Metro Heart Institute, Faridabad.	12	14.48 lakhs
38.	Brahm Shakti Hospital.	3	2.90 lakhs
39.	Action Balaji Medical Institute.	5	1.60 crore
40.	Krishna Dutt Health Centre.	3	5.60 lakhs
41.	Max Hospital, Delhi.	5	1.40 crore
42.	Pending Bills of de-recognised/stopped referral Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres.	52	2.5 crore
43.	Pending Bills of the recognized Diagnostic Centres under CGHS.	370	6.5 crore
	Total		47.00 crore

[Translation]

Generation of Electricity Through Nuclear Power

*433. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of electricity generated through nuclear power in the country is quite low as compared to that of the other developed countries;

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

(c) the share of electricity generated through nuclear power as compared to the total electricity generated through nuclear power in the world;

(d) whether the electricity generated through nuclear power is cheaper as compared to that of thermal and hydro power;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the per unit expenditure incurred on electricity generated through nuclear power; and

(f) the efforts made by the Government to increase generation of electricity through nuclear power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of quantum of electricity generated (net) from nuclear in the calendar year 2007 in some of the developed countries *vis-a-vis* India is as under:

Country	Electricity (net) generated from nuclear power in 2007 (Billion Units)
USA	806.50
France	418.60
Japan	266.39
Russian Federation	147.77
Germany	133.21
India	15.91

Source: PRIS, IAEA. The above figures are net, excluding auxiliary consumption.

The reason for lower nuclear generation in India is the small installed capacity base of 4120 MWe. Unlike other countries India's nuclear power programme has aimed at realization of vast energy potential in our Thorium resources in the long run through successive reactor technology development stages in an environment of the international technology denial regime with restrictive trade barriers. Therefore, it took time to develop comprehensive capability in this frontier technology.

(c) The share of nuclear energy generated in the country out of the total nuclear energy generated in the world was about 0.6% in the year 2007.

(d) Nuclear power stations are base load stations and their tariffs are competitive with those of coal thermal power at locations away from coal mines. Hydro, being location and season specific, is not comparable.

(e) The average generation tariff of nuclear power in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs. 2.32 and Rs. 2.19 per unit respectively.

(f) The present installed nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe is expected to reach 7280 MWe by March 2011 with the progressive completion of projects under construction. More projects are planned in future to increase the nuclear power capacity to about 20,000 MWe by 2020.

Declining Share of Indian Shipping Transport Industry

*434. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the growth of Indian Shipping Transport Industry is declining as compared to that of the World Shipping Industry;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to utilize the services of experts in the management of the industry for augmenting its growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The percentage share of Indian Shipping tonnage to world shipping tonnage has been declining over the years. According to Lloyd's Register—Fairplay World Fleet statistics, the share of Indian tonnage to world tonnage which was 1.33% as on 31.12.1997 declined to 1.16% as on 31.12.2006. The percentage of share of Indian shipping tonnage to world shipping tonnage has been declining due to the inadequate growth of Indian shipping fleet.

(c) and (d) Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA) is being consulted from time to time regarding augmentation of growth of Indian tonnage. Further, the Government has already introduced tonnage tax to facilitate augmentation of shipping tonnage which has shown results in the past few years. Similarly, the liberalization policy on ship acquisition has been introduced and acquisition of all types of ships has been brought under Open General Licence. Moreover, 100% Foreign Direct Investment has been permitted in ship acquisition and registration formalities of newly acquired ships have been simplified.

[English]

Setting up of SAARC Development Fund

*435. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed to sign the establishment of SAARC Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the contribution of India to the said Fund;

(c) the details of the guidelines for utilization of said Fund by member countries; and

(d) the time by which the Fund is likely to set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Agreement for SAARC Development Fund (SDF) was finalised on November 29, 2007. The Bye Laws were finalised in March 2008. The Agreement on SDF will be signed during the 15th SAARC Summit to be held in Colombo on August 2-3, 2008.

The purpose of SDF is to promote the welfare of people of the SAARC region, to improve their quality of life and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region. The Fund will serve as the umbrella financial institution for SAARC projects and programmes, which are in fulfilment of the objectives of the SAARC Charter. It is aimed to contribute to regional cooperation and integration through project collaboration.

India will be contributing its assessed contribution of US $ 38.47 million first and then its voluntary contribution of US $ 100 million for the Social Window of the SDF in the current Financial Year. India has made it clear that the projects funded out of its voluntary contribution would be implemented in other SAARC countries and not in India.

According to the finalised SDF Agreement, the resources of the SDF may be utilized for funding:

(i) projects involving all SAARC Member States;

(ii) projects involving more than two but not all SAARC Member States;

(iii) projects located in one or more SAARC Member States, of significant economic interest for three or more SAARC Member States; and

(iv) projects with significant focus on poverty alleviation, as envisaged under the Social Window, in any SAARC Member States having thematic linkage with more than two SAARC Member States as part of a sub-regional project.

The 29th Session of Council of Ministers (New Delhi, 7-8 December 2007) had decided to operationalise the SDF by setting up a temporary cell for SDF at the SAARC Secretariat to function as the interim Secretariat to implement identified projects from available funds.

Control of Post-Chikungunya Arthritic Problem

*436. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any comprehensive proposal from the Indian Systems of Medicines for controlling the post-chikungunya arthritic problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether some Ayurvedic Doctors have suggested any treatment methodology for the treatment of post-chikungunya phenomenon and other communicable diseases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) AYUSH systems are known for their strengths in the treatment of chronic and metabolic disorders. Reports of treatment of Vector-borne diseases like Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy remedies have been received from various States. AYUSH Research Councils have been asked to compile the data and validate the same in collaboration with National Institute of Virology and Indian Council of Medical Research. Some Ayurvedic doctors have suggested treatment to contro post-Chickungunya arthritis using single and compound formulations. All these claims also need to be validated.

[Translation]

Review of E-Auction Policy for Coal

*437. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the e-auction policy for sale of coal;

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

(c) whether any cost-benefit analysis has been done before introduction of e-auction policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) In view of observations and directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s. Ashoka Smokeless Coal India Pvt. Limited and Ors-Vs-Union of

India and Ors, Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal to give recommendations on a coal distribution policy. Based on recommendations of this Committee, Government approved the New Coal Distribution Policy in October, 2007. E-auction is part of this distribution policy. While recommending introduction of revised scheme of e-auction for sale of coal, Committee took into account various benefits associated with providing certain quantity of coal for sale through e-auction.

[English]

Model for Highways' Safety

*438. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has adopted a model for highways' safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is taking all possible measures to ensure safety in the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of National Highways entrusted to it. While designing the National Highway sections, the emphasis is to segregate local traffic, avoid conflict, improve visibility, provide safe turning, crossing including those of pedestrian, merging and diverging, easy gradients, smooth horizontals and verticals profiles. For this purpose provisions are made for service roads, grade separators at major intersections, subways for crossing of pedestrians and of cattle, road over bridges at railway crossings, rest area, bus bays, safety barriers and improved traffic signs and markings.

The design is done in accordance with sound engineering practice and also as per the standards prescribed by Indian Road Congress and Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

During construction, efforts are made to inform the road users of construction sites, diversion and obstruction by proper signs, markings, barricading etc.

In order to ensure safe operation of highways, besides engineering measures ambulances and cranes are stationed at about 50 kms interval for quick intervention in case of accidents.

Safety audit has been carried out for a large length of completed sections and the findings are used for improving the road design and construction. Ensuring safety is a continuous and on-going process.

Environmental Clearance for New Airports

*439. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of proposals for environmental clearance for construction of new airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, proposal-wise;

(c) the number of proposals cleared so far;

(d) the number of proposals still pending for environmental clearance including the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give clearance to the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) During the last two years *i.e.* 2006 and 2007, 25 proposals with 3 relating to new airports and 22 pertaining to expansion and modernization of the existing airports, were received for seeking environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of January, 1994 and September, 2006. As on date, only one project pertaining to expansion and modernization of Madurai Airport is pending due to non-submission of additional information by the Airports Authority of India. The proposal-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Decisions for clearance of proposals are taken based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous Projects, which holds regular monthly meetings to examine the cases. The EIA Notification, 2006 provides for a time limit of 105 days for taking decision after receipt of complete information from the project proponent.

Statement

Sl.No.	Subject	Date of Clearance/status
1	2	3
I.	**Proposal pertaining to construction of new airports**	
1.	Environmental Clearance—Airport project at Pakyyong under East District of Sikkim proposed by State PWD (Roads and Bridges)	9.5.2006
2.	Environmental clearance for setting up of a Greenfield Airport for operation of aircraft at Koppal district, Karnataka	18.5.2006
3.	Multi-Modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN)—Environmental clearance	1.6.2006
II.	**Proposals pertaining to expansion and modernization of airports**	
1.	Construction of New Integrated terminal Building at Visakhapatnam Airport	2.2.2006
2.	Construction of New domestic arrival block at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International airport, Ahmedabad by Airports Authority of India	6.5.2006
3.	Construction of New International Terminal Building at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad by Airports Authority of India—Environmental clearance	31.7.2006
4.	Environmental clearance for proposed expansion of Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur (Rajasthan) by Airports Authority of India—Environmental clearance	2.1.2007
5.	Expansion, restructuring and modernization of the Indira Gandhi International Airport by Delhi International Airport Private Limited—Environmental clearance	17.1.2007
6.	Expansion of the existing International operation at Jaipur Airport by constructing a new and independent terminal building exclusively for International operations at Sanganer Airport, Jaipur by Airports Authority of India	17.1.2007
7.	Environmental clearance for construction of a new integrated building at Trichy Airport by Airports Authority of India, Tiruchirapalli Airport, Kottapattu village, Tiruchirapalli District, Tamil Nadu	9.3.2007
8.	Environmental clearance for Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Modernization Project, Mumbai by M/s Mumbai International Airport Private Limited	3.4.2007
9.	Expansion of Hyderabad International Airport at Shamshabad from 7 MPPA to 12 MPPA by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd.	10.4.2007
10.	Environmental clearance for new International Terminal Building at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata by Airports Authority of India	16.5.2007
11.	Environmental clearance for expansion and development of existing Surat Airport at Surat, Gujarat by M/s Airports Authority of India, Surat	16.5.2007

1	2	3
12.	Construction of New Integrated Passenger Terminal Building and Apron at Mangalore Airport by Airports Authority of India	1.11.2007
13.	Construction of new terminal building at Khajuraho Airport, Khajuraho in the State of Madhya Pradesh by M/s Airports Authority of India	4.3.2008
14.	Upgradation and development of Amritsar Airport (Modular Expansion of Terminal Building and Associated Infrastructures work) by Airports Authority of India (AAI), Amritsar	10.3.2008
15.	Integrated terminal at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport at Kolkata (Dumdum) by Airports Authority of India (AAI)	18.3.2008
16.	Construction of new Terminal building at Bhopal Airport, Madhya Pradesh by M/s Airports Authority of India	15.4.2008
17.	Environmental clearance for construction of new terminal building and other allied work at Aurangabad Airport, Phase II	15.4.2008
18.	Development of Goa airport by Airports Authority of India	15.4.2008
19.	Environmental clearance for domestic terminal building project at Mohanbari, Dibrugarh by M/s Airports Authority of India	15.4.2008
20.	Construction of New Domestic Passenger terminal building at Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa by M/s Airports Authority of India—Environmental clearance	Recommended for clearance.
21.	Expansion of a New Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore by M/s Bangalore International Airport Limited	Recommended for clearance.
22.	Construction of Integrated Terminal Building at Madurai Airport, Perungudi village, Madurai District in the State of Tamil Nadu by M/s Airports Authority of India	Additional information sought on 10.9.2007 is still awaited.

Under-Utilization of Funds Allocated for Highway Projects

*440. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction and maintenance of national highways stretches across the country is plagued by poor utilization of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent on each of such highways;

(c) whether there is a monitoring mechanism to track the proper utilization of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Regular monitoring of progress of work pertaining to all National Highways projects for the construction and maintenance is carried out and action are taken to remove the bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government at the level of Chief Engineer for monitoring of physical and financial progress. The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors and Senior

Officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). In addition, progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI and Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways. State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving State related problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project. Further, a Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues which help in monitoring of fund utilisation.

Migration of Workers to Foreign Countries

4180. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of illegal migration and trafficking of workers from the country during the recent years have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check such illegal migration and trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Under the Emigration Act, 1983, the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs), under the administrative control of this Ministry grant emigration clearance to Indian emigrant workers in the emigration check required (ECR) category proceeding for employment in 17 ECR Countries.

However, cases of workers going abroad on visit/ transit visas and taking up employment in that country have come to the notice of this Ministry and Indian Missions from time to time. The gulf countries from time to time declare amnesty for illegal emigrants either to regularise their stay or leave the country without penalty.

As per reports received from the Indian Missions in gulf countries, they do not get the figures of exact number of illegal Indian emigrant workers from local authorities.

To check illegal migration and trafficking of workers the following steps are taken:

(i) On receipt of complaints against registered recruiting agents action is taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs under the provision of Emigration Act, 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate/ license in serious cases.

(ii) In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Governments/Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act, 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.

(iii) In respect of complaint against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India.

(iv) In case the stay of the Indian emigrant worker is declared illegal on account of various reasons, the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularising their stay or their safe deportation back to India.

(v) In case deportation is required, this Ministry coordinates with the local Government through Indian Missions, the state government authorities, Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

(vi) Further in order to ensure the protection and welfare of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with UAE in December 2006, and with Kuwait in April 2007. An additional protocol with Qatar was signed in November 2007 to update the 1985 Agreement with that country. MoU with Malaysia has been finalised. Such MoUs with Bahrain, Oman and Yemen are underway. These MoUs and Agreements provide for a broad framework for cooperation in Labour and Employment and also provide for Joint Working Groups of senior officers from both sides as an effective grievance redressal mechanism for better protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers.

(vii) Wide publicity campaigns both, in electronic and print media, have been taken up by this Ministry for educating the workers on the emigration procedures.

Routing of Drugs through Internet

4181. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of routing of drugs illegally in India through internet has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The office of Drugs Controller General (India) has informed that no complaint regarding routing of drugs illegally in India through internet has come to its notice till date.

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

[Translation]

Usage of Contraceptives

4182. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India in the world amongst countries using contraceptive measures;

(b) the State-wise percentage of contraceptive usage in the country; and

(c) the details of measures taken to enhance the publicity and usage of the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Statement I showing the position of India in the world amongst selected countries using contraceptive measures as collected from International Institute Population Science (IIPS), Mumbai is enclosed.

The State-wise percentage of contraceptive usage in the country as per the National Family Health Survey (2005-06) is given in the enclosed Statement II.

The Government of India (GOI) is committed to client centred, quality oriented, demand driven approach to family planning. The following steps have been taken by GOI to address the concern of the providers and acceptors alike-

(i) National Family Planning (FP) Insurance Scheme: The Family Planning [Indemnity] Insurance Scheme was launched w.e.f. 29.11.2005 which provides insurance cover to all persons undergoing sterilization operation in public/accredited private health facilities against death, failure of sterilization and medical complications.

(ii) The revision of Compensation package: The compensation package was enhanced from 7th September 2007. In the current revision the rates for Vasectomy have been increased from existing Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1500/-(Rs. 1100 is for acceptor) for all categories of acceptors in all States and for Tubectomy from Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/- (Rs. 600 is for acceptor) to all categories in High focus and Below Poverty Line/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population in Non-High focus States in public health facilities. However, for Above Poverty line categories in Non-High Focus State a package of Rs. 650/- (Rs. 250 for acceptor) has been provided for tubectomy only in public health facilities.

(iii) Increasing Acceptance of No Scalpel Vasectomy.

(iv) Promoting IUD 380 A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.

(v) Increasing skills of IUD providers.

(vi) Fixed day Family Planning Services.

(vii) Increasing the thrust on FP performance through upgradation of Community Health Centres (CHCs) to First Referral Units (FRUs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to 24X7 PHCs, and Sub centres to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) and stengthening of these facilities in terms of infrastructure and manpower so as to increase access and availability of FP services at all levels of service.

It is expected that the above measures will address the issue of increasing provider base as well as compensate potential clients.

Statement I

The Position of India in the world amongst countries using contraceptive measures

Current use of contraception	Contraceptive method	
	Any method	Any modern method
1	2	3
Sub-Saharan Africa		
Burkina Faso 2003	13.8	8.8
Cameroon 2004	26.0	12.5
Chad 2004	2.8	1.6
Congo (Brazzaville) 2005	44.3	12.7
Eritrea 2002	8.0	7.3
Ethiopia 2005	14.7	13.9
Ghana 2003	25.2	18.7
Guinea 2005	9.1	5.7
Kenya 2003	39.3	31.5
Lesotho 2004	37.3	35.2
Madagascar 2003/2004	27.1	18.3
Malawi 2004	32.5	28.1
Mozambique 2003	25.5	20.8
Niger 2006	11.2	5.0
Nigeria 2003	12.6	8.2
Rwanda 2005	17.4	10.3
Senegal 2005	11.8	10.3
Tanzania 2004	26.4	20.0
Uganda 2006	23.7	17.9
Zambia 2001/02	34.2	25.3
Zimbabwe 2005/06	60.2	58.4
North Africa/West Asia/Europe		
Armenia 2005	53.1	19.5
Egypt 2005	59.2	56.5
Jordan 2002	55.8	41.2
Moldova Republic of 2005	67.8	43.8
Morocco 2003-04	63.0	54.8
South & Southeast Asia		
Bangladesh 2004	58.5	47.6
Cambodia 2005	40.0	27.2
Indonesia 2002/03	60.3	56.7
Nepal 2006	48.0	44.2
Philippines 2003	48.9	33.4
Vietnam 2002	78.5	56.7
India 2006	**56.3**	**48.5**
Latin America & Caribbean		
Bolivia 2003	58.4	34.9
Colombia 2005	78.2	68.2
Dominican Republic 2002	69.8	65.8
Haiti 2005	32.0	24.8
Honduras 2005	65.2	56.4

Source: Macro International Inc, 2008, MEASURE DHS STAT compiler.
http://www.measuresdh.com, April 9 2008.

Statement II

State-wise percentage of contraceptive usage in India

State/UT/Agency	Currently using any method (%)	Currently using any modern method (%)
1	2	3
All India	**56.3**	**48.5**
Andhra Pradesh	67.6	67.0
Assam	56.5	27.0

1	2	3
Bihar		28.9
Chhattisgarh	53.2	49.1
Gujarat	66.6	56.5
Haryana	63.4	58.3
Jharkhand	35.7	31.1
Karnataka	63.6	62.5
Kerala	68.6	57.9
Madhya Pradesh	55.9	52.8
Maharashtra	66.9	64.9
Orissa	50.7	44.7
Punjab	63.3	56.1
Rajasthan	47.2	44.4
Tamil Nadu	61.4	60.0
Uttar Pradesh	43.6	29.3
West Bengal	71.2	49.9
Arunachal Pradesh	43.2	37.3
Delhi	66.9	56.5
Goa	48.2	37.2
Himachal Pradesh	72.6	71.0
Jammu and Kashmir	52.6	44.9
Manipur	48.7	23.6
Meghalaya	24.3	18.5
Mizoram	59.9	59.6
Nagaland	29.7	22.5
Sikkim	57.6	48.7
Tripura	65.7	44.9
Uttaranchal	59.3	55.5

Source: National Family Health Survey (2005-06).

[English]

National River Action Plan

4183. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Karnataka for environmental clearance under the National River Action Plan (NRAP) for implementation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals with the cost thereof;

(c) the present status of the projects; and

(d) the time by which such proposals are likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), proposal seeking environmental clearance has not been received from Government of Karnataka. However, in addition to the ongoing projects in 9 towns of Karnataka under the NRCP, the Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals for 11 additional towns namely, Bagalkot, Maddur, Baillahongal, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangawati, Kanakpura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siraguppa and Madikeri. The total estimated cost of these proposals is Rs. 162.17 crore. Due to inadequate outlay, these proposals could not be considered and the State Government of Karnataka had been informed accordingly.

Allotment of Forests Land to Corporates

4184. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Forest land was handed over to Indian/Foreign Corporates during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give back these lands to the tribals; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce displacement of tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No Forest land can be handed over to any private individual company of Indian/Foreign origin. However, Forest land can be diverted for non-Forestry use under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a certain period of time depending upon the purpose. During the last three years about 2,07,952 ha. of forest land has been diverted for non-forestry purposes by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for various projects.

(d) The Central Government has passed an Act "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" to recognize the rights of tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land.

Financial Crisis for Tiger Parks

4185. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tiger parks in the country are facing financial crisis for their upkeep;

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

(c) whether the hotels near the tiger parks have to pay for conservation of tiger parks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to generate more revenues for the upkeep and maintenance of the tiger parks and other wildlife sanctuaries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No Sir. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, funding support is provided to States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves. Details of funding support provided in this regard during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Based on the Tiger Task Force recommendations, guidelines have been issued for preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan, which, *interalia*, include involvement of private, commercial tour operators and lodge owners for local community development to foster tiger conservation.

(e) Advisories have been issued to tiger range States for establishing reserve-specific Tiger Conservation Foundation as per the statutory provision under Section 38X of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, to facilitate and support management by acting as a non-profit centre for development through local participation.

Statement

Release of Funds to Tiger reserves under the Project Tiger Scheme during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bandhavgarh	85.00	142.50	170.39
2.	Bandipur	367.095	321.925	175.00
3.	Bhadra	119.197	105.83	44.067
4.	Buxa	50.75	87.50	60.00
5.	Corbett	200.12	147.182	160.295
6.	Dampa	94.34	61.00	78.16

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Dudhwa	175.215	152.687	75.00
8.	Indravati	27.75	1.2175	10.00
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	80.00	90.00	85.165
10.	Kanha	197.50	241.00	211.34
11.	Manas	-	80.00	30.00
12.	Melghat	93.183	165.00	134.51
13.	Nagarjunsagar	15.00	45.923	35.00
14.	Namdapha	-	75.00	75.00
15.	Nameri	-	—	35.00
16.	Pakke	35.00	74.10	135.4725
17.	Palamau	72.5005	153.00	100.00
18.	Panna	60.00	97.00	150.00
19.	Pench (MP)	97.43	128.63	75.85
20.	Pench (Mah.)	87.77	75.00	45.00
21.	Periyar	105.75	105.00	109.00
22.	Ranthambore	-	142.053	100.876
23.	Sariska	79.00	127.00	-
24.	Satpura	170.00	100.00	134.97
25.	Similipal	116.4395	80.00	150.25
26.	Sunderban	274.74	129.68638	117.30
27.	Tadoba-Andheri	75.00	63.07	50.00
28.	Valmiki	85.00	3.475	37.1454
	Total	2763.78	2994.77888	2584.7909

Agreements Between ISRO and NASA

4186. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the salient features of the agreement signed between ISRO and NASA for exploration of outer Space for peaceful purpose;

(b) the areas identified for this purpose; and

(c) the manner in which the agreement is likely to help Chandrayan-I programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) A

Framework Agreement was signed on February 1, 2008 between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for co-operation in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes. The Agreement has an initial validity of ten years, and allows various cooperative activities to be taken up between the two sides under specific Implementing Arrangements.

(b) The areas identified for co-operation include Earth science, observation and monitoring; space science; exploration systems; space operations; and other relevant areas of mutual interest.

(c) The co-operation between ISRO and NASA on Chandrayaan-1 is covered separately under two Memoranda of Understanding signed in May 2006.

Funds Allocated to AYUSH

4187. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the programmes under AYUSH in the budget 2008-09;

(b) the funds earmarked during the year 2007-08 and utilized therefrom; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilization of the funds allocated so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The funds allocated for AYUSH programme for the year 2008-09 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Plan	Non-Plan	Total
534	89	623

(b) The funds allocated during the year 2007-08 and utilized till 31st March, 2008 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
BE 2007-08	488.00	75.88	563.88
Funds utilized 2007-08*	382.45	75.99	458.44

*The figures are provisional.

(c) The reasons for non-utilization of funds are as under:

- 2007-08 was the first year of the Eleventh Plan and hence administrative approvals for new and revised schemes had to be taken. Low expenditure in first two quarters due to time taken in sanctioning of revised and new schemes which led to reduction in revised estimates.
- The funds earmarked for educational institution *viz.* National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata could not be utilized as the expansion of infrastructure and staff required for the implementation of OBC was put on hold in financial year 2007-08.

[Translation]

Developmental Works Under Rural Health Schemes

4188. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) the details of developmental works undertaken under Rural Health Scheme in Punjab and Bihar alongwith benefits accrued as a result thereof, till date;

(b) whether some schemes have not been successful in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and response of Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken for the successful implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched by the Government on 12th April 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions. Under NRHM, 18 States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Orissa and Rajasthan, eight North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were classified as special focus States.

The thrust of NRHM is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system. NRHM facilitates simultaneous action on collateral determinants of health like water, sanitation, education, nutrition, etc. Under NRHM Institutional integration has been carried out in the health sector and performance is measured against Indian Public health Standards which have been prepared for all health facilities.

NRHM has shifted the focus from narrow schemes to a functional health system at all levels and provides broad flexibility for decentralized planning to States. The annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) of States reflect the local needs along with the key strategies detailed in the approved Framework for Implementation to NRHM.

The various strategies of NRHM are progressing satisfactorily in the States of Bihar and Punjab. The Government ensures continuous handholding of various initiatives undertaken by the States. The performance is monitored through a regular MIS, concurrent thematic evaluations by independent agencies and community monitoring.

Both Bihar and Punjab have undertaken comprehensive rejuvenation of the health sector infrastructure and augmented critical Human Resources through contractual appointments. The reach, range, quality and utilization of health services in Public sector has improved substantially in both the States since the launch of NRHM.

Upgradation of Medical College

4189. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from various States especially Madhya Pradesh for construction/upgradation of the Medical College Buildings during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of proposals approved/pending for approval alongwith reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The scheme relating to strengthening and upgradation of State Government Medical/Dental colleges by Central Funding during 11th Plan is yet to be finalized. In this regard, the Central Government has received 60 (sixty) proposals from the various State Governments medical/dental colleges/institutions. However, the following medical/dental colleges of Madhya Pradesh have submitted proposals for central assistance:-

(i) S.S. Medical College, Rewa.

(ii) M.G.M. Medical College, Indore.

(iii) Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal.

(iv) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Medical College, Jabalpur.

(v) Government college of Dentistry, Indore.

Financial Assistance to NGOs in Orissa

4190. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial or other assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of health related Schemes in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the amount of said assistance provided, NGO-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the NGOs in this regard;

(d) if so, the names of the NGOs in respect of which shortcomings have been noticed; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such defaulting NGOs so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes Sir. the funds are provided through State Health Society, Orissa under Reproductive Child Health Scheme (RCH-II).

(b) The grants-in-aid is disbursed to the NGOs by State Health Society which keeps their record Rs. 687.76 Lakh have been released to State Health Society Orissa during the last 3 years as follows:-

2005-06	—	Rs. 397.5 Lakh
2006-07	—	Nil
2007-08	—	Rs. 290.26 Lakh

(c) Yes, the MNGO scheme is monitored by respective State Health Society.

(d) During the external evaluation conducted by State Health Society, six MNGOs were found to be performing poorly. The names of the MNGOs are:

(1) Organization of social change and rural development-in Bolangir District.

(2) Animal welfare Society-in Nabrangpur District.

(3) Anchalika Kunjeshwari Sankrut Sansad-in Khurda District.

(4) Institute for Social Work and Action Research-in Dhenkanal District.

(5) NIHARD-in Baleshwar district.

(6) Nilanchal sewa Pratisthan-in Mayurbhanj District.

(e) These MNGOs have been delisted and their further funding has been stopped by State Government of Orissa.

Chiranjeevi Yojana in U.P.

4191. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented the Chiranjeevi Scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time since when it has been implemented;

(c) the number of persons assisted under this Scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

NH Projects in Andhra Pradesh

4192. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the national highway projects taken up/proposed to be taken up under the National Highways Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh, stretch-wise and NH-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent for the said projects, project-wise; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 57 national highway projects have been taken up/proposed to be taken up in Andhra Pradesh under various phases of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). 30 projects have been completed and balance are in various stages of implementation. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Projects Taken up/Proposed to be Taken up Under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) in Andhra Pradesh

	Contracts Stretch	NH	Length (km)	Total Project Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Status	Completion Date /Antici. Compl. Date Cumm. Exp. (Rs. in cr.)
	1	2	3	4	5	6
NHDP Phase I						
Golden Quadrilateral						
1.	Icchapuram-Korlam (AP-4B) km 233-km 200	5	33.00	143.05	*4 Laned* 33	Dec. 2005 95.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Korlam-Palasa (AP-4A) km 200-km 171	5	29.00	135.11	*4 Laned*	Aug-2005 96.56
3. Palasa-Srikakulam (AP-2) km 171-km 97	5	74.00	324.00	*4 Laned*	Jun-2006 266.75
4. Bridges Section (AP-6) km 233-km 98 Srikakulam-Icchapuram	5	0.00	79.14	*4 Laned*	Jul-2005 67.47
5. Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1) (Balance Work) km 97-km 49	5	48.00	171.97	*4 Laned*	May-2007 154.54
6. Champawati-Vishakhapatnam (AP-3) km 49-km 2.8	5	46.20	200.00	*4 Laned*	Feb-2005 181.97
7. Bridges Section (AP-5) km 49-km 97 Champawati-Srikakulam	5	0.00	71.00	*4 Laned*	Sep-2003 55.1
8. Ankapalli-Tuni km 359.2-km 300 34.961 (2 Lane)	5	58.95	283.20	*4 Laned*	Jan-2005 249.87
9. Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16) km 300-km 253	5	47.00	231.90	*4 Laned*	Aug-2005 268.2
10. Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry (AP-15) km 253-km 200	5	53.00	206.00	*4 Laned*	Mar-2005 300.33
11. Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)-Gowthami (AP-17) km 200-km 164.5	5	34.95	130.80	*4 Laned*	Mar-2005 95.57
12. Bridges Section (AP-19) km 162-km 200 (V-V Section)	5	2.45	136.45	*4 Laned*	Mar-2005 100.56
13. Gowthami-Gundugolanu (AP-18) km 164.5 km 80	5	81.08	323.35	*4 Laned*	Feb-2004 340.8
14. Bridges Section (AP-20) km 80-km 162 (V-V Section)	5	0.00	131.33	*4 Laned*	May-2005 96.28

1		2	3	4	5	6
15.	Vijayawada-Rajahmundry Section (near Eluru) km 75-km 80	5	5.00	19.00	*4 Laned*	Mar-2002 15.37
16.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V km 75-km 3.4	5	72.00	134.00	*4 Laned*	Jan-2002 347.19
17.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package I km 355-km 380	5	25.00	60.00	*4 Laned*	Jan-2003 77.65
18.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package II km 380-km 396.8 (including Guntur Bypass: km 0-km 15.2)	5	32.00	80.00	*4 Laned*	Jan-2003 70.61
19.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package III km 408-km 420.5 (Including Krishna Bridge Approach: km 0-km 10.8)	5	23.78	68.00	*4 Laned*	Jan-2003 67.37
20.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package IV km 10.8-km 13.68 (1792 m Kirshna Bridge + 1095 m Approach road)	5	2.88	58.00	*4 Laned*	May-2002 69.45
21.	Chilkaluripet-Ongole (AP-13) km 357.9 km 291	5	66.00	319.21	*4 Laned*	Mar-2006 255.38
22.	Ongole-Kavali (AP-12) km 291-km 222	5	72.00	321.41	*4 Laned*	Sep-2005 304.9
23.	Kavali-Nellore (AP-11) km 222-km 178	5	43.80	181.00	*4 Laned*	May-2005 186.74
24.	Nellore Bypass km 178.2-km 161	5	17.17	143.20	*4 Laned*	Sep-2004 147.6
25.	Nellore-Tada (AP-7) km 163.6-km 52.8	5	110.52	621.35	*4 Laned*	Dec-2003 628.83
Others						
26.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	35.00	138.65	*4 Laned*	Jun-2004 80.87

1		2	3	4	5	6
27.	Nandigama-Vijayawada 13 km 4 laned and 35 km 2 Laned.	9	48.00	75.50	*4 Laned*	Apr-2000 80.87
Port Connectivity						
28.	Vishakhapatnam Port 3.6 km 4 alned, 8.57 km 2 laned Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase I	SR	12.00	93.79	*4 Laned*	Nov-2006 100.76
NHDP Phase II						
North-South Corridor						
29.	Islam Nagar to Kadtal (NS-2/BOT/AP-7) km 230 to km 278	7	48.00	546.83	Under Implementation	Mar-2010 32.7
30.	Amur to Kadloor Yellareddy (NS-2/AP-1) km 308 to km 367	7	60.25	390.56	Yet to be awarded	Mar-201 15.49
31.	Kadloor Yellareddy to Gundla Pochampalli (NS-2/BOT/AP-2) km 367 to km 447	7	85.74	490.00	Under Implementation	Mar-2009 413.4
32.	MH/AP border to Islam Nagar (NS-2/BOT/AP-6) km 175 to km 230	7	55.00	360.42	Under Implementation	Nov-2009 46.97
33.	Kalikallu village to Gundla Pochampali (NS-8) km 447-km 464	7	17.00	40.83	*4 Laned*	Apr-2002 38.53
34.	Kadal to Amur (NS-2/BOT/AP-8) km 278 to km 308	7	31.00	271.73	Under Implementation	Nov-2009 80.31
35.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)- Balance work km 464.00-km 474.00 & km 9.40-km 22.30	7	23.10	71.57	Under Implementation	Dec-2008 92.45
36.	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar (NS/9) km 22.3-km 34.8	7	12.50	27.63	*4 Laned*	Jan-2003 25.49

1		2	3	4	5	6
37.	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (NS-2/AP-3) Km 34.140 to km 80.050	7	46.16	255.00	Under Implementation	Feb-2009 240.17
38.	Farukhanagar to Kotakatta (NS-2/AP-4) km 80.050 to km 135.469	7	55.74	302.00	Under Implementation	Feb-2009 233.61
39.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (NS-2/BOT/AP-5) km 135.469 to km 211	7	74.65	592.00	Under Implementation	Mar-2009 454.23
40.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-10) km 211 to km 251	7	40.00	194.80	Under Implementation	Aug-2009 38.87
41.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-11) km 251 to km 293.4	7	42.40	208.46	Under Implementation	Aug-2009 47.08
42.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-12) km 293.4 to km 336	7	42.60	239.19	Under Implementation	Sep-2009 27.28
43.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-13) km 336 to km 376	7	40.00	243.38	Under Implementation	Sep-2009 20.28
44.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-14) km 376 to km 418	7	42.00	205.92	Under Implementation	Aug-2009 47.96
45.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-15) km 418 to km 463.6	7	45.60	243.64	Under Implementation	Aug-2009 52.19
NHDP Phase III						
46.	Hyderabad-Vijayawada	9	182.00	1460.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2013
47.	Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	9	65.00	468.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2013
48.	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	205	44.00	408.50	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2013

	1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	202	30.00	300.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2013
50.	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	18	192.50	1567	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2013
NHDP Phase IV						
51.	Chikaluripet-Vijayawada (Six lane)	5	82.50	572.30	Under Implementation	Dec, 2012
52.	Vijayawada-Rajahmundry (Six lane)	5	198.20	1687.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012
53.	Vishakhapatnam-Anakapalli-Rajahmundry (Six lane)	5	201.14	1275.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012
54.	Sirkakulam-Vishakhapatnam (Six lane)	5	94.41	599.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012
55.	Srikakulam-Icchapuram (Six lane)	5	135.80	861.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012
56.	Tada-Nellore Bypass (Six lane)	5	127.97	811.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012
57.	Nellore-Chilakaluripet (Six lane)	5	183.52	1731.00	Yet to be awarded	Dec, 2012

[English]

Upliftment of People Belonging to KBK Region

4193. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme for uplifting the economic conditions of the people belonging to the KBK region in Orissa so as to ensure food security for the poor people of this region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The KBK districts are covered under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, which carries a total allocation of Rs. 250 crore per annum in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, comprising of two components of the BRGF Programme, namely (a) the special plan of Rs. 130 crore per annum and (b) the districts component of Rs. 120 crore per annum. Funds are provided under the programme for supplementing and bridging critical gaps in local infrastructure and any other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows under various schemes. Based on the plans projected by the districts, the schemes being undertaken include irrigation infrastructure, agriculture promotion schemes, roads, bridges, schools, electrification, water supply, animal husbandry, buildings for self help groups, anganwadi centres, primary health centre buildings, drought proofing, flood control structures, vocational training, forestry, pisciculture, market complex, buildings for farmers training centres and the emergency feeding programmes.

Rs. 110.09 crore has been released to the KBK districts during 2007-08 under the districts component and Rs. 130 crore under the special plan. The funds are released to the State Government for implementation through Panchayats and urban local bodies in the case of district component of the BRGF Programme.

In addition to the BRGF Programme, the State Government is also implementing the Biju KBK Plan with an annual allocation of Rs. 120 crore.

Four-Lane Road to Vallarpadam Container Terminal

4194. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of four-lane road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Kochi has been approved and work started on the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the work; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and fund allocated and released so far for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The work has commenced on 10th August, 2007 and various activities of the road and bridge works are in progress. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 557.00 crore. So far Rs. 175.18 crore has been released for the purpose.

Settlement of Jammu and Kashmir Issue

4195. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian prime Minister and the Pak President during their meeting in Havana in 2006 agreed for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details of the modalities worked out; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. In this meeting, they decided to continue the joint search for mutually acceptable options for a peaceful negotiated settlement of all issues between Indian and Pakistan, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, in a sincere and purposeful manner.

(b) and (c) The two sides have agreed to facilitate implementation of agreements and understandings already reached on different Confidence Building Measures, including bus services, crossing points and truck service.

Homoeopathic Dispensaries in NCR Region

4196. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Homoeopathic Dispensaries functioning at present under CGHS in the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) whether these dispensaries are running shortage of staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(d) the average number of patients visiting each Homoeopathic dispensary on daily basis;

(e) whether it is proposed to open more of such dispensaries during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) 3 Homoeopathic dispensaries and 10 homoeopathic units are functioning under CGHS Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view reply to part (b), question does not arise.

(d) The daily average number of patients visiting each Homoeopathic dispensary are as under:-

R.K. Puram Sector XII dispensary	233
Dev Nagar Dispensary	125
Kali Bari Dispensary	110
Kalkaji. I Unit	80
K.N.I. Unit	70
Pushp Vihar Unit	150
R.K. Puram. III Unit	120
Timarpur Unit	75 to 80
Laxmi Nagar Unit	150
Shahdara Unit	75
Hari Nagar Unit	166
Tilak Nagar Unit	175
South Avenue Unit	49

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Global Warming Emissions

4197. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 19% of India's global warming emissions comes from large dams as reported by the *Hindu* on 20th May, 2007;

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

(c) the number of dams given Environmental Clearance during the last three years with the area of water bodies being created in the country particularly in the North East Region, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Scientifically, methane, a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming, is emitted from reservoirs of dams. However, no scientific study, as on date has been brought out, pertaining to methane emissions from the reservoirs of Indian dams.

(c) During the last three years, 75 river valley and hydroelectric projects have been given environmental clearance including dams, barrages and other diversion structures. The details related to North East Region, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects particularly in North East Region granted environmental clearance during the Last Three Years (2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008)

Sl.No.	Name of the Projects	Date of clearance	Water bodies created (Status)
1	2	3	4
	Arunachal Pradesh		
1.	Siang Middle (Siyom) Project (1000 MW) in district West Siang M/s National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.	11.03.2005	1891.41 ha
2.	Pare (Dikrong) Hydro Electric Project (110 MW) in Papumpare District by M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	13.09.2006	35.17 ha
	Meghalaya		
3.	New Umtru Hydroelectric Project (40 MW) in District Ri-Bhoi by Meghalaya State Electricity Board	13.03.2006	Not available
	Sikkim		
4.	Chuzachen Hydroelectric Project (99 MW) in East District Sikkim M/s Gati Infrastructure Ltd.	09.09.2005	Not available
5.	Jorethang Loop Hydro Electric Project (96 MW) in South Sikkim by M/s Dans Energy Pvt. Ltd.	26.07.2006	10.10 ha
6.	Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project (500 MW) in South Sikkim District by M/s Lanco Energy Pvt. Ltd.	21.09.2006	36 ha

1	2	3	4
7.	Teesta Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW) Stage-III in North Sikkim District by M/s Teesta Urja Limited	04.08.2006	780 ha
8.	Pannan Hydro Electric Project (280 MW) in North Sikkim District by M/s Himagiri Hydro Energy Pvt. Ltd.	02.01.2007	14.5 ha
9.	Ronngnichu Hydro Electric Project (96 MW) in Sikkim by M/s Madhya Bharat Power Corporation Ltd.	04.04.2007	Not available
10.	Bhasmey Hydro Electric Project (51 MW) in East District of Sikkim by M/s Gati Infrastructure Sada Mangder Power Pvt. Ltd.	15.05.2007	15.8526 ha
11.	Sada Mangder Hydro Electric Project (71 MW) in West District of Sikkim by M/s Gati Infrastructure Sada Mangder Power Pvt. Ltd.	15.05.2007	Not available
12.	Rangit-IV Hydro Electric Project (120 MW) in Sikkim by M/s Jal Power Corporation Ltd.	17.05.2007	Not available
13.	Dikchu Hydroelectric Power Project (96 MW) in the Districts of North & East of Sikkim by M/s Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Limited	01.04.2008	5.7 ha

Security at Ports

4198. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to constitute a Committee to review the security of ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A High Powered Committee was set up headed by Chairman, Cochin Port Trust with Deputy Chairman Chennai Port Trust, Traffic Manager Mumbai Port Trust, Joint Director Intelligence Bureau and Deputy Inspector General Central Industrial Security Forces as members to review the security aspects of all Major Port Trusts and Shipyards under the control of Department of Shipping. The recommendations of the committee are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

CBI Inquiry Recommended by U.P. Government

4199. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases recommended by the Uttar Pradesh Government to the Union Government for initiating CBI inquiry since the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of cases in which inquiry was initiated alongwith the number of cases which are pending for the same;

(c) whether the Union Government has not accepted the recommendation of the State Government for initiating CBI inquiry into certain cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) In all, the State Government of U.P. had recommended 21 cases for initiating CBI enquiry since 1.1.2005. Out of these, 5 cases have since been entrusted to the CBI for investigation. 8 of these cases were not found feasible to be entrusted to the CBI for enquiry while 3 cases were referred back to the State Government for providing further clarifications. In the remaining 5 cases received comparatively recently, the feasibility of entrusting these to the CBI is being examined in consultation with the CBI. Each request from the State Government is considered and decided on merits keeping in view the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Review of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

4200. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to continue with the Sam Vikas Yojana even after the completion of the period of the Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The status of implementation of RSVY is regularly reviewed with the States.

(b) to (d) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) provided for an allocation of Rs. 6615.00 crore to be made to 147 districts over a period of three years commencing from 2003/04, with each district entitled to claim, *in toto*, Rs. 45.00 crore, at the rate of Rs. 15 crore per year in two instalments of Rs. 7.50 crore each. When the RSVY scheme was subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme in August 2006, the districts concerned had claimed only Rs. 2850.00 crore. It was therefore decided that all 147 RSVY districts would continue to draw their balance entitlement under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) till their respective entitlements of Rs. 45.00 crore were released to each district. As of date, 70 districts have claimed their total entitlement of Rs. 45 crore under RSVY; 39 districts need to claim one more instalment; 30 districts have to claim two more instalments; and only 8 districts are yet to claim three or more instalments. The balance amount to be released to the remaining 77 districts is Rs. 916.68 crore. It is expected that most of these districts will claim their remaining entitlement under RSVY during the current financial year.

Medical Records to Patients

4201. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Consumer Court in Delhi has directed that providing medical records to the patients is mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Medical Council of India (MCI) has formulated any laws in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the erring doctors/hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi in orginal petition No. 47 of 2005 filed by Mr. Atanu Dutta & Others Vs M/s Mool Chand Khairati Ram Hospital & Ayurvedic Research Institute & Others directed *inter-alia* to issue notification informing all the hospitals and medical practitioners all over the country stating to handover the medical records of the patient to him/her or his/her relatives within 72 hours, if asked for.

Accordingly, Medical Council of India has issued instructions in this regard *vide* their letter dated 23.1.2008 to all concerned for strict compliance. As per Clause 1.3.2 under Chapter Maintenance of Records of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, it has been laid down that if any request is may for medical records either by the patients/authorized attendant or legal authorities involved, the same made be duly acknowledged and documents shall be issued within the period of 72 hours.

Sale of Allopathic Medicines in the Name of Herbal Drugs

4202. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some drugs manufacturing companies are selling allopathic medicines in the name of herbal drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to discourage the same;

(c) whether some laboratories have been set up to test such herbal drugs; and

(d) if so, the details of such laboratories alongwith the names of agencies from which the herbal drug manafacturers obtain their certificates?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Government has not received any such information that some drugs manufacturing companies are selling allopathic medicines in the name of herbal drugs.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has not set up any specific laboratory to test such herbal drugs.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Creation of Global Fund by G-8 Countries

4203. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G-8 Industrialized nations had created a global Fund to fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds so far allocated to India for the last three years; and

(d) the details of works undertaken with the help of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) were established in pursuance of a decision of the G-8 countries in Okinawa in 2001.

The aim of the Global Fund is to raise, allocate and disburse funds and pool money from governments, businesses and individuals for providing grants to low income countries to fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Till date the GFATM has approved proposals worth USD 10.75 billion, and disbursed USD 5.47 billion.

(c) The total quantum of grants allocated to India during the last three years is Rs. 2395.5 crore as under:-

Year	Total Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In crore)
2004 (Round IV)	916.35
2005 (Round V)	Nil
2006 (Round VI)	1128.25
2007 (Round VII)	350.91

(d) The grants released by Global Fund are meant for programmes aimed to control and mitigate impact of TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, under the TB Control Programme, the DOT strategy has been extended to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. Some components of the National Malaria Eradication Programme was taken up for implementation in the 94 high risk districts of North-East, West Bengal and Bihar. Similarly to fight HIV/AIDS, Global Fund grants are being utilised to:-

a. establishing Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres;
b. providing prophylactic treatment to HIV positive mothers;
c. identification of HIV-TB co-infected persons for DOTS treatment; and
d. establishing ART Centres for providing treatment to AIDS patients in the country.

Amendment in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act

4204. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court/Delhi High Court has urged the Government to amend the Transplantation of Human Organs Act as it has failed to stop commercialization of human organs particularly, kidney; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Honourable High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 813/2004 *vide* its order dated 06.09.2004 had set up a Committee to examine the provisions of Transplantation of Human

Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995. The report was submitted on 25.05.2005. A National Consultation was held on 18.05.2007 and the report was submitted in the second fortnight of August 2007. The recommended changes required amendments in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder. These changes are intended to facilitate genuine cases, increase transparency in transplantation procedures and to provide deterrent penalties for violation of the law. In so far as the Act is concerned the following amendments have been proposed:

(i) To allow swap operations between the related donor and recipients who do not match themselves but match with other similar donors/ recipients.

(ii) To empower Union Territories, specially Government of NCT of Delhi to have their own appropriate authority instead of DGHS and/or Additional DG (Hospitals).

(iii) To make the punishments under the Act harsh and cognizable for the illegal transplantation activities to deter the offenders from committing this crime.

(iv) To provide for registration of the centres for removal of organs from the cadavers and brain stem dead patients for harvesting of organs instead of registration of centres for transplantations only.

Sale/purchase of human organs is already prohibited under Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Appropriate authorities established under this Act are responsible and empowered to check the illegal activities of human organs trafficking.

Shortfall of Corneas

4205. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed regarding collection of Corneas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the shortfall in the country, if any; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The target during 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) was to collect 1,75,000 donated eyes for corneal transplantation. As against the said target, around 1,25,137 donated eyes were collected. At present, about 30,000 donated eyes are collected annually in the country against an estimated demand of at least 80000 to 100000 of corneas per year for transplantation purpose.

The reasons for shortfall in collection of required number of donated eyes are:-

(i) The Eye Banks collect eyes from registered donors after their death and also from those patients who die in hospitals through "Hospital Corneal Retrieval Programme". Many of the Eye Banks are starved for donor material and there is perennial shortage of corneas. A significant percentage of the donated tissue become unfit for transplantation because of the lack of logistic support for timely collection of eyes by the Eye Banks and the time is the real essence in corneal grafting. The eyes are to be removed within 4 to 6 hours from the dead bodies.

(ii) In addition, due to sentimental reasons, the next of the kin of the deceased hesitate to allow removal of eyes of the deceased. Thus, there is always a gap between the demand and supply.

(iii) Lack of proper awareness and education about donation of Eyes.

(c) Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. Awareness among masses about Eye donation is created through print and electronic media at central as well as State and district levels as a part of IEC activity.

The most important event to promote eye donation under NPCB is observance of "National Eye Donation Fortnight" in the country from 25th August to 8th September every year with a view to accelerate educational and motivational efforts amongst the public to donate eyes and make it a family tradition. During the fortnight, the following major activities are undertaken:-

(i) Awareness campaign on Eye donation through NGOs, Senior Citizen Groups, Youth Associations and Resident Welfare Associations etc.

(ii) Involve teachers and school children in spreading the message on eye donation.

(iii) Involve corporate sector to participate and sponsor activities like sponsoring grief counsellor/ Medical Social Worker in major hospitals to motivate the family members of the deceased to donate eyes.

(iv) Involve cable operators and cinema halls to flash messages on eye donation.

(v) Involve influential persons such as politicians, sports persons, celebrities etc. to promote eye donation.

(vi) Enhance collection of donated eyes through "Hospitals Retrieval Programme" in Hospitals.

Unique Identification Number

4206. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to issue a unique identification (UID) number to all Indian citizens;

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

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. UID would be an eleven digit number and will remain same across the life of the resident with no re-allocation of ID. UID Initiative would be initially based on the database of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and would be further updated by capturing more records through linkages with various key partner databases in a phased manner. A four-tier structure for the governance and administration of the UID programme is envisaged and EGOM has approved the Creation of a UID Authority for this purpose. The advantages envisaged as an outcome of the project are that the Unique ID will be helpful in better targeting and monitoring of social benefits and employment programmes; identifying synergies between various ID initiatives prevalent in the country and reducing identity related fraud.

[Translation]

Rise in Cancer Cases

4207. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether various cancer cases particularly the gall-bladder cancer, lung cancer, mouth cancer and breast cancer are on the rise in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to create awareness among the people and evolve a comprehensive cancer control strategy and establish a National Institute of Cancer Research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to provide basic healthcare treatment to people in the Government hospitals and also to check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per the draft report on trends in cancer Incidence rates over time for the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Bhopal and Chennai there is an increase in cancer rates among men. Cancer of gall bladder among women showed an increase in Bhopal since the year 1990; whereas Delhi and Mumbai showed an increase incidence rate till 1992. Lung cancer among men showed an increase in Delhi where increase among women was observed in Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi. Men in Chennai showed an increase in incidence rate for cancer of long. Mouth cancer among women showed an increase in Barshi. Breast cancer among women showed increasing trend in

Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai and Mumbai. Each site of cancer has a different aeltiology, which often is multi-factorial in nature. Cancer of several sites like lung, oral, cavity osophagus etc. is predominantly caused by tobacco use. Risk factors for cervical cancer include HPV infection. Diet especially high-fat & devoid of fruits and vegetables is important in causation of cancer of breast, colon etc.

(c) to (e) Health being a State Subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. The Central Government have evolved a comprehensive Cancer Control Strategy *i.e.* National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) where emphasis has been laid on Awareness, prevention, early detection and treatment. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State. Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/ Hospitals for providing treatment facilities.

The treatment of cancer is by Surgery, Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy and Supportive Care. These facilities are available upto the level of Medical Colleges & District Hospitals in the Health Care delivery system. The Radiotherapy facilities are also available at more than 210 institutions. In addition, 27 Regional Cancer Centres provide comprehensive cancer treatment to the patients as well as cancer research is also carried out in ongoing manner. The treatment is either free or at subsidized rate in Government Hospitals. Public awareness about the hazards of tobacco use and its association with cancer including the oral cancer is being carried out through the print and electronic media.

[English]

Amendment of Panchayats Act, 1996

4208. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the provisions of law related to Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas have been amended as required under the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 within one years, *i.e.* by December 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States where the provisions of the said Act have not been faithfully implemented in letter and spirit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) PESA extends Part IX of the Constitution to Fifth Schedule Areas, subject to certain exceptions and modifications. The following nine States have Fifth Schedule Areas:- (i) Andhra Pradesh (ii) Chhattisgarh (iii) Gujarat (iv) Himachal Pradesh (v) Jharkhand (vi) Madhya Pradesh (vii) Maharashtra (viii) Orissa and (ix) Rajasthan.

All States have enacted the required compliance legislation by amending their respective Panchayati Raj Acts, details of which are given in the enclosed statement. However, in several States, rules for operationalizing the implementation of PESA are yet to be framed. Some States are also yet to amend the subject laws, such as those relating to money lending, forest, excise etc. Consequently, compliance remains incomplete, perfunctory and formal in virtually all States. Vital issues like the ownership of minor forest produce, planning and management of minor water bodies, prevention of alienation of tribal lands etc., which have been duly recognized in PESA as the traditional rights of tribal living in the Scheduled Areas, have still not received the warranted attention and, therefore, the necessary correctives remain to be applied. There are also issues relating to powers statutorily devolved upon the Gram Sabha and the Panchayats not being matched by the concomitant transfer of funds and functionaries resulting in the non-exercise of such powers. Over the years, States have been repeatedly urged to expedite this process. The matter was discussed in the Third Round Table of Panchayati Raj Ministers in September, 2004 where the State Ministers agreed to enforce the provisions of PESA and also to undertake a wider consultation with other government departments so as to harmonize the provisions of the concerned laws with the aims and objectives of PESA. The matter has also been discussed a number of times at meetings of the Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj and other such get-together such as the NDC Empowered Sub-Committee as also in the meetings of the Committee of Secretaries of Panchayati Raj of the States. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had also entrusted to the Indian Law Institute the task to of formulating appropriate amendments in the concerned State laws with a view to assisting the State Governments undertaking compliant legislation in consultation with their respective Departments of Law. Indian Law Institute (ILI)

submitted its report on 19.04.06, which was forwarded to the PESA States for comments. Some State Governments have sent their comments; others are being reminded repeatedly. States have also been requested to identify the subject laws which may not have been studied by the ILI but which require amendment to bring them in conformity with PESA.

A meeting of the Secretaries of the Department of Panchayati Raj, Tribal Development, Commissioners of Tribal Area Development, Heads of Tribal Research Institute, Tribal Development Corporations and the Central Ministries was held on 14.7.06 for suggesting remedial action, wherever required, on various issues related to the PESA Act. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj constitute three sub-committees, one chaired by Shri B.D. Sharma on "Model Guidelines to vest Gram Sabhas with Powers as envisaged in PESA"; another chaired by Shri Raghav Chandra on 'Land Alienation, Displacement, Rehabilitation & Resettlement'; and a third chaired by Shri A.K. Sharma on 'Minor Forest Produce'. The three sub-committees have submitted their reports and recommendations, which have been forwarded to PESA States for their comments. Some State Governments have sent their comments; others are being reminded repeatedly. Meanwhile, the recommendations of these sub-committees are being examined in the Ministry.

A review meeting of the PESA States on implementation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 was held on 13 November 2007 at New Delhi. A future action plan for implementation of PESA in letter and spirit was agreed to by the States in the review Meeting. States have been requested to convene Needs Consultation Workshops with the participation of representatives from all the departments concerned with subject laws so that the process of implementation of the provisions of PESA is expedited.

Statement

In consonance with the provisions of the above Section, all the 9 PESA States passed conformity legislation within the stipulated period, the details of which are given below:

Sl.No.	State	Legislation and year of enactment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chapter VI(A) was inserted in the Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 with effect from 16.1.1998.
2.	Chhattisgarh	All existing laws of Madhya Pradesh (see No. 7 below) as on 1.11.2000 were automatically applied in Chhattisgarh when the State was created.
3.	Gujarat	Act No. 5 of 1998 amended the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993 with effect from 20.12.1997.
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 was amended vide Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Act, 1997.
5.	Jharkhand	The Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001 (State of Jharkhand was created in the year 2000).
6.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra endowing upon the Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas the powers to function as Self Government (Amendment of certain State Laws) Act, 1997 with effect from 29.12.1997. The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Panchayats and Panchayats Samitis Amendment Act, 2003.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Chapter 14(A) inserted in the Madhya Pradesh Panchayati Raj Avam Gram Swaraj Adhiniyam, 1993 w.e.f. 5.12.1997.
8.	Orissa	The Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, the Orissa Panchayati Samiti Act and the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act were amended with effect from 21.12.97.
9.	Rajasthan	The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Modification of provisions in their application to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1999 with effect from 26.6.1999.

[Translation]

Assessment of Condition of NHs

4209. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey through vehicles equipped with state-of-the-art technology to assess the condition of the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results of the said survey conducted in the country, State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for improving the condition of the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Union Government through Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) had conducted a road inventory survey through instrumented vehicle including assessment of road condition on entire National Highways Network in the country, during 1984-87. Further, a research scheme for GIS based National Highway Information System has been sanctioned by the Ministry in the year 2005, which is being implemented through CRRI. Under this scheme, CRRI is collecting road inventory data including assessment of road condition using state-of-the-art technology with the help of network survey vehcle on National Highways network (excluding National Highways covered under NHDP Phase I & II). National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is also collecting data for the National Highways entrusted with NHAI. The collection of information about the condition of the National Highways is in progress. The details of the findings will be presented by CRRI while finalizing digitized GIS based National Highway Information System after collecting the complete information.

(d) The Development and improvement of National Highways is a continuous process and the works are taken up depending upon inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

[English]

Additional Gross Budgetary Support

4210. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to make additional provision of Rs. 10,000 crore in the Budget to fund social sector programmes during the Financial Year 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether the provision of an additional two-tier GBS, system of the previous Budget would be in force during the current year;

(c) whether Rs. 7,000 crore was earmarked during the previous financial year under the additional GBS;

(d) if so, whether the Finance Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission has agreed to increase this Fund;

(e) if so, the schemes that are likely to be undertaken to support GBS;

(f) whether the amount earmarked during the previous financial year has been fully utilized; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (g) Budget for 2008-09 proposes to mobilize additional resources to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crore to be used for Plan capital expenditure. This money—under Plan 'B'—will be available to Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and to State Governments that achieve the physical and quality targets set under different Plan schemes.

Budget for 2007-08 had made a provision of Rs. 7,000 crore under Plan 'B'. However, Rs. 13,917.06 crore was made available through three supplementaries for amongst others Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, EAP to States, Assistance to DMRC, Weather Based Insurance Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Commonwealth Games and EAP for AIDS control.

Research Projects Under Public-Private Participation

4211. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new research projects under the Public-Private Participation (PPP) Scheme have been included in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for inclusion of such projects in the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Scientific Research and Development activities being promoted by six S&T Departments/Agencies during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, includes a new programme 'Biotechnology Industry

Partnership Programme (BIPP)' proposed by the Department of Biotechnology. This programme is proposed to be implemented in PPP mode with the objective to accelerate the development of futuristic technologies for the country to maintain a competitive edge in the field of Biotechnology and to address unmet national needs for new technology based solutions. An allocation of Rs. 350 crore has been provided during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for this programme.

Steamer Service in the Brahmaputra River

4212. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to drudge the river bed of the Brahmaputra and re-start the steamer service in the interest of the general public and transporters of goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) was declared as National Waterway in 1988. Various projects for providing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure in this National Waterway are being implemented through Inland Waterways Authority of India. For maintaining channel for shipping and navigation, dredging is already being carried out during the low water season at the shallow patches in the waterway as per requirement and availability of dredgers. At present, one Hydraulic Surface Dredger (HSD) and one Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) are deployed in the waterway. Four more CSD units and one HSD unit are under construction for deployment in the said waterway.

Cargo vessels already ply between Kolkata/Haldia/ Bangladesh and various locations of this National Waterway depending on availability of cargo. Various passenger ferry vessels are also operating in this waterways within Assam under regulation of State Government of Assam.

MOU with Vietnam

4213. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently signed any MoU with Vietnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) During the recent visit of Mr. Le Hong Anh, the Vietnamese Minister of Public Security to India from 20-25 March 2008, an MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of India and Ministry of Public Security, Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed.

(c) India and Vietnam share common security perspectives and have close growing security ties. Vietnam supports India's concerns on cross-border and global terrorism. The signing of MOU will enhance the security cooperation and exchange of information and training between the two countries.

Trauma Care Centre at R.M.L. Hospital

4214. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started 'Trauma Care Centre' recently at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent thereon; and

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Trauma Care Centre at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of N.C.T. of Delhi, Smt. Shiela Dikshit on 19.3.2008. This Trauma Care Centre has facilities for CT Scan, X Rays and Pathology Labs for critical emergency care with 10 resuscitation beds, 10 beded ICU, 5 cost-operative beds and two wards of 25 beds each with a total of 75 beds and 3 Operation Theatres. A total amount of Rs. 58.11 crore has been

spent for setting up of this Centre. All critically injured/ sick patients brought to the emergency ward of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital would be treated in this centre.

[Translation]

Shortage of Gynaecologists in Rural PHCs

4215. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of lady doctors, particularly gynaecologists in the Primary Health Centres and hospitals located in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to appoint/post lady doctors in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As against the requirement of a total of 4045 Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at Community Health Centres, only 1357 are in position. The facility of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is available at CHCs. Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are manned by a Medical Officer. As against the requirement of 22370 doctors at PHCs, 22608 doctors are in position. A total of 3417 PHCs are functioning with lady doctors. There is no provision of specialists for PHC.

(c) The appointments are being made by the respective State/UT Governments. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to State/UT Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres including contractual appointment of staff. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

[English]

Space Travel by Indians

4216. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether adventurous space travel is being undertaken on a global scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith training provided in this regard;

(c) whether any Indians have been included in the space trip; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Space tourism is being undertaken on commercial basis by some international enterprises which also provide the required training. The training depends on the mission and duration of flight. It includes exposure to simulated space environments as well as physical fitness test, medical and psychological evaluations.

(c) and (d) Virgin Galactic, a UK based company is offering space travel opportunities to tourists for a short duration sub-orbital flight. It is learnt that a private individual from Kerala has been selected as first space tourist from India by M/s. Virgin Galactic.

[Translation]

Proposal for Four Laning of NHs

4217. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways (NHs) which have been approved for conversion into four-laning during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of total funds allocated for four-laning of these National Highways and spent therefrom, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct overbridges on National Highways at crowded locations under the four-laning project;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of each National Highway where such overbridges are likely to be constructed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inadequate Facility for Dialysis

4218. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Dialysis par 'Tamam' hoti Jindagi" in *Dainik Jagran* dated February 22, 2008;

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

(c) the details of specialists posted for treatment of diabetes and kidney disease as on date, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Health is a State subject. It is for the State Government to provide health care services. The details of specialists posted for treatment of diabetes and kidney disease are not centrally maintained by the Government of India. The Central Government Hospitals *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are equipped with the dialysis facilities.

[English]

CBI Raids on NHAI Officials' Residences and Offices

4219. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI had carried out raids at the residential and official premises of the officials of National Highways Authority of India in October, 2006;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had carried out raids in October 2006 at the residential as well as official premises of some officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in connection with contract for maintenance of National Highways from km. 66 to 96 on National Highway No. 1. The details have not been received from CBI.

To curb misuse and corruption, steps have been taken as per Central Vigilance Commission Manual/ Guidelines and Regulations of the NHAI.

[Translation]

Development of Expressways under NHDP-VI

4220. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

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

(a) whether the stretches of National Highways for development of Expressways under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) phase-VI have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of work on the stretches;

(c) whether the construction work of Delhi-Jaipur expressway has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent thereon; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for completion of each of the project alongwith the reasons of delay, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following stretches under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI have been identified for implementation:

Sl.No.	Name of Expressway	Length (Km)	Status of work
1.	Vadodara-Mumbai	400	The consultant for fixing of alignment has been appointed.
2.	Delhi-Meerut	66	The proposal from the consultants for fixing of alignment has been invited.
3.	Kolkata-Dhanbad	277	
4.	Bangalore-Chennai	334	

(c) to (e) The Delhi-Jaipur stretch was one of the stretches announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the FY 2008-09 for construction of Expressway. The project was to be finally selected for implementation on the basis of traffic volume.

However, in view of the upgradation of existing alignment to six lane under NHDP Phase-V, which will be sufficient to cater to the traffic volume for another 10-12 years, the new Expressway is not envisaged, at present.

NHDP Phase VI is targeted for completion by December 2015.

[English]

Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Rule

4221. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman & Nicobar Administration has implemented the provision of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration, through the Port Blair Municipal Council, is implementing the provisions of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds Allocated for Protective Works

4222. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for the protective works during the Tenth Plan have not been utilized by the coal companies;

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

(c) whether the Government has directed the coal companies that all the schemes approved by CCDA Committee be completed in a time bound programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) The funds for Protective Works are allocated under the plan head 'Conservation & Safety in Coal Mines'. The funds allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan under this head have been utilised as indicated in the table below:-

(In Rs. crores)

Year	Fund allocation	Total reimbursement
2002-03	66.05	66.05
2003-04	64.00	64.00
2004-05	100.03	100.03
2005-06	66.11	66.11
2006-07	180.00	180.00

(c) and (d) CCDA assistance for protective works is in the form of reimbursement and is made available only after a scheme is completed. The Coal Conservation and

Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) while considering the proposals discusses the timeframe of completion of the schemes and suggestions are made if required to reduce the time frame involved and schemes are completed in a time bound manner.

Cases of Corruption Pending with CIL

4223. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of criminal cases and departmental inquiries are pending against the officials working with the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries as on March 31, 2008;

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

(c) the number and names of the officers suspended, company-wise; and

(d) the names of chargesheeted officers to whom promotions have been given and those who have not been given promotion during the last three years, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and wil be laid on the Table of the House.

Death of Wild Animals

4224. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wild animals died during the last three years, State-wise and Sanctuary-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to find out the causes of such deaths;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Death of wild animals occurs due to natural as well as unnatural reasons. The data regarding the death of wild animals are not collated at Government of India level. State/UT Governments, wherever applicable, take necessary actions as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to find out the causes of death. As per the information received from the State/UT Governments, the reasons for the death of wild animals, *inter alia*, include old age, predation, accidents, electrocution, poisoning, poaching etc.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compliance to Environmental Norms

4225. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel and iron spare parts manufacturing companies are not complying to the environment norms in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check pollution and punish the companies which do not abide by the environment norms laid down by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance for Protection of Sundarbans Forests and Wildlife

4226. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for

seeking assistance for preservation and protection of Forest and Wildlife in West Bengal, particularly in the Sundarbans Tiger Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A number of proposals were received from Government of West Bengal under different Schemes of the Ministry, including the Annual Plan of Operation for Sundarbans Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger Scheme. During the year 2007-08, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 201.88 lakhs has been provided for Sundarbans Tiger Reserve and Rs. 356.21 lakhs has been provided for development of other National Parks and Sanctuaries to the Government of West Bengal.

[English]

Cost of Pathological Tests/Surgery Prescribed Under CGHS

4227. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the hospitals recognized by the Government under the CGHS have refused to provide treatment to the Central Government employees and the pensioners on the plea that the rates of various pathological tests, surgery etc. are too low and even would not meet the cost; and

(b) if so, the details of the comparative cost of pathological tests and surgery etc. of the CGHS rates and the general rates?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Rates for various tests and procedures in CGHS have been determined by floating tenders. Only such hospitals are empanelled that sign an agreement accepting the rates etc. Stiff penalties are prescribed for defaults in agreed terms of service delivery.

(b) Comparative costs of CGHS rates and general rates for pathological tests and surgeries are not maintained.

Role of PRIs in Centrally Sponsored Scheme

4228. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in the various States by involving the Panchayats;

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

(c) whether specific guidelines have been issued regarding the role of PRIs in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that is governed by a Central law, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which statutorily provides:

(i) That the Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Village levels are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of Schemes made under the Act,

(ii) Specific roles for each level of Panchayat in planning and implementation,

(iii) That the Programme Officer shall allot at least fifty percent of the works in terms of its cost under a Scheme to be implemented through the Gram Panchayats.

Other Centrally Sponsored Schemes that pertain to the functional domain of the Panchayats provide for varying roles for the three levels of the Panchayats but leave it to States to determine the specific roles and responsibilities of Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is collecting specific details as to the precise implementation mechanism adopted in States in respect of those programmes that comprise the bulk of the funding under Centrally Sponsored Schemes so as to better understand the role that Panchayats perform.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken several steps in persuading the Central Ministries concerned to ensure the centrality of Panchayati Raj

Institutions in the planning and implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs). The most recent of these initiatives has been the setting up of a Committee by the Cabinet Secretariat on 8 August 2007, on the suggestion of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, to review the need for modifications, if any, in the current guidelines for each major Centrally Sponsored Scheme so as to ensure the centrality of Panchayati Raj Institutions in their planning and implementation. The Committee held discussions with 13 Ministries and Departments and has submitted its report, which has arrived at major points of agreement on the modifications required in respect of the Schemes of these ministries. The report has been forwarded to the Central Ministries for necessary action and to the States for their information.

[Translation]

Four-Laning of NH 86 from Kanpur to Sagar

4229. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the stretch of National Highway No. 86 connecting Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from Kanpur to Sagar into four-lane in view of heavy traffic movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Decreasing Forest Cover

4230. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the forest area vanished and the forest land diverted for various purposes during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to implant this forest land under compensatory afforestation; and

(c) if so, the area of land brought under forest cover under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) During the period from 01.04.2005 to 21.04.2008, in total 5,638 proposals have been accorded stage-I and stage-II approvals for diversion of about 2,07,959 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Compensatory Afforestation is mandatory for the diversion of the Forest land for non-forestry purposes. During the above period, the Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 2,66,604 ha of land and about 24,923 ha. afforestation has been done. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise forestry clearance of Forest Land Under FC Act, 1980 during the last 3 years

Region: Central | Category: All Categories
Case Status: Approved+ Inprinciple | During: 01.04.2005 to 21.04.2008 | As on: 22.04.2008

State/UT	Number of Cases Approved+ Inprinciple	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17	146.922
Andhra Pradesh	152	9,887.52
Arunachal Pradesh	35	470.066
Assam	77	439.025
Bihar	39	877.605
Chandigarh	5	6.676
Chhattisgarh	132	10,955.86
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	25	10.852

1	2	3
Daman and Diu	0	0
Delhi	4	9.271
Goa	20	369.261
Gujarat	234	6,017.03
Haryana	878	569.299
Himachal Pradesh	545	2,959.55
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
Jharkhand	60	5,233.89
Karnataka	180	6,822.94
Kerala	23	255.293
Lakshadweep	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	149	7,608.75
Maharashtra	170	4,740.54
Manipur	3	165
Meghalaya	11	2.381
Mizoram	1	0.454
Nagaland	0	0
Orissa	112	9,110.26
Pondicherry	0	0
Punjab	1269	69,782.11
Rajasthan	138	7,609.22
Sikkim	111	411.749
Tamil Nadu	40	366.607
Tripura	58	5,655.94
Uttar Pradesh	259	27,422.85
Uttaranchal	880	29,562.86
West Bengal	11	488.915
Total	5638	207,958.68

Statement II

State-wise Compensatory Afforestation (CA) stipulated and achieved during the last three years

As on: 21.04.2008

Sl.No.	State/UT	CA Stipulated (in ha.)			CA Achieved (in Ha.)		
		As on 21.04.2008 (A)	As on 31.05.2005 (B)	In Last 3 Years (A-B)	As on 21.04.2008 (C)	As on 31.05.2005 (D)	In Last 3 Years (C-D)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2,663.75	2,571.93	91.82	1,926.78	1,905.43	21.35
2.	Andhra Pradesh	32,423.67	21,830.43	10,593.24	20,393.73	17,840.90	2,552.83
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,647.20	19,238.771	1,408.49	6,247.71	4,699.11	1,548.60
4.	Assam	9,234.54	8,674.48	560.06	1,700.03	1,700.03	0.00
5.	Bihar	1,934.42	1,740.37	194.05	846.56	846.56	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	30.12	24.74	5.38	0.12	0.00	0.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Chhattisgarh	109,636.67	87,326.65	22,310.02	30,615.00	30,601.00	14.00
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	631.82	363.51	268.31	479.30	479.30	0.00
9.	Delhi	13.44	5.46	7.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Goa	1,593.10	1,568.47	24.63	1,149.44	1,062.00	87.44
11.	Gujarat	82,265.80	79,607.18	2,658.62	44,374.29	44,287.52	86.77
12.	Haryana	4,730.19	3,887.04	843.15	3,343.51	2,065.47	1278.04
13.	Himachal Pradesh	22,274.11	15,102.69	7,171.42	5,906.70	5,799.00	107.70
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,124.94	1,124.94	0.00	288.00	288.00	0.00
15.	Jharkhand	21,184.46	18,134.16	3,050.30	36.00	36.00	0.00
16.	Karnataka	42,340.76	39,027.48	3,313.28	38,054.04	34,923.86	3,130.18
17.	Kerala	58,393.36	15,246.88	43,146.48	50,224.53	50,210.81	13.72
18.	Madhya Pradesh	424,414.95	420,906.12	3,508.83	167,693.95	167,366.00	327.95
19.	Maharashtra	82,431.68	82,431.68	0.00	71,807.00	71,389.00	418.00
20.	Manipur	1,199.03	918.99	280.04	181.16	0.00	181.16
21.	Meghalaya	459.33	484.70	-25.37	263.25	256.00	7.25
22.	Mizoram	29,953.30	29,926.43	26.87	5,558.81	5,516.00	42.81
23.	Orissa	57,170.44	50,154.63	7,015.81	33,471.58	21,448.34	12,023.24
24.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Punjab	38,019.94	7,399.19	30,620.75	4,848.32	4,259.21	589.11
26.	Rajasthan	31,617.11	25,272.10	6,345.01	10,333.01	10,318.78	14.23
27.	Sikkim	2,870.10	2,307.42	562.68	2,030.97	2,030.75	0.22
28.	Tamil Nadu	3,403.83	3,181.88	221.95	2,261.97	1,599.68	662.29
29.	Tripura	6,459.02	6,363.39	95.63	2,837.19	2,550.42	286.77
30.	Uttar Pradesh	65,894.86	10,659.40	55,235.46	7,145.07	6,384.07	761.00
31.	Uttaranchal	99,950.25	35,636.96	64,313.29	14,891.53	14,891.53	0.00
32.	West Bengal	5,815.90	3,060.06	2,755.84	3,901.24	3,133.02	768.22
	Total	1,280,782.09	994,178.07	266,604.02	532,810.79	507,887.79	24,923.00

Funds for Protection of Forests

4231. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds are being provided to the States for protection of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned/released during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the work executed/proposed to be executed from the said funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Forest Protection Scheme", financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for protection of forests.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of the funds released under the Scheme during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. The main works executed/proposed to be executed include—creation and maintenance of firelines, engagement of firewatchers, construction of watch towers, construction of water harvesting structures, preparation of working plans, construction of boundary pillars, construction of buildings for frontline staff, field survey and boundary demarcation etc.

Statement

Funds released to States/UTs under integrated Forest Protection Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	175.00	Nil	179.772
2.	Bihar	128.88	132.53	83.736
3.	Chhattisgarh	104.31	371.40	613.012
4.	Goa	Nil	Nil* (29.01)	18.53
5.	Gujarat	192.00	400.00	568.825
6.	Haryana	75.00	167.50	96.04
7.	Himachal Pradesh	180.186	Nil	124.066
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jharkhand	75.00	112.263	221.875
10.	Karnataka	119.63	122.88	159.60
11.	Kerala	125.00	167.597	283.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	125.00	325.00	665.02
13.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil* (103.46)	232.84
14.	Orissa	110.00	76.38	180.61

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Punjab	Nil	Nil* (100.00)	Nil* (100.00)
16.	Rajasthan	100.00	100.07	99.692
17.	Tamil Nadu	150.00	158.40	431.5775
18.	Uttar Pradesh	49.25	135.04	235.73
19.	Uttarakhand	150.00	508.58	283.41
20.	West Bengal	140.00	218.10	187.425
21.	Assam	400.00	190.26	496.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	274.66	191.68	308.42
23.	Manipur	128.80	395.18	143.55
24.	Meghalaya	80.00	150.00	86.00
25.	Mizoram	300.00	229.71	414.37
26.	Nagaland	54.00	337.72	365.4264
27.	Sikkim	Nil	141.70	120.6648
28.	Tripura	16.00	162.915	98.593
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.26	3.8552	Nil
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	New Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Grand Total	3260.976	4798.7602	6698.4647

*Indicates that funds were sanctioned but actual release was Nil as the earlier unspent funds were adjusted against current year's release. These amounts are given in brackets.

Encroachment on NHs

4232. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has enacted the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 to remove the encroachments on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of illegal constructions have come up on the National Highways particularly in and around Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to remove the encroachments from the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 has come into force with effect from 27.1.2005. The Act empowers the Central Government to appoint Highway Administrations for removal of encroachments.

(c) and (d) The encroachments along National Highways is a recurring problem. Government has already appointed 192 Highway Administrations in the entire country under the aforesaid Act to deal with the problem of encroachments.

Commonwealth Games 2010

4233. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trees cut down to facilitate the preparation for the upcoming Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether the run-up to Commonwealth Games poses a threat to the Yamuna river-bed;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect the Yamuna river-bed;

(d) whether a proposal for relocation of the games venue has been received by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has permitted removal of 6,949 trees till 8.4.2008 for development of Infrastructure in connection with the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Some Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have requested for shifting of Games Village site, being constructed on farther side of the Yamuna River.

(f) The concerned NGOs have filed a writ petition in the High Court of Delhi, titled "Rajender Singh & Other Versus Government of NCT of Delhi & Others". The Hon'ble Court has heard the arguments of both the parties, and the final decision has been kept reserved.

[Translation]

Study on Functioning of Government Hospitals

4234. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the functioning of the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the study; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no study on the functioning of the Government hospitals has been conducted.

[English]

Inhuman Treatment with Indian Prisoners in Pakistan

4235. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports of inhuman treatment being meted out to the Indian prisoners in Pakistan has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) Over 640 Indian nationals are estimated to be in jails in Pakistan. Government are gravely concerned at the prolonged incarceration of our nationals in Pakistan, often without consular access.

(c) and (d) These issues are taken up with Government of Pakistan consistently at the Home Secretary level talks as also in different bilateral meetings including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31 March 2008 and those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March 31. India expects the Government of Pakistan to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.

Bird Flu Viruses

4236. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the different types of the viruses are likely to be generated by bird flu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists have reported the existence of the deadly Hanta Virus in the country for the first time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Avian influenza a H5 and H7 viruses can be distinguished as "low pathogenic" and "high pathogenic" forms on the basis of genetic features of the virus and the severity of the illness they cause in poultry; influenza H9 virus has been identified only in "low pathogenicity" form. Each of these three avian influenza A viruses (H5, H7 and H9) theoretically can be partnered with any one of nine neuraminidase surface proteins; thus, there are potentially nine different forms of each subtype (e.g. H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N9). The virus causing alarm at present is H5N1 strain of the Influenza A virus.

(c) to (e) Indian Council of Medical Research is funding an extramural project entitled "Molecular and serological investigations of Hanta virus infections in Vellore district of south India" at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. The ongoing study has been initiated in September, 2006. Till date 360 health blood donors, 151 patients with chronic renal diseases, 99 members of the Irula tribe (occupational hazard) and 51 warehouse workers occupational hazard were tested. The irulas had a statistically significant seropositivity (11%) compared to healthy blood donors (4%) positive by two serological assays. In 6 (2.6%) human patients with acute febrile illness of 266 tested Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR] was positive for hantavirus nucleic acid. The PCR products showed a 93-97% nucleotide homology with Hantaan virus (HTNV) on Phylogenetic analysis. The HTNV is most prevalent virus in South East Asia, China, Korea and Russia. There was no mortality among these hantavirus positive individuals.

Highways Connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand

4237. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road is a part of the International Highway which is likely to connect India, Myanmar and Thailand; and

(b) the time by which this road is likely to be operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A major portion of the Tamu--Kalewa-Kalemyo road will become part of the trilateral highway project, which is under discussion between India, Myanmar and Thailand.

(b) The 160 km long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road in Myanmar is already operational.

Four-Laning of Kota-Baran Section of NH-76

4238. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-laning of Kota-Baran Section of NH-76 has started;

(b) if so, the progress made thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and actual amount spent therefrom as on date; and

(d) the date by which the four-laning work of the aforesaid NH would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The details of project under East-West Corridor on NH-76 in Rajasthan, between Kota-Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh (RJ/MP) border, which includes Kota-Baran Section are as under:-

Sl.No.	Contract Stretch	NH No.	Length (Km.)	Date of		Total Project cost (Rs. in Crore)	Cumulative Expenditure till March, 2008 (Rs. in Crore)	Cumulative Physical Progress (%)
				Start	Anticipated Completion			
1.	RJ/MP Border to Kota Km. 579 to Km. 509	76	70	10.9.05	June, 2008	404.36	247.94	87.24
2.	RJ/MP Border to Kota Km 509 to Km. 449.15	76	60	20.10.05	December, 2008	471.85	235.21	60.46
3.	RJ/MP Border to Kota Km. 449.15 to Km. 406.00	76	43	24.10.05	March, 2009	377.65	146.72	54.23
4.	Kota Bypass Km 406.00 to Km 381.00	76	26.42	11.05.06	June, 2009	250.39	41.79	9.75
5.	Chambal Bridge	76	1.4	07.11.06	September, 2010	281.31	33.74	Design work mostly completed. Foundation work is in progress.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Displaced Families in Madhya Pradesh

4239. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the release of remaining compensation amount of Rs. 308.68 lakh to complete the pending rehabilitation works pertaining to the rural families displaced due to establishment of the Kunopalpur Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this amount is likely to be sanctioned and released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Based on the proposal received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Central Government has

already released Rs. 1545 lakh by 2007-08 for the relocation and rehabilitation of 1545 families from Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. The last payment was made during 2007-08 and no release in this regard is pending with the Government of India.

[English]

Economic Zones for NRIs

4240. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created Economic Zones for Non-Resident Indians in the different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any draft regulations have been worked out for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Health Insurance Cover for BPL People

4241. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to issue smart card health insurance cover to the people below the poverty line;

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

(c) whether any guidelines have been sent to the State Governments for implementing such programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to issue smart cards to beneficiaries of Health Insurance Schemes being implemented under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM].

However, Ministry of Labour has launched "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana" [RSBY] for BPL workers and their families [unit of 5] in unorganized sector, which provides for smart card based cashless insurance cover. The cost of the smart card @ Rs. 60/- per card is to be borne by the Union Government. Around 6 Crores of BPL workers [as per definition of Planning Commission] are proposed to be covered in a period of 5 years up to 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] has prepared a framework for introducing health insurance scheme. The States have been requested to prepare need based, community oriented, innovative and flexible insurance policies for implementation on pilot basis. Government of Andhra Pradesh has started the Health Insurance Scheme for the BPL families in 8 districts and Rajasthan has started the pilot project in five districts. The cost of the annual premium up to 75% subject to a maximum of Rs. 300/- per BPL Family is borne by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Health Insurance Cover per BPL family under the pilot schemes prepared by the States varies from State to State as per their local needs.

However, under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana premium upto 75%, subject to maximum of Rs. 565/-per annum per BPL Family of workers of Unorganized Sector shall be borne by Ministry of Labour for an Insurance Cover of Rs. 30,000/- on floater basis.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staff in Trauma Centre at AIIMS

4242. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy shortage of staff in the Trauma Centre set up in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, the measures being taken to overcome the said shortage;

(c) the number of patients treated in the said trauma centre since its inception; and

(d) the number of patients died in this Trauma Centre till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Jaiprakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre (JPNATC) has started functioning with effect from 26.11.2006 on trial basis and from 26.11.2007 it is fully functional. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sanctioned 553 posts of faculty, residents, nurses & other staffs besides others group-D posts which are required to be outsourced. Out of these 377 posts have been filled in and recruitment of 190 posts are in process.

(b) The vacant posts are being filled on contractual basis as on interim arrangement till regular selection are made.

(c) Till date total number of 19929 patients were treated in the Emergency department of JPNATC, 3897 patients have been admitted (Bed strength of about 186 including wards, ICU and Casualty) and 3425 operations has been performed by various surgical specialities like Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and General Surgery.

(d) Total number of 285 patients died at JPNATC till date out of 19929 patients treated.

[English]

Parameters for Setting up Blood Banks

4243. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters laid down for setting up of blood banks in the country;

(b) whether the existing blood banks conform to the laid down parameters; 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) Yes, Sir. Under Schedule X B of the Drug & Cosmetics Act 1940 & Rules thereunder, parameters for collection, storage, processing and distribution of Whole Blood, Human Blood Components by Blood Banks and manufacture of Blood Products have been laid down.

As per the provisions, every Blood Bank has to obtain a License for its operation. The Drug Control Authorities carry out the inspection of Blood Bank before Licensing. Every Blood Banks applying for license has to fulfil these parameters. On being found adherent to these parameters, recommendation for licensing is given by inspecting authority. The State Drug Control Authorities are the licensing authority for Blood Banks under concurrence of Drugs Controller General (India) as Central License Approving Authority (CLAA). Licence is given for 5 years with renewal after every 5 years to ensure that parameters are adhered to.

Proposal for Forest Academy

4244. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments particularly Gujarat Government have submitted proposal to establish forest academy in their State;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No proposal to establish forest academy has been received from Gujarat Government. A proposal for establishment of Kerala Forest Academy has only been received.

(b) The objective of the proposed Kerala Forest Academy is to act as an umbrella organisation for all basic training needs of the Kerala Forest Department. It is proposed that the academy will conduct Refresher Training Courses for in-service frontline forest staff, Orientation Training for "to be promoted" officers, Executive Management Programmes for senior officers, Professional Training and Training of Trainers. The proposal envisages capital expenditure of Rs. 13.75 crore and recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 4.35 crore.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have a scheme to support the proposed activity.

Non-Academic Duties of Government School Teachers

4245. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has raised concern over the increase in non-academic duties of the government school teachers;

(b) if so, whether the Government concurs with the concern of the Commission; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to relieve the government teachers form non-academic assignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has already initiated steps to monitor teachers involvement in non-teaching assignments under District Information System for Education (DISE).

Sale of Medicines by Grocers/Vendors

4246. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for selling of medicines by grocers and vendors with authorised medical prescription;

(b) whether the Government proposes for registration of grocers and vendors for selling medicines without prescription;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Grocers and Vendors are not authorized to sell or dispense medicines on medical prescription. Only Chemists or Druggists licenced under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules are authorized to dispense medicines on medical prescription.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for Economic Development of NE Region

4247. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds proposed to be provided for the economic development programmes of the north-eastern region during the year 2008-09, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the schemes formulated for the economic development programmes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) For the year 2008-09, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 1455.00 crores for expenditure by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for economic development programmes of the North Eastern Region. There is no State-wise allocation of funds. In addition, all eligible Ministries are required to spend 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support in the North East, amounting to approximately Rs. 14992 crore (excluding allocation of Ministry of Railways) in 2008-09. The Government has also set apart a sum of Rs. 500 crore in a fund dedicated to tackle the special problems being faced by North East region and, especially, Arunachal Pradesh and the border areas, through a special mechanism. Also, the Union Government supports State Plans.

(b) For the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region had proposed to the Planning Commission an allocation of Rs. 14409.08 crore for the economic development of North Eastern Region under various Plan Schemes as given below:

Sl. No.	Plan Schemes	11th Plan proposals (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)	6000.00
2.	North Eastern Council (NEC)	6000.00

1	2	3
3.	Loans to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI)	500.00
4.	Advocacy & Publicity	50.00
5.	Capacity Building & Technical Assistance	100.00
6.	Development of cities and roads in NE States	1562.80
7.	NER Livelihood Project with World Bank assistance	5.00
8.	Schemes of Bodoland Territorial Council	191.28
	Total	14409.08

Besides, all eligible Union Ministries formulate schemes and projects for their obligation to spend 10% GBS in the North East.

[English]

Female Contraceptive

4248. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to introduce Condoms for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any awareness campaign is likely to be carried out for the usage of such condoms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Female condoms are being distributed through selected NGOs implementing targeted intervention programmes among the female sex workers in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal with the support of State AIDS Control Societies, at the subsidized rate of Rs. 5/- per piece. In 2008-09, female condoms will be made available in all the targeted interventions for female sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) The Information, Education and Communication activities for promoting female condoms were conducted in all the above mentioned States and will continue under the targeted intervention programme.

Health and Environment Hazards due to Industrial Pollution

4249. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-crore industries continue to pose a danger to health and environment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is not taking serious action despite warning by the researchers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the health of children from ill-effects of Industrial Pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, all industries are required to obtain consent to establish and consent to operate as well as authorization under Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. Many of the large scale industries having large investment fall under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries and grossly polluting industries (GPI). As on

December 2007, a total of 2718 number of 17 categories of industries have been monitored. Out of these 1955 industries are reportedly complying with pollution control norms, 437 industries have been found defaulters and 326 industries have been closed down. Likewise, a total of 1145 number of grossly polluting industries have been monitored. Out of these, 750 industries are reportedly complying, 109 industries are defaulters and 286 industries have been closed down. Action is taken against the defaulter units, which are found operating in violation of the pollution control laws.

As specified in the notification on Environmental Impact Assessment dated 14th September 2006, the new industries or developmental projects are required to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC). During the process of EC, the issues relating to health, safety and environment are examined by the Environment Impact Assessment Authority (EIAA) at the Central level or by the concerned State Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) at the State level.

Release of Funds to States for Development Projects

4250. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released and utilised for developmental projects during the last three years to each State, State-wise;

(b) the States falling short of targets on developmental projects and non-utilisation of Plan allocations released to them;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to establish link between the release of funds to States and targets achieved at regional and sub-regional level and intervene to ensure corrections where States falter in achieving targets set against the allocation of funds made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Planning Commission does not provide project-wise funds to the States while approving their Annual Plans. The details of plan outlay approved by Planning Commission and actual expenditure during the last three years (i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08) State-wise and year-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The responsibility of spending State's Annual Plan funds lies with the State Governments. A proportionate cut is made in Normal Central Assistance to States based on the shortfall in expenditure *vis-a-vis* Revised/Approved Outlays. No new policy is proposed to estimate a link between the release of plan assistance and the achievement of targets at regional and sub-regional level.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	States	Annual Plan-2005-06		Annual Plan-2006-07		Annual Plan-2007-08	
		Originally Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Originally Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Originally Approved Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15,650.77	13,439.41	20,000.00	18,206.99	30,500.00	29,982.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	950.00	738.41	1,056.00	892.14	1,320.00	1,277.52
3.	Assam	3,000.00	1,868.70	3,798.00	2,758.48	3,800.00	3,800.00
4.	Bihar	5,329.65	4,465.50	8,250.00	8,549.70	10,200.00	10,200.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	4,275.00	3,465.11	5,378.06	5,106.95	7,413.72	6,805.63
6.	Goa	1,025.00	958.25	1,200.00	1,069.96	1,430.00	1,853.50
7.	Gujarat	11,000.00	11,000.00	12,503.50	14,384.46	16,000.00	16,000.00
8.	Haryana	3,000.00	2,996.77	3,300.00	3,928.71	5,300.00	5,502.35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1,600.00	1,676.18	1,800.00	2,017.23	2,100.00	2,100.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4,200.00	3,555.62	4,347.67	3,406.19	4,000.00	5,000.00
11.	Jharkhand	4,510.12	4,079.13	6,500.00	3,883.02	6,676.00	641.61
12.	Karnataka	13,555.00	12,678.00	16,166.00	17,227.95	17,782.58	17,782.58$
13.	Kerala	5,369.00	3,878.43	6,210.00	4,558.64	6,950.00	6,950.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7,471.00	7,443.24	9,020.00	9,531.82	12,011.00	12,426.45
15.	Maharashtra	11,000.00	14,674.21	14,829.00	15,681.38	20,200.00	16,148.03
16.	Manipur	985.37	610.90	1,160.00	1,045.56	1,374.31	1,420.40
17.	Meghalaya	800.00	687.78	900.00	759.81	1,120.00	1,128.51
18.	Mizoram	685.00	692.64	758.00	702.44	850.00	851.15
19.	Nagaland	620.00	647.84	760.00	693.29	900.00	939.79
20.	Orissa	3,000.00	2,818.82	3,500.00	3,630.51	5,105.00	5,520.00
21.	Punjab	3,550.00	3,824.76	4,000.00	5,751.83	5,111.00	5,111.00
22.	Rajasthan	8,350.00	7,699.83	8,501.42	8,969.31	11,638.86	13,002.51
23.	Sikkim	500.00	472.43	550.00	450.17	691.14	656.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	9,100.00	8,784.07	12,500.00	12,677.04	14,000.00	14,209.68
25.	Tripura	804.00	745.94	950.00	891.62	1,220.00	1,220.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13,500.00	13,522.85	19,000.00	20,341.68	25,000.00	25,001.68
27.	Uttarakhand	2,700.00	3,025.81	4,000.00	3,250.09	4,378.63	4,378.63
28.	West Bengal	6,476.00	5,989.77	8,024.36	6,935.49	9,150.00	9,150.00

* : Revised Outlay.

$: Approved Outlay.

[Translation]

Slow Pace of Work on NHs

4251. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widening and construction work of National Highways is running with slow pace particularly on Chandigarh-Kiratpur, Amritsar-Pathankot and Jallandhar-Amritsar Stretches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up based on the inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The status of Chandigarh-Kiratpur, Amritsar-Pathankot and Jalandhar-Amritsar stretches are as under:

(i) Chandigarh-Kiratpur stretch: The Chandigarh-Kurali section is of 28.6 km length. Out of this, the stretch from km 0.0 to km 11.4 is four/six laned. Four laning from km 11.4 to 15.4 has been sanctioned for Rs. 13.51 crore on 31.03.2008 by Ministry. Four laning of the remaining section from km 15.4 to 28.6 is to be taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. The 4-laning of Kurali-Kiratpur section has been awarded in June 2007 on BOT basis and the work is likely to be completed by June 2010.

(ii) Jalandhar-Amritsar stretch: The Detailed Project (DPR) to take up the work of four-laning on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) toll basis for Jalandhar-Dhilwan section has been updated by the consultant. The bidding process shall be started after Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) clearance. The four-laning of Dhilwan to Verka Chowk, Amritsar section has been started in May 2006 and the work is targeted to be completed by November 2008.

(iii) Amritsar-Pathankot Stretch: The Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation for four laning of this stretch is in advance stage of completion. The bidding process shall be started after Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) clearance.

[English]

Uranium Mining in A.P.

4252. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has submitted any proposal to the Environment Ministry for environmental clearance for its uranium mining and processing plant in A.P.;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given clearance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Atomic Energy had submitted proposals seeking approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for setting up mines and mills by Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department, at

(i) Four Mines at Lambapur-Peddagattu and a Mill at Seripally in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) A Mine and a Mill at Tummalapalle in the Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All necessary requirements of MoEF were complied with.

UN Resolution on Terrorism

4253. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to curb and control the threat of Terrorism and to prevent human rights violations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution on 'Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism'. The resolution unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It calls upon the international community to strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism, and to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with international human rights obligations.

(c) Government remain strongly committed to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to fulfil its obligations for protection of human rights.

Embryonic Stem Cell Therapy

4254. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many clinics in the country are conducting embryonic stem cell therapy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the embryonic stem cells for therapeutic use is restricted worldwide; and

(d) whether ICMR is conducting an enquiry regarding the use of the above stem cell therapy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research, responsible for carrying research activities in the areas of drug development, delivery techniques, diagnostics and devices, clinical trials etc. has informed that they have not undertaken any study regarding centres involved in use of embryonic stem cells for therapeutic purpose. Only NuTech Mediworld, Gautam Nagar, Delhi has claimed using human embryonic stem cell for therapy in different clinical conditions.

(c) Use of embryonic stem cell for therapeutic purpose is restricted worldwide due to complicated scientific, ethical, social and legal issues requiring extra care and expertise in scientific and ethical evaluation of protocols.

(d) No, Sir. However, Council conducts need based site visits to centres involved in stem cell research and therapy to review infrastructure and expertise.

[Translation]

Incentives to Indian Doctors Practising Abroad

4255. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide special facility incentives to the doctors of Indian origin practicing abroad for facilitating their return to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help medical services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Recently, the Central Government has notified the recognition of post graduate medical qualifications awarded to Indian citizens in Australia, Canada, New-Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America, in order to facilitate their return to India.

Polio Eradication with Complete Sanitation Programme

4256. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to combine the Polio eradication programme with complete sanitation programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

Population of Aged People

4257. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aged males and females above 60 years in the country at present, State-wise/UT-wise; and

(b) the schemes/provisions that exist for special treatment of such aged people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Based on the Census 2001, there were about 3.77 crores males and 3.88 crores females in the country above the age of 60 years. The State-wise and UT-wise number of such persons is contained in the enclosed statement.

(b) Aged people (senior citizens) are at present provided health care facilities as part of the general health care delivery system at various levels of health care. Certain facilities like separate registration counters are available for senior citizens in Government hospitals. In addition, a provision of Rs. 400 crores has been made for the National Programme for Health Care for the Elderly during 11th Five Year Plan.

Statement

State-wise Population (60+) in all States/UTs—Census 2001

Sl.No.	States	Population 60+		
		Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	675324	365827	309497
2.	Himachal Pradesh	547564	270846	276718
3.	Punjab	2191693	1111691	1080002
4.	Chandigarh	44912	23744	21168
5.	Uttaranchal	654356	326715	327641
6.	Haryana	1584089	795383	788706
7.	Delhi	719650	366466	353184
8.	Rajasthan	3810272	1828925	1981347
9.	Uttar Pradesh	11649468	6174894	5474574
10.	Bihar	5501274	2922005	2579269
11.	Sikkim	29040	16391	12649
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	49916	26417	23499
13.	Nagaland	90323	50736	39587
14.	Manipur	145470	73233	72237
15.	Mizoram	49023	24800	24223
16.	Tripura	232549	112656	119898
17.	Meghalaya	105726	54016	51710
18.	Assam	1560366	800585	759781
19.	West Bengal	5700099	2784491	2915600

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Jharkhand	1578662	787234	791428
21.	Orissa	3039100	1502730	1536370
22.	Chhattisgarh	1504383	689685	814698
23.	Madhya Pradesh	4280924	2091793	2,189,131
24.	Gujarat	3499063	1628474	1,870,589
25.	Daman and Diu	8042	3322	4720
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8814	3882	4932
27.	Maharashtra	8454660	3932201	4522459
28.	Andhra Pradesh	5788078	2757588	3030490
29.	Karnataka	4062022	1923730	2138292
30.	Goa	112273	49676	62597
31.	Lakshadweep	3729	1884	1845
32.	Kerala	3335675	1484212	1851463
33.	Tamil Nadu	5507400	2735800	2771600
34.	Pondicherry	81016	36461	44555
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17366	9834	7532
	Total	76,622,321	37,768,327	38,853,994

[English]

Strikes by Doctors

4258. SHR GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether a public interest petition has sought the intervention of the Apex Court pleading for action against doctors resorting to frequent strikes or violating the oath of office;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government and the decision of the Apex Court?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Containers at Nhava Sheva (Mumbai) Port

4259. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of containers at Nhava-Sheva (Mumbai) Port, which is affecting the export of goods particularly of onions;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the shortage of containers at the said port?

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

(b) and (c) Empty containers for export of goods are arranged and provided by shipping lines. No complaint regarding shortage of containers for export has been received by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.

Manufacturing and Marketing of Anti-Smoking Drug by Pfizer Inc.

4260. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has given permission to Pfizer Inc. for manufacturing and marketing of anti-smoking drug in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban the manufacturing and marketing of the said drug; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not granted permission to M/s. Pfizer Inc. to manufacture anti-smoking drug. However, permission has been granted to M/s Pfizer Ltd. for import and marketing of finished formulation of Varenicline tablet 0.5 mg/1 mg in May, 2007.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The drug is currently being marketed in many countries including India, UK, USA, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia etc. The drug has neither been withdrawn nor banned in any country.

Financial Assistance to Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme

4261. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial assistance for Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(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) Yes, Sir. A pilot project for implementation of Health Insurance Scheme from Andhra Pradesh for Anantapur, Mahaboobnagar and Srikakulam Districts was received with the request for providing funds to the tune of Rs. 46.20 crores. The proposal received from Government of Andhra Pradesh deviated from the framework for Health Insurance under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] for providing funding support to the States under this scheme. Also the number of BPL families estimated by the State was not as per the Planning Commission guidelines. As such an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been agreed for the year 2007-08, as token support, appreciating the new initiative of the State Government, for implementation of the pilot project in three Districts.

Government of Andhra Pradesh implemented the Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme in five more districts of Chittoor, East Godavari, West Godavari, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy in Second Phase from 5th December 2007 with funding from the State resources. Proposal for extension of the Scheme to 15 more districts during the year 2008-09 has been made by the State Government in the Programme Implementation Plan [PIP] of 2008-09 under NRHM.

Consumption of Iodised Salt

4262. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether only 51 percent people consume iodised salt in the country as reported in the *Hindu* dated March 30, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey regarding iodised salt intake among the people in the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the disease caused due to deficiency of iodine is still a threat in the country; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to create awareness amongst the people about the intake of iodised salt and to ensure availability of iodised salt to the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per National Family Health Survey NFHS III about 51% population of the country is consuming adequately iodated salt. The Government has already issued restrictions on the sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption under the PFA Act, 1954 with effect from 17th May 2006 Act/Rules in the entire country. However, there is no ban on the sale of salt for iodisation, iron fortification, preservation, Medicinal, animal and industrial use with proper label declarations.

(e) As per surveys conducted by Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutes out of 524 districts surveyed covering all States/UTs, 263 districts are endemic to IDD where the prevalence is more than 10%. Thus no State/UT is free from IDD.

(f) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP), the Government is promoting the use of iodised salt for prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders. Various prototype publicity materials in the form of posters and pamphlets were prepared by different agencies and distributed to all States/UTs. Besides printing materials, extensive information education communication (IEC) activities are being conducted through Doordarshan, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity, State Health Directorates etc.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Medical Infrastructure and Doctors in Rural Areas

4263. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the health care personnel are not willing to work in the far-flung rural areas of the country due to non-availability of basic infrastructure including accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or 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) and (b) In rural areas, primary health care services are being provided through a network of 145272 Sub-centres (SCs), 22370 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 4045 Community Health Centres (CHCs) as on March, 2007.

A SC has one Female (ANM) and one Male Health Worker with a provision of one LHV for six such Sub-Centres. A total 161445 Health Worker (Female)/ANMs are in position in SCs & PHCs in rural areas. A total 62881 Health Worker (Male) are in position in SCs in rural areas.

PHC has a Medical Officer and 14 other staff. A total 15546 Health Worker (Female)/LHVs 20234 Health Assistants (Male) and 22608 doctors are in position in PHCs in rural areas.

CHC is expected to have Four Medical specialists i.e. Surgeon, Physician, Gynecologist and Pediatrician supported by 21 paramedical and other staff. A total of 5117 Specialists, 1740 radiographers are in position in CHCs. A total of 17919 Pharmacists, 12101 Lab. Technicians and 29776 Nurse Midwife/Staff Nurses are in position at PHCs and CHCs.

Residential facilities for the doctors and other staff are also available in some health premises.

(c) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation/strengthening/establishment of new centres including construction of residential building for doctors and other staff. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans (PIP).

[English]

Study on Ecological and Environmental Impact on Sethu Samudram Project

4264. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Ecological and Environmental Research Institute (NEERI) has conducted any study on the ecological and environmental impact of the Sethu Samudram project;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted about the likely impact of Tsunami to the Sethu Samudram Project; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur has carried out an Environment Impact Assessment study for the Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project. The study predicted certain impacts which are addressed in the Environmental Management Plan for the project. Based on the above study and the Environmental Management Plan, the Ministry of Environment and Forests accorded environmental clearance to this project.

(c) and (d) M/s Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, under Ministry of Shipping, has informed that the animation models of Tsunami evolved by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan and M/s Indomer Hydraulics Private Limited, India indicate that the Sethusamudram project region would be least affected. Further, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has informed that the damages due to tsunami can be only along near shore beach areas because of the resistance effect of the near shore structures against the tsunami passage, whereas Sethusamudram Shipping Canal will not show any such resistance except for the bed scouring.

India's Concern Over Pak Assistance to Terrorists

4265. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has expressed its concern over the continued help by Pakistan to various terrorist outfits to launch attacks on India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Pakistani Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. India's concerns have been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan repeatedly, including at the highest level. The issue of terrorism is discussed with Pakistan at the Foreign Secretary talks and the Home Secretary Level talks within the Composite Dialogue, and in the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism (JATM) set up in September 2006. Government expect the Government of Pakistan to implement its commitment at the highest level in the 6 January 2004 Joint Press Statement that it would not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

[Translation]

Economic Disparity among States

4266. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge economic disparity among people of various States in the country;

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

(c) whether this disparity is the result of lack of overall development of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any special Development Scheme in the Eleventh Plan for the overall development of the backward States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the names of those States where the proposed Scheme is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) It is a fact that there is inter-State and intra-State economic disparity in the country. Economic disparities result from varying factors such as differences in resource endowment, geographical and historical characteristics and availability of infrastructure.

(d) The Government launched the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07 in order to address the problem of regional imbalance in the country. This scheme will continue during the Eleventh Plan.

(e) The BRGF has two components. The first component, namely, the Districts Component covers 250 districts of 27 States (except Goa) and aims to fill critical gaps in infrastructure with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The second component comprises of Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa. The Special Plan for Bihar has been formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development. The Special Plan for the KBK districts is aimed to bring about overall development of these districts by filling critical gaps in various sectors. An allocation of Rs. 5800 crore was made for the programme as a whole for 2007-08 and the same allocation has been made for 2008-09.

Review of Functioning of AIIMS

4267. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether any Expert Committee has been constituted to review the working of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the said report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) A Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan, consisting of Shri P.K. Hota, former Secretary (H&FW), Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. R.K. Srivastava, Director General of Health Services as Members was constituted to study the functioning of AIIMS and to make recommendations for further development of the institute. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

The committee has, inter alia, made the following recommendations:

1. AIIMS should develop a mission statement reflecting priorities which should be education, research and services like great medical universities so that pressure for expansion of hospital services do not lead to gradual marginalization of education in research. The statement of goals and programmes should identify its role in human resources development that will enhance the nation's strength to fight disease, promoting scientific discoveries and innovation of their application to improve public health.

2. AIIMS should develop new modals of UP/PG medical education relating to public health of the country and recent technologies. The K.L. Vig Centre to be reactivated as a vibrant unit of innovation and advancement in medical education.

3. Undergraduate training provided by AIIMS need to be reoriented to meet socio-cultural needs of the people of the nation.

4. AIIMS should be a key partner in emerging national programmes. Accordingly, it should be its endevour to join other reputed institutes to develop tools sought by public health organizations, such as instruments disposable devices, diagnostic kits, vaccine etc. and transfer the technology for application.

5. To set up and affiliate self-financing, non-profit body, viz. 'AIIMS INTERNATIONAL' which would draw upon intellectual and professional strengths of AIIMS for its Global Mission.

6. To set up a new personnel department to monitor the loss/impending loss of faculty/skilled manpower.

7. To develop a new personnel policy which should also cover the acceptable ratio to faculty to non-teaching staff and Group 'A' to other support staff.

8. To streamline the recruitment process with a view to eliminating inbreeding in selection/ promotion of faculty and other staff; also to entrust the recruitment to various recruiting organizations like UPSC, SSC etc.

9. To set up Project Planning & Monitoring Committee to avoid time overrun and high cost overrun of major projects; in the context of undue delay in completion of major projects and to ensure timely completion it has been recommended no projects should be launched without the DPR duly approved by GB/Central Government.

10. Expansion plans of AIIMS should be evaluated in the light of AIIMS's aims and objectives and not merely in terms of engineering feasibility; expansion in OPD should be coupled with introduction of MD course in family medicine.

11. Establishment of two Research Councils to review and monitor ongoing progress of research, quality of publications, generation of external grants, plans for starting or expanding research facilities and to make recommendations to GB every year; the Research Council should also play role in advancing the industrial linkage in R&D Projects.

12. Made specific recommendations on the governance structure of AIIMS and consequential Amendments to Act, Rules/Regulations.

[English]

Revival of Loss Making Coal Companies through People's Participation

4268. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item entitled "People's power puts BCCI. back on track" as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March, 21, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereot;

(c) whether the Government proposes similar revival programme for other sick coal companies in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) The Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) was incurring losses since nationalisation in 1972. The networth of the company was fully eroded on 31.03.1995 and it was registered as a sick company with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The networth of the company became Rs. 463.51 crore as on 31.03.1998 after getting capital restructuring package approved by the Government i.e. deregulation of coal prices, waiver of interests, capital restructuring, conversion of Rs. 996.00 crores loan of Coal India Limited (CIL) into equity etc. The networth of the company again became negative by 1999-2000 and company was again referred to BIFR on 13.01.2001. The annual losses incurred reduced the company's networth to (-) Rs. 4926.00 crore in 2004-05. However, the company made a turn around after 2004-05 and profits made since then are as follows:

Year	
2005-06	Rs. 202.67 crore
2006-07	Rs. 49.58 crore
2007-08 (provisional)	Rs. 85.17 crore* (*without considering the impact of provision for National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) VIII of Rs. 275 crore).

This has been possible by several steps taken by the company with the cooperation of people union etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The only other subsidiary of CIL under reference to BIFR is the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). The Government have already approved a Revival Plan for ECL on 5th October 2006, based on the

concurrence of BIFR and the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE).

Establishment of Joint Laboratory for Cancer and Neuro Disorders by India and France

4269. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to establish a joint laboratory in the area of green sustainable chemistry targeting therapeutic agents for cancer and neuro disorders;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) CSIR and the French National Science Research Institute have entered into an agreement in January, 2008 for creation of Joint Research Laboratory on sustainable chemistry. The research partnership will be in the area of Green Chemistry targeting therapeutic agents for cancer and neuro disorders protein interactions for targeting alternative drugs/biological system.

(c) The Indo-French agreement may help in development of new theraputic agents.

Outsourcing Management of Ships by SCI

4270. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) proposes to outsource management of ships;

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

(c) whether Seafarers Associations are opposing this move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the business dynamics and availability of qualified and competent manpower, the shipping companies all over world including some Indian companies often place their vessels for manning and management under the charge of competent and qualified managers in course of their business. The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)'s decision is primarily actuated by the acute shortage of qualified and competent seafaring officers which in the recent past has resulted in the loss of trading days.

(c) and (d) The seafarer's unions namely Maritime Union of India (MUI), National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) and Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) along with SCI Officers Association and SCI Staff Union Jointly opposed the notice issued by SCI inviting tenders for manning and technical management of 30 vessels. The Seafarer's Unions apprehend loss of job of the seafarer's as a result of placing the SCI vessels on manning and technical management. SCI Officers Association and SCI Staff Union alleged that the jobs of clerical/technical nature could not be outsourced under the agreement with the Staff Union. They also demanded stopping of the tendering process and convening a meeting with them.

A reply was sent by SCI to MUI, NUSI, FSUI, SCI Staff Union and the SCI Officers Association on February 8, 2008 explaining the rationale of the decision and assuring that there would be no loss of employment opportunities and the SCI management will completely abide by all subsisting agreements and settlements. It was also clarified that a settlement in relation to the shore staff that is non-seafaring personnel provided that only the clerical jobs which are of perennial nature would not be outsourced and that the contract would not in any manner run contrary to the said settlement. The Seafaring Unions were assured that in the event of manning and technical management being outsourced, the Seafarer's would continue to be employed. The management also had a meeting with the representatives of the Unions to address their concern and to assure them that in the event the vessels were outsourced, they would be taken into confidence. Government has been informed by the SCI about their decision.

Utilization of Funds Under MPLAD Scheme

4271. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken under MPLAD Scheme in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds allocated for such works under MPLADS were not fully utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the balance funds are likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) As per the information received from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 51 works were undertaken under the MPLAD Scheme during the last three years. Of these, 31 works have been completed and 20 works are in progress. These works relate to different sectors viz. Education, Drinking Water, Roads, Rural Development, etc.

(b) The MPLADS funds are non-lapsable. As reported by the Union Territory of the A&N Islands, of the total funds received from the Government of India, there is an unspent balance of Rs. 24,56,901.42, including interest accrued.

(c) and (d) The reasons for funds not being fully utlized, inter-alia, include: Balance payments to be made for ongoing works and for new works, release of funds to implementing agencies only after administrative and financial approvals. The nature and dynamics of the MPLAD Scheme does not envisage any fixed time limit for utilization of balance funds. For ongoing and new works funds are disbursed as per para 4.15 of the MPLADS Guidelines.

Procedure for Driving Licence

4272. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether the different State Governments have different methods and procedures for testing and issue of driver's licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received representations from Road Safety Forum of different States to develop standard for testing and issue procedures for drivers licence all over the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to introduce uniform procedure for driving test and issue of driving licence in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Chapter II of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Chapter II of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 prescribe a body of rules for testing and examination prior to grant of driving licences. These Rules also prescribe procedure for granting the licence, validity in terms of various classes of vehicles and the time period and are applicable uniformly throughout the country. Further, Section 28 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 empowers the State Governments for appointment of the licensing authorities and determining their jurisdiction, functions etc.

(c) and (d) This Department had received representation from Road Safety Forum, Andhra Pradesh regarding uniform system of Driving Licence in the country. They have suggested certain common guidelines for the Driver's Test, authorizing proven NGOs to test the drivers and issue driving licence at the National level.

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

National Population Commission

4273. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the broad achievements of the National Commission on Population;

(b) the aims and objectives of National Population Stabilization Fund;

(c) the details of the programmes undertaken under this Fund and achievements thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise?

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

(b) The aims and objectives of National Population Stabilization Fund now named Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) is as under:-

(i) To provide or undertake activities aimed to achieve population stabilization, at a level consistent with the needs of sustainable economic growth, social development and environment protection, by 2045.

(ii) To promote and support schemes, programmes, projects and initiatives for meeting the unmet needs for contraception and reproductive and child health care.

(iii) To promote and support innovative ideas in the Government, private and voluntary sector with a view to achieve the objectives of the National Population Policy 2000.

(iv) To facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in favour of the national effort for population stabilization.

(v) To provide a window for canalizing contributions from individuals, trade organizations and others within the country and outside, in furtherance of the national cause of population stabilization.

(c) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Year-wise expenditure of JSK during tenth Five Year Plan is as under:

Year	Revenue Expenditure	Capital Expenditure
2005-06	Rs. 5,612	—
2006-07	Rs. 45,73,026	Rs. 14,67,162

Statement I

Keeping in view the Terms of reference of National Commission on Population (NCP), the following activities have been undertaken:

- The NCP in collaboration with ICMR has undertaken an exercise to identify the high fertility districts in the country. Thereafter, a meeting of the District Magistrates of the 133 high fertility districts was convened to sensitize them about the population issues and prepare projects as per needs of the districts. Additional Central assistance of Rs. 39.50 crore was provided to 67 districts in 13 States for undertaking population specific activities.

- Using the data from Census 2001 and other sources, the NCP has ranked and mapped 569 districts of the country on the basis of 12 social, economic and demographic indicators and composite index based on them

- A Conference of the experts and organizations like Population Research Centres (PRCs), Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Council for Medical Research, Institute for Economic Growth, New Delhi, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), UNICEF, noted demographers, NGOs etc. was organized for improving demographic research in the country. Few studies were sponsored through these organizations.

- In an effort to develop appropriate models/ strategies and to understand innovative policies and programmes, field visits were organized to the states, districts as well as to village Panchayats in high fertility areas.

- On the basis of the decisions taken at the first Conference of the Commission and the Strategic Support Group, the NCP constituted the following Working Groups:

1. Working Group on Strategies to Address the Unmet Needs (This group had four sub-groups):

   (i) Sub-Group on strategies to address unmet needs for constraception.

   (ii) Sub-Group on unment needs for maternal and child health.

   (iii) Sub-Group on unmet needs for public health, drinking water, sanitation and nturition.

   (iv) Sub-Group on Strategies for Empowerment of Women, Development of Children and issues on adolescents.

2. Working Group on Primary and Secondary Education in Relation to Population Stabilization.

3. The High Powered Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy into the Health System.

4. Working Group on Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

5. Task Force on Monitoring.

6. Working Group on the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Self Help Groups.

7. Working Group on Media for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Motivation.

8. Advisory Group on Tribal Communities.

The recommendations/reports prepared by these Groups were integrated to the extent possible in the policies and programmes on Population issues as well as in framing 10th five year plan.

- In order to improve he physical performance in Family Welfare programme in demographically weaker states, NCP convened periodic review meetings with State Health Ministers, State Chief Secretaries/Health Secretaries etc.

- The NCP was reconstituted on 11th April 2005 with 40 members under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Minister of Health & FW and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are Vice Chairmen of the Commission. The membership also includes the Chief Ministers of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In the first meeting of the reconstituted National Commission on Population held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23rd July 2005, the progress of population programmes was reviewed and following decisions were taken:

    1. Conduct of an Annual Health Survey of all districts which could be published annually so that health indicators at district level are periodically published, monitored and compared against benchmarks.

    2. Setting up of five groups of experts for studying the population profile of the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to identify weaknesses in the health delivery systems and to suggest measures that would be taken to improve the health and demographic status of the States.

In accordance with the above decisions, the five Experts Groups have been constituted for studying the population profile of the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and to identify weaknesses in the health delivery systems with the suggestions to improve the health and demographic status of these States. The draft reports of these Groups have been submitted. The conduct of Annual health survey of districts has been assigned to the Registrar General, India.

- NCP has also brought out following publications:-

    1. Population Projection for India and States, 2001-2026

    2. Ranking and Mapping of Districts-Based on Socio-economic and demographic Indicators, 2007

    3. Hidden Child Mortality in Maharashtra—A multi site field study.

Statement II

- JSK has mapped 450 districts in India through a unique amalgamation of GIS maps and Census data which gives a picture of each district, its sub-divisions and the population of every village along with the distance to the health facility.

- JSK has started a Call Centre to give information in reproductive health and family planning in English and Hindi, using computer based software.

- JSK has introduced two unique strategies names "Prerna" and "Santushti". "Prerna" provides an opportunity for couples who have fulfilled specific responsible parenthood criteria to become entitled to receive a reward. Under the "Santushti" strategy private gynecologists are being encouraged to perform 100 tubectomy (laproscopic sterilization operation)/NSV each for

which the doctors will be paid according to compensation rates already notified by the Government.

- On World Population Day—11th July, 2007, JSK brought together 500 adolescents and youth from the underserved villages of Bihar, Chhattisgarh Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and exposed them to a 2 day session on responsible parenthood.

- Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) had organized a two-day Brainstorming Workshop on Innovations in imparting Reproductive & Child Health and Family Planning Services at the Village Level on 26-27th November, 2007 at National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi.

It is too early to assess the achievement of JSK, as the structure and the systems of JSK has just been put into place. The funds available with JSK are too meager to support any State specific large scale activitiy.

[Translation]

Telemedicine Scheme

4274. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telemedicine scheme proposed for providing healthcare solutions in the rural areas;

(b) whether free of cost treatment to all the patients would be provided under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds released and utilized by different States during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government has launched National Rural Telemedicine Network (NRTN) initiative during FY 2007-08 for e-moding healthcare solutions in rural areas. Generic guidelines for setting up telemedicine initiatives have been disseminated to states along with seed funding for initiating the proposals. These guidelines include generic formats of information Technology protocols, medical equipments and human resources required management structures etc. Subject to these guidelines, states are encouraged to scale up existing telemedicine initiatives and set up new initiatives to improve availability of healthcare services in rural areas using information technology tools. The NRTN is part of public health delivery system and no additional costs are expected to be incurred by users for accessing these services.

Under the NRTN, seed funding of Rs. 1 crore each (to Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Haryana), Rs. 50 lakh each (to Orissa, Rajasthan, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 53 lakh to Punjab) and Rs. 25 lakh (to each North eastern State) has been released during the first year of the scheme (i.e. FY 2007-08).

Delay in Implementation of NMDP

4275. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether 85 percent projects out of 276 projects under the National Marine Development Programme are running behind the schedule;

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

(c) whether a large number of irregularities in the NMDP project have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the project on time and the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in the irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Implementation of projects is a continuous process from the conception of the project, preparation of feasibility report, identifying the source of funds, preparation of Detailed Project Reports, commencement of the project and its final completion. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), 276 projects have been

identified in the Port sector for implementation in the Major Ports which are to be taken up by 2011-12. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the Port sector which include berth development, deepening of channel, procurement of equipment and port craft, rail/ road connectivity and other associated work. Till date 29 projects of the Port sector with total cost of Rs. 3846 crore have been completed under NMDP.

(c) and (d) No irregularities have come to the notice of the Government.

(e) The projects under NMDP are being taken up by the respective Major Ports as per the phasing of the schemes and the current requirement of trade for various facilities.

Long Distance Passenger Steamer Service

4276. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing passenger steamer services that are in vogue, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to start long distance passenger steamer service through inland waterways;

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

(d) the time by which such services is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC) do not operate passenger ferry services in Inland Waterways/National Waterways. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), another organization under the Administrative Control under this Ministry, is running passenger ferry services. The details of passenger services run by the SCI are given in the enclosed Statement. Some State Governments such as Government of Assam, Kerala and West Bengal and Private Operators are also reported to operate passenger ferry services in National Waterways/Maritime waters.

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

Statement

Sl.No.	Vessel Name	Owner	Year Built	Capacity		Plying Between
				Pax	Cargo	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	MV Nicobar	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1991	1200	1500	Port Blair/Kolkata/Vizag/Chennai
2.	MV Akbar	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1971	1576	1500	Port Blair/Kolkata/Vizag/Chennai
3.	MV Harshevardhana	SCI	1974	749	1500	Port Blair/Kolkata/Vizag/Chennai
4.	MV Swaraj Dweep	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1999	1200	1500	Port Blair/Chennai
5.	MV Nancowry	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1991	1200	1500	Port Blair/Chennai
6.	MV Chowra	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1983	300	205	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
7.	MV Sentinel	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1982	300	205	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
8.	MV Dering	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1992	288	-	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
9.	MV Yerewa	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	1964	209	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
10.	MV Ramanujam	SCI	1972	753	-	Inter-Islands, Port Blair

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	MV Kalighat	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2004	400	100	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
12.	Shompen	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	Hospital Vsl	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
13.	Rangat	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	100	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
14.	Baratang	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	100	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
15.	Chouldari	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	100	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
16.	Jolly Bouy	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	100	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
17.	Wandoor	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	100	Nil	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
18.	Long Island	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	75	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
19.	ONGE	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	75	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
20.	Pillowmillow	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	75	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
21.	Katchal	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	75	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
22.	Kamorta	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2001	75	50	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
23.	Hutbay	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2005	100	-	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
24.	Strait Island	Andaman and Nicobar Admn.	2005	100	-	Inter-Islands, Port Blair
25.	MV Tipu Sultan	UTL ADMN	1982	658	-	Kochi-UTL Islands
26.	MV Dweep Setu	UTL ADMN	1984	150	-	Beypore/Mangalore-UTL Islands
27.	MV Hameedath Bee	UTL ADMN	1991	100	-	Inter-Islands, UTL
28.	MV Khadeeja Beevi	UTL ADMN	1991	100	-	Inter-Islands, UTL

[English]

Compulsory Health Insurance Scheme for Government Employees

4277. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make health insurance compulsory for the Central Government employees and pensioners as reported in the "Dainik Bhaskar" dated February 19, 2008;

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

(c) the date by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The feasibility of introducing a health insurance scheme for Central Government servants and pensioners is being explored, which has not yet been finalized.

Water Standard for Soft Drinks

4278. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any standard for the quality of water to be used for making soft drinks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The standards of Carbonated Water, generally known as soft drinks, are laid down vide item A. 01.01 of Appendix B of PFA Rules, 1955, which prescribes that water used in the manufacture of Carbonated Water shall conform to the standards for packaged drinking water prescribed under PFA Rules 1955.

Review of Polio Eradication Programme

4279. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to review the National Polio Eradication Programme;

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

(c) whether some experts have suggested for using injectable vaccination instead of oral polio drops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) National Polio Eradication Programme is reviewed bi-annually by the India Expert Advisory Group on Polio (IEAG) comprising of National and International Experts from World Health Organization (WHO), United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta the last review was undertaken on 19-20th December, 2007. The observations of IEAG are as under:

- Due to accelerated immunization rounds & use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1 (mOPV1) in 2007, wild polio virus type 1 (WPV1) transmission is at low level.
- The population immunity against WPV1 among children in India is high.
- The core districts of western Uttar Pradesh (in Moradabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh and Bareilly sub-divisions) have not reported WPV1 since November 2006.

The IEAG Recommended that in the first half of 2008 the activities should be undertaken with the objective of interrupting WPV1 transmission in the low transmission season, while maintaining good control of wild polio virus tye 3 (WPV3). Taking the IEAG recommendations into consideration following steps have been taken by the Govt. in early part of 2008.

— National Immunization days were implemented in January and February, 2008. mOPV1 was used in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi and other high risk States and Districts and tOPV in other areas.

— Sub National Immunization Round was undertaken in March 2008 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Mumbai and other areas at risk using mOPV1 during 30th March, 2008.

— The migratory population in Punjab and Gujarat are covered whenever SNIDs are conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

— MoP Up immunization rounds have been implemented in response to detection of Wild polio virus in the state of Maharashtra, Haryana, Orissa.

(c) and (d) An expert consultation for IPV use was held at the Indian Council of Medical Research on 27th Aug, 2007. There was no consensus among experts regarding the role of injectable Polio Vaccine in India, geographical areas and age group where it has to be used and its acceptance by the community.

The experts were of the opinion that in the current situation of polio eradication, India should find the shortest way of interrupting the Wild polio virus transmission in its main reservoir of infection i.e. Western Uttar Pradesh.

Toll on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

4280. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the toll fee charged on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, vehicle-wise;

(b) whether the toll fee is continued to be charged even after realizing full cost of the construction;

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

(d) if not, the criteria fixed for discontinuation of toll fee on the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The detail of user fee charges on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway vehicle-wise effective from 01.04.2008 is as under:

Sl.No.	Category of vehicle	Rate of fee per vehicle per trip (in rupees)		
		For vehicles going to IGI Airport	For vehicles crossing the Toll Plaza at Border only	For vehicles crossing the Toll Plaza at Km. 42 only
1.	Truck, 2 axle	34	51	64
2.	Bus, 2 axle	34	51	64
3.	Mini Bus	17	25	32
4.	Light Commercial Vehicle	17	25	32
5.	Car	11	17	21
6.	Multi axle vehicle	34	51	64

(b) and (c) Toll collection on the BOT project has commenced only on 26th Jan 08. The concession period for this project is 20 years starting from 12.01.2003. The concessionaire of this Bild, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Project is entitled to collect the user fee during the concession period in accordance with sub-rule 3(1) and 3(2) of "The National Highways (Collection of fees by any person for the use of section of National Highways/ Permanent Bridge/Temporary Bridge on National Highways) rule, 1997".

Thereafter National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will continue the collection of user fee on the said stretch as per the provision of rule 3(3) of the said rule.

(d) Does not arise.

Racial Discrimination against Indian Students Abroad

4281. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of racial discrimination against Indian students in overseas countries have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the country-wise details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether the helpline introduced by the Government for the welfare of overseas Indians has delivered the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the Indian students abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when compiled.

(c) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) with the following objectives:

- Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration
- Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers

- Grievance redressal and follow up with stakeholders

The OWRC functions with a toll free number 1800 11 3090, accessible from anywhere in India for rendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment. At present the helpline is functioning in seven languages, viz. Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Kanada and Telugu from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm, seven days a week. The Helpline is being availed by a number of emigrant workers and is providing useful assistance to them.

(d) The help-line set up by the MOIA in the OWRC is essentially for emigrating workers and does not cover the Indian student community abroad who are free to approach the nearest Indian Mission/Post abroad for such assistance.

Development of Dual Mode Ramjet and Scramjet Combuster System

4282. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any achievement has been made by ISRO in the Integrated Programme for the development of Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ) and Scramjet combustor system for Air Breathing Propulsion Project (ABPP); and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As part of the advanced technology initiative in the area of Air-Breathing propulsion, a series of ground tests on a supersonic combustion ramjet engine have been successfully carried out. During these tests, a stable combustion has been achieved for nearly 7 seconds at supersonic speeds corresponding to an inlet mach number of 6 (i.e., six times the speed of sound).

Compensation Package to the Families of Deceased Miners

4283. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has raised/ revised the compensation package for its miners and their families in case of death caused due to mine mishaps;

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

(c) whether adequate safety measures still not being adopted in various coal mines; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) The following compensations in case of death caused due to mine accidents are being paid to the families of deceased workers of CIL.

(i) compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act.

(ii) Rs. 40,000/- under Life Cover Scheme and

(iii) an ex-gratia of Rs. 30,000/-

(iv) offer of employment to the eligible kin of the deceased.

Further, CIL Board has approved the payment of Special Relief/Ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakhs to the direct dependant of employee who dies or to the employee who becomes permanently disabled in any Mine Accident arising out of and in the course of employment.

In case of any disaster or any other mine accidents, where there is any special announcement for paying relief from CIL's fund, in that case, the amount of Special Relief/ Ex-gratia shall be the difference between the announced amount and Rs. 5 lakhs. In any case the amount of Special Relief/Ex-gratia paid by CIL shall be limited to Rs. 5 lakhs only.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Adequate measures for safety are already being adopted as required under statute in all mines of CIL.

[Translation]

Greening India Scheme

4284. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for inclusion of voluntary organisations for high tech plantation and afforestation, forestry awareness and survey and maintenance of clonal seed gardens through incentive, research extension under the Greening India Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) This Ministry has received proposals from Madhya Pradesh State for tree planting by 15 voluntary organisations under the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India scheme during 2007-08. However, these proposals of voluntary organizations do not relate to establishment of high-tech nursery, awareness raising and survey, and maintenance of clonal seed gardens through incentive, research or extension.

Out of these 15 proposals of voluntary organizations, following two proposals have been approved for financial assistance for tree planting under the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme during 2007-08:-

Sl.No.	Name of Voluntary Organization	Project Area (in Ha.)	Total Amount Sanctioned	Amount released as first installment
1.	Shrimati Indira Mahila Mandal, Datia, M.P.	50 ha	Rs. 13,65,000/-	Rs. 5,50,000/-
2.	Suman Rani Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Muraina, M.P.	50 ha	Rs. 9,80,000/-	Rs. 3,87,750/-

In addition to above, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 37,60,000/- have been provided to Madhya Pradesh State during 2007-08 under Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme for setting up of 4 High Tech Nurseries and 1 proposal for Awareness Raising through 5 Forest Development Agencies.

[English]

Forest Fire in Melghat Gugamal Tiger Reserve

4285. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to devastating forest fire, a large area of forest and wildlife area engulfed in the Melghat-Gugamal tiger reserves in Amravati District, Maharashtra as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated March 26, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has since taken any steps to prevent forest fires in the tiger reserves and to protect the species of the wildlife; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) A news item about the forest fire in Melghat-Gugamal Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra had appeared in Hindustan Times dated March 26, 2008. As per the news item, the affected area was reported to be 2000-2200 ha. However, as per the report received from the State Forest Department of Maharashtra, no incidence of devastating forest fires has been reported in Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve during the current fire season. However, some fire incidences of ground fire have been reported from the buffer area of Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve. The details of forest area affected due to forest fire during the last three years are as under-

Year	Total Forest Area (sq.km)	Area affected (sq.km)	Percentage
2006	2027.39	124.22	6.13
2007	2027.39	151.58	7.47
2008 (upto 10.04.08)	2027.39	60.97	3.00

(c) and (d) The following measures are adopted to prevent and control the forest fires—

- As per management plan prescriptions, fire protection works are carried out in the Tiger Reserves and protected area. Network of firelines is created.
- During the fire season, round the clock vigil is maintained by engaging fire watchers.
- Special fire patrolling squads are deployed to extinguish the fire.
- Wireless network has been installed in 4 Forest Circles and in 10 Protected Areas.
- Awareness programmes are organized for people living in and around forest areas.

Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various centrally sponsored schemes.

Potholes in NHDP

4286. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many potholes in the National Highways Development Programme as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated March 01, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon;

(c) the funds allocated and spent therefrom for the repairs and maintenance of the National Highways during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the funds which remained unutilised during the said period and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of total allocation of Rs. 9229.50 crore during 2007-08 and unspent fund of previous years for the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) an amount of Rs. 9317.49 crore was spent in 2007-08.

(c) Funds allocated for NHDP are exclusive for development and improvement of identified stretches of National Highways. No funds on repairs and maintenance of other National Highways are spent out of the allocation made for NHDP.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to States

4287. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds proposed to be allocated to each State including Uttar Pradesh during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether this allocation is as per the proposal sent by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The Eleventh Plan (2007-12) Outlay (at 2006-07 price level) for States finalised at the National Development Council meeting held in December, 2007 is given in the enclosed statement. The size of the Plan of States, which is funded by the State's own resources and Central assistance, is finalised after discussions with the State Governments based on an assessment of resource availability.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Projected Outlay (2007-12)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	147395.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7901.01
3.	Assam	23953.69
4.	Bihar	60631.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	53730.43

1	2	3
6.	Goa	8485.22
7.	Gujarat	106918.03
8.	Haryana	33374.42
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13777.87
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	25833.71
11.	Jharkhand	40239.69
12.	Karnataka	101663.51
13.	Kerala	41940.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	70329.28
15.	Maharashtra	127537.72
16.	Manipur	8153.97
17.	Meghalaya	9184.53
18.	Mizoram	5534.04
19.	Nagaland	5977.94
20.	Orissa	32224.52
21.	Punjab	28922.79
22.	Rajasthan	71731.90
23.	Sikkim	4719.89
24.	Tamil Nadu	85344.10
25.	Tripura	8852.52
26.	Uttar Pradesh	181094.19
27.	Uttarakhand	42797.73
28.	West Bengal	63779.21

[English]

Projects Taken up in NER

4288. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects that have been taken up since 2006 in revitalization of the NER;

(b) whether the Government has received any recommendation of project for this area as "THRUST AREA" in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to declare North East Region as a priority Region for development; and

(e) if not, the alternative measures being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest disruptive and violent activities in the region through developmental activities in the Region?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of projects sanctioned under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available on Ministry of DONER's website at www.mdoner.gov.in. The details of projects sanctioned by the North Eastern Council from its Plan allocation in the North Eastern Region in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the NEC's website at www.necouncil.gov.in. In addition, under the Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Scheme of this Ministry, programmes were undertaken to train Government officials and unemployed youth of the region.

(b) to (e) No recommendation of project as Thrust Area project has been received in this Ministry. However, the Central Government has accorded priority to the holistic development of the North Eastern Region. Some important measures taken in this regard are highlighted below:—

- All the eight North Eastern States are treated as Special Category States.
- Since 1998-99, the Central Ministries are required to earmark at least 10% of their GBS for the North-East Region, except those which are specially exempted from it.
- The Government has set up a Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) out of the unspent balance of Central Ministries from their mandatory allocation for the NER. The

Government allocates funds from the NLCPR for infrastructure development in the NER.

- The North Eastern Council, a statutory body, is allocated a budget for taking up regional development projects in the NER.

- The Government has notified the North East Industrial Investment & Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 for promoting industrial development in the Region. The Policy provides various incentives to industrial units located in NE Region, which inter-alia includes 100% excise duty exemption on finished products, 100% income tax exemption, capital investment subsidy up to 30% of investment in plant and machinery and interest subsidy at the rate of 3% on working capital.

Medical Facilities to Senior Citizens in Government Hospitals

4289. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by the Government hospitals including AIIMS regarding medical support to senior citizens;

(b) the number of beds reserved specially for senior citizens for their indoor treatment in each Government hospital including AIIMS;

(c) measures taken to ensure preferential treatment to the senior citizens by the doctors in OPDs; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to make it mandatory for private hospitals to give preference in medical support to the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Government hospitals have usually separate registration counters for senior citizens so as to avoid their standing in long queues for registration. Further assistance like wheel chairs/trolley etc. are also provided. In some hospitals' OPD, there is separate room for senior citizens and status of being senior citizen is written on OPD card so as to facilitate Doctors provide preference to them. In the AIIMS, a special clinic for the care of senior citizens patients is being run under Department of Medicine for management of various ailments. Similarly, in Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. S.K. Hospital, a separate Geriatic clinic is run for senior citizens. In some Government hospitals beds are reserved for senior citizens while in other Government hospitals they are given preference in admission.

(d) No such proposal is for the time being under consideration of the Government.

Panchayat Training Centres in Gujarat

4290. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayat Training Centres in the State of Gujarat at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish more training centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount released by the Union Government for the establishment of new Panchayat Training Centres in Gujarat State since 2005-06, till date?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Gujarat and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) There is no scheme in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to provide financial assistance to any State Government for the establishment of new Panchayat Training Centres.

Setting up of Healthcare Upgradation Fund

4291. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Healthcare Upgradation Fund to develop infrastructure facilities in the health sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The primary health care services are being provided in rural areas

through a network of 145272 Sub-Centres, 22370 Primary Health Centres and 4045 Community Health Centres as on March 2007. Under National Rural Health Mission, funds are released by the Central Government to all State/UT Governments for upgradation/strengthening/establishment of their SCs, PHCs, and CHCs. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans [PIP].

Development of Mosquito-Proof Coolers

4292. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has developed mosquito-proof coolers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new mosquito-proof desert cooler has been designed by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) in such manner as to prevent egg-laying by mosquitoes in the water tank. It has been attempted to restrict the entry of mosquitoes in the water tank of the cooler by way of completely covering the water tank with a metal sheet, half of which is fixed and other half has a lid fitted with handle to open it. The metal sheet has three openings below each side shutter of the cooler and these openings are covered with fine wire mesh to prevent entry of mosquitoes in the water tank, but to allow water return back to the tank. The water tank of the cooler has provision for water inlet as well as for overflow pipes, which are also fitted with fine wire mesh.

The advantage of mosquito-proof desert cooler over the conventional cooler is that it prevents prolific breeding of mosquitoes like aedes aegypti, which transmit dengue, chickungunya and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Rehabilitation of Ravine Lands

4293. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Task Force at the National level for producing greeneries of the existing ravine lands in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan for providing water and conservation of lands there;

(c) whether the Ministry has consulted the Ministry of Home Affairs to carry out these works; and

(d) the details of the existing ravine lands in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Level Task Force for rehabilitation of Ravine Lands was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 5.12.2005 for a term of two years with the objective of planning, monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation works in ravine areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) State wise details of ravine lands are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Ravine Area (in lakh hectare)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	12.30
2.	Madhya Pradesh	6.83
3.	Rajasthan	4.52
4.	Gujarat	4.00
5.	Bihar	6.00
6.	Maharashtra	0.20
7.	Orissa	1.13
8.	Punjab and Haryana	1.20
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.60
10.	West Bengal	1.04
11.	Others	1.93
	Total	39.75

Financial Assistance to Foreign Countries

4294. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent agency to regulate Indian funding and financial assistance to foreign countries for strategic and political goals with adequate financial powers for taking immediate decisions on grants, loans and aid in case of natural disasters and other emergencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the current policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Finance Minister in his budget speech for FY 2007-08 announced that Government proposes to establish the India International Development Cooperation Agency (IIDCA) to bring all activities relating to India's development cooperation with fellow developing countries under one umbrella. The Ministries of External Affairs, Finance and Commerce and other stakeholders will be represented in IIDCA and Ministry of External Affairs is processing the proposal for implementation. Under current practice, India's overseas development cooperation is implemented through Divisions within Ministry of External Affairs in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

[Translation]

NHs Project in Punjab

4295. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways projects undertaken/proposed to be undertaken in Punjab as on date, stretch-wise and location-wise;

(b) the status of each of the ongoing project, stretch-wise;

(c) the fund allocated and spent for each of the project;

(d) whether the land acquisition procedure for widening the National Highway No. 1 from Jalandhar to Jammu has been completed and the compensation to the affected persons has been finalized; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the compensation is likely to be provided to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 47 works amounting to Rs. 213.78 crore have been currently undertaken and 29 works of about Rs. 165.00 crore are proposed to be undertaken in the Annual Plan 2008-09 through the State PWD, Punjab. The details of these works are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively. 8 projects amounting to Rs. 4171.88 crore have been currently undertaken and 5 projects are proposed to be undertaken on BOT basis through the National Highways Authority of India in the State of Punjab. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement-III and IV respectively.

(d) and (e) The details of land acquisition for Jalandhar-Jammu Section of NH-I are given in the enclosed statement-V.

Statement I

Works Undertaken by State PWD

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of work	Sanctioned Amount (Original/Revised) Rs. in crore	Status of work (as on 31st March, 2008)	
				Expenditure incurred Rs. in crore	Physical progress
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	20	Hard shouldering Km. 0.00 to 11.975 C.W. Divn., Pathankot	3.84	1.95	98%

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	15	Strengthening Km. 101.055 to 101.182, 103.879 to 106.06 (Concrete Road) C.W. Divn., Amritsar-1	5.01	0	Nil (RE recently sanctioned)
3.	70	Widening from 5.18 Mtr. to 7.00 Mtr. in Km. 48.71-58.85 C.W.Divn. Hoshiarpur	4.89	2.60	83%
4.	64	R/C/E for consultancy service for upgrading for existing two lane single carriageway to 4 lane km 0 to 45.665 on Zirakpur to Bahadurgarh CW Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	0.81	0.11	40%
5.	64	Improvement of Y-Junction at km 95.00 C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	0.59	0.01	10%
6.	71	Safety measures of road user on Jutl. Nakodar Moga road Km. 5 to 49.448 C.W. Divn. Jalandhar.	0.41	0	Nil (RE recently sanctioned)
7.	71	Paved Shoulder in Km. 222.22 to 230.00, 237.295 to 238.695. C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	8.02	6.88	95%
8.	64	Four Laning in Km. 206.100 to 209.00 section Bibi wala chowk to Rose Garden chowk Bathinda C.W. Divn. Bathinda.	6.15	3.05	80%
9.	64	4-Laning in km 119-120 Patiala-Sangrur-Barnala Road C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	2.04	0.53	35%
10.	64	Stg. of Existing Road in km. 102.00 to 110.566 Patiala-Sangrur-Barnala Road C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	4.84	3.39	85%
11.	10	Const of 1.5 m wide Paved Shoulder in km. 388.00 to 400.00 (Sec Abohar Fazilka) CW Div. Abohar	7.74	0.73	20%
12.	15	Providing paved shoulder Km. 189.00 to 191.60, 192.25 to 194.15 and Km 195.00 to 199.75 C.W. Frz.	5.40	2.90	75%
13.	71	Providing paved shoulder (7m to 10 m 16.00 to 23.134 Jalandhar Nakodar road, C.W. Jalandhar	3.61	0.06	11%
14.	71	Providing paved shoulder Km. 37.00 to 44.00 Jalandhar Nakodar Moga (Shahkot Town) road. C.W. Jalandhar	4.64	0.44	29%

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	71	Paved shoulder Km. 184.00 to 189.00 C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	2.78	0.23	20%
16.	71	Paved shoulder Km. 196.730 to 203.00 C.W. Divn. Sangrur at Patiala	3.56	1.84	55%
17.	95	Strengthening in Km 89.480 to 97.10 Ludhiana Ferozepur Road CW Div Ludhiana.	4.63	0	Nil (RE recently sanctioned)
18.	95	Providing Paved Shoulder km. 179.00 to 191.00 Ludhiana-Ferozepur Boarder road. C.W. Ferozepur	5.28	2.71	90%
19.	95	Strengthening in Km 148.00 to 167.00 Ludhiana Ferozepur Road CW Div Ferozepur	11.81	0	Nil (RE recently sanctioned)
20.	15	IRQP Km 13.50 to 16.00 53.00 to 63.00 and 67 to 70.437 CW Div Pathankot	4.30	0	40%
21.	15	Const. of 1.5m wide Paved Shoulder in km. 266.48 to 285.16 (Sec Bajakhana-Bathinda) CW Div. Bathinda	7.60	1.15	20%
22.	70	Paved shoulder Km. 24.00 to 37.00 C.W. Divn. Hoshiarpur	7.17	0	Nil (Work at tender stage)
23.	64	Strengthening in Km. 94.500 to 99.00 Patiala Sangrur Road CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	2.97	1.04	35%
24.	71	Stg. of Existing Road in km 114.27 to 129.44 CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	10.36	0.49	5%
25.	15	Four Laning in Km. 312.300 to 317.390 in Gidderbaha Town. CW Div Abohar	10.19	1.99	20%
26.	72	Stg. of Existing Road in km 9.23 to 13.75 CW Div Patiala	2.97	0	11%
27.	71	Providing Paved shoulder from Km 129.400 to 138.910. Ramgarh-Bamala road CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	9.40	1.80	26%
28.	71	Providing paved shoulder from Km 217.500 to 222.20 CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	5.06	0.87	20%
29.	21	Const. of 1.5 Mtr paved shoulder km. 73.20 to 82.00 C.W. Divn. Ropar	3.95	0.44	5%
30.	71	Widening to two lane Km 77.600 to 93.35 CW Div Ferozepur	7.02	1.61	50%

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	15	Providing paved shoulder from Km 0.00 to 6.66 (Taran-Taran Bye pass) CW Div Amritsar	5.89	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
32.	70	Paved shoulder Km 42.20 to 48.71 of Jalandhar Hoshiarpur road sec. CW Div Hoshiarpur	4.88	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
33.	95	Stg. In Km 124.08 to Km 128.00 135.00 to 139.00 CW Div Fzr	4.06	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
34.	10	Feasibility study for four laning of Dabwali to Malout Km 317.00 to 344.54 on DBFO pattern. CW Div Abohar	0.27	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
35.	15	Const. of 3.5 m wide lane on both sides from Km 390.500 to 391.00 Sec Abohar Usmankhera Road. CW Div Abohar	0.48	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
36.	64 Ext.	Four Laning of existing two lane Road from Km 8.10 to 11.45 Sec ITI Chowk Bathinda to Jodhpur Ramana CW Div. Bathinda.	8.58	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
37.	71	Const. of 102.00m long retaining wall km 190.970 to 191.072 of Sangrur Patran Khanuri Road. CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	0.17	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
38.	71	Improvement of Mehlan Chowk at Km 189.950 (Junction of NH-71 and SH 12A) CW Div Sangrur at Patiala	1.06	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
39.	64	Strengthening Km 92.00 to 94.50 Patiala-Sangrur-Batinda Road CW Div Sangrur at Patiala (against Bridge Fee)	1.96	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
40.	10	Const. of side drain in Village Mahuana Km. 335.250 to 336.075 on Dabwali Malout road. CW Div Abohar	0.28	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
41.	10	Const. of High Level Bridge Single span 9m and 9.636 m skew over Southern Distributry at Km 399.55 of DHS Road. CW Div Abohar.	0.95	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
42.	15	Strengthening Km 227.800 to 235.300 Faridkot Kotkapura Road CW Div Ferozepur	5.03	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
43.	15	Raising Km 100.15 to102.79 of Amritsar Pathankot road in Verka Town. CW Div Amritsar.	3.66	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)

1	2	3	4	5	6
44.	21	Four laning Desu Majra to Kharar km 11.400 to 15.540 (4.14 Km) of Chandigarh Ropar road. CW Div Ropar	13.51	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
45.	71	Strengthening of existing pavement in Km 72.000 to 77.600	2.33	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
46.	15	Strengthening of existing pavement in Km 367.360 to 372.000	1.88	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
47.	15	Const of 1.5 m wide Paved Shoulder on either side in km 287.650 to 291.585	1.75	0.00	Nil (Recently sanctioned)
		Total	213.78	36.82	

Statement II

Works Proposed to be Taken up by State PWD in 2008-09

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1	15	F.S. four Four laning Km 112 to 163.500 (Sec Amritsar-Taran Taran upto Harike)	0.50
2.	71	Four laning 232.500 to 235.00 (Khanori Town) with additional lane	5.00
3.	15	Feasibility study of Talwandi Bypass including ROB in Km. 199	0.50
4.	15	F.S. for ROB on level crossing No. A-86-on Harike-Makhu-Zira section Km 170 at Makhu.	0.30
5.	64 (Ext.)	F.S. for ROB on LC No. 184 at Km. 8.00 in Bathinda town.	0.30
6.	15	F.S. for ROB on special Gate No. 1 at Km 288.00 in Bathinda	0.30
7.	71	L.A. for widening in Km. 23.134 to 25.765 (Nakodar Bypass	1.00
8.	20	Stg. Pathankot Kullu road upto Himachal Boundary Km. 0 to 11.98	6.00
9.	64-A	Stg. Rose Garden Bathinda to I.T.I. chowk (city portion) Section Km. 0 to 4.75	5.00
10.	95	Stg. of Ludhiana-Ferozepur road Km. 85.980 to 89.480	2.20

1	2	3	4
11.	15	IRQP in Km. 16 to 22.24, 26.16 to 27, 31, 32, 36, 50 & 51 and in four laning portion Km. 24.34 to 26.16	7.00
12.	15	IRQP in Km. 227.80 to 235.30 of Faridkot-Kotkapura road	3.50
13.	64	IRQP in Km 179.52 to 185.00 section Rampura Bathinda.	3.00
14.	15	Paved shoulders in km 198.600 to 223.00, 223.59 to 225.50 and 226.01 to 226.300 Sec Talwandi Faridkot	15.00
15.	15	Paved Shoulder including Stg. in km 258.00 to 266.00 Faridkot-Kotkapura Bajakhana road	8.00
16.	64 (Ext.)	Paved shoulders in km 11.37 to 40.44 Sec Bathinda Dabwali Road	18.00
17	71	Paved shoulder and stg. km 61.00 to 66.00 Shahkot-Moga Ramgarh road	3.00
18.	71	Paved shoulders in Km. 179.650 to 184 and 189.00 to 196.730 Sec. Sangrur Patran	10.00
19.	71	Paved shoulders & Stg. in Km. 203.00 to 217.500 Sec Sangrur to Patran	14.50
20.	15	Paved Shoulders in Km. 308.600 to 312.30 and 317.390 to 331.00 on Gidderbaha Malout Road	14.00
21.	15	Paved shoulders & Stg. on Bathinda Gidderbaha road from km 292.79 to 308.60	11.55
22.	64	Paved shoulders in Km 0.00 to 15.953 Abohar Bye pass	15.00
23.	70	Paved shoulders in Km 15.00 to 24.00 and 40.390 to Km 42.200 Sec. Jallandhar to Hoshiarpur.	6.00
24.	71	Paved shoulders & stg. Shahkot-Moga Ramgarh road Km. 66.00 to 72.00	6.00
25.	15	Widening of bridges & culvert on Km. 163.00 to 199.00 Sec Harike Makhu Zira Talwandi Road	3.00
26.	15	Reconstruction of culverts in km 110.25 and 163.500 Sec Asr to Harike	1.00
27.	71	Reconstruction of bridge in km 25.310	1.00
28.	15	Reconstruction of 2 no. bridge in km 136.00	1.50
29.	NHs	Road Safety Works on National Highways	3.00
		Total	165.15

Statement III

Works Under Implementation by NHAI

Sl.No.	NH. No.	Name of Work	Cost of the Project (Rs. in crore)	Status of the Project as on 31.3.2008	
				Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in crore)	Physical Progress % age
		NHDP-Phase II			
1.	1A	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-37/PB) Km 26 to Km 70	284.00	160.09	18.39
2.	1A	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-38/PB) Km 70 to Km 110 (Punjab portion is 29 km)	229.00	79.38	6.68
		NHDP-Phase III			
3.	1	Jalandhar—Amritsar Km 407/100 to Km. 456/100	263.00	166.76	50
4	1	Amritsar-Wagha border	205.88	0.14	Recently started
5.	21	Kurali-Kiratpur	309.00	36.05	5
6.	22	Zirakpur-Parwanoo (Punjab portion is 2 km)	295.00	6.83	Recently started
7.	21 22	Ambala-Zirakpur Km 5/735 to Km. 39/961 of NH-22 and Km. 0/0 to	298.00	363.46	70
		NHDP-Phase V			
8.	1	Panipat-Jalandhar (Six lane) Km 96 to km 387.1 (Punjab portion is 175 km)	2288.00	0.00	Recently started
		Total	4171.88	812.71	

Statement IV

Works to be undertaken by NHAI

Sl.No.	NH.No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost* of the Project (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
		NHDP-Phase II (Other Projects)	
1.	1	Four laning of Jalandhar-Amritsar (JLD-Dhilwan Section) (20 km)	290.00

1	2	3	4
		NHDP-Phase III	
2.	21	Four laning of Chandigarh-Kurali (balance stretch) (14 km)	125.00
3.	15	Four laning of Amritsar-Pathankot (102 km)	704.00
4.	95	Four laning of Ludhiana-Talwandi (84 km)	585.00
		NHDP-Phase V	
5.	95	Six laning of Ludhiana-Chandigarh (84 km)	840.00

*Cost may change after finalization of DPR.

Statement V

Details of land acquisition for Jalandhar-Jammu Section of NH 1

Chainage	Name of Competent Authority	Date of publication of 3A	Date of publication of 3D	Date of award	Date of deposit of funds by NHAI	Remarks
Km. 26.00 to 33.925	LAO, Jalandhar	24.12.2004	11.07.2005	02.08.2006	02.09.2006	Disbursement made
		05.10.2005	02.05.2006	Not yet determined by land acquisition officer.		The process of disbursement is expected to complete by 15.07.08.
		28.07.2006	01.12.2006	20.09.2007	April 2008	The process of disbursement is expected to complete by 15.07.08.
km. 33.925 to 65.155	SDM, Dasuya	24.12.2004 05.10.2005	11.07.2005 02.05.2006	08.05.2007 Not yet determined by SDM	14.02.2008	Funds deposited (except nine villages of Municipal Corporation area).
		28.07.2006	01.12.2006	Not yet determined by SDM.		
km. 65.155 to 87.800	SDM, Mukerian	24.12.2004	11.07.2005	14.12.2007	24.03.2008	Funds deposited (except four villages of Municipal Corporation area). SDM may disburse the deposited amount by 30.06.2008
		05.10.2005 28.07.2006	02.05.2006 01.12.2006	14.12.2007 14.12.2007	24.03.2008 14.03.2008	
km. 87.800 to km. 117.720 and km. 3.26 to 16.350	LAO, Jalandhar	24.12.2004	11.07.2005	30.10.2006	08.12.2006	Disbursement made.
		05.10.2005	02.05.2006	Not yet determined by Land Acquisition Officer.		The process of disbursement is expected to complete by 15.07.2008.
		28.07.2006	01.12.2006	Not yet determined by Land Acquisition Officer.		

[English]

Proposal for Protection of Forest and Wildlife in Assam

4296. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for protection of forests and wildlife, during 2004 to 2008, for approval and seeking Central aid therefor;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal; and

(c) the status of the proposal till date and the steps being taken for expediting clearance of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has submitted number of proposals for protection of forests and wildlife during 2004 to 2008 under different schemes of the Ministry. The details of funds released in respect of these proposals are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Amount released (2004 to 2008)
National Afforestation Programme (NAP)	5532.00
Project Tiger (PT)	263.045
Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	589.770
Project Elephant (PE)	389.00
Integrated Forest Protection (IFPS)	1156.26

Termination of Working Visa Permit by Malaysia

4297. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia has decided to terminate the work contract visa of overseas Indian workers by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to absorb this influx of overseas workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per the information received from HCI, Kuala Lumpur, their Minister of Home Affairs, has clarified that the Government of Malaysia has not frozen the recruitment of workers from India. He also mentioned that there is no move to limit the intake of workers from India though Malaysia was trying to reduce the number of foreign workers. However, Government of Malaysia would not approve work permit for any foreign worker who has worked in the country for five years or more. Further, Malaysian Government has not specified, any number that may be sent back by the end of 2010.

(c) and (d) The Mission renders the necessary assistance for the return of such workers. As a policy, the Government of India discourages illegal migration and has taken several steps to curb the same. These include a national awareness campaign through electronic and print media to educate potential migrants about the risks of illegal migration. The regulatory mechanism is being made transparent to address the problem. The Ministry is also examining a proposal to establish an Overseas Workers Welfare Fund which inter-alia will seek to provide on site, off site and return and resettlement services.

[Translation]

Dropsy Cases

4298. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of cases of Dropsy during the last three years till date, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Union Territories/State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Allocation of Coal to SSI

4299. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria adopted by the ECL for allocation of coal to Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether Coal is not being allocated by the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) to the Small Scale Industries in the country;

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

(d) the action being taken by Government to ensure proper and timely supply of coal to the Small Scale Industries in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is regularly releasing coal to valid linked units of small scale industry, on month to month basis, to the extent of their entitlement.

(b) and (c) Eastern Coalfields Limited is supplying coal to 137 valid linked units of Small Scale Industries, who were granted linkages by Coal India Limited, to the extent of their entitlement.

(d) Under the New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP) notified by the Government on 18th October, 2007, a quantity of 8 million tonnes per annum has been earmarked for distribution to those small and medium consumers, whose requirement is less than 4200 tonnes per annum and who do not have linkage of coal with the coal companies. The earmarked quantity would be distributed through agencies notified by the State Governments. These units whose annual requirement is more than 4200 tonnes can take coal directly from the coal companies through Fuel Supply Agreement. In addition any one can take coal under e-auction.

Constitution of Central Empowered Committee

4300. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has constituted a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to review the decision and clearance given to the projects by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of members of the CEC;

(c) whether the CEC is empowered to give its opinion on all cases that come before the apex court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of cases relating to wildlife conservation and forestry heard by the CEC and disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 27.04.2007 has directed the Ministry that all clearances by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of fresh cases shall be subject to approval by this Court and before giving approval, the court would like to have responses from the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in respect of each clearance. The composition of the Central Empowered Committee is as under:

*(i)	Shri PV Jayakrishnana	-	Chairman
(ii)	Shri PK Mohanty, DGF & SS	-	Member
(iii)	Shri Mahendra Vyas	-	Member
(iv)	Shri SK Patnaik	-	Member
(v)	Shri I Muthu	-	Member
(vi)	Shri MK Jiwarajka	-	Member Secretary
(vii)	Shri SK Chandha	-	Deputy Secretary

(c) to (e) As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 14.12.2007, the Central Empowered Committee has been constituted by the Court for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring compliance of the orders of the Court covering the subject matter of forest and wild life and related issues and to examine pending interlocutory Applications in the Writ petitions (as may be referred to it by the Court) as well as the reports and affidavits filed by the States in response to the orders passed by the Hon'ble Court and place its recommendations before the Court for orders.

Availability of Doctors/Midwives in PHCs/CHCs

4301. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the availability of doctors and midwives in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) working under the National Rural Health Mission;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of doctors and midwives in CHCs/PHCs; and

(d) the extent to which the objectives of the Mission will be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As on March, 2007 there are a total of 22608 doctors working in Primary Health Centres [PHCs] and a total of 5117 Specialist Doctors working in Community Health Centres [CHCs] across the country. The availability of doctors in PHCs in all States/UTs is given in the enclosed Statement-I and specialists doctors in CHCs in all States/UTs is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

There are a total of 29776 Nurses Midwife/Staff Nurses at PHCs and CHCs across the country Statement-III showing the availability of Nurses Midwife/ Staff Nurses at PHCs and CHCs is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The PHCs and CHCs are run by the State/UT Governments. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Primary Health Centres including contractual appointment of staff. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

A Task Group constituted under the National Rural Health Mission under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has recommended the following measures to ensure the services of doctors in rural areas:

— Increase in the age of retirement of doctors to 65 years preferably with posting near hometown;

— Decentralization of recruitment at district level;

— Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;

— Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third.

A few of the above initiatives have also been taken by various State/UT Governments.

*Part (a) & (b) of the reply to USQ 4300 was subsequently corrected through a correcting statement. Accordingly names and designations of the Members of Central Empowered Committee at serial No. 1, ii, v & vii have been corrected as under:

(i) Shri P.V. Jayakrishnan, Chairman

(ii) Shri P.R. Mohanty, DGF, MoEF

(iii) Dr. M.K. Mathew

(iv) Shri Sanjeev Chaddha

Statement I

Doctors at Primary Health Centres (As on March, 2007)

Doctors at PHCS

Sl.No.	State/UT	Required[1] [R]	Sanctioned [S]	In Position [P]	Vacant [S-P]	Shortfall [R-P]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1570	2497	2214	283	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85	78	78	0	7
3.	Assam	610	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	1648	2078	1850	228	*
5.	Chhattisgarh	518	1542	1154	338	*
6.	Goa	19	46	46	0	*
7.	Gujarat	1073	1073	1034	39	39
8.	Haryana	411	580	350	230	61
9.	Himachal Pradesh	443	628	628	0	*
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	374	668	643	25	*
11.	Jharkhand	330	3927	2323	1604	*
12.	Karnataka	1679	2237	2041	196	*
13.	Kerala	909	1345	1558	*	*
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1149	1149	869	280	280
15.	Maharashtra	1800	1800	1191	609	609
16.	Manipur	72	62	103	*	*
17.	Meghalaya	103	127	106	21	*
18.	Mizoram	57	57	39	18	18
19.	Nagaland	84	53	53	0	31
20.	Orissa	1279	1353	1353	0	*
21.	Punjab	484	634	350	284	134
22.	Rajasthan	1499	1527	1318	209	181
23.	Sikkim	24	48	38	10	*
24.	Tamil Nadu	1181	2260	1984	276	*
25.	Tripura	75	161	150	11	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Uttarakhand	232	272	182	90	50
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3660	NA	NA	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	922	922	811	111	*
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20	36	36	0	*
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	6	6	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	3	5	5	0	*
33.	Delhi	8	31	23	8	*
34.	Lakshadweep	4	4	4	0	0
35.	Puducherry	39	68	68	0	*
	All India[2]	22370	27274	22608	4920	1410

Notes:

NA: Not Available.

* Surplus.

1. One per each Primary Health Centre
2. For calculating the overall percentages of vacancy and shortfall, the States/UTs for which manpower position is not available, should be excluded

Statement II

Total Specialists at CHCs (As on March, 2007)

Total Specialists [Surgeons, OB&GY, Physicians & Paediatricians]

Sl.No.	State/UT	Required[1] [R]	Sanctioned [S]	In Position [P]	Vacant [S-P]	Shortfall [R-P]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	668	444	166	278	502
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	124	4	0	4	124
3.	Assam	400	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	280	280	104	176	176
5.	Chhattisgarh	472	700	49	651	423
6.	Goa	20	14	3	11	17
7.	Gujarat	1092	322	82	240	1010
8.	Haryana	344	95	39	56	305

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	284	NA	NA	NA	NA
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	320	276	142	134	178
11.	Jharkhand	776	63	139	*	637
12.	Karnataka	1016	843	691	152	325
13.	Kerala	428	424	115	309	313
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1080	947	503	444	577
15.	Maharashtra	1628	1628	448	1180	1180
16.	Manipur	64	30	1	29	63
17.	Meghalaya	104	3	1	2	103
18.	Mizoram	36	0	0	0	36
19.	Nagaland	84	0	0	0	84
20.	Orissa	924	496	NA	NA	NA
21.	Punjab	504	343	177	166	327
22.	Rajasthan	1348	878	600	278	748
23.	Sikkim	16	16	5	11	11
24.	Tamil Nadu[3]	944	821	725	96	219
25.	Tripura	40	2	2	0	38
26.	Uttarakhand	196	163	79	84	117
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1544	1110	413	697	1131
28.	West Bengal	1384	692	624	68	760
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16	12	0	12	16
30.	Chandigarh	8	4	4	0	4
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	1	1	0	3
32.	Daman and Diu	4	0	0	0	4
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	12	0	0	0	12
35.	Puducherry	16	4	4	0	12
	All India[2]	16180	10615	5117	5078	9455

Notes:

NA: Not Available.

* Surplus.

1. One per each Community Health Centre.
2. For calculating the overall percentages of vacancy and shortfall, the States/UTs for which manpower position is not available, should be excluded.
3. Break up of Specialist Doctors not available.

Statement III

Nurse Midwife/Staff Nurse at PHCs & CHCs (as on March, 2007)

Nurse Midwife/Staff Nurse

Sl.No.	State/UT	Required[1] [R]	Sanctioned [S]	In Position [P]	Vacant [S-P]	Shortfall [R-P]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2739	2742	2373	369	366
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	302	105	105	0	197
3.	Assam	1310	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	2138	1662	1425	237	713
5.	Chhattisgarh	1344	676	540	136	804
6.	Goa	54	141	141	0	*
7.	Gujarat	2984	2769	1585	1184	1399
8.	Haryana	1013	689	411	278	602
9.	Himachal Pradesh	940	1199	484	715	456
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	934	244	68	176	866
11.	Jharkhand	1688	474	451	23	1237
12.	Karnataka	3457	3229	3100	129	357
13.	Kerala	1658	2811	3064	*	*
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3039	941	901	40	2138
15.	Maharashtra	4649	4129	2774	1355	1875
16.	Manipur	184	151	169	*	15
17.	Meghalaya	285	223	174	49	111
18.	Mizoram	120	391	243	148	*
19.	Nagaland	231	520	520	0	*
20.	Orissa	2896	657	637	20	2259
21.	Punjab	1366	740	448	292	918
22.	Rajasthan	3858	9891	8425	1466	*
23.	Sikkim	52	45	90	*	*
24.	Tamil Nadu	2833	NA	NA	NA	NA
25.	Tripura	145	125	268	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Uttarakhand	575	145	129	16	446
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6362	NA	NA	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	3344	944	858	86	2486
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	48	108	108	0	*
30.	Chandigarh	14	13	13	0	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13	12	20	*	*
32.	Daman and Diu	10	12	12	0	*
33.	Delhi	8	10	4	6	4
34.	Lakshadweep	25	13	13	0	12
35.	Puducherry	67	225	223	2	*
	All India[2]	50685	36036	29776	6727	17262

Notes:
NA: Not Available.
* Surplus.
1. One per Primary Health Centre and seven per Community Health Centre.
2. For calculating the overall percentages of vacancy and shortfall, the States/UTs for which manpower position is not available, should be excluded.

[Translation]

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

4302. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether only 621 Kilomtres long portion of National Highway passing through Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be included in North-South, East-West Corridor Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the length of the Highways under the Project is the lowest in comparison to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to extent the length of the Highways in Madhya Pradesh under the said Project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 652 km of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is included in North-South and East-West corridor NS-EW), which includes 534 km of NH-3, NH-26, NH-7 and NH-75 under North-South corridor and 118 km of NH-25 and NH-76 under East-West corridor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There is no proposal to extend the length of National Highways under North-South, East-West Corridor as the actual length of corridor crossing the State has already been considered.

[English]

Upgradation and Development of NHs

4303. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a programme to upgrade/develop National Highways/ Expressways across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the stretches of the National Highways identified for upgradation/ development;

(c) the target date for completion of the projects; and

(d) the allocation of funds made for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government had approved the National Highways Development Projects (NHDP)-Phase I & II in December 2000 and December 2003 respectively consisting of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), North-South & East-West Corridors (NS-EW), improvement of NH/road connectivity to major ports and improvement/ upgradation of some other NHs. The approved costs of NHDP-Phase-I & II are Rs. 30,300 crore and Rs. 34,339 crore respectively. Up to the month ending March, 2008, 5,663 km of GQ has been completed out of total length of 5,846 km. 5,690 km length of GQ is targeted for completion by June, 2008. Completion of balance 156 km length, comprising of rescinded contracts and contracts likely to be rescinded, would spill over beyond June, 2008. The NHDP Phase II including NS-EW corridors are targeted for completion by December, 2009. The details of the stretches included under NHDP Phase I & II are given in the enclosed statement I.

The Government has approved the subsequent phases of NHDP also. The details of these along with their target dates for completion are given below:—

Schemes	Details	Estimated Cost (in Rs.. Crore)	Target Date of Completion
NHDP Phase III	4-laning of 12,109 km of NHs	80,626	December 2013
NHDP Phase V	6-laning of 6,500 km of selected stretches of NHs	41,210	December 2012
NHDP Phase VI	Development of 1,000 km of Expressways	16,680	December 2015
NHDP Phase VII	Construction of stand alone ring roads, by pass (including improvements of NH links in city), Grade Separated Intersections, Flyovers, Elevated Highways, Road Over Bridges, Underpasses and service Roads.	16,680	December 2014

The details of the stretches included under the above mentioned phases of NHDP are given in the enclosed statement II.

Apart from the above, the Government has also formulated the "Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-East Region (SARDP-NE)" mainly to provide connectivity to all the State Capitals and District Headquarters in the North-East Region. The proposed programme envisages improvement of 8,737 km of roads, which includes NHs (3,846 km). State roads, General Staff (GS) Roads and Roads of Strategic importance (4,891 km). Under Phase A of SARDP-NE, improvement of 2,304 km of roads are included. This includes 1,889 km of NHs and 415 km of State Roads and GS Roads. The estimated cost of Phase A is Rs. 12,793 crore and it is targeted for completion by 2012-13. For the SARDP-NE Phase B the Government has approved the preparations of the Detailed Project Reports.

The details of the stretches of NHs included under the SARDP-NE Phase-A are given in the enclosed statement III.

(d) State-wise allocation of funds is not made for these projects.

Statement I

Project under NHDP Phase I (Golden Quadrilateral, Part of North-South & East-West Corridors, Port Connectivity and other projects)

NH No.	Stretch	Length in km
1	2	3
	Golden Quadrilateral (GQ)	
2	Delhi-Mathura	145.00
2	Mathura-Agra	54.00
2	Agra-Shikohabad	50.83
2	Shikohabad-Etawah	59.02
2	Etawah Bypass	13.60
2	Etawah-Rajpur	7.83
2	Sikandara-Bhaunti	62.00
2	Kanpur-Fatehpur	51.50
2	Fatehpur-Khaga	77.00
2	Khaga-Kokhraj	43.00
2	Allahabad Bypass Contract I (Bridge)	1.02
2	Allahabad Bypass Contract II (Km 158-198)	38.99
2	Allahabad Bypass Contract III (Km 198-242.7)	44.71
2	Handia-Varanasi	72.00
2	Varanasi-Mohania	76.00
2	Mohania-Sasaram	45.00
2	Sasaram-Dehri-on-Sone	30.00
2	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad	40.00
2	Aurangabad-Barachatti	60.00
2	Barachatti-Gorhar	80.00
2	Gorhar-Barwa Adda	78.75
2	Barwa Adda-Barakar	43.00
2	Raniganj-Panagarh	42.00
2	Panagarh-Palsit	64.46
2	Palsit-Dankuni	65.00

1	2	3
2	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	6.00
2	Barkar-Raniganj	33.00
2	Dankuni Junction near Kolkata	5.00
8	Gurgaon-Kotputli	126.00
8	Jaipur Bypass Phase II	34.70
8	Jaipur Bypass Phase I	14.00
8	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh	90.38
8	ROB at Kishangarh	1.00
8	Baseen Creek Bridge Dahiser	2.00
8	Delhi-Gurgaon	362.00
8	Kotputali-Amer	86.00
8	Ahemdabad Bypass	15.00
8	Vadodara-Surat	152.00
8	Dahisar-Mumbai	4.00
8	Kishangarh-Nasirabad	36.23
79A	Nasirabad-Gulabpura	55.87
79	Gulabpura-Bhilwara Bypass	50.00
79	Bhilwara Bypass-Chittorgarh	66.00
76	Chittorgarh-Mangalwar	48.00
76	Mangalwar-Udaipur	58.18
8	Udaipur-Kesariaji	62.00
8	Kesariaji-Ratanpur	48.40
8	Ratanpur-Himatnagar	54.60
8	Himatnagar-Chiloda (near Ahmedabad)	52.00
8	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase I	43.40
NE 1.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase II	50.00
8	Surat (Chalthan)-Atul	79.60
8	Atul-Kajali	38.60
8	Kajali-Manor	57.40

1	2	3
8	Manor-Baseen Creek Section	58.00
6	Dhankuni-Kolaghat	54.40
6	Kolaghat-Kharagpur	60.45
6	Bridges section	1.73
60	Kharagpur-Laxmanath	65.86
60	Laxmannath-Baleshwar	53.41
5	Balasore-Bhadrak	62.64
5	Bhadrak-Chandikhole	75.50
5	Bridges section	11.59
5	Chandikhole-Jagatpur	27.80
5	Jagatpur-Bhubneswar	28.00
5	Bhubaneswar-Khurda	26.30
5	Khurda-Sunakhala	52.06
5	Sunakhala-Ganjam	55.71
5	Ganjam-Icchapuram	50.80
5	Icchapuram-Korlam	33.00
5	Korlam-Palasa	29.00
5	Palasa-Srikakulam	74.00
5	Srikakulam-Champawati	48.00
5	Champawati-Vishakhapatnam	46.20
5	Vishakhapatnam-Ankapalli	38.00
5	Ankapalli-Tuni	58.95
5	Tuni-Dharmavaram	47.00
5	Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry	53.00
5	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry) Gowthami	34.95
5	Bridges Section	2.45
5	Gowthami-Gundugolanu	81.08
5	Vijayawada-Rajamundry Section (near Eluru)	5.00
5	Eluru-Vijayawada (km 75-3.4)	72.00

1	2	3
5	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet (km 355-380)	25.00
5	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet (km 380-396.8)	32.00
5	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet (Km 408-420.5)	23.78
5	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet (km 10.8-13.68)	2.88
5	Chilkaluripet-Ongole	66.00
5	Ongole-Kavali	72.00
5	Kavali-Nellore	43.80
5	Nellore Bypass	17.17
5	Nellore-Tada	110.52
5	Tada-Chennai	41.80
4	Neelmangala-Banglore	30.00
4	Westerly Diversion	34.25
4	Katraj-Sarole	28.50
4	Katraj Realignment	9.00
4	Sarole-Wathar	29.00
4	Wathar-Satara	35.00
4	Satara-Kagal	133.00
4	Maharashtra Border-Belgaum	77.00
4	Belgaum Bypass	18.00
4	Belgaum-Dharwad	62.00
4	Hubli-Haveri	64.50
4	Haveri-Harihar	56.00
4	Harihar-Chitradurga	77.00
4	Chitradurga Bypass	18.00
4	Chitradurga-Sira	66.70
4	Sira Bypass	5.80
4	Sira-Tumkur	41.40
4	Tumkur Bypass	13.00
4	Tumkur-Neelmangala	32.50

1	2	3
4	Mumbai Pune Expressway	10.00
4	Mumbai Pune Expressway	10.00
4	Mumbai Pune Expressway (km 958.878)	80.00
4	Dharwad-Hubli	29.00
4	Khambakti Ghat	9.00
7	Bangalore-Hathipalli	33.00
7	Hathipali-Hosur	16.00
7	Hosur-Krishnagiri	45.40
46	Krishnagiri-Vaniyambadi	49.00
46	Vaniyambadi-Pallikonda	51.00
46	Pallikonda-Ranipet and Walahjapet bypass	45.00
4	Valelapet-Kanchipuram	36.20
4	Kanchipuram-Poonamalee	56.40
North-South (NS) Corridor		
1A	Kunjwani to Vijaypur	17.20
1A	Bhogpur to Jalandhar	21.77
1	Ambala-Panipat	116.00
1	Jalandhar-Ambala	160.70
1	Jalandhar Bypass	14.40
1	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat)	21.70
1	Six laning of Kamaspur to Haryana/Delhi Border	15.00
1	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk	12.90
1	Eight Laning of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi)	8.50
3	Agra-Raj/UP Border	16.00
3	Raj/UP border to Mania	17.00
3	Mania-Dholpur	10.00
3	MP/RAJ border to Sarai Cholla	9.00
3	Sarai Cholla to Morena	15.00
3	Morena-Rairu (Start of Gwalior bypass)	18.00

1	2	3
7	Chinchhbguvan-Butibori-Borkhedi	25.60
7	Kalkallu village to Gundla Pochampali	17.00
7	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli	23.10
7	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar	12.50
7	Avathi village to Nandi Hills cross & six laning of Devanhalli-Meenukunte	7.00
7	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalli & Six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal	25.00
7	Thopurghar section	7.40
7	Thumpipadi to Salem	19.20
7	Salem bypass	8.40
7	Bangalore-Salem-Madurai	8.40
7	Bangalore-Hathipalli	33.00
7	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amrawati	9.36
7	Construction of Karur ROB	0.84
7	Hyderabad city to Shivarampalli	9.20
7	Nagpur-Chinchbuvan	9.20
47	Thrissur-Kochi	17.00
47	Angamali to Aluva	16.60
East-West (EW) Corridor		
37	Guwahati Bypass (km 163.8-156)	8.00
37	Guwahati Bypass (Km 156-146)	10.50
31	Dalkola-Islampur Sub section (km 500-476.15)	23.85
31	Dalkola-Islampur (Km 470-447)	23.00
31	Purnea-Gayakota (Km 476.15-470 & Km 419-410)	15.15
31	Purnea-Gayakota (Km 447-419)	28.00
56A & B	Lucknow Bypass Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH-56	22.85
25	Lucknow Kanpur Section (Km 11.38-21.8)	10.42
25	Lucknow-Kanpur section (Km 21.8-44)	22.20
25	Lucknow-Kanpur section (Km 44-59.5)	15.50
25	Lucknow-Kanpur section (Km 59.5-75.5)	16.00

1	2	3
14	Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur	10.00
14	Palanpur-Dessa	22.70
8B	Ribda to Gondal section	17.00
8B	Banamborr-Rajkot	31.00
8B	Rajkot-Ribda	15.00
Others		
28	Addl. 2-Lane Bridge over Rapti River at Gorakhpur	0.40
27	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	6.00
24	Ghaziabad-Hapur & Hapur Bypass	33.00
9	Nandigama-Vijayawada	35.00
9	Nandigama-Vijayawada	48.00
45	Tambaram-Tindivanam	93.00
6	Amrawati Bypass	17.40
4, 45	Chennai Bypass Phase I	19.00
6	Durg Bypass	18.00
24	Moradabad Bypass	18.00
Port Connectivity		
17B	Port Connectivity to Mormugoa	13.00
4B, 4	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase-I	30.00
41	Haldia Port	53.00
State Road	Vishakhapatnam Port	12.00
State Highway 54	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase II	14.35
13, 17 & 48	New Mangalore Port NH-17	37.00
7A	Tuticorin Port	47.20
5A	Paradip Port	77.00
State Road	Chennai-Ennore Express Way (TPP road)	9.00
State Road	Chennai-Ennore Express Way (TPP road) Inner Ring Road and Manali Oil Refinery Road	6.10
47	Cochin Port	10.00
8A	Gandhidham-Samakhiali (km 306-324)	18.00
8A	Gandhidham-Samakhiali (km 324-346)	22.00
8A	Gandhidham-Samakhiali (km 346-362.16)	16.16

1	2	3
	Project under NHDP Phase II (North-South & East-West Corridors and other projects)	
North South (NS) Corridor		
1A	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion)	17.80
1A	Srinagar Bypass (Bridge Portion)	1.23
1A	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (km 286-256)	30.00
1A	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (km 256-220)	30.00
1A	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (Except Tunnels)	32.00
1A	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (only Tunnel)	7.00
1A	Udhampur-Banihal (km 171-188)	17.00
1A	Udhampur-Banihal (km 151-171)	20.00
1A	Udhampur-Banihal (km 130-151)	21.00
1A	Udhampur-Banihal (Km 67-89)	21.00
1A	Udhampur-Banihal (only tunnel)	9.00
1A	Four laning of Jammu-Udhampur including Tawi bridge and Nagrota bypass	20.10
1A	Four laning of Jammu-Udhampur section	15.48
1A	Four laning of Jammu-Udhampur section (including 3 Tunnels)	8.50
1A	Four laning of Jammu-Udhampur section	33.86
1A	Jammu to Kunjwani (Jammu bypass)	15.00
1A	Vijaypur to Pathankot (km 16.35-50)	33.65
1A	Vijayapur to Pathankot (Km 50-80)	30.00
1A	Pathankot to Jammu and Kashmir border	19.65
1A	Pathankot to Bhogpur (km 26-70)	44.00
1A	Pathankot to Bhogpur (km 70-110)	40.00
1	Phagwara Junction on NH-1	1.00
1	Panipat Elevated Highway	10.00
1	Panipat to Panchi Gujran	20.00
2,3	Agra Bypass	32.80
3	Dholpur-Morena Section	10.00
75,3	Gwalior Bypass	42.00

1	2	3
75	Gwalior-Jhansi	80.00
25, 26	Jhansi to Lalitpur (km 0-49.8)	49.70
26	Jhansi to Lalitpur (km 49.8-99)	49.30
26	Lalitpur Sagar (km 94-132)	38.00
26	Lalitpur-Sagar (km 132-187)	55.00
26	Sagar Bypass	26.00
26	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (km 211-255)	44.00
26	Sagar Rajmarg choraha (km 255-297)	42.00
26	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (km 297-351)	54.00
26	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (km 351-405.7)	54.70
7	Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border (km 547.4-596.75)	49.35
7	Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border (km 596.75-653.2)	56.48
7	Four laning from MP/Maharashtra border-Nagpur including Kamptee Kanoon and Nagpur bypass	95.00
47	Vadakkancherry-Thirissure	30.00
7	Butibori ROB	1.80
7	Borkhedi-Jam	27.40
7	Jam-Wadner	30.00
7	Wadner-Devdhari	29.00
7	Devdhari-Kelapur	30.00
7	Kelapur-Pimpalkhatti	22.00
7	Islam Nagar to Kadtal	48.00
7	MH/AP border to Islam Nagar	55.00
7	Armur to Kadloor Ye[illegible]eddy	60.25
7	Kadloor Yellareddy to Gundla Pochampalli	85.74
7	Kadal to Armur	31.00
7	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (km 31.4-80)	46.16
7	Farukhanagar to Kotakatta (km 80-135.5)	55.74
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section (Km 135.5-211)	74.65

1	2	3
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section (Km 211-251)	40.00
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section (Km 251-293.4)	42.40
7	Hyderabad Bagalore section (km 293.4-336)	42.60
7	AP/Karnataka border-Nandi Hill crossing and Devenhalli to Meenu Kunte village	61.38
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section (km 336-376)	40.00
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section Km 376-218	42.00
7	Hyderabad Bangalore section (km 418-463.6)	45.60
7	Krishnagiri to Thopurghat	62.50
7	Thopurghat to Thumpipadi	16.60
7	Salem to Karur (Km 207-248.6)	41.55
7	Salem to Karur (km 258.6-292.6)	33.48
7	Karur to Madurai (km 305.6-373.3)	68.13
7	Karur to Madurai (km 373.3-426.6)	53.03
47	Salem to Kerala Border Section (km 203.9 on NH-7 to km 53 on NH-47)	53.53
47	Salem to Kerala Border Section (km 53-100)	48.51
7	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai-Tirunelveli section including Madurai bypass	42.00
7	Madurai-Kanyakumari Section (km 42-80)	38.86
7	Madurai-Kanyakumari Section (km 80-120)	39.51
7	Madurai-Kanyakumari Section (Km 120-160)	42.70
7	Km 120 of Madurai-Tirunelveli section to Panagudi	43.00
7	Kanyakumari-Panagudi	30.60
47	Salem to km 100 & Salem-Coimbatore-Kerala border section	82.00
47	Four lanning of Walayar-Vadakkancherry section	58.00
47	Thrissur to Angamali	40.00
East-West (EW) Corridor		
54	Silchar-Udarband	32.00
54	Udarband to Harangajo	31.00
54	Harangajo to Maibang (km 165.4-190.5)	26.00
54	Harangajo to Maibang (Km 140.7-164.08)	24.00
54	Harangajo to Maibang (Km 126.4-140.7 & km 164-165.4)	16.00

1	2	3
54	Maibang to Lumding (km 40-60.5)	21.00
54	Maibang to Lumding (km 60.5-83.4)	23.00
54	Maibang to Lumding (km 83.4-111)	28.00
54	Maibang to Lumding (km 111-126.4)	15.00
54	Lumding to Daboka	18.50
54	Lanka to Daboka	24.00
36	Daboka to Nagaon	30.50
37	Nagaon bypass	23.00
37	Nagaon to Dharmatul	25.00
37	Dharmatul to Sonapur (km 230.5-205)	25.00
37	Dharamtul to Sonapur (km 205-183)	22.00
37	Sonapur to Guwahati	19.00
31	Brahmputra Bridge	5.00
31	Guwahati to Nalbari (km 1121-1093)	28.00
31	Guwahati to Nalbari (km 1093-1065)	28.00
31	Nalbari to Bijni (km 1065-1040.3)	25.00
31	Nalbari to Bijni (km 1040.3-1013)	27.30
31	Nalbari to Bijni (km 1013-983)	30.00
31	Nalbari to Bijni (km 983-961.5)	21.50
31C	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (km 93-60)	33.00
31C	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (km 60-30)	30.00
31C	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (km 30-0)	30.00
31C	Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta	32.00
31	Ghoshukur to Salasalabari via Pulbari-Mainaguri-Dhumpgiri-Falakatta	201.00
31	Silliguri to Islampur (km 551-526)	25.00
31	Siliguri to Islampur (km 526-500)	26.00
57	Purnea-Forbesganj (km 309-268)	41.00
57	Purnea-Forbesganj (km 268-230)	38.00
57	Forbesganj-Simrahi	40.00

1	2	3
57	Simrahi to Ring bund	15.00
57	Kosi Bridge	10.00
57	Ring bunds to Jhanjharpur	45.00
57	Jhanjharpur to Darbanga	40.00
57	Darbanga to Muzzaffarpur (km 70-30)	40.00
57	Darbanga to Muzzaffarpur (km 30-0)	30.00
28	Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi	40.00
28	Mehsi to Kotwa	40.00
28	Kotwa to Deewapur	38.00
28	Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border	41.09
28	UP/Bihar Border to Kasia	41.12
28	Kasia to Gorakhpur	40.00
28	Gorakhpur Bypass	32.60
28	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (km 251.7-208)	43.70
28	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (km 208-164)	44.00
28	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (km 164-135)	29.00
28	Ayodhya-Lucknow (km 135-93)	41.93
28	Ayodhya-Lucknow (km 93-45)	47.00
28	Ayodhya-Lucknow (km 45-8.2)	36.00
25	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi crossing	5.60
2,25	Bara to Orai	62.80
25	Orai to Jhansi (km 220-170)	50.00
25	Orai to Jhansi (km 170-104)	66.00
25	Jhansi Bypass	15.00
25	Jhansi-Shivpuri (km 91-50)	41.00
25	Jhansi-Shivpuri Km 50-15	35.00
25,76	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ border	53.00
76	RJ/MP Border to Kota (Km 579-509)	70.00
76	RM/MP Border to Kota (km 509-449.15)	59.85

1	2	3
76	RJ/MP Border to Kota (km 449.15-406)	43.15
76	Kota Bypass	25.00
76	Chambal Bridge	1.40
76	Kota to Chittorgarh (km 381-316)	65.00
76	Kota to Chittorgarh (km 316-253)	63.00
76	Chittorgarh Bypass	40.00
76	Gogunda to Udaipur	31.00
76	Bakaria to Gogunda	44.00
76,14	Swaroopganj to Bakaria	43.00
14	Palanpur to Swaroopganj	76.00
14	Deesa to Radhanpur	85.40
15	Radhanpur to Gagodhar	106.20
15, 8A	Gagodhar to Garamore	90.30
8A	Garamore to Bamanbore	71.40
8B	Rajkot Bypass & Gondal Jetpur	36.00
8B	Jetpur to Bhiladi	64.50
8B	Bhiladi to Porbandar	50.50
Others		
45,4&5	Chennai Bypass Phase II	32.00
1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	20.00
37	Construction of 10 km service road and one 2 lane Flyover on Guwahati bypass	10.00
24	Hapur-Garhmukteshwar	35.00
24	Garhmukteshwar-Muradabad	56.25
45	Tindivanam-Ulundurpet	71.25
45	Ulundurpet-Padalur	92.75
45	Padalur-Trichy	40.00
45B	Trichy Bypass end to Tovaramkurchi	60.95
45B	Tovaramkurchi to Madurai	63.89

Statement II

The details of the stretches included under NHDP Phase III, V, VI & VII

Sl.No.	NH No.	Stretch Under NHDP Phase III	Length in km
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	192.5
2.	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30
3.	205	Tirupati-TN/AP Border-Tiruthani	44
4.	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	240.5
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	52A	Itanagar-Arunachal Pradesh/Assam Border	22
Assam			
1.	36	Doboka-Assam/Nagaland Border	124
2.	44	Assam/Meghalaya Border to Assam/Tripura Border	116
3.	52	Baihata Chariali-Banderdewa	314
4.	52A	Badardewa-Assam/Arunachal Pradesh Border	9
5.	54	Silchar-Assam/Mizoram Border	50
Bihar			
1.	19& 77	Patna-Muzzffarpur	60
2.	19&85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153
3.	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67
4.	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53
5.	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255
6.	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13
7.	77	Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	89
8.	80	Mokama-Munger	70
9.	84	Patna-Buxar	130
10.	83	Patna-Gaya-Dobhi	125
Chhattisgarh			
1.	200	Raipur-Simga	28
2.	43	Kumud-Dhamtari	23

1	2	3	4
3.	6	Aurang-Raipur	45
4.	6	Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	94
Delhi			
1.	1&24	Upto Delhi/UP border	8
2.	10	upto Delhi/Haryana border	20
Goa			
1.	17	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji Goa/KNT Border	139
2.	4A	Panaji-Goa/KNT Border	69
Gujarat			
1.	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat-Hazira Port	84
2.	6	Surat-Hazira Port	29
3.	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127
4.	59	Gujarat/MP Border-Ahmedabad	210
5.	8A Ext,	Kandla-Mundra Port	73
Haryana			
1.	10	Delhi/Haryana border-Hissar	140
2.	22	Ambala-Kalka (Haryana Portion)	27
3.	71	Rohtak-Bawal	97
4.	71A	Panipat-Rohtak	73
5.	65	Ambala-Kaithal	78
6.	71	Rohtak-Jind	45
7.	73	Panchkula-Barwala-Saha-Yamuna Nagar up to UP border	108
Himachal Pradesh			
1.	22	HP/Haryana border (Kalka)-Shimla	110
Jharkhand			
1.	33	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	75
		Barhi-Hazaribagh	40
2.	33	Ranchi-Jamshedpur	150
Karnataka			
1.	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71
2.	17	Mangalore-KNT/Kerala border	18

1	2	3	4
3.	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105
4.	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154
5.	4A	Balgaum-Goa/KNT Border	84
6.	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25
7.	13	Bijapur-Hospet	194
8.	4	Mulbagal-Karnataka/AP Border	11
Kerala			
1.	17	KNT/Kerala border-Khozikode-Eddapally	451
2.	47	Thiruvananthapuram-Kerala/TN Border	29
3.	47	Cherthalai-Thiruvananthapuram	180
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	3	Guna Bypass	14
2.	3	Indore-Khalghat	83
3.	3	Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border	88
4.	59	Indore-Jhabua-Gujarat/MP border	169
5.	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13
6.	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100
7.	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40
8.	12	Bhopal-Rajmarg crossing-Jabalpur	297
Maharashtra			
1.	17	Panvel-Indapur	84
2.	3	Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	100
3.	3	Dhule-Pimpalgaon	118
4.	3	Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde	60
5.	3	MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule	97
6.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20
7.	50	Pune-Khed	30
8.	6	Nagpur-Wainganga Bridge Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	60
9.		Wainganga Bridge Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	72
10.	6	Nagpur-Talegaon	90
11.	6	Talegaon-Amravati	58

1	2	3	4
12.	9	Pune-Sholapur	170
13.	13	Solapur-Maharashtra/Karnataka Border	30
Manipur			
1.	39	Nagaland/Manipur border-Imphal	112
Meghalaya			
1.	44	Shillong (excluding Shillong Bypass)-Assam/Meghalaya Border	136
Mizoram			
1	54	Assam/Mizoram Border-Aizawl	140
Nagaland			
1.	36& 39	Assam/Nagaland Border-Dimapur	
2.	39	Kohima-Nagaland/Manipur border	28
Orissa			
1.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi-Talchar	137
2.	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59
3.	215	Panikoili-Keonjhar-Roxy	249
4.	200	Roxy-Rajamunda	20
5.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/Orissa Border	88
Pudducherry			
1.	66	Pondicherry to TN/Pondicherry border	4
Punjab			
1.	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar-Wagha border	84
2.	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101
3.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73
4.	22	Ambala-Zirakpur (Punjab Portion)	30
5.	22	Zirakpur-Kalka (Punjab Portion)	1
6.	95	Ludhiana-Talwandi	84
Rajasthan			
1.	11	UP/Rajasthan Border-Bharatpur	21
2.	11	Bharatpur-Mahua	57

1	2	3	4
3.	11	Mahua-Jaipur	108
4.	11	Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar	95
5.	12	Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar	328
6.	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246
7.	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82
Tamil Nadu			
1.	205	TN/AP Border-Tiruthani-Chennai	94
2.	220	Theni-Kumili	57
3.	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80
4.	45B	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144
5.	45 Ext	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni	73
6.	47	Kerala/TN Border-Kanyakumari	56
7.	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186
8.	66	TN/Pondicherry border-Tindivanam	36
9.	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam	170
10.	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy	130
11.	67	Trichy-Karur (incl Trichy bypass)	50
12.	67 Ext	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45
13.	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134
14.	210	Trichy-Pudukkottai-Ramanathapuram	200
Uttar Pradesh			
1.	11	Agra-UP/Rajasthan Border	42
2.	24	Sitapur-Lucknow	76
3.	24	Muradabad-Sitapur	246
4.	58	Delhi/UP border to Meerut	47
5.	58	Meerut to Muzaffarnagar	79
6.	58	Meerut to UP/Uttarakhand border	21
7.	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106

1	2	3	4
Uttarakhand			
1.	58 & 72	UP/Uttarakhand border-Dehradun	125
2.	87	Rampur-Kathgodam	88
West Bengal			
1.	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60
2.	34	Kolkatta-Dhalkola	438

Stretches identified for development under NHDP Phase V

Under NHDP Phase V approximately 6500 kms consisting of 5700 km length of GQ 800 km length of other NHs has been approved for 6 laning. The sections identified for 6 laning other than GQ are given below:

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of the Section	Length in km
1.	1	Panipat-Jalandhar	300
2.	24	Delhi-Hapur-Moradabad	170
3.	8A	Samkhiali-Gandhidham	56
4.	3	Indore-Dewas	55
5.	3	Agra-Gwalior	85
6.	5A	Chandikhol-Paradeep	77
7.	95 & 21	Ludhiana-Chandigarh	82

Stretches identified for development of Expressway under NHDP Phave-VI

Sl.No.	Name of the Section	Lenght in km
1.	Vadodara-Mumbai	400
2.	Bangalore-Chennai	334
3.	Delhi-Meerut	66
4.	Kolkata-Dhanbad	277

Tentative list of cities for stand along Ring Roads, Bypasses, Elevated Roads, Grade Separated Intersections and Flyovers under NHDP-VII

Sl.No.	Name of city/project
1	2
1.	Ring road/by pass for Hyderabad
2.	Ring road/bypass for Tirunelveli

1	2
3.	Ring road/bypass for Kanpur
4.	Grade Separated Intersection/Flyover at Ranchi on NH-75
5.	Ring road/bypass for Tiruchchirapalli
6.	Ring road/bypass for Nasik
7.	Grade Separated Intersection/Flyover at Solapur at Junction of NH-9 and NH-211
8.	Ring road/bypass for Chennai
9.	Ring road/bypass for Jaipur
10.	Ring road/bypass for Amritsar
11.	Grade Separated Intersection/Flyover at Padalsingi and at Gandhi at Junction of NH-211 and 222
12.	Ring road/bypass for Madurai
13.	Ring road/bypass for Patna
14.	Ring road/bypass for Thiruvananthapuram
15.	Ring road/bypass for Surat
16.	Ring road/bypass for Aligarh
17.	Ring road/bypass for Bangalore
18.	Grade Separated Intersection/Flyover at Alephata at Junction of NH-50 and 222
19.	Ring road/bypass for Ahmedabad.
20.	Ring road/bypass for Vishakhapatnam
21.	Ring roads/bypass for Jammu and Srinagar cities
22.	Ring road/bypass for Kolkata
23.	Elevated link road to Chennai Port
24.	Ring road/bypass for Meerut
25.	Ring road/bypass for Coimbatore
26.	Ring road/bypass for Bhopal
27.	Ring road/bypass for Salem
28.	Ring road/bypass for Nagpur
29.	Ring road/bypass for Indore
30.	Ring road/bypass for Lucknow

1	2
31.	Ring road/bypass for Imphal
32.	Ring road/bypass for Pune
33.	Ring road/bypass for Varanasi
34.	Ring road/bypass for Dhanbad
35.	Ring road/bypass for Ranchi
36.	Grade Separated Intersection/Flyover Near Ratangiri at Junction of NH-17 and 204

Statement III

List of the NHs included under SARDP-NE Phase A

Sl.No.	Category of road	Stretch/Scope of the work	Length in km.
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	NH 153 (Stilwell road)	2 laning of Ledo-Pansu pass section	32
Assam			
1.	NH 36	2 laning with paved shoulders in Daboka-Dimapur section	71
2.	NH 37	4 laning of Nagaon-Jorhat-Dibrugarh section	315
3.		Improvement of existing 2 lane and paved shoulders in Dibrugarh-Makum-Rupai section	73
4.	NH-38	Improvement of existing 2 lane and paved shoulders in Makum-Lakhapani section	56
5.	NH 44	2 laning of Ratacherra-Churaibari section	29
6.	NH 51	2 laning with paved shoulders from Paikan to Assam/Meghalaya border section	22
7.	NH 52	2 laning with paved shoulders of North Lakhimpur-Jonai and Dirak-Rupai sections	196
8.	NH 53	2 laning with paved shoulders from Badarpur to Jiribam	66
9.		Construction of 2 lane Silchar bypass	20
10.	NH 54	2 laning with paved shoulders in Silchar-Lailapur section	32
11.	NH 61	Improvement of existing 2 lane Janji-Assam/Nagaland border section with paved shoulders	18

1	2	3	4
12.	NH 152	2 laning with paved shoulders of Pathshala-Assam/Bhutan border section	38
13.	NH 153 (Stilwell road)	2 laning with paved shoulders in Lekhapani-Ledo section	24
14.	NH 154	2 laning with paved shoulders of Dhaleshwar-Bairabi section	89
Manipur			
1.	NH 53	2 laning of Jiribam-Imphal section (remaining portion)	39
Meghalaya			
1.	NH 40	4 laning Jorabat-Barapani section	62
2.	NH 40 & 44	Construction of 2 lane Shillong bypass	50
3.	NH 40 & 44	Improvement of existing 2 lane Barapani-Shillong section and flyovers in Shillong city	54
4.	NH 44	Construction of 2 lane Jowai bypass	10
Mizoram			
1.	NH 54	2 laning of Lailapur-Aizawl section	58
2.	NH 154	2 laning of Bairabi-Kolasib section	44
Nagaland			
1.	NH 39	4 laning of Dimapur-Kohima section and bypasses of Dimapur and Kohima	81
Sikkim			
1.	NH 31A	2 laning with paved shoulders from Sevoke to Gangtok	80
Tripura			
1.	NH 44	4 laning of Churaibari-Agartala-Sabroom section	330

Dual Citizenship of India and UAE

4304. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the persons who currently hold dual citizenship of U.A.E. and India; and

(b) the criteria followed for the grant of such citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Nil. The constitution of India does not provide for grant of dual citizenship.

(b) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Increasing Contents of Carbon in the Environment

4305. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals to contain the increasing content of carbon in the environment from States are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Environment related Complaints by States

4306. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received environment related complaints;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last tree years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government on these complaints and results thereof;

(d) whether the Central Pollution Control Board does not take prompt and effective steps on complaints; and

(e) reaction of the Government thereto and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) About 356 environment related complaints have been received in the Ministry during the last three financial years. The State-wise number of complaints received during the last three financial years in indicated in the enclosed statement. The complaints received are forwarded to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards for taking necessary action with a request to send the action taken report (ATR) to the complainant directly under intimation to the Ministry. Prompt action is taken by the Central Pollution Control Board on the complaints received by it.

Statement

State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	4	4	1
Haryana	4	15	5
Jharkhand	1	6	2
Uttaranchal	1	2	1
Gujarat	—	6	3
Madhya Pradesh	8	7	2
Kerala	3	8	3
Dadra, Nagar Haveli	—	2	2
Punjab	1	8	1
Delhi	26	27	18
West Bengal	7	8	—

1	2	3	4
Bihar	1	6	1
Uttar Pradesh	14	46	19
Goa	—	2	—
Pondicherry	—	—	1
Andaman and Nicobar	—	1	—
Rajasthan	10	5	4
Karnataka	5	5	4
Maharashtra	8	9	16
Assam	3	—	—
Orissa	2	4	2
Chhattisgarh	1	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—
Total	100	171	85

Torture of Indian Woman in Gulf Countries

4307. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the torture of an Indian woman of Kerala by her employer in Oman as reported in the "Times of India" dated March 30, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance rendered to the victim; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per report received from our Mission in Muscat, a lady from Kerala landed up in Muscat on a family joining visa obtained on the basis of a fake marriage certificate (spouses of workers working in Oman are given family joining visa), through an unauthorized visa agent.

On arrival in Muscat, she was received by two Indians (Gopi and Vinayan) and was taken to an apartment where she was tourtured in confinement.

Upon a complaint received from her husband, our Mission, in coordination and liaison with local police authorities, got a raid conducted on the premises during which one Indonesian woman along with three Indian men (Shanmugkhan, Radhakrishnan and Venu Gopal) were arrested. Some culprits (including Gopi and Vinayan) are reportedly still at large. A criminal case is being filed by the local prosecution authorities against those arrested in the relevant local criminal court of competent jurisdiction. Investigation by the local authorities is still on in order to catch the kingpins.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

To check illegal migration and trafficking of workers the following steps are taken:

(i) On receipt of complaints against registered recruiting agents action is taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs under the provision of Emigration Act, 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate/ license in serious cases.

(ii) In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.

(iii) In respect of complaint against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India.

For protection of the interest and welfare of Indian workers abroad including women emigrants, the following measures have been taken:

- No women below the age of thirty (30) years having ECR passport cannot take up employment in ECR country.
- The employment contract duly attested by the Indian Mission, should be between the worker and the employer directly and not with the recruiting agent.
- In case of recruitment of individual Indian emigrant worker including women directly by the Foreign Employer a bank guarantee of US $ 2500 is to be deposited by the FE in the concerned Indian Mission. In absence of fulfilling the above criteria, the emigration clearance will be granted only on the basis of the availability of the specimen employment contract/labour contract duly attested by the Indian Mission concerned.
- In order to ensure the protection and welfare of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with UAE in December 2006, and with Kuwait in April 2007. An additional protocol with Qatar was signed in November 2007 to update the 1985 Agreement with that country. MOU with Malaysia has also been signed. Such MoUs with Bahrain, Oman and Yemen are underway. These MoUs and Agreements provide for a broad framework for cooperation in Labour and Employment and also provide for Joint Working Groups of senior officers from both sides as an effective grievance redressal mechanism for better protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers.
- Further, to ensure protection and welfare of Indian workers comprehensive amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983, is already underway.
- Wide publicity campaigns both, in electronic and print media, have been taken up by this Ministry for educating the workers on the emigration procedures.

[English]

Construction Works along Coastal Areas

4308. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction works in the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) is banned;

(b if so, whether the construction work is rampant in the said area;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to demolish/ stop illegal constructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 1991 as amended from time to time imposes restrictions on certain developmental and construction activities. The prohibited activities include the setting up of new industries, except those directly related to waterfront, the hazardous chemical storage and the dumping of ash or waste. Further, the permissible activities include the laying of pipelines, conveying facilities in CRZ-I area, the construction of buildings, roads etc., on the landward side of existing authorized structures in CRZ II areas, the development of beach resorts and dwelling units of local communities in CRZ III areas and the development of beach resorts beyond 50 mts from the High Tide Line on the landward side in CRZ-IV areas. All developments in the CRZ area are taken up in accordance with the CRZ Notification, 1991 and the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of the respective States/Union Territories (UTs) with prior permission from the concerned State/UT or from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as the case may be.

(d) For the purpose of enforcing and implementing the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 1991, including taking action against the violations of the said Notification, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted National and State/Union Territory level Coastal Zone Management Authorities under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which have been delegated necessary powers under the said Act.

Overseas Visit Norms for Emigrant Check Required Travellers

4309. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to ease overseas visit norms for Emigrant Check Required (ECR) travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) To ease overseas visit norms for ECR travellers the procedure of issuing suspension of emigration check requirement has been abolished in the Protector of Emigrants (POE) offices w.e.f. 1st October 2007. ECR passport holders travelling abroad for purposes other than employment are now allowed to leave the country on production of valid passport, valid visa & return ticket at the Immigration counters at the international airports in India.

(c) The Ministry is undertaking emigration reforms to make the travel process simple, transparent and efficient. We have done away with the requirement of exist clearance for those travelling on visit visa to save travellers from undue inconvenience, harassment and expenditure. The Ministry has similarly liberalized the criteria for issue of ECNR passports to cover all persons who are 10th class pass and above. The regulatory system for recruiting agents is being made more stringent and their performance monitored more closely.

[Translation]

Suppliers of Medicines to CGHS

4310. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location-wise details of chemists supplying medicines under Central Government Health Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether the funds due to the chemists have been paid to them in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of City	No. of Chemist	Dispensary-wise Detail of Chemists	Payment due to the Chemist
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	5	Navrangpura, Gita Mandir Road, Asarwa, Pragatrinagar, Bapunagar	Upto date
2.	Allahabad	4	Hashimpur Road, Bairahana, Darya Ganj & Ahmedganj	-do-
3.	Bangalore	3	Shivaji Nagar, Malleswaram, Chemraj pet	-do-
4.	Bhopal	1	Raisain Road	Upto Dec. 07 Jan, Feb process

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chennai	4	Pepri Parambur, Anna Nagar, Triplicani Gopal Ganj & R.A. Puram Adaya	Upto date
6.	Guwahati	3	Ganeshguri, Ganeshguri Behind MLA Hostel and Bharalumukh	-do-
7.	Hyderabad	13	Ramwadi, Charminar, Himayunagar, Secunderabad, Begampet, Himayatnagar, Kachiguda, Malakpet, Kanchan Bagh, Alwal, Ameerpet, Kakatiyanagar, Dilsukh Nagar, Tarnaba.	-do-
8.	Jabalpur	2	Madan Mahal Chowk, Jawae, Ganj	-do-
9.	Jaipur	2	Chaura Rasta, Bani Park	-do-
10.	Kolkata		Priya Medical Store, Sector 2, Salt Lake; Gaurishnakar & Co., Kalakar Street; Madina Pharmacy, Burosivpala, main road, Behela.	-do-
11.	Kanpur	5	Shastri Nagar, Govind Nagar, Kidwai Nagar, Brana road & Gandhi Gram.	-do-
12.	Lucknow	4	Gole market, Aminabad, Aish Bagh & Udaiganj.	-do-
13.	Meerut	3	Mohanpuri, Vijay Nagar & Lekh Nagar	-do-
14.	Mumbai	4	Dadar, Andheri, Andheri & Parel.	-do-
15.	Nagpur	3	Warda Road, Warda Road & Sadar Area	-do-
16.	Patna	2	Boarding Road, Makhania Kuan.	-do-
17.	Pune	4	Ganesh Peth, Ganesh Khind, DAD Complex Camp.	-do-
18.	Trivandrum		Divya Medicals, Kunera Puram; Perur Medicals, Ambakmukku; Hai Sree Medicals, Thycaud.	Paid upto Dec. 07 for GS and Jan. 2008 for pensioners
19.	Chandigarh	1	Sector 45	-Upto date
20.	Bhuvaneshwa	2	A.G. Colony & Kharwel Nagar.	-do-
21.	Ranchi	1	Jharkhand	-do-
22.	Dehradun	1	Uttarakhand	-do-

1	2	3	4	5		
23.	Delhi	16	Kasturba Nagar I & II, Pragati Vihar, Sarojini Ngr I & II, Sarojini Ngr Mkt., R.K. Puram 2,3,4,6,8 & 12, Maternity & Gyne Hospital R.K. Puram, Munirka, Malviya Ng., Pushp Vihar, Hauz Khas, Moti Bagh, Nanak Pura, Srinivaspuri, Lajpat Nagar, Jangpura, M.B. Road, Kalkaji I & II, Anderws Ganj, Lodhi Road I & II, Sadiq Nagar, Gole Market, Kali Bari, Pahar Ganj, Chitra Gupta Rd., Kidwai Nagar, Laxmi Bai Nagar, Netaji Nagar, Nauroji Nagar, Chanakya Puri, Pandara Road, Z.H. road, Constitution House and Telegraph Lane	Zone-wise status		
				Zone	Serving	Pensioner
				South	Cleared upto 25.3.08	Rs. 3.10 crore pending after 14.2.08
				North	Cleared upto 29.2.08 Rs. 1.26 crore	Cleared upto 31.12.07 Rs. 4.25 pending
				East	Cleared upto 15.4.08	Cleared upto 14.1.08 Rs. 4.00 crore pending
				Central	Cleared upto 29.2.08	Cleared upto 29.2.08

[English]

Extradition Treaty

4311. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the names of the countries with which India has extradition treaty;

(b) whether in view of the difficulties faced in bringing back the wanted criminals the Government proposes to sign such treaties with more countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modalities outlined in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) India has extradition treaties in force with the following 26 countries and regions:

Belgium, Nepal, Canada, the Netherlands, U.K., Switzerland, Bhutan, Hong Kong, USA, Russia, U.A.E., Uzbekistan, Spain, Turkey, Mongolia, Germany, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Oman, France, South Africa, Bahrain, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Kuwait.

In addition, India has extradition arrangements with the following countries:

Australia, Fiji, Italy, Papua, New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand and Portugal.

(b) and (c) It is the policy of the Government to conclude Extradition treaties with as many countries as possible so as to ensure that fugitive criminals do not escape justice. Accordingly, India is in the process of negotiating/ratifying extradition treaties with 31 more countries. Negotiations are held through diplomatic channels on the basis of drafts prepared by India and/or the other country concerned.

Training to Elected Members of PRIs

4312. DR. K DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state the modalities of the various training programme being imparted including that of the language in which such training are provided to the elected members of Panchayati Raj for effective implementation of the PRIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Training to Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions is being imparted through State Institute of Rural Developments (SIRDs), Extension Training Centers (ETCs), NGOs etc. in the States before and after elections, sensitization and awareness generation among different stakeholders, social mobilization, special training for women/SC/ST members of PRIs. It is also being emphasized that content of training programme should cover both strategic cum technical aspects and should be based on systematic Training Needs Analysis. The training strategy should be inclusive, participative, interactive and composite mix of various interventions viz. face to face participatory training, exposure visits, peer training or learning, satellite training, etc. to cover maximum PRIs representatives to extend possible. The majority of the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRDs) uses local language during the training programmes of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Revenue Loss to Kolkata Port Trust

4313. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Kolkata Port Trust sustained huge revenue losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for such huge revenue losses;

(c) whether the Government has fixed responsibility in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such revenue losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No. Sir. Kolkata Port Trust has earned a net profit during last three years. The data of net profit before tax are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

2005-06	270.65
2006-07	465.11
2007-08 (Un-audited/provisional)	509.51

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report of WEF on TB

4314. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Economic Forum (WEF) has furnished their report on TB recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the report; and

(c) the details of the allocations made and spent therefrom for the eradication of TB in the last four years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The World Ecnomic Forum released a report titled 'Tackling Tuberculosis: The Business Response' based on an analysis of responses to questions on TB in the World Economic Forum's Annual Executive Opinion Survey. Nearly one third of respondents expect tuberculosis to affect their business in next five years with one in ten expecting the effects to be serious. The report found that firms in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe are most concerned. The report further states that firms in poorer countries with high TB prevalence are particularly worried. While transmission of the disease can occur in workplaces, workforces offer a ready audience for TB education and businesses have many skills that can help tackle health problems. There is strong potential, therefore, for business to help fight TB. Businesses have a variety of motivations for acting to control the disease, from limiting its impacts on employees to strengthening partnerships with other stakeholders to enhancing corporate reputation. A number of businesses are engaged in TB control efforts, based on their core competencies, in partnership with National Governments, International organizations and other partners in the private sector, yet the momentum is not comparable to business action on HIV/AIDS. The report also noted that "India Business Alliance" in partnership with Global Health Initiative works closely with World Economic Forum and is publicly committed to control TB in India by raising public awareness of TB and its symptoms and broadening business sector engagement in TB control in partnership with Ministry of Health's Revised National TB Control Programme.

(c) No allocation of fund from WEF has been made for TB Control Programme in India. However, the details of funds allocation & amount spent under the RNTCP during the last four years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2004-05	140.00	133.63
2005-06	186.00	187.70
2006-08	202.17	220.97
2007-08	267.00	262.12

[Translation]

Sub-Health Centres

4315. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) the State-wise details of sub-health centres in their own building/rented building/rent free buildings in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide funds under the National Rural Health Mission for constructing buildings for those sub-centres which do not have their own buildings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A statement-showing the State-wise detail of sub centres functioning in Government Buildings, Rented Buildings, Rent Free Panchayat/Voluntary Society Buildings as per RHS bulletin updated upto March, 2007 is enclosed.

(a) and (c) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Sub Centres which includes the provision for construction of building and infrastructure. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

Statement

Building position for sub centres (As on March, 2007)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Number of Sub Centres functioning	Sub Centres functioning in		
			Govt. Buildings	Rented Buildings	Rent Free Panchayat/ Vol. Society Buildings
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12522	4221	8301	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	379	273	NA	NA
3.	Assam	5109	2637	2472	0
4.	Bihar	8909	2503	4711	1695
5.	Chhattisgarh	4692	1458	0	3234
6.	Goa	172	41	131	0
7.	Gujarat	7274	5840	0	1434
8.	Haryana	2433	1496	0	937

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2071	1267	14	790
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1888	654	1234	0
11.	Jharkhand	3958	1736	1948	274
12.	Karnataka	8143	4460	2893	790
13.	Kerala	5094	2986	1098	1010
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8834	5831	2403	600
15.	Maharashtra	10453	6964	750	2739
16.	Manipur	420	230	168	22
17.	Meghalaya	398	390	8	0
18.	Mizoram	366	366	0	0
19.	Nagaland	397	354	0	43
20.	Orissa	5927	2542	3385	0
21.	Punjab	2858	1443	0	1415
22.	Rajasthan	10612	8475	0	2137
23.	Sikkim	147	124	20	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	8683	6510	2113	60
25.	Tripura	579	266	241	72
26.	Uttarakhand	1765	706	1059	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	20521	6581	13940	0
28.	West Bengal	10356	2236	8120	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	108	108	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	13	8	0	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38	38	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	21	20	1	0
33.	Delhi	41	22	0	19
34.	Lakshadweep	14	8	6	0
35.	Puducherry	77	36	31	10
	All India[2]	145272	72830	55047	17289

Notes:

NA: Not Available

[1]Required Number= Total functioning-(Government Buildings + Under construction) (ignoring)

* States having construction in excess of the number required to be constructed.

[2]For calculating the overall percentages, the States/UTs for which complete building position is not available should be delexcluded.

[English]

Prevalence of Pneumonia among Children

4316. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of death of Children during the last three years due to Pneumonia in the country alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the eradication of said disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Sir, according to the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) the total number of pneumonia cases and death in the country for the year 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are as follows:

2005:-Cases-774023, Deaths-3513

2006:- Cases-681560, Deaths-3342

2007:-Cases-660390, Deaths-2865

The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Age-specific Pneumonia mortality data for the country is not available.

(Government of India) in order to address mortality due to pneumonia has launched the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood illnesses (IMNCI), a child survival strategy, which aims to train the baseline workers in the management of main causes of morbidity and mortality amonst children, namely measles, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition in a holistic manner at both community level as well as the health facility level. This initiative is being implemented throughout the country in a phased manner.

As a part of the community initiative of the IMNCI strategy families are counseled on early recognition of danger signs in a sick new born and child so that families recognize the symptoms early and seek early treatment at facilities and thus avoid delay.

Statement

Number of reported cases and deaths due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India
Pneumonia in India 2005

Sl.No.	State/UT	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period upto
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47122	98	45767	65	92889	163	Dec, 05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	742	3	709	5	1451	9	Dec, 05
3.	Assam	55268	414	13655	60	68923	474	Dec, 05
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR
6.	Goa	6	0	12	0	18	0	Apr., 05
7.	Gujarat	11647	27	10016	20	21663	47	Dec, 05
8.	Haryana	5439	24	4590	16	10029	40	Dec, 05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17379	43	17303	22	34682	65	Dec, 05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Jammu and Kashmir					99558	0	Dec, 05
11. Jharkhand	147	0	92	0	239	0	Dec., except Jan. to Mar., 05
12. Karnataka	27272	79	25614	48	52886	127	Dec, 05
13. Kerala	11679	21	9944	17	21623	38	Dec, 05
14. Madhya Pradesh	31080	48	26838	39	57918	87	Dec, 05
15. Maharashtra	14732	213	13525	160	28257	373	Dec, 05
16. Manipur	457	0	457	1	914	1	Dec, 05
17. Meghalaya	1580	26	1374	16	2954	42	Dec, 05
18. Mizoram	2457	27	2135	19	4592	46	Dec, 05
19. Nagaland	19	0	17	0	120	0	Dec, 05
20. Orissa	6148	78	4256	46	10404	124	Dec, 05
21. Punjab	6159	54	5090	49	11249	103	Dec, 05
22. Rajasthan	48497	172	36615	81	85112	253	Dec, 05
23. Sikkim	1477	11	1454	1	2931	12	Dec, 05
24. Tamil Nadu					21272	94	Dec, 05
25. Tripura	5218	41	5178	40	10396	81	Dec, 05
26. Uttarakhand	2784	2	2921	0	5705	2	Nov, 05
27. Uttar Pradesh	18900	25	15426	13	34326	38	Dec, 05
28. West Bengal	24467	376	20808	232	45275	608	Aug, 05
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	251	4	152	2	403	6	Dec, 05
30. Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	215	3	141	2	356	5	Dec, 05
32. Daman and Diu	9	0	5	0	14	0	Nov, 05
33. Delhi	23306	408	14454	253	37760	661	Dec, 05
34. Lakshadweep	44	2	35	1	79	3	Dec, 05
35. Pondicherry	5696	7	4329	4	10025	11	Dec, 05
Total	370197	2206	282912	1212	774023	3513	

Notes:

NR: Not Reported/Not received

Central Bureau of Health Inteligence

Source: monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

States/UTs wise Cases and Deaths Due to Pneumonia in India 2006

Sl.No.	State/UT	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period upto
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29287	65	28077	61	57364	126	Dec., except Aug., o6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	598	4	461	6	1059	10	Dec, 06
3.	Assam							NR
4.	Bihar							NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	2940	3	2002	4	4942	7	Dec. except Jan. & Sept., 06
6.	Goa	64	0	57	0	121	0	Dec, 06
7.	Gujarat	6445	91	5542	56	11987	147	Dec, 06
8.	Haryana	6664	23	5348	17	12012	40	Dec, 06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18297	67	17457	19	35754	86	Dec, 06
10.	Jammu Div	25563	1	17636	1	91721	2	Dec, 06
	Kashmir Div	5180	0	4235	0	9415	0	Dec, 06
11.	Jharkhand	1216	0	967	0	2183	0	Dec, 06
12.	Karnataka	24214	40	24080	10	48294	50	Dec, 06
13.	Kerala	13060	44	13047	18	26107	62	Dec, 06
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14079	11	13601	10	27680	21	July, 06
15.	Maharashtra	17387	148	12253	95	29640	243	Dec, 06
16.	Manipur	436	2	382	2	818	4	Dec, 06
17.	Meghalaya	1428	39	1265	12	2693	51	Dec, 06
18.	Mizoram	2401	36	2069	24	4470	60	Dec, 06
19.	Nagaland	518	0	520	0	1038	0	Dec, 06
20.	Orissa	7998	103	5967	56	13965	159	Dec, 06
21.	Punjab	5154	60	3912	30	9066	90	Dec, 06
22.	Rajasthan	52304	201	40062	149	92366	350	Dec, 06

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Sikkim	1098	2	1187	1	2285	3	Dec, 06
24.	Tamil Nadu					12613	74	Dec, 06
25.	Tripura	5849	92	5390	68	11239	160	Dec, 06
26.	Uttarakhand	4170	0	3638	0	7808	0	Dec, 06
27.	Uttar Pradesh	27444	31	21338	8	48782	39	Dec, 06
28.	West Bengal	47872	649	42030	502	89902	1151	Dec, 06
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	340	6	224	6	564	12	Dec, 06
30.	Chandigarh		..			2289	37	Dec. except Jan. to Mar., 06
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30	1	24	0	54	1	Dec, 06
32.	Daman and Diu	4	0	1	0	5	0	Feb., Apr., Nov. & Dec., 06 only
33.	Delhi	12148	216	7689	135	19837	351	Dec, 06
34.	Lakshadweep	29	0	32	1	61	1	Dec, 06
35.	Pondicherry	1934	5	1492	0	3426	5	Dec, 06
	Total	336151	1940	281985	1291	681560	3342	

Notes:
NR: Not Reported/Not received
Central Bureau of Health Intelligence
Source: monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

States/UTs wise Cases and Deaths Due to Pneumonia in India 2007 (Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period upto
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38121	130	37396	83	75517	213	Dec, 07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh							NR
3.	Assam	2745	7	2116	3	4861	10	May, 07
4.	Bihar							NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5. Chhattisgarh	15282	18	5899	11	21181	29	Dec., 07
6. Goa	40	1	37	0	77	1	Dec., 07
7. Gujarat	3252	84	2631	56	5883	140	Dec., 07
8. Haryana	2459	12	2068	6	4527	18	Aug., 07
9. Himachal Pradesh	16023	51	15042	28	31065	79	Dec., 07
10. Jammu Div	43748	0	29155	0	72903	0	Dec., 07
Kashmir Div	7268	0	5384	0	12652	0	Dec., 07
11. Jharkhand	1882	1	1147	0	3029	1	Dec., 07
12. Karnataka	14568	78	13580	39	28148	117	Sept. 07
13. Kerala	8324	51	7335	37	15659	88	Dec., 07
14. Madhya Pradesh	25137	26	23057	19	48194	45	Dec., 07
15. Maharashtra	20738	61	19404	54	40142	115	Dec., 07
16. Manipur	928	19	775	6	1703	25	Nov., 07
17. Meghalaya	990	7	797	4	1787	11	July, 07
18. Mizoram	2673	48	2419	36	5092	84	Dec., 07
19. Nagaland	299	0	141	0	644	6	Dec., 07
20. Orissa	8488	67	6745	39	15233	106	Oct., 07
21. Punjab	4471	41	3566	24	8037	65	Dec., 07
22. Rajasthan	19500	40	15154	21	34654	61	July, 07
23. Sikkim	913	3	462	3	1375	6	Dec., 07
24. Tamil Nadu					4597	9	Nov., 07
25. Tripura	2384	71	1919	54	4303	125	Dec., 07
26. Uttarakhand	4235	4	6302	8	10537	12	Dec., 07
27. Uttar Pradesh	63618	206	51343	168	114961	374	Dec., 07
28. West Bengal	28589	362	26373	258	54962	620	Sept., 07
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	590	6	615	3	1205	9	Dec., 07 except Oct.
30. Chandigarh					3377	53	Dec., 07
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	43	0	32	0	75	0	Dec., 07

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Daman and Diu	7	1	6	0	13	1	Dec., 07
33.	Delhi	19177	258	12580	160	31757	418	Dec., 07
34.	Lakshadweep	12	0	10	1	22	1	Sept., 07
35.	Pondicherry	1216	15	802	8	2018	23	Dec., 07
	Total	357720	1668	294292	1129	660390	2865	

Notes:

NR: Not Reported/Not received

Central Bureau of Health Inteligence

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

Financial Assistance for Protection of Nilgiri Biosphere

4317. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka during the last three years for protection of Nilgiri Biosphere;

(b) whether the State Governments have prepared a Joint Action Plan to protect the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Union Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka under the schemes namely: Biosphere Reserves, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Elephant and Project Tiger for protection of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The details of the financial assistance provided during the last three years for this purpose are as follows:

Amount in Lakhs

Name of the State	Financial Year	Financial Year 2005-06	Financial Year 2006-07	Total 2007-08
Tamil Nadu	459.4028	467.185	489.442	1416.0298
Kerala	613.5958	692.125	895.5689	2201.2897
Karnataka	1167.5177	969.559	2034.93791	4172.01461

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Stillwell Road

4318. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the stillwell Road on the Indo-Myanmar border with a view to strengthening trade links with South-East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated for the above purpose; and

(d) the time by which the upgradation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have not decided to upgrade the so-called Stillwell road in Myanmar.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Special Drive to Fill Vacancies for SCs/STs/OBCs

4319. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any special drive for employment exchanges to fill up the vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs in the Government and PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A special recruitment drive has been launched by the Government to fill up backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs by following the normal procedure for filling up the posts. No such drive has been conducted for OBCs, yet.

Re-Definition of below Poverty Line

4320. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to re-define the people living Below Poverty Line as reported in the "Times of India" dated March 31, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up an Expert Group to review the current set of economic indicators to identify the poor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also considering specific criteria for automatic listing of SCs/STs widows and physically challenged people as BPL/poor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration, at present. However, the Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar. The terms of reference of the Expert Group are as follows:

(i) To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, and to suggest methodlogies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.

(ii) To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.

(iii) In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Setting up of National Council on AIDS

4321. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Council on AIDS to have policy directives and monitor AIDS control programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the members of such council and the targets assigned to it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Council on AIDS was set up in June, 2005 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister with Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare as Vice-Chairman and 28 Ministers in-charge of various Central Government Ministries/Departments besides Dy. Chairman of Planning Commission. The Council also includes Cheif Ministers of three AIDS high prevalence States (Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Nagaland) and one CM from moderate AIDS prevalence State namely Gujarat and 3 highly AIDS vulnerable States (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal). The Council has 15 non-officials representing civil society organizations.

The main functions of the Council are to mainstream HIV/AIDS issue in all Ministries/Departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely a public health problem; to lead the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS in the country with special reference to youth and the work force, and review the inter-sectoral commitment.

[Translation]

Referring of Patients to Private Hospitals

4322. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government hospitals including that of Safdarjang Hospital refer patients to those private hospitals which have been allotted land on subsidised rates with the condition that they would reserve some beds for the poor patients; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes. Central Government hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital refer poor patients to private hospitals which have been allotted land on subsidized rates with reserved bed for poor patients as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi. The list of these private hospitals is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Private Hospitals

Sl.No.	Name & Address of the Hospital
1	2
1.	Dharmshila Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Vasundhra Enclave, Delhi-110096
2.	Deepak Memorial Hospital & Medical Research Centre, 5, Institutional Area, Vikas Marg Extn, Delhi-110092
3.	Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, Okhla Road, Okhla, Delhi 110025
4.	Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Opp. Police Station, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070
5.	Jaipur Golden Hospital, 2, Institutional Area, Sector 2, Rohini, Delhi-110085
6.	Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute, Sheikh Sarai, Phase-II, Saket, New Delhi-110017
7.	National Heart Institute, 49, Community Centre, East of Kailash, Delhi-110065
8.	Mai Kamli Wali Ch. Hospital Plot No. 12, J-Block, Community Centre, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-27
9.	Saroj Hospital, Sector-14, Extn. Near Madhuban Chowk, Rohini, Delhi-110085
10.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, D-18, Sector-V, Rohini, Delhi-110085
11.	Shanit Mukund Hospital, 2 Institutional Area, Vikas Marg Extn. Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092
12.	Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre, Plot-1, Shekh Sarai, New Delhi-110017
13.	Veeranwali International Hospital Chander Gupta Road, Chanakyapuri, Delhi-110021
14.	Dr. Vidya Sagar Kaushalya Devi Memorial Health Centre (VIMHANS) Nehru Nagar, Delhi-110065
15.	Bhagwati Hospital, C-5/OCF-6, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085
16.	Gujarmal Modi Hospital, Mandir Marg, Saket, Delhi-110017
17.	Kottakkal Arya Vaidyashala, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092

1	2
18.	Amar Jyoti Ch. Trust, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092
19.	Bima Devi Hospital Plot No. 5, Pkt. B, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091
20.	Batra Hospital, 1 MB Road, Tughlakabad, Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062
21.	Bagwan Mahavir Hospital, Sector-14, Extn. Madhuban Chowk, Rohini, New Delhi-110085
22.	Max Devki Devi Heart and Vascular Institute, 2 Press Enclave Road, Saket, new Delhi-110017
23.	Jeevan Anmol Hospital, Mayur Vihar, Phase I, Delhi-110091
24.	Max Balaji Hospital, 108-A, IP Extension Patparganj, Delhi-110092
25.	Shri Balaji Action Medical Institute FC-34, A-4, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi
26.	Delhi ENT Hospital & Research Centre, FC-33 Plot No. 13, Jasola Delhi
27.	Sir Ganga Ram Trust Society, Hospital Marg, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060
28.	Mool Chand Khairati Ram Trust & Hospital, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-110024
29.	National Chest Institute, A-133, Niti Bagh Delhi, Gautam Nagar, Delhi-110092
30.	St. Stephen's Hospital Society, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054
31.	Mata Chanana Devi Hospital, A-21/D, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058
32.	Sunder Lal Jain Charitable Hospital, Phase-III, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110055
33.	R.B. Seth Jessa Ram Hospital, WEA Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
34.	Khosla Medical Institute & Research Society, K.M.I&R. Centre, Paschim Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi.
35.	Rockland Hospital, B-33, 34 Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016
36.	Bensups Hospital, Aunit of B.R. Dhawan Medical Charitable Trust, Bensups Avenue, Sector-12, Dwarka, Delhi.

[English]

52nd Conference of IPHA

4323. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether the 52nd conference of Indian Public Health Association was held recently in the Capital;

(b) if so, the issues discussed in the Conference;

(c) the outcome of Conference; and

(d) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the organizer of the Conference, issues relating to Global Climate Change and its impact on Health, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood illness, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Implementation of National Rural Health Mission, Control of Infectious Diseases, Japanese Encephalitis and Chronic Reproductive Morbidity were discussed. Besides this 296 research papers were presented by delegates from different parts of the country.

(c) As per the organizers, the conference was primarily aimed at updating delegates on the issues detailed above, as also share their experiences and research.

(d) Does not arise.

Guidelines for Grants of Central Road Fund

4324. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released under the Central Road Fund should be utilized within 24 months from the date of sanction;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the detailed guidelines required under the CRF;

(c) the funds approved and released under CRF to the State Governments; State-wise;

(d) the State Governments which have not utilized the funds released and not submitted the utilization certificate thereof, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The Central Road Fund (State Roads) Rules, 2007 provide for a stipulated maximum project completion period of 24 months for projects sanctioned under this scheme. The funds are released based on the actual expenditure incurred and the Utilization Certificate submitted thereof. The State-wise details of the fund allocation and release made under CRF for the year 2007-08 are given in the enclosed statement. State Governments are requested to accelerate the pace of the progress of CRF works and the progress of utilization of funds from CRF is monitored regularly.

Statement

State-wise details of the fund allocation and release made under CRF during year 2007-08

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	State	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	141.48	135.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.13	18.13
3.	Assam	26.13	26.13
4.	Bihar	38.52	16.14
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.35	40.35
6.	Goa	4.16	4.17
7.	Gujarat	97.07	97.07
8.	Haryana	64.30	54.76
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15.69	15.48
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.86	50.85
11.	Jharkhand	35.37	17.02
12.	Karnataka	112.42	102.42
13.	Kerala	48.42	29.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	93.85	93.85
15.	Maharashtra	155.58	96.68
16.	Manipur	3.86	3.86
17.	Meghalaya	4.06	4.06
18.	Mizoram	4.86	4.74
19.	Nagaland	4.42	4.42
20.	Orissa	31.66	31.66
21.	Punjab	52.92	52.92
22.	Rajasthan	132.45	132.45
23.	Sikkim	2.15	2.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	68.84
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	159.34	159.34
27.	Uttarakhand	19.07	14.02
28.	West Bengal	53.65	35.70
	Sub Total	1510.77	1312.19
UTs			
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1.90	0.50
30.	Chandigarh	2.28	0.00

1	2	3	4
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.10	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.79	0.00
33.	Delhi	44.69	9.50
34.	Lakshadweep	0.12	0.00
35.	Puducherry	3.67	0.00
	Sub Total	54.55	10.00
	Total	1565.32	1322.19

Effect of Polluted Ground Water

4325. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the study recently conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have found that at least one-third of the districts in the country have polluted ground water which adversely affect the health of human beings;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain the quality of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As per information received from Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), CGWB has not carried out any such study which indicates that at least one-third of the districts of the country have polluted ground water. Analytical results of ground water samples collected from the network of observation wells of Central Ground Water Board indicate that ground water in major part of the country is potable and is also suitable for domestic, industrial and irrigation applications.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Emigration Clearance to Iraq

4326. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether emigration clearance to Indian citizens travelling to Iraq has been cancelled;

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

(c) whether the services of Indian workers and drivers who had gone to Kuwait have been terminated by their Kuwaiti companies due to the ban on travel to Iraq;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to raise this issue with the Government of Kuwait; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The emigration clearance to the Indian citizens travelling to Iraq has been suspended in view of the deteriorating security situation in Iraq since 15 April 2004. Since the security situation in Iraq continues to be grim, the above directive continues to be in place.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of such developments that due to the ban on travel to Iraq, the services of Indian workers and drivers, who had gone to Kuwait, have been terminated by their Kuwaiti companies. In view of the above ban, the Embassy of India in Kuwait has issued press releases in the past advising all Indian nationals in Kuwait to desist from travelling to iraq. Further, all companies based in Kuwait which employ Indian nationals are required to get their labour contracts attested by the Embassy of India and give an undertaking that the Indian nationals to be employed by them will not be deployed in Iraq.

(d) and (e) Not applicable.

[English]

Sports Authority and Coaches

4327. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the total number of sports authorities and coaches in the country, State-wise and Sports-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): The Government of India has set up only one Sports Authority of India (SAI) in 1984. "Sports" is a State subject and promotion of same at State level is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. SAI has 1347 numbers of regular coaches and 84 on contract basis in various disciplines, who are deployed all over the country under its sports schemes. Details of regular coaches and contract coaches employed in various sports disciplines, State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement I

State-wise and Discipline-wise coaches 16.04.2008

Sl.No.	State	Arc	Ath	Bdm	BB	BX	CKT	Cyc	FB	Gym	HB	Hcky	JD	KKK	LT	Swm	TT	VB	WL	WR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	Andaman and Nicobar		1					3											1		5
2.	Bihar		3	1	1		2		9			2		3			1	8		1	31
3.	Jharkhand		4	1	1	1			2	1	2	5		1				6			24
4.	Orissa		8	1	4				5	2		2		3				2	2	2	31
5.	West Bengal	5	16	2	6	1	3		22	12	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	5	2		88
6.	Assam		2	1	2	1	1		4	1	1			2		3	3	2			23
7.	Arunachal Pradesh		1						1												2
8.	Meghalaya	1	1							1							1				4
9.	Sikkim					1			2							1					4
10.	Tripura		3	1	2				3	5	2		1			1		1	1		20
11.	Mizoram					1			1			2								1	5
12.	Manipur	2	2	3	2	3		1	4	2	4	2	1	2			3	2	2	2	37
13.	Nagaland		1			1			2												4
14.	Delhi		4	5	6	2	9	2	9	9	5	8	7	5	5	7	5	8	1	9	106
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1	10	5	5	3	3		8	5		11	1	4		2	2	7	1	4	72
16.	Uttar Pradesh		8	5	6		3		5	4	4	12	1	3			2	5	3	3	64
17.	Uttaranchal		6	3	1	1			7	1			1				5	3	2	1	31
18.	Chhattisgarh				2				2	1	1	2		3				2			13
19.	Haryana		10	3	5	11	6	1	5	6	7	9	4	6		3	5	7	7	8	103
20.	Jammu and Kashmir		1	2	3		2		3		2	4		3				3	1	1	25
21.	Himachal Pradesh		5	4	4	1	3		5	1		9	1	4			1	7			45
22.	Chandigarh		3		2		1		2	2	1	4		2				3	1		21
23.	Punjab		13		2	2	1		5	2	6	7	10	1			2	8	3	5	67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24.	NIS Patiala		12	4	6	3	3	6	3	5	6	7	7	1	2	4	4	2	6	2	83
25.	Tamilnadu		6	1	5	1	1		3			6		4	1		1	12	1		42
26.	Andhra Pradesh	1	11	3	5	2	1		8	5	6	9	1	8	1			10	4		75
27.	Kerala		11	1	9	2	2	1	4	3	4	6	1	6		7		9	2	1	69
28.	Karnataka		14	2	5	1	1		7	4	2	11	1	8	3	4	2	11	3	3	82
29.	Puducherry		1								1	1		2			1		1		7
30.	Rajasthan		9	2	7	1	4		4	6	2	4		3		1	6	7	2	5	63
31.	Gujarat		5	4	1	1	4		1	2	6	2	1	2		2	1		1	1	34
32.	Maharashtra	1	4	2	2	1	1		1	6	4	5	3	7		2	3	3		7	52
33	Goa		2				1		3			1	2	1		3		1			14
34.	Daman and Diu			1																	1
	Grand Total	11	177	57	94	41	52	11	143	86	68	133	44	85	13	45	50	134	47	56	1347

Statement II

Contract Coaches as on 16.4.08 (State & Discipline-wise)

Sl.No.	Disciplines	Arch	Box	Cyl	Fenc	Gym	Krt	K&C	Row	Sep.Tak	Shoot	S.Ball	Swm	Tkwd	WR	WL	Wushu	amb	Judo	Yoga	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	Andaman and Nicobar			1																	1
2.	Jharkhand	1																			1
3.	Orissa	1							1												2
4.	West Bengal	1	1																		2
5.	Assam	2	2											2					1		7
6.	Arunachal Pradesh		1				1							1							3
7.	Meghaleya	1					1							1							3
8.	Mizoram		1				1									1					3
9.	Manipur		2	1	1	1	1			1	1		1	3	1	1	2				16
10.	Nagaland		1							1				1			1				4
11.	Delhi	1								1	3						1				6
12.	Madhya Pradesh						1	1				1		2							5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13.	Uttar Pradesh							1		1	1										3
14.	Punjab	1									1										2
15.	NIS Patiala		2		2						1						3			1	9
16.	Tamilnadu													1				1			2
17.	Andhra Pradesh		2											1							3
18.	Kerala				1									3							4
19.	Karnataka		1									1		3							5
20.	Maharashtra	1	1																		2
21.	Goa		1																		1
	Grand Total	9	15	2	4	1	5	2	1	4	7	2	1	18	1	2	7	1	1	1	84

Review of Relationship with Pakistan

4328. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reviewed its relationship with Pakistan in view of the recent changeover of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks have been held or views exchanged between the two countries in regard to bilateral relations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by India to have more harmonious relationship with that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have congratulated the new Government in Pakistan on its assumption of office and reiterated India's commitment to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan and to resolve all issues bilaterally through dialogue.

(c) and (d) It has been agreed that External Affairs Minister will visit Islamabad on 21 May 2008 to review the 4th round of the Composite Dialogue. The visit of External Affairs Minister will be preceded by the visit of Foreign Secretary on 20 May 2008.

(e) The several steps taken to normalise relations between the two countries since the beginning of the Composite Dialogue in 2004 have resulted in a considerable improvement in relations between India and Pakistan.

Investment by NRIs

4329. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) the State-wise details of the investment made by the Non-Resident Indians during 2007-08 as against the anticipated investment;

(b) whether any change has been suggested/made in the existing institutional arrangements for facilitating the NRIs for more investments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The total FDI inflow (including NRI

investment) during 2007-08 (upto Feb, 2008) is US $ 20.1 billion (Statement indicating Regional office wise inflows is enclosed). However segregated data on NRI investments is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for FDI, including investments from NRIs, wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. In addition, the policy allows special dispensation for NRI investments in the real estate and housing and in domestic airlines sectors.

In the real estate & housing sector, as per Press Note 4 (2006), investment by NRIs is exempt from the conditions of minimum capitalization, minimum area development etc. specified in Press Note 2 (2005). As per Press Note 4(2008) (copy available on DIPP website) NRI investment upto 100% is permitted on the automatic route for the following activities.

(i) Scheduled Air Transport Services/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline

(ii) Non-Scheduled Air Transport Service/Non-Scheduled airlines, Chartered airlines and Cargo airlines

(iii) Ground Handling Services subject to sectoral regulations and security clearances.

Statement

Regional Office-wise FDI Inflows

(Amount in US$ million)

Sl.No.	Regional Office of RBI	States covered	Amount of FDI inflows	% age with FDI inflows
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	990.71	4.92
2.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	2.73	0.01
3.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1020.32	5.07
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka	1561.54	7.75
5.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	34.35	0.17
6.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	37.79	0.19
7.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	7902.52	39.24
8.	Bhuvaneshwar	Orissa	7.47	0.04
9.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	23.12	0.11
10.	Chennai	Tamilnadu, Pondicherry	538.05	2.67

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	3.53	0.02
12.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	450.50	2.24
13.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	42.16	0.21
14.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP & Haryana	3133.82	15.56
15.	Panaji	Goa	43.06	0.21
16.	Region not Indicated		4345.67	21.58
		Sub Total	20137.36	
17.	Stock Swapped		0.17	0.00
		Grand Total	20137.53	

Unspent MPLAD Funds

4330. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the unspent MPLAD funds accumulated over the period of time;

(b) the reasons for the accumulation;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the unspent funds in a time bound manner;

(d) whether the Government proposes to create a separate technical wing to undertake MPLAD funds works order to decentralise the work burden on the public works department and the civil wing of the zilla parishads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The unspent balance of MPLADS funds at the all India level, as compiled from the Monthly Progress Reports received from the districts upto 31.3.2008, is Rs. 2136.63 crore.

(b) Under the MPLAD Scheme, incurring of expenditure (thereby reducing the unspent balance) and concomitant release of funds, takes place continuously, throughout the year. As per the MPLADS Guidelines, on receipt of Monthly Progress Report reflecting unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 50 lakh and unspent balance less than Rs. 1 crore, Utilization Certificate for the previous financial year and Audit Certificate for the year prior to the previous financial year, the second instalment of funds and subsequently the succeeding first instalment is released, if due. Therefore, in view of the nature and dynamics of the scheme and the fact that funds are released to different Lok Sabha constitutencies and Rajya Sabha MPs at different points of time, unspent balances, which also include a sizeable amount of interest accrued on the funds released, are bound to exist at any given point of time. Further, as in the case of funds released, the unspent balances are also non-lapsable.

(c) There has been a remarkable reduction in the unspent balance from 2004-05 onwards, due to proactive policies such as introduction of the criteria of release of funds only when unspent balance is below Rs. 1 crore, and result oriented reviews at the Centre, State and districts level. The unspent balance, which was Rs. 2404.26 crore as on 31.3.2004, is now Rs. 2136.63 crore as on 31.3.2008.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mercury Pollution

4331. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) the status of project sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment and forests for All India institute of Medical Sciences to conduct a survey to assess the awareness of Environmental Mercury Pollution in Health Care System;

(b) the details of the finding of the survey; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the findings of AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has recently sanctioned a project for AIIMS to conduct a survey to assess the awareness of Environmental Mercury Pollution in Health Care Systems. The study has yet to be started by AIIMS.

Accupuncture as an Approved System of Treatment

4332. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to acknowledge Accupuncture thereapy as an approved system of treatment in the Government Hospitals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the notification issued thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) A Standing Committee of Experts constituted by the Central Govt. under the chairmanship of DG, ICMR recommended that Accupuncture and Hyprotherapy which qualified as modes of therapy could be allowed to be practiced by registered practitioners or appropriately trained personnel. The Committee further recommended that those considered as Mode of Therapy can be conducted as Certificate courses for registered medical practitioners to adopt these modes of therapy in their practice, whether modern medicine or Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

The above recommendations of the Committee were brought to the notice of all the State Govt./UTs for compliance. A copy of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's letter dated 25.11.2003 in this regard, is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

No. R. 14015/25/96-U&H(R) (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(Research Desk)

Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 25th November, 2003

ORDER

The matter regarding grant of recognition to the various streams of alternative medicine including electropathy/electrohomoeopathy, has been under consideration of the Govt. In this process Govt. has considered the orders dated 18.11.98 of the Hon'ble High Court Delhi in CWP No. 4015/96 & OM No. 8468/97 which has inter-alia directed the Central/State Govts. to consider making legislation to grant of licenses to the existing and new institutes etc. to control & regulate the various unrecognised streams of alternative medicines and also to give adequate publicity through media informing public about the Respondents and similar other institutes not being recognized by the Govt. & affiliated with any of the Councils.

2. Government constituted a Standing Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research and members were drawn from various fields of medicine to consider & give its recommendations to the Government on the efficacy, merits of various streams of alternative medicine and also examine feasibility of making legislation as suggested by the Hon'ble Court.

3. The Committee developed essential & desirable criteria for grant of recognition to a new stream of medicine and analysed the different streams of 'Alternative medicine viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy,

Yoga & Naturopathy, Electropathy/Electrohomoeopathy, Acupuncture, magnetotherapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Urine Therapy/Autourine Therapy, Hynotherapy, Aromotherapy Colour therapy, Pranic Healing, Gems & Stone Therapy and Music Therapy.

4. The Committee did not recommend recognition to any of these alternative medicine except the already recognized traditional systems of medicines, viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy and Yoga & Naturopathy which were found to fulfil the essential & desirable criteria developed by the Committee for recognition of a system of medcine. The Committee has, however, recommended that certain practices as Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy which qualified as modes of therapy, could be allowed to be practiced by registered practitioners or appropriately trained personnel. The Committee further suggested that all those Systems of Medicine not recognized as separate Systems should not be allowed to continue full time Bachelor and Master's degree courses and the term "Doctor" should be used only by practitioners of systems of Medicine recognised by the Government of India. Those considered as Mode of Therapy can be conducted as Certificate courses for registered medical practitioners to adopt these modes of therapy in their practice, whether modern medicine or Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

After carefully examining the various recommendations of the Committee, the Government accepted these recommendations of the Committee. Accordingly, it is requested that the State/UT Govt. may give wide publicity to the decision of the Govt. They may also ensure that institutions under the State/UT do not grant any degree/ diploma in the stream of medicine which have not been recommended for recognition and the term 'Doctor' is used by practitioners of recognized system of medicine.

This issues with the approval of Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health & FW.

(Bhavani Thyagarajan)
Joint Secretary

To

1. All Health Secretaries of States/UTs.
2. Secretary, UGC
3. Dental Countil of India, Indian Nursing Council, Medical Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, Indian Council of Medical Research
4. Secretary, Deptt. of ISM & H
5. CCIM, CCH, CCREAS, CCRYN, CCRH, CCRUM

Rising HIV Cases in Asia

4333. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether an estimated 8 million people are expected to be affected by HIV in Asia as reported in the Times of India dated March 28, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on India; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Commission on AIDS in Asia has estimated that nearly 5 million people are currently infected with HIV in 23 countries in Asia including India. The HIV prevalence could increase to 10 million by 2020 if expanded prevention efforts are not introduced. The Commission on AIDS in Asia has suggested preventive strategies and care and support services. These are strategies that are currently being implemented under the National AIDS Control Programme Phase III.

India Health Summit

4334. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth India Health Summit was held in New Delhi in 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues discussed and outcome of the Summit; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made in the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes sir, the fourth India Health Summit was organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in association with Indian Healthcare Federation (IFH) on 13-14 November 2007.

(b) and (c) The summit discussed several issues include inter-alia: health care infrastructure, health

insurance, medical value travel, public-private partnerships, quality accreditation, advanced medical technology and manpower training.

The recommendations that emerged in the Conference Include inter-alia:

- Hospital projects should be treated at par with other sectors identified as infrastructure status and tax holiday under Section 80 I of Income Tax Act to be extended to new hospital projects irrespective of location;
- Existing hospitals should also be extended the benefits to upgrade or add certain functions. The time frame for deduction should be around 5 years from the year of completion of up-gradation to help the hospitals to catch up with the latest technology to improve upon the treatment quality levels;
- Benefits under Section 10 (23C) which presently applied to not for profit organizations should be extended for profit healthcare ventures;
- Amortization of certain preliminary expenses under Section 35D to the hospitals to attract new investments in healthcare as well as allow the existing players to scale operations;
- Set-off or carry forward of accumulated losses under Section 72 A should also be extended to Companies running hospitals or owning hospitals, to make the investments more attractive;
- Government of India to enter into Mutual Recongntion Agreements with more countries and with a wider coverage for recognition of Indian Medical Degrees;
- Foreign Regional Registration Offices to be extended in large corporate hospitals for the convenience of Medical Value Travel Patients;
- Private Ambulances from organized healthcare providers should be allowed to receive patients from the airplane directly;
- Fiscal Incentives for indigenous Manufacutimg of Medical Equipment/Devices;
- Extension of benefits to healthcare consulting on lines of software exports;
- Revision of depreciation rates for hospital's Fixed Assets including medical equipment (capital Intensive other than life saving equipment);
- Reduction on customs & excise rates on medical equipment including replacement of spare parts above the value of Rs. 5 lakhs;
- Exemption for hospitals to pay sales tax for purchase of consumables used in hospitalization;
- The Health Summit also recommended certain Income Tax benefits to:
  - — Individuals health seekers under Sections: 80D, 80DD, 80DDB;
  - — patients having medical-device implants & undergoing therapeutic procedures;
  - — encourage preventive health check ups. A limit up to Rs. 10,000 per family should be provided as deduction from the taxable amount.

The Government has taken due notice of these recommendations and adequately addressed them wherever feasible, in the current year's budget.

Executive Instructions for Empanelment of Officers

4335. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued executive instructions to maintain a gap of two years between IAS and the Group 'A' Central Services and the other two All India Services for empanelment of officers at the level of Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/Secretary under the Central Staffing Scheme;

(b) if so, the rationale behind it;

(c) whether such a gap is even more in case where IAS officers of 1988/89 batch already stand empanelled as Joint Secretary while officers of other Services belonging to 1982/83 batch are yet awaiting for their empanelment;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to remove such disparities; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The IAS is considered the premier Civil Service, consistently attracting the best among those who take the Civil Services Examination every year. The IAS officers serve in a wide variety of positions starting from the grassroots through the District, State to Central Government level. Their work experience covers social, economic and developmental aspects of our polity. These unique attributes of an IAS officers make him more eligible for higher level assignments in the Central Government ahead of members of the other central Group 'A' Services.

(c) and (d) While the instructions provide for a two-year differential between the IAS and other Group 'A' service officers, the actual gap can, sometimes, be more depending on a variety of factors. These include delayed receipt of proposals from the Cadre Controlling Authorities or names of officers, complete in all respects. Efforts are being made by some of the cadre controlling authorities to submit proposals, complete in all respects in terms of conditions laid down under the Scheme, for more than one batch, which is expected to bridge the gap between IAS and such Services in line with provisions under the Central Staffing Scheme.

(e) The clearance of backlog by concerned Cadre Controlling Authority is likely to bridge the gap between IAS and other Services in line with the provisions under the Central Staffing Scheme.

Technology Upgradation and Training for Organ Transplantation

4336. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make technology upgradation for Organ Transplantation and provide necessary training to the medical professionals in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Technology and skills upgradation is a continuous process. In India, facilities for transplantation of major organs are already available though these are concentrated in select super specialty hospitals in the country.

Radiation-Related Health Problems

4337. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the radioactive-waste from Government-owned uranium mines has affected people working in Jharkhand's Judguda mine with serious radiation related health problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith deficincies/ disorder noticed amonst the people;

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

(d) whether Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) is dumping nuclear waste from its mines in the open fields; and

(e) the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable

(c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Nuclear wastes from the mines are disposed off in well engineered Tailings Ponds. The guidelines as prescribed by Regulatory Authorities are followed strictly.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8594/08]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune for the year 2006-07.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8595/08]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2006-07.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8596/08]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8597/08]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (National Academy of Ayurveda), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (National Academy of Ayurveda) New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8598/08]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8599/08]

(13) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 114(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2008 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8600/08]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8601/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 235(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2008 making certain amendments in the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act, 2005, issued under sub-section (2) of section 24 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8602/08]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-07.

(ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8603/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation, Dhanbad, for the year 2005-06, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation, Dhanbad, for the year 2005-06.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8604/08]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th April, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02 ½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

36th Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Thirty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

30th and 31st Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports:-

(1) Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Airports Authority of India (AAI)."

(2) Thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Tenth Report on "Provision of financial assistance and protection of traditional Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes artisans."

12.03 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

19th and 20th Reports

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

(1) Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'; and

(2) Twentieth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.'

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Statement

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources contained in their Eighth Report.

12.04 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

208th Report

[English]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants 2008-09 of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): I beg to move the following:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri N. Jothi, Member, Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri N. Jothi, Member, Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) National Shipping Board

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move,

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with sub-rule 2 of rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amonst themselves to serve as a member of the National Shipping Board upto 31 August, 2008, vice Shri Prakash Paranjpe died, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is,

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with sub-rule 2 of rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the National Shipping Board upto 31 August, 2008, *vice* Shri Prakash Paranjpe died, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to important matters.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large section of the staff and officers is getting affected due to the resentment among them resulting from the Sixth Pay Commission's Report. Through you, a number of Members are also apprising the Government about it. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the problems of the ITS cadre in Telecom Service where a big anomaly has cropped up. Para 7.64 of the recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission says-

[English]

"No need, therefore, exists for retaining a separate Telecom Commission in this Department. The Government should review the necessity of persisting with this commission."

[Translation]

It further says-

[English]

"The Government should discontinue the service. All the existing officers of the service should either be absorbed in BSNL, MTNL or else, sent to the surplus pool."

[Translation]

This Group 'A' Service of ITS has been recommended to be referred to the surplus pool. Through you, I would

like to ask the Government the basis on which it has been recommended to be sent to the surplus pool? While the ITS officers hold very important posts including vigilance, telecom monitoring and other policy making issues also with the Government. To send ITS service to the surplus pool even after that is very unfortunate. It seems that we shall be deprived of the services of a large number of such officers who provide us important services, if the Government do not study the 6th Pay Commission's report seriously. There are many such posts of responsibility on which the whole department depends and therefore there is resentment among the Group 'A' officers and they are going on agitation because this is such a controversial subject. It will not be a good idea to send them to the private sector because they hold high security posts and all the monitoring is done by them only. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that this recommendation should be removed totally. If, the ITS officers are to be observed in real sense, they shall be sent to DoT, BTM, Telecom sector or to the State Governments or wherever their services are required because this sector is growing very fast. If services of these officers are not utilized, to sustain the pace of growth then it would be most unfortunate. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will try to give each hon. Member the opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole district has burnt...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. She also has a very important issue to discuss.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to give time to everyone. If you cooperate, then I will try to give everybody a chance. So, please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Labour Ministry had framed the Bidi Workers Welfare Fund Act in 1976. The Ministry of Labour formulated a number of health schemes thereunder. There are more than 43 lakh bidi workers in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and other States in the country. The Government has not formulated any such health scheme for them. My constituency has more than 40,000 bidi-workers and among them nearly 75% are women. Their work affects their health. I would like to say that we have to take care of the health of our bidi workers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, please give me a little more time.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the issue. The question is of raising the issue.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, these people make one thousand bidis every day and receive Rs. 40 per day. Their demand is that this amount should be raised to Rs. 90 but they do not get this amount. Their health suffers due to the nature of their work. Some people get tuberculosis, some become asthma patients and some people get lesions on their hands. They do not have any facility such as a health insurance card. Hence, I would like to request that a health insurance card with a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 should be provided to them which should be valid throughout the country. There should be a provision to pay rupees one lakh in case of accidental or natural death. This would be a genuine welfare measure for these people and their families. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will not get a chance by raising your hand. I have all the names with me and I will call the members to speak is according to the list.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been noticing for quite some time that the United States of Amercia is pressurizing India on how India should conduct its bilateral relationship with Iran. It has been pressurizing India not to proceed with Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project and the latest incident is the audacious and arrogant observation made by the US Deputy Secretary that during the ensuing visit of the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Iranian President—the Indian Spokesperson has objected to that and given the right rebuff, of course—how India should conduct itself in its bilateral relationship with Iran, how the Iranian President should be treated etc.

MR. SPEAKER: That has been ignored.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is an infringement on our sovereign position and on our sovereign right. So, we want a confirmed statement on the floor of the House denouncing this attitude of the US Deputy Secretary which has been reflected in his statement that has come out in the Press.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I would like to say in front of the House that the Bus Rapid Transport Corridor scheme in Delhi is useless...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a Central matter or State matter?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This pertains to the Union Territory of Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a project of the Delhi Government.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is funded by the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to raise this matter since MPs are also affected.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your information, but it is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, lakhs of people get stuck in traffic jams because of this. Traffic remains jammed for hours together along that stretch. Rs. 100 crore have been spent on the scheme so far but no one has benefited from it. Till now, 10 people have been killed and many others have been injured. The total provision for the scheme is Rs. 2000 crore. This scheme has shown only negative results. The people who are reaping benefits are the contractors only. Pedestrians are not able to cross the road, people are unable to disembark from buses. 11,000 tress have been felled for this corridor. The situation had become chaotic even when the trial run was carried out and the people had been against this scheme right from the beginning. This scheme is being carried forward merely because Rs. 100 crore have already been spent thereon. I want to say, through you, that this scheme is totally impractical and against the interests of the people. Hence it should be discontinued immediately. Also, the person who is responsible for formulating this Rs. 200 crore scheme on which Rs. 100 crore have already been spent should also be punished and the scheme should be discontinued.

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I want to associate with this because the Parliament should know

[Translation]

that some of our officers had visited Balota in Columbia where the BRT corridor scheme has been implemented successfully.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I have not allowed you.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: This is the reason this scheme was formulated for implementation here as well ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be more circumspect, you are the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir there is an important issue relating to very constituency hence I should also be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your subject is a state matter, the Central Government has nothing to do about it.

[English]

Sorry. Any and every matter cannot be raised here.

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

I have gone through your notice about a fire incident in a village. It is a matter of sorrow but the Central Government is not concerned with this matter.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, sexual harassment against women in the working place is rampant in the country. The working women, especially, in the unorganized sector are silent victims who suffer the injustice for fear of loss of their jobs. At some places, their condition is really pathetic. There is an urgent need to stop this injustice to the working women.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to bring forward a Bill in the Parliament as early as possible to protect the women from sexual harassment in the working places, especially, in the unorganized sector.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development. The teachers and employees of Navodaya Vidyalayas work for 18 hours daily. Yet, they are getting lesser facilities in comprison to other Central Government employees. There is wide gap in the scales of pay and other facilities available to the teachers & staff of Navodaya Vidyalayas *vis-a-vis* the teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalayas. The teachers and employees of Navodaya Vidyalayas do not get the higher pay scales. Besides, they do not get pension, gratuity, rural area allowance, house rent allowance, medical allowance etc. They work for 18 hours whereas the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya get all these perks despite working for six hours a day. How long this dual policy will continue?

MR. SPEAKER: It must not continue.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: In order to encourage them they should be given justice and the Government should take necessary steps in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Minister of HRD to bridge the gap between the salaries and other perks of the teachers and staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya and those of Navodaya Vidyalayas. The teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas do not get even pension. Then, how would they work?

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You have made your statement, now conclude please.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have not finished my point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will abolish this 'Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: These people work even on Sundays i.e. on a holiday whereas all of us take rest on that day. As these people live in the campus itself, so they have to work for 24 hours.

MR. SPEAKER: We should learn from them. Yet you skip the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You are the patron of all. Whenever justice is sought on any count, you always go for justice. I request you to issue directions to the hon. Minister of HRD in this regard to remove this disparity. The teachers of Navodaya Vidyalaya should get all those perks which are given to the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya and the Government should give proper pay scales to them. I would again request the hon. Minister of HRD to take action in this regard and encourage the teachers and staff of Navodaya Vidyalaya by providing them proper salary and perks.

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is a matter related to violation of the recognition of the tribal rights and violation of the Supreme Court's direction of constituting Boundary Commission. That is why, I am raising the matter.

Sir, the common point between you and me is that both of us are born in Assam. Today, the people of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are living in a very cordial and very peaceful atmosphere. The recent tension generated by some of the officials has really given a dent to the friendship between the two States.

The friendly relations between the two States are very important. On the 4th April, some of the forest officials of the Assam Government entered into the Arunachal territory...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is meant by 'foreign officials of Assam'?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I did not say 'foreign officials' but I said 'forest officials'.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that you have said 'foreign officials'.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: They have raided the houses of some of the tribal people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You just mention it. You need not mention the details.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: It says that after 2002, you cannot evict. They have violated but there is no action. At the same time, there was firing in the border areas of Assam and Arunachal where the largest hydro power plant is there. Let me put it correctly that it is not the people of Assam and Arunachal who are fighting with each other. The culprits are some of the political elements and the officials. I would request the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of India to prosecute those officers who have violated the human rights.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P.C. Thomas, you can raise only one matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, Maritime University is a concept which the Central Government now has. Sir, the Parliamentary Committee has also recommended that in some of the major ports in our country like Mumbai, Kolkata and Vizag, Cochin—I think, one or two other places are there—Maritime Universities may be established.

Sir, Cochin has got all the facilities. In fact, the Cochin Port Trust itself has got a lot of land. Now, the Vallarpadam Super Terminal Container is coming. A very important shipyard is already there. The Port Trust has got enough land, and all the facilities are there.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take up the matter of Cochin port along with other ports like Kolkata and Chennai for establishing a maritime University at the earliest, and I hope that the Government will make a statement thereon.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on a very important matter. Fortunately, the hon. Minister of Rural Development is here. We are also more fortunate that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development belongs to the State of Orissa. This matter is regarding the finalization of BPL list, which has not been finalized so far.

The estimation of poverty in a State is the mainstay for framing the Welfare Policy for the eradication of poverty, especially the people living below the poverty line. The first such BPL Census was conducted during the Eighth Five Year Plan, in 1992. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Rural Development had issued detailed guidelines to the States and the Union Territories for conducting the BPL Census 2002. However, it was stayed by the Apex court, and it was vacated in February, 2006.

During the first BPL Census conducted in 1992, the Government of Orissa had identified 41.104 lakh BPL rural households and 44.457 lakh BPL rural households during the BPL Census 1997. In fact, for BPL Census 1992 and BPL Census 1997, the formal limit was not prescribed in the guidelines which had resulted in a situation that many States resorted to deviate from the figures of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission. Hence, the issue of adjusted share and the number of BPL household in Orissa has not yet settled by the Planning Commission, although there was a direction by the Supreme Court to finalize the next BPL Census by the beginning of the Eleventh Plan. Now, we are in the second year of the 11th Five Year Plan...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make such a long statement.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the meetings which took place on the 19th December, 2007 and on the 18th January, 2008 between the Member, Planning Commission and the Chief Secretary of Orissa along with the officials of the Ministry of Rural Development, could not resolve this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time for making such a long statement. You have to mention the subject. I think, this Hour has to be abolished. There is no provision in the rules.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, as per the poverty ratio of the Planning Commission done in the year 1999-2000, 48.1 of the total rural households belongs to the BPL category. As per 2002 BPL Census, 48 per cent of the 78,73,056 households of Orissa should be 37.79 lakh households...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow such a long statement. Everything is there but there are some rules and procedures.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, if 10 per cent more is allowed as per the decision of the Planning Commission for transient poor households, the total BPL households in the State of Orissa should be 41.56 lakh households...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are some rules and procedures.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: As per the latest *Economic Survey* of 2008, 57 per cent people in Orissa lead a life with a daily expenditure of less than Rs. 12, which shows that the incidence of poverty in Orissa is the highest in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. Please conclude now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It construes that the number of BPL households would be 41.56 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, in future, I will have to ask for statement of a specific nature. It has to be like this.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now, the Government is just fixing 34,63,240 rural households of Orissa categorized as BPL, which is not acceptable.

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to intervene immediately. The Ministry of Rural Development should intervene in the matter. Otherwise, Orissa would be deprived of the benefits.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. It is very unfair.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, otherwise, Orissa would be deprived.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you to raise an important issue. It does not mean that you would go on speaking for five minutes, 10 minutes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, Orissa is the poorest State of the country...*(Interruptions)* As per the Economic Survey of 2008, 57 per cent people in Orissa are below poverty line.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Manoj.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Government should intervene and decide on it. Otherwise, these people of Orissa would be deprived of all the benefits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then what more can be done? There is no scope for immediate response.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am requesting the Government of India. Hon. Minister of Rural Development is present here.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I may be associated on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a method of association.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Government of India should settle this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Otherwise, people would not get any benefit.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned it very strongly and appropriately.

Hon. Members, your matter should be very brief and pointed. Otherwise, I would not allow it to be raised. It cannot be a matter of long speeches.

Yes, Dr. Manoj.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the Planning Commission has formulated some guidelines for the identification of BPL families in the country. Not only this, the Planning Commission has given a stipulation and a cut-off limit to be imposed on the number BPL households to be identified by various State Governments. This has created problems in many of the States. Only 12 State Governments have conducted the BPL survey and the rest of the State Governments have not conducted or finalized their BPL list.

The guidelines and criteria laid down by the Planning Commission are not related to the social and economic situations prevailing in the country. How can the Planning Commission suggest a cut-off limit that this much should be the BPL families in a particular State?

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that the guidelines and the criteria should be such that the identification of the BPL families should be reviewed, and the cut-off limit laid down by the Planning Commission as also by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India should be removed.

MR. SPEAKER: You want them to be abolished.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Yes, Sir.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Minister of Rural Development is present here. He may respond.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, both the Ministers are present here.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry,

All the Ministers should be here. Everybody cannot go on reacting to the points.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am drawing the attention of this House and the Government to a very devastating situation that has cropped up in the State of Orissa.

For the last about 10 days, Orissa has been reeling under severe heat wave due to which, more than 28 persons have died. Though the State Government has confirmed four deaths by sunstroke, about five death reports are awaited. About the rest, as the *post mortems* have not been done, that is why they have not been accepted as victims of sunstroke.

The Central Government is yet to accept heat wave or sunstroke as a Natural Calamity. From the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Rs. 10,000 each had been released to the families of four persons, who have died. But my concern here is that the Central Government should come up with the issue and accept heat wave as a Natural Calamity so that Rs. 50,000 as *ex-gratia* can be provided to them.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): It may be given for the cold waves also.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: At present, we are talking about heat waves.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, In the summer, let us restrict to sunstroke.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, it is a curfew like situation, which is now prevailing in most of the urban areas of Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you to speak.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Same is the situation in the Capital Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Behrampore, Sambalpur, Titlagarh, Talcher and other places.

So, I would urge upon the Government to accept heat wave, sunstroke, as natural calamity because the Finance Commission did not accept it. Still, I hope the Government has a scope to respond to this situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is in the context of climate change. That is why, I have allowed it.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to very vital matter. Almost all the regional and vernacular newspapers in the country are in deep crisis due to the steep hike in the prices of the newsprint. The survival of such vernacular newspapers is in very deep crisis. I am quoting one example. In the State of Kerala, there is one Hindustan Newsprint Limited. The Government of Kerala is providing bamboo for generating pulp at one rupee per quintal. They have not increased a single paisa for the last 20 years.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. The problem is that you think you can start a debate on this.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: But in one year, two or three times, the price of the newsprint has been increased. So, the vernacular newspapers in the country are in a very, very deep crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: What will happen? Yesterday's debate on Defence Budget does not find any mention in almost all the newspapers.

[Translation]

What will be done with the newsprint?

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I am talking about the vernacular newspapers like *Deshabhimani* and *Ganashakti*. So, I would urge upon the Government to come forward to protect the vernacular newspapers of the country by giving the newsprint to such newspapers either by subsidizing the rate or revoking the recent price hike of the newsprint.

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Other matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can not raise your matter right now.

[English]

You can raise afterwards at the end of the day.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I would not allow. Please do not try to do this. Do not try to force. Do not record one word of Mr. Yerrannaidu.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I find that you think that any time you can disturb the House. I am sorry I cannot accept it. I will not accept it. Please allow every hon. Member, respected Member to speak. I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow. I have not allowed Mr. Yerrannaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record even one word of his speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait till the end of the day. You know that all of you had agreed for five matters. I have allowed 12 matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow it. You can do it later in the day. Take a little trouble of being present here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word will be recorded, except Shri Kashiram Rana's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is not related to the Central Government.

[English]

If you are there, you can raise it at the end of the day.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to take part in the debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a State Assembly.

[English]

I would not allow this to be a State Assembly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: We want assistance from the Central Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Central Government can do nothing in this case. It is a matter of sorrow that a fire has broken out in a village. What will the Central Government do about it?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: We seek assistance from the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask for assistance through some other medium. Write a letter. Such matters cannot be raised in the House. You write a letter to me. I will forward it to the Central Government.

...(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

12.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to take effective steps to check the spread of diabetes in the country

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): The incidence of diabetes in India has reached epidemic proportions. The figures collected in 2003 reveals that 35.5 million of the world's 230 million diabetics are in India, with every fifth Indian a diabetic. Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death, globally.

The global diabetes drugs treatment market was valued at billions of dollars in 2005. Besides lifestyle, absence of proper awareness among masses is also a cause of incidence of diabetes. Globally as many as 50 per cent of diabetics remain largely unaware of their condition indicates that the worst affected are possibly in developing countries with genetic predisposition and lack of preventive public health care programmes, and conversely, obesity among children make them especially vulnerable.

I request the Government of India to take effective steps in checking spread of the disease in the country.

(ii) Need to enhance the quota of seats recommended by MPs for admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas in Parliamentary constituencies having more than one Kendriya Vidyalayas

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a quota of two students has been fixed for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas on the recommendations of Members of Parliament. However, they face a lot of problems in case their constituencies have more than one Kendriya Vidyalaya. For example, in my Parliamentary constituency Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, there are five Kendriya Vidyalayas. Therefore, requests and pressure from the parents is mounted on members for admission in each Kendriya Vidyalaya. Other Members of Parliament also face the same problem.

Therefore, Central Government are requested to fix the admission quota of two students in each of Kendriya Vidyalaya existing in the Parliamentary constituencies of Members of Parliament.

(iii) Need to implement the Right to Information Act, 2005 in right earnest

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): The Right to Information Act was first introduced in the Indian Parliament in July 2000. It came into effect on 12 October 2005. Under the law the information has become a fundamental right of the citizen. Under this law all Government bodies or Government funded agencies have to designate a Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO's responsibility is to ensure that information requested for is disclosed to the petitioner within 30 days and within 48 hours in case of information concerning the life and liberty of a person.

I raised this issue under rule 377 on 18.12.2006 in Lok Sabha but still I have not received any answer from the Government.

A number of high profile disclosures revealed scams in Public Distribution System (ration stores), disaster relief, construction of highways, defence purchase, construction of Airports, non-implementation of 100 days work specially in model village and other villages of Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh). The law itself has been hailed as a landmark in India's drive towards more openness and accountability.

However, the RTI has certain weakness that hamper its implementation. The lack of a Central PIO makes it difficult to pin-point the correct PIO to approach for requests. In the State of Maharashtra it was estimated that only 30% of the requests were actually realized under Maharashtra Right to Information Act. The law also bars disclosure of information that affects national security and matter that are deemed to be of national interest.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to implement the RTI Act as per set guidelines.

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*Treated as laid on the Table.

(iv) Need to engage Ex-Servicemen Security Guards sponsored by Directorate General Resettlement in B.S.N.L., Kerala

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): The Government of India has formed number of schemes for protecting the interest of Ex-Servicemen and retired military officials, by ordering that the security service cover in all Central Government Public Sector Undertakings shall be entrusted only with DGR sponsored security agencies run by retired military officers and by employing not less than 90% work force for such security work from amonst Ex-Servicemen. It has been consistently ordered by the Central Government that no central PSUs shall entrust this work through open tenders to any party and that this work shall be exclusively given by the PSUs to DGR sponsored agencies employing 90% ex-servicemen, The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has issued a series of judgements based on the above said Government of India scheme ordering that such security work shall be exclusively given to DGR sponsored agencies employing Ex-servicemen. The initial allotment period for an agency is for two years which shall be extended by another two years after getting good performance report from the PSU. After the term of an agency is over, the PSU should select and engage another agency sponsored by the DGR.

These beneficial Schemes are now sought to be blatantly violated with open impunity by authorities of BSNL, Kerala by terminating the existing DGR sponsored agency on flimsy ground and to entrust the works through open tender to private parties under the guise of "House Keeping" works. Even if there were any proper reasons for terminating the DGR sponsored agency, the matter should have been referred by the BSNL to the DGR and thereafter, if there were genuine grounds to terminate the agency, the BSNL should have requested DGR to sponsor new agencies for doing the very same work. The said works have been till now done by DGR sponsored agencies through Ex-Servicemen security guards.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to intervene immediately to protect the interest of Ex-Servicemen who served to protect our country.

(v) Need to accord the status of a Central University to Sambalpur University, Orissa

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The Sambalpur University is one of the leading Universities in Orissa catering to the needs of 10 districts and one sub-division in Western Part of Orissa, where 75 per cent of the total population belong to disadvantaged section of the society, out of which 46 per cent belong to SCs/STs Community against State average of 32 percent and national average of 28 per cent. The design of Social and Educational Development Programmes, therefore, must take this relative heterogeneity into account. This University is spread in an area of 670.39 acres of land is located at a distance of less than 1 K.M. from National Highway No. 6 on its East and 50 kms. away from the upcoming International Airport at Jharsuguda. The location of this University is also nearer to and well-connected with the neighbouring States like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand which too have a similarly high population of SC/ST and other marginalized sections. Thus Sambalpur University finds itself catering to the need of a fairly large section of population that extends beyond the State boundaries. Academically, this University has excelled in Research, more specifically, applied research and Output. It has also patented a few of the intellectual properties. The University has a national perspective as it offers Gangadhar National Award to poets of eminence of different languages of India which shows that it has the potential to develop as a National Centre of Learning.

Taking all these factors into consideration it is high time that the Union Government confer the status of a Central University to the Sambalpur University.

12.34 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(GENERAL) (2008-09)

Ministry of Rural Development

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will come to Item No. 13. We will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment

[Mr. Speaker]

during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 80 to 82 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development".

Demands for Grants—(2008-09) in respect of Ministry of Rural Development submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No.	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 14, 2008		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
1	2	3		4	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Rural Development					
80.	Department of Rural Development	12594,96,00,000	25,00,000	38974,85,00,000	25,00,000
81.	Department of Land Resources	400,65,00,000		2003,25,00,000	
82.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1416,98,00,000	...	7084,92,00,000	...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Jawale has tabled a cut motion to the Demand for Grant relating to the Department of Rural Development. If the hon. Member wants to move his cut motion, he may send a slip at the Table within 15 minutes.

We have got four hours. I know the importance of this Ministry. If we need, we shall do it but there will be no lunch recess. Now, Shri Kashiram Rana.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Ministry of Rural Development can boost development works on a large scale apart from generating employment opportunities for the poor and unemployed rural people and providing drinking water in the villages. A substantial amount has been allocated to the Ministry in the budget presented here. An amount of Rs. 42,400 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Rural Development. The amount should be utilized to cater to the needs of the people e.g. potable water or employment. The proper utilization of the fund can serve the people and help in building a strong India. The Ministry has got an opportunity to save the people who even after 61 years of our independence are not getting drinking water and remain unemployed throughout their life. I do not want to go into the details of each of the schemes of this Ministry because my hon. colleagues will speak in this regard.

I would like to draw your attention towards the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This scheme can become a medium to provide employment opportunities to rural people. This time the budget has allocated Rs. 16,000 crore alone for NREGP. I am of the view that since the Government wants to provide employment under the said programme, it should not hesitate to allocate more funds if required. I respect the hon. Minister because he has concern for poor people and for our villages. I appreciate his feelings. He has also sent some forms to MPs from time to time so that members could monitor it and National Employment Guarantee Scheme could be implemented properly. But I am sorry to say that though it is a good scheme, but the manner of its implementation is not satisfactory. It has failed to achieve the desired results. It was a right step that initially 200 districts were covered, thereafter 300 and from 1st April the entire country has been covered under this scheme. It is good that unemployed living in our villages will get employment besides the development of the villages. This programme has the capacity to implement the small schemes effectively in rural areas., However, the scheme is not providing the desired benefits.

It is not my version but the report says that corruption on large-scale is involved in it. The State-wise report submitted in this regard has shown that the scheme is not benefiting the unemployed. The national average for household employment during 2006-07 was 43 days and 38 days for 2007-08 i.e. a decrease of 5 days over an year. The average for 2008-09 will be revealed at the time of discussion. However, the Government should remain cautious on the decrease in the average days under the scheme. Hence the Government should pay attention to increase the average days. As I said earlier, there are many States which are suffering from the problem of unemployment. Out of these Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu are the most affected States. Large scale unemployment in these States results in migration to other States in search of employment. Despite that a large number of people are unemployed there. The reason is lack of employment opportunities in the country. I was talking about the impact of this scheme especially in the backward States where employment opportunities are needed most. Take the example of Bihar coming under the category of poor and backward State. The average wage there is Rs. 22 only. In Uttar Pradesh it is Rs. 28, Rs. 47 in Jharkhand and Rs. 58 in Madhya Pradesh. The number of average days of employment should be more in the States which are poor, backward or under developed but it is low in these States. Therefore, poor people of these States could not get employment. It is a very serious problem. We should think to increase the average days and scope of employment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to emphasise on one more point that the scheme would fail if the growing corruption in it is not checked. CAG has mentioned in its report about the various forms of corruption involved in this regard in each State. At many places duplication of labourers, workers is taking place. Funds are being spent without taking approval. There are many States where job opportunities are not available because planning was never done there. I would like to cite one or two examples as to how the projects are being implemented. You must have read the CAG's report; I would not speak much about that. I do not want to take much time of the House. I want to say that lakhs of rupees which were to be given to the labourers could not reach them in Manipur. Similarly our two lakh five thousand nine hundred eleven brothers and sisters who were working in Andhra Pradesh have not received the compensation amount till today. In Haryana also, diversion of funds took place in the similar way. The tractor and card owners got the payments for mining soil there and at some places unemployed brothers and sisters failed to get the employment due to delayed payments. Recently, I visited the Navsari, Jalalpur, Chikli and Gandavi areas of my parliamentary constituency especially to inspect the implementation of this scheme. I carried out tow days' tour to these areas just to monitor this scheme. Sir, as I stated, they are not getting the required number of average days there. I would liko to cite the example of Navsari district regarding issuing of job cards. Job cards have been issued there but only 50-45% people are getting jobs through these cards. It is right that there is no lack of funds. The Ministry fulfils the demand but in the absence of advance planning desired results are not being achieved. I have found many shortcomings, which should be removed immediately. I asked the workers as to when they get the payments. They replied that they work for one week, the next week work measurement is taken and in the third week they get the payments. Those who cannot get a square meal a day come to work under this scheme. Therefore, if payments are not made to them on daily or weekly basis how they will feed their families. Hence the objective of the scheme would be defeated. If the payments for the work done is made in third week, then the Government should consider it seriously. If payments are made after five days, it should be given in cash but not credited in the bank account. There are some problems regarding bank account also. He has to keep a certain amount in the bank account. How a person having no job would be able to deposit the amount? Therefore, till the system is changed, I do not think our unemployed brothers and sisters would be ready to join this scheme.

There are other loopholes as well. Suppose we do not provide employment for 15 days, in that case we provide unemployment allowance to our unemployed brothers and sisters. However, irregularities are taking place in it also. Our unemployed brothers and sisters who had made demand for employment and have been issued job cards also are not getting work. Therefore, we have formulated this scheme that at least unemployment allowance should be given if employment is not given to all. It needs to be implemented strictly otherwise funds will be misutilized in the name of unemployment and here we will keep on harping that we are doing a good job.

Sir, I would like to mention that besides duplication of workers, over payments or double payments are also being made as CAG has shown in its report. I would like

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

that the Scheme should be modified before implementing it further. Only then this National Employment Guarantee Scheme would be successful otherwise it would be a failure as per the report till date. Go through the newspaper report or the latest report of the Standing Committee on Finance, the details furnished by the Planning Commission has also mentioned about average days and it has emphasized the effective implementation of this scheme. This question pertains to Ministry of Planning also. Whatever I am saying is authentic, it is not that I am reading some other piece of information in the name of CAG report. In view of all this my submission is that the National Employment Guarantee Scheme is not working properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Kashiramji, you have raised a very important matter. Whether Panchayat has any participation there in this regard?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Panchayat has a major participation because selection of work is done by Panchayats only. Job cards are also issued in Panchayats and selection of work force is also done by Panchayats. Even its social audit is also done by Panchayats but despite that large scale irregularities are taking place in it. I feel that the Rs. 16000 crore meant for this scheme are going to be wasted this year also if improvements are not made in it in view of the past two year's experience.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): He is not mentioning that Gujarat has the lowest minimum wage.

[English]

That is why people are not getting enough wages. It is the lowest paid wage in the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make it controversial, Mr. Mistry.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): He is not blaming the Government. Do not politicize it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I do not want to politicize it. I do not want to go into the irregularities taking place there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make it controversial. He himself has said that it is an important project. How to do it better is the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Corruption has increased manifold after the regime of Congress. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring party politics in it. Please discuss the issue in a right manner.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I admire him for making that statement. I am indeed very happy that he made that statement for his own Government.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please sit down.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I would like to say that under the scheme of providing 100 days' guaranteed employment, the average days of employment in 2007-08 were 38. I would suggest that 100 days guaranteed employment should be increased to 200 days. Monsoon days can be deducted. Since under 100 days guaranteed employment, the average days of employment are 38, it should be increased to 200 days for the poor and unemployed rural people of our country. I would also like to state that our project and our work planning should be a part of rural development programme. I have seen at many places that after the work of digging, the soil taken out from the drainage is left there only. The same soil flows back and closes the drainage during monsoon. I would like to state that there should be such planning in advance as could entail a permanent solution. Proper monitoring should be done not only of the advance planning but also in regard to the work done after that as a follow up measure. I would like to state that we should also address the problems of the educated rural people who may not be fully educated. They are not

satisfied with these wages. I would suggest that a different approach should be adopted in their case so as to satisfy them. Besides, I would also state that at present social audit is being conducted by Panchayats, however, it should be done by some neutral person or agency at Taluka level. A monitoring committee should also be formed which should be neutral in nature. Otherwise, a single authority is allotting work, taking work measurements and conducting audit too. It reduces the chances of getting justice. Therefore such system of social audit should be adopted as would benefit them. Similarly, I would like to draw your attention towards a serious matter of land resources e.g. Gujarat is a coastal area with a coast length of 1600 kms. and approx 5.5 thousand kms. area which is nearly half of the country's total area is covered by rivers. The Government has not paid required attention to the problems of these areas. Even a few proposed steps have not been implemented so far.

12.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister must be aware of the recently published report according to which fertile land in our coastal areas is getting converted into saline land. You must be aware of the heavy loss being suffered as a consequence thereof. Agricultural production is on the decline. Excessive salinity has made water undrinkable. The are of saline land is expanding. A report of the international institution, Global Assessment of Soil Degradation, says that 421 lakh hectares of land in South Asia has become saline land and in India alone 260 lakh hectares of land has become saline land. As per the report of survey conducted by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Use Planning, out of the total land area in Gujarat State 27.17 percent, that is, 50 lakh 80 thousand hectare has become saline land. Every year two lakh hectares of land gets converted into saline land. The Government does not seem to be aware of this fact. When I visit coastal villages the people complained about the unavailability of potable water. Earlier fresh water was available in these villages but now water has become very salty. Drinking water is not available here and the farmers who earned their livelihood through farming in one or two hectares of land they owned have lost their source of income. The siuation in this area is dismal. The Government has not made the required efforts to improve the situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had launched a pilot project for making saline land again fertile and arranging for potable water for the people. This pilot project was implemented in Surat, Balsar and Bharuch districts. This pilot project proved to be highly successful. The people of many villages say that this project would have yielded good results in other districts as well but the Government discontinued this project for some reason. Even in places where the project was under implementation, the provision of funds was halved. That is why I am sad because this effective pilot project which would have resolved the problems being faced in villages lying along thousands of kilometers of coastal line has been shelved. This pilot project should be taken up again. I believe this will help us in reclaiming lakhs of hectares of land which has become saline land. This has brought down the agricultural growth from four percent to two percent. The Government has allocated Rs. 1825 crore for the purpose.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that implementation of this project on a large scale will yield good results in the long run.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I will conclude after saying a little bit about water management schemes such as, 'Swajaldhara Yojana' and Rural Water Supply Scheme. It is deplorable that we have not been able to resolve the problem of drinking water scarcity in our villages. Everyone should regret it. If we have failed to provide drinking water facilities to our citizens living in far-flung villages even after so many years of independence then what is the use of a government? I would repeat again and again that such a government is useless. Every rural citizen has a right to access to drinking water. If they do not have access to drinking water then I feel that independence holds meaning only for a select few. These rural citizens are still bonded in slavery because they have no access to drinking water. Their women folk have to walk four, eight or ten kilometers to fetch water. It would be a matter of shame for the country if this problem is not taken care of. Just as people struggle for food today, similarly the future is likely to witness water riots.

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

Sir, ARWSP scheme is being implemented. I know what is being done under the said programme. But if we look into the percentage of success achieved by the said programme or even under the Rural Water Supply Scheme, it is very low. 1,55,499 habitations were proposed to be covered under the rural water supply scheme during the year 2007-08 but only 67,285 habitations have been covered. We have succeeded in making water supply available only in 67,285 habitations. Similarly, the funds allocated under ARWSP have not been utilized in a proper manner and water supply has not been provided to the targeted beneficiaries. Our leaders keep harping on the need for rural development and say that true freedom will be attained only when migration from villages is stopped. This Ministry has been created to benefit the rural population, and programmes costing thousands of rupees have been formulated for the purpose but if the set targets are not achieved then formulation of these programmes and the expenditure of funds allocated for the purpose would all be in vain.

Sir, I have heard the hon. Minister speaking from the opposition benches. He used a far more vitriolic language than I do. Today it is his responsibility and he should fulfil it in the best way possible. In my view, every single paisa, be it Rs. 16,000 crore or Rs. 42,400 crore should be utilized in a proper way. The poor people of the country also have their share in it. They have a right to get water, housing and employment. I hope that needs of the poor would be fulfilled through the said scheme. If it is done, then alone the allocation of money would be meaningful.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those hon. Members who wish to lay their written speeches can do so. All such laid speeches will form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Demands for Grans 2008-09 of the Ministry of Rural Development. I am grateful to the Ministry which has undertaken massive developmental work in rural areas. Just now, one of my colleagues raised some objections. He raised the issue of drinking water. He also desired monitoring of funds released by the center. In this regard, I would say that a monitoring cell has already been created and monitoring is being done at district and gram panchayat levels. Funds spent are being monitored and report is sent to the Government timely Therefore, I am happy that centrally sponsored schemes under implementation in rural areas are being monitored at gram sabha and block levels.

Further, he made a mention of the problem of water. In this regard, I would say that I hail from a hilly area, where there is an acute problem of water. It seemed very difficult to supply water in villages. But, I feel grateful to the UPA Government and Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, who launched programmes and supplied potable water to villages.

The hon. Member raised certain problems of his constituency, however, I would say that the schemes implemented by the hon. Minister, especially keeping in view the problems of inaccessible areas or the villages be it with regard to the employment, drinking water, constructing roads under PMGSY and the works undertaken thereunder are really praiseworthy. I am highly grateful to the hon. Minister in this regard. We are aware that the Government have taken revolutionary measures with regard to alleviation of poverty in villages and for employment generation. Earlier, the people used to migrate from villages to the cities, especially to solve these problems. Now the Government have taken steps to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas so as to check migration. Now people prefer staying put in villages and undertake cultivation. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Rural Development for implementing these good schemes. As we are aware, the Government has launched time-bound programmes so as to bridge rural-urban divide. The budgetary support provided by the Government has shown excellent results in rural areas.

Sir, food security has been ensured through NREGS. There are many skilled persons in villages. They need job. Self help groups have been promoted, provided funds to help the skilled rural folk. Through these groups the villagers can market their products. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for extending co-operation to them. The government should organize fairs in places like Delhi Haat and Pragati Maidan where their hand made items can be put up for exhibition.

Secondly, the voice of landless people living in villages has reached to the Government through the Integrated watershed programme. I would congratulate the hon. Minister for having taken steps under the said programme, as our poor people were of the view that they would never get land. But hundreds of landless people have been allotted land under the said programme so that they can earn their livelihood.

Similarly, Rs. one lakh seventy four thousand crore have been released by the Government under Bharat Nirman Programme during these four years. The said funds have been utilized for construction of roads in rural areas, for providing irrigation facilities, rural housing, rural water supply and electricity in rural areas. It has immensely benefited every Indian citizen living in rural areas. Therefore, I am grateful to the Government for having provided these facilities in rural areas.

He made a mention of rural development and providing jobs to the people. We could not do it in last sixty years as he said. But I am very happy to say that in rural areas one do not need any mandatory qualifications for getting a job as new scheme has guaranteed 100 days, employment without any academic qualification. I am highly grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, as he has introduced an excellent scheme. Earlier it was implemented in 200 districts, now 120 more districts have been brought under it. Remaining 275 districts will also be covered under it. There is a proposal to cover all the districts of the country during the next five years. I am highly grateful to the Government for making employment a legal right through an act of Parliament. I convey my gratitude on behalf of the rural people who have been provided employment. They are earning their bread and butter through it. Participation of rural folk in their own work is highly praiseworthy.

Sir, as you are aware, Swarn jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana is in vogue. I have already said that the Government has helped Self Help Groups. The Government released credit to 27 thousand such groups and gave them subsidy also. The beneficiaries include BPL families, SCs/STs and a large number of women. The Central Government provides seventy five per cent funds, whereas the states contribute 25 percent. This programme, too, is highly praiseworthy. I am grateful to the Government of India for implementing the said scheme in the villages and thereby benefiting the poor.

Similarly, there is another centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. It is fully funded by the Central Government. Under the said scheme, three lakh seventy one thousand seven hundred and twenty five kms. road length has been constructed and three lakh sixty eight thousand kms. road length has been upgraded. An amount of Rs. One lakh seventy two thousand crore has been spent on it Every village and all panchayats have been connected with roads.

Sir, you are aware that our roads are our lifeline. By providing road connectivity to the villages the Government has provided employment, health facilities, good education, clean drinking water and also water for. irrigation. All this could be possible only after providing good means of transportation in the villages. Therefore, we are grateful to the Government which has allocated huge funds under PMGSY for upliftment of villages.

Similarly there is Indira Awas Yojana. As we are aware a large number of families are living below the poverty line. They have no roof over their heads. Such families have been provided funds under the said scheme. Under this scheme, each family is allocated rupees twenty five thousand and Rs. 27,500 is provided in inaccessible and tribal areas to enable them to construct a small home. I am highly grateful to the Government for providing them help under the said scheme.

Similarly, he has introduced Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme, National Maternity Benefit Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme, which have benefited women and the old people. I express my deep gratitude to the hon. Minister on their behalf. I am also very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for his announcement

[English]

Old age pension to all citizens above 65 and below poverty line. I think this is highly appreciated.

[Translation]

Many people have been benefited by it. I express my sincere gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of everyone for having taken such a commendable step.

Similarly, he has introduced very good programmes in the drought prone areas and desert development areas under Area Development Programme which comes under the Ministry of Rural Development. We wanted to bring these areas to the notice of the Government. He has pondered over the complex problems of these areas and good schemes are being run there by the Panchayati Raj Institutions. I would like to congratulate him for this.

Similarly, he has introduced the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme for greenery. Under this programme, the rural people are informed as to how to irrigate and use the wasteland properly through watershed schemes. This programme is being run very successfully in the rural areas.

Information is provided on how to keep our baolis, ponds clean so that the people will benefit from it. We are very grateful to the Government that it has provided

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

a great relief to the rural people by starting Hariyali programme.

As I had said in the beginning, a monitoring and evaluation programme has been started whereby the source from which the Government is giving funds is also monitored. The Government has constituted a monitoring evaluation committee in which people have been involved at district, block and gram panchayat level so that they can inform the Government from time to time about the shortcomings of the programmes and the provisions needed to be made therein. We are grateful to the Government for this.

He has taken a highly commendable step for highlighting the rural development programmes as information regarding progress of the programme should be furnished to the media, the press, the print media by the department, for which he called press conferences from time to time. A monthly magazine is published on rural India through which details of the progammes are provided to the rural people. I want to congratulate him for this. The people of gram panchayants read this magazine regularly and receive information which should reach them from the department. It is also a praiseworthy step.

We know that the Government has provided Rs. 3,678 crore in the annual budget for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Rural children, who were not getting education properly, are benefiting from it today. Assistance for upgradation of schools construction of rooms, toilets etc. is provide through SSA wherever needed. I think it is a very praiseworthy step. Rural areas have benefited a lot from this. Lakhs of children who were unable to have food, are being given one meal under the Mid Day Meal scheme. We are grateful to the Government for this also. Similarly, the Government has provided Rs. 12,000 crore for the annual budget under the National Rural Health Mission. I believe that the health facilities we are able to provided to the rural people today is largely due to this huge fund given by the Government. We are aware that women are neglected too much in the villages. We have to pay attention towards their health. Today, we have no paucity of funds on this account. We are grateful to the Government for providing health facilities to the people, and women in particular, even in the remote villages located in the interiors by providing such a large amount. I express my gratitude to him for this also.

He has provided Rs. 16,000 crore under National Rural Employment scheme. Just a while ago, our colleague was saying that it did not prove beneficial in 60 years. But, he himself knows that after talking with the local people during our visits, I think that the scheme for providing employment has provided very successful. People have benefited a lot from this scheme in the rural areas. People, who could not get livelihood earlier, are at least getting some work by making their contribution in the works of their area. I express my deep gratitude for this also.

Similarly, the Government has waived off the loan of our farmers. We had raised in the Parliament time and again the issue of farmers committing suicide due to the financial burden on them. The government has taken a very praiseworthy step in this regard also. I am very grateful to him that he has provided thousands of crores of rupees to benefit the rural people under this programme. He involves all the departments and writes letters to the State Governments and makes them aware of the benefit of running of all these schemes. We the members also receive letters from the hon. Minister for monitoring the schemes so as to check if they are being run properly or not. I want to tell you that very successful programmes are being run in the rural areas.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude to Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Ji as very good work has been done in this field since he has taken charge of this department. Whether it is the matter of roads, health facilities or education—our rural people have benefited a lot from this. I think that the people living in the villages have benefited a lot from the Government's attention turning towards the villages.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I rise to support the Demands for Grants (2008-09) for the Ministry of Rural Development.

After assumption of UPA Government under the leadership of Madam Soniaji, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji has implemented number of projects for the upliftment of rural and backward areas of this country. Bharat Nirman is one of the initiatives taken by the Union Government. It is having a plan for building rural infrastructure within a period of four years 2005-09.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

It has six components *viz.,* Irrigation, Roads, water Supply, Housing, Rural Electrification and Rural Telecom Connectivity. Estimated cost for this scheme is Rs. 174,000 crore. Out of above six components, three are implemented by the Rural Development Ministry such as Rural Roads, Rural Water Supply and Rural Housing. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing wage employment programmes of national rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Through Bharat Nirman, it has been envisaged to connect 1.5 lakh km. Village roads habitations over 500 people in hilly areas and over 1,000 people in other areas. It is decided to equip 66,820 villages with telephone and 14,183 remote villages by digital satellite phones. For creating irrigation facilities, 1 cr. hectare of irrigation potential and restore 10 lakh, hectare potential by renovation and modernization schemes. Furthermore, it is decided to provide drinking water facilities for 55,067 uncovered habitations and 2.8 lakh partially covered habitations and provide potable water to 2 lakh villages. It is decided to construct 60 lakh villages for the rural poor and provide electricity to 1.25 villages. Even though Government of India is allocating huge funds for rural development, number of State Governments are still not complying with norms when it comes to the implementation. Some States have not complied with norms relating to release of funds for District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) administration.

Bihar has emerged as the largest non-complying State with 36 Districts not complying with the norms of SGSY, seven Districts are not complying with Indira Awaas Yojana Scheme norms and 10 districts were proposals for DRDA administration have not received.

Further I want to bring certain facts about the implementation of the NREG Scheme. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is facing with certain challenges in many States. The beneficiaries of jobs cards are not properly identified in many States. Moreover, if identified, there are favoritism in issuing cards to the beneficiaries. The job card holders are not being paid by full wages. In many cases, they are being paid as low as Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 per day and the rest of the amount is being swallowed by middlemen. Moreover, the work which has already undertaken are taken up again without any proper time limit. Hence, immediate steps should be taken for continuous supervision of the work undertaken under NREG Scheme.

Before implementing NREG Scheme, Government of India has allocated huge funds for implementation of various schemes through District Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and Gram Panchayats under Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY). Now, the Government has stopped the total allocation of funds under the SGRY scheme. Through this scheme, out of the total allocation, 22% of the money was earmarked for the individual benefits of the poor downtrodden SC/ST individuals. This Scheme is also now scrapped. District Panchayats and Intermediate panchayats are not having any funds to implement any developmental schemes and they are also not answerable to the public and voters. Hence, I request the Government that the funds should be earmarked for SGRY Scheme or some other schemes to implement through District Panchayat and Intermediate Panchayats.

70% of the population are living in rural areas. Villages lack basic amenities of health services, housing, education, safe drinking water, rural connectivity and communication facilities. If Bharat Nirman Scheme is implemented properly, then only these problems will be solved.

In rural areas throughout the country, nearly 28,444 schools are not having drinking water facilities and 9.13 lakh schools are not having sanitation facilities.

Our late leader, Rajivji announced that allocation of fund by Government of India reaches the masses only 10% and remaining are swallowed. Even now, the same situation continues. All the Government of India schemes to be implemented only through District Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and Gram Panchayats, then only the rural problems will be solved.

I want to put forth about the great achievement of our Tamil Nadu Government headed by Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi in implementing various rural development schemes. Government of Tamil Nadu and its Local Development, Minister, Shri M.K. Stalin has implemented, "Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam". It is a novel scheme to identify the village panchayat for implementing various rural development schemes. In contrast, to the conventional practices of choosing one village panchayat annually in very Assembly Constituency for development are spreading resources thinly across all the villages panchayats. The Government of Tamil Nadu has developed the scheme during 2007 to identify financially weaker village panchayats and has given priority. The above scheme is covering one-fifth of the village panchayat in each block in each year in the ascending order of its per capita income. Funds from schemes of other departments such as the Highways, Public Works, Social Welfare and Education are allocated to the extent possible for solving the existing problems and it is planned to complete it within 2011. During 2006-07, Government

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

of Tamil Nadu has allocated Rs. 508 crore for the development of 2,540 village panchayat at the rate of Rs. 20 lakh per village panchayat. Total funds are utilized and schemes were completed within the financial year. During current year, it is proposed to allocate Rs. 507 crore for 2,534 villages. I urge upon the Government to direct all the State Governments to implement this landmark scheme and I am once again appreciating our hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar and also the Local Administration Minister, Shri M.K. Stalin for implementing this scheme.

With these words, I am supporting the Demands for Grants for Rural.

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): My thanks to Hon'ble Speaker, for allowing me to speak a few words. In Theni District which is from my constituency The Government is allotting more funds for rural development for which I am extremely thankful to Hon'ble Minister, Prime Minister Ji and Madam Sonia Ji for giving more importance to rural development projects, particularly drinking water, road development and basic sanitation under Indira Awas yojana. This year the World Water Day coincides with the International Year of Sanitation. To achieve the targets under Millennium Development Goal the Governments needs to focus efforts for raising awareness and taking concrete action by evolving new interventions and policies to provide this fundamental right of access to safe water and basic sanitation to the millions of people across the country. Happy to say that some territories with 100% grants are implementing Water Supply Schemes in their villages but this should be extended to Tamil Nadu and particularly Theni District also. I welcome the Efforts taken by our UPA government for introducing Centrally Sposnored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM). The Rajiv Gnadhi National Drinking Water Mission was introduced during 1989 and it is nearly two decades old. I feel this is the right time to restructure this mission.

Regarding the funding pattern of all these programmes is different. In ARWSP (Normal) it is 50:50 between Centre & States in Sector Reform Pilot projects and Swajaldhara it is 90:10 between Centre and beneficiaries/Community and Sub-Missions on Water Quality and sustainability it is 75:25 between Centre and States. Under ARWSP (DDP Areas) 100% grant in aid is provided to concerned States. Since Water is essential in not only every body's day to day life but also in all walks of life. It would be more appropriate to extend 100% grant in aid to States.

It is noticed that certain Central Government Funds allotted to State Governments for relevant subjects have not been utilized and diverted to some other subjects without any intimation to the Centre which is not a healthy trend. Recently Hon'ble Finance Minister has sanctioned some amount to State Governments for disbursement among Senior Citizens but this was diverted to some other cause without intimation to the Central Government. Our Chief Minister is whole heartedly supporting the cause of Central Government but the local officers are not co-operating.

In this pious mission of restructuring and rebuilding a vibrant India, I seek their dedication and full co-operation too.

Further, the august House is well aware that the UPA government since its inception in 2004 has been the first government since Independence to conceive and implement NREGS, to banish rural unemployment in the country to check outflow of rural population to urban areas. Initially this scheme was operational in few districts in the country, but I take this opportunity of congratulating Shri Rahul ji that after assuming the responsibility of General Secretary of AICC, his first concern was to get this scheme implemented in all districts of the country. He made a fervent appeal to government and our Hon'ble Prime Minister gave immediate approval to the same and sizable amount has been earmarked in this budget for the same by our Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Sir, Theni district in my parliament constituency of Periyakulam is covered by mountains and hills from all sides and water during the monsoon goes waste. I request the Ministry to please assess the viability of constructing few reservoirs so that rainwater is harvested to be used in lean and dry season.

Apart from this Sir, Ministry of Rural Development is doing wonderful job under CAP ART. They have different programmes like Village Knowledge Centres, Gramin Vikas Andolan and Nirmal Gram Abhiyan, CAP ART Institute for poverty Alleviation and Rural Technology (CIPART), "Demonstration-cum-Awareness Workshop under Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Special Swaranjayanti Gram

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY), Arid Horticulture by Rain Water Harvesting etc. The technology advocated by the council is quite simple which is very well adapted by moderately educated and illiterate rural masses. CAP ART renders distant services from a single windown point in remote areas through modern Information and Rural Technology, I request the Hon'ble Minister to depute some officials from CAP ART to visit my constituency to assess the situation on the spot, set up their offices to bring awareness among the farming community, for which apart from the Central Government grants and assistance, I am willing to contribute permissible funds from MPLAD and request and persuade Government of Tamil Nadu to provide necessary assistance for infrastructure development in this regard.

Sir, this august house is well aware of agitations in the State of Haryana, Punjab, and West Bengal in the recent past. Agricultural land has been acquired for SEZ's displacing Farmers. We all agree that development of Industry and Agriculture is complementary and supplementary to each other. In this regard my sincere suggestion is that SEZ's be Developed on wastelands and degraded forest lands and if at all the development of SEZ's has to be on agricultural land the requiring body should be asked to develop equal area of wastelands simultaneously so that the loss of agricultural land could be compensated.

Rural Development

At the outset I humbly submit my appreciation on the present excellent trend of centre state relationship. This has become possible because of this liberal financial assistance provided by the Centre to the states for its developmental and welfare activities of the states, major part of the funds allotted by the centre is meant for rural development of some states. Some of the Rural Development Schemes are:—

1. Indira Awas Yojana-(IAY)
2. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
3. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
4. Total Sanitation Scheme.
5. Nirmal Gram Proskar Award.
6. Integrated Waste Land Development Program.
7. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.
8. Sharva Siksha Abhiyan-(SSA).
9. National Employment Guarantee Scheme.

All these items relate to Development of the Rurals in India. These schemes are planned, programmed the State Govts. After introductions of the above scheme, we can see the upward change in the living condition of rural populations including the down trodden. However, as elected representatives of the mass I have no role to play, as non-of the schemes is carried out with my knowledge and consultation. Further, the oases relating to the IAY, SSA etc., recommended by me are also not being considered by the implementing Agency of my constituency, which causes frustration in the minds of the general public. Therefore it is my earnest appeal that the MP's of the constituency should be authoritatively vested with powers to participate in the implementation of schemes of the constituency funded by the Central Govt. This would facilitate the MP's to have a monitoring system right from the beginning and prevention of any leakages and durations, In fact majority of the people are under the impression that these schemes are done by the states and the centre, despite pooling enormous funds into the state goes unrecognized or under recognized. Therefore, I once again make it clear that MP's should be made part and parcel of the schemes for which centre provides crores and crores of rupee.

I am having one more reason for active participation of the MP's in the implementation schemes—*i.e.* of during the recent heavy rains (in March 08) flood situation became worst in my constituency and the authorities were puzzled to control the floods. Several farmers and esidents sustained substantial loss. As an elected representative of the people, I could not convince the affected people and remained as a spectator, as I could not promise any future remedial action.

I am also informed that some favoritism is being done by the implementing Agency of the central scheme by allowing more funds to a particular constituency (e.g) Aundipatti is one of the Assembly segments in my constituency and is receiving un-due favouritism just because it happens to be the constituency of the former CM (Ms. Jayalalitha). Therefore, I once again appeal that the active participation of MP's of the constituency is absolutely essential to check favouritism, unauthorized diversion of central funds and to see whether the funds

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

allotted by the center reaches its destination properly to the benefit of the people. Central Government should ensure that funds given to the Union Government for CSA. SGSY. PMGSY should be spent on the recommendations of the local MPs so that the MPs can solve the local urgent and needy problems can be addressed. Pure Drinking Water, good roads are the main needs for the local people. I am really thankful to the Government lead by our Hon'ble PM Dr. Manmohan Singhji under the auspicious guidance of madam sonia ji is doing well for the rural masses. My request is that these programme should reach the people for which we have to monitor through the local MPs. with these words, I conclude Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to take part in the debate on the most important Ministry. Shri Raghuvansh Babu has special concern for the poor. I appreciate and thank him for his sincere efforts to provide facilities to the poor. But he has a problem that he has to work in a neo-liberal economy which is not a favourable atmosphere as neo-liberal economy increases the poverty all over the world. It increases the gap between the rich and the poor. Despite a lot of efforts being made we are facing difficulties in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. It is a struggle against poverty. Perhaps Shri Raghuvansh Babu will also work shoulder to shoulder with us in this struggle. You have to do an uphill task as more and more people among 70 percent living in the villages are becoming landless. It is a new problem. The rural people earn their livelihood from the land and losing land creates a problem for their survival. Several rural people, who are poor, do not have even BPL card and hence they are not getting any benefit. The number of agricultural labourers is increasing but we have not been able to draft any law for their protection. Migration of people from one state to another in search of employment is also a big problem. We have to take care of the poor living in rural and tribal areas. A major portion of the unorganized sector of the country, which consists of about 93 percent of total labourers in the country, resides in the villages. You have to take care of their problems also. Similarly there are problems of rural Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women. As Arjun Sen Gupta Committee has stated in its report that 63 crore people in the country are leading their life with only Rs. 20/- and a large number of such people live in villages. Your Ministry is supposed to address all these problems. Hence it is a very good thing that today the House is having debate on the programmes taken up by your ministry for addressing the above mentioned problems. Though during the last few years the allocation of funds for this Ministry has been increased but the funds are not sufficient in view of the large number of people to be covered and the problems to be addressed. Perhaps only 60 percent of funds asked for by your Ministry from Planning Commission has been provided. Hence I would like the House to join me in stating that more funds should be provided to this Ministry.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is the flagship programme of this Ministry. This Government has been implementing this scheme for the last four years. Earlier 200 districts were covered under this scheme which was increased upto 330 later and now it is being implemented all over the country. Last year 330 districts were covered under this scheme and now the number of districts to be covered has been doubled but the funds have been increased by 33 percent only. When the number of districts has been doubled, it is not appropriate to increase the funds by 33 percent only. We do not agree with the Planning Commission in this regard. Hence I demand from the Government and the Planning Commission to increase the provision for this scheme by 100 percent. The figures show as to how much percentage of GDP is being spent on rural employment. It is decreasing. It has been increasing in terms of rupees but decreasing in terms of percentage of GDP. In 2007-08 it was 0.36 percent of GDP but in 2008-09 it has decreased to 0.27 percent of GDP. Hence the funds meant for rural employment should also be increased in terms of GDP percentage. I would like to request the Government and the planning Commission not to mete out step-motherly treatment to this Ministry because it is very much concerned about the poor. I would like to state that NREGS is a very good programme. We have worked hard in drafting this programme. Since the launch of this programme, we have been receiving feedback from the states and villages for improvement in this programme. I would like to refer to a few shortcomings of this programme. I would like to say one thing that there is lack of public awareness in regard to this programme. The people do not know the details of this programme. The labourers do get cards but most of them do not know as to where application has to be submitted, whether the receipt has to be taken or not and where the complaint has to be lodged in this regard even after three years. Hence every information should be provided to the public so that the people may know their rights and fight for their rights. Apart from this, I would like to

say that when an application is submitted, no acknowledgement is given for that because the rules provide that after acknowledgement the name of the applicant is registered and employment has to be provided to the applicant within 15 days otherwise unemployment allowance should be given to him. When a poor man submits his application in the office, he does not know about all these things. Hence this shortcoming has to be addressed. The poor should not be cheated. They should be given an acknowledgement on the date they submit their applications.

Now I would like to speak about minimum wages. Different states in our country have different minimum wages. Rs. 125 are paid as minimum wages in Kerala which is the maximum and Rs. 50 are paid in Gujarat which is the minimum in the country. I have visited all over the country and hence I have much information in this regard. It is correct that every state has increased its minimum wages due to this programme. The people are getting employment from this programme but the government should talk to the state government where the minimum wages is the lowest i.e. Rs. 50 and get it increased.

A new circular has been issued under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It provides that the working hours will be nine hours. It is not a right thing. All of us work for eight hours a day and there is a break of half an hour for lunch. It is against the ILO convention of 8 working hours. Therefore it should be addressed. There is some problem with regard to ratio of material also. It should also be looked into.

More types of works need to be added in the list of works issued under this programme. At present there are eleven types of works in this list. Even in those works most of the works are related to water like digging for water. Digging for water is justified at some places like Rajasthan where there is scarcity of drinking water and plenty of land. But these works will not be effective where there is plenty of water but land is less. Hence the number of works need to be increased in this list because it is not practical. There are flood prone, drought prone, hilly, forest and desert areas in the country. Hence this list needs to be expanded because there are a lot of problems in many states in getting employment. One type of work can not be done at every place, hence attention should be paid towards it.

Districts get direct funding for this programme. I have observed that some district get higher grants and works get completed in time but in others, works get delayed because of paucity of funds. Hence, the State governments should have the freedom to divert funds from districts where works have been completed but have surplus funds, to districts where funds are needed. This is a practical problem and you should give due consideration to this suggestion and put it to practice because I have experienced this difficulty while visiting various parts of the country.

People are granted funds by banks but there are no branches of banks in many places. There are nearly 52,000 branches of various banks in the country but the number of villages far exceeds this number. That in why you have included Post Offices also but in many places post offices do not agree to take up this work. They ask for service charges. This aspect should be examined and the post offices should be instructed to ensure proper and timely payment to the poor people.

I have another request regarding the said scheme. You should also provide foodgrain under this scheme. Inflation is on the rise and the price of foodgrains is skyrocketing. The poor find foodgrains out of their reach. On the lines of Food for Work Scheme, payment should be made in the form of foodgrains instead of money to resolve this problem. Payment in cash is proving to be inadequate. If payment is made in the form of wheat and other grains, it would enable the poor to take home food items. This provision exists in the scheme but it has to be worked out as to how it is going to be implemented by coordinating with FCI, Agriculture Ministry and others. This is a very good programme but certain drawbacks have to be removed. My predecessor speaker hon. Kashiram Ranaji, pointed out certain problems being created by contractors. You may be aware that this programme is being implemented least in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which have the highest concentration of the poor.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Bihar does not have the highest number of poor persons.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: There are poor people in Bihar. From where does maximum migration take place? Only 18 percent of works is undertaken there.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The largest number of poor are in Bengal.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: All right, why is there a shortage of employment opportunities in Bihar? Are the people of Bihar so rich that they don't want to work?

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

Least work is being done in Bihar and U.P. All the districts in Bihar have been covered under the said scheme but people are not working. The government should look into the reasons for lack of work and should arrange for proper monitoring of work. Also, the people for whom the programme has been formulated should show interest in working. Work is not being done at the places where it needs to be carried out and I would like to draw the attention of the government towards this point.

There is a programme for people who do not have houses. Under the IAY programme the percentage of physical achievement is shown to be 97 percent against 84 percent expenditure. How is it that the percentage of achievement is higher than that of expenditure incurred? This should also be examined. The sites for construction of houses under the said schemes are also located in far-flung areas. How is a poor person supposed to go and live in a far-flung place, far away from the main city, where there are no facilities? So, the government should buy land near the central locality. The site of housing should be near the main locality otherwise it would not benefit the poor. The government should pay attention to this problem.

Apart from this, there is the Prime Minister Gramin Rojgar Yojana for which crores of rupees are being spent. But the state governments do not have funds for maintenance of works carried out thereunder. If these works get damaged within five years then all the money spent thereon would go waste. I would like to urge that the responsibility of maintenance of the said works should also be taken up by the Centre. If maintenance of the works is not done then the best construction would also get dilapidated and would not give any long-term benefit. The government should think over this point.

On the BPL issue, the Planning Commission has given a statement that the population of poor in the country is not more than 18 percent. How has it come to this conclusion? When I go to villages I find that there are many persons who haven't got BPL cards. The norms for issuance of BPL cards are not fair. The norms should be modified and BPL cards should be issued in a proper manner.

Apart from this, the target achieved under rural drinking water scheme is 50-60 percent. This is an important component of *Bharat Nirman* but this programme has been completed in the 57 percent uncovered villages under the ARWSP. Provision for water supply is being made for other places but the sources of water dry up after a while and people are not able to get water. Hence, it would have to be ensured that people get water for a long period of time. Besides, the water quality would also have to be checked. 30,000 villages are suffering from adverse effects of excess fluoride in water and 70,000 villages from an excess of iron in water. It would have to be ensured that there is no compromise regarding the quality of water supplied to people. There are 80 thousand schools in the villages in the country facing shortage of water and tubewells are providing water there. Even so, there are 84 thousand more schools which have no source of water supply. The responsibility of providing water to these schools also lies with the Ministry of Rural Development and it has to fulfil it.

Total percentage of achievement under the sanitation scheme is 49 percent. This is a good programme but a higher percentage of achievement is required. We have been talking about land reforms for the last 60 years but the reforms are not taking place. The result is that there is no decline in rural poverty. The work started by Land Reform Department should be completed. Surplus land and wasteland should be equitably distributed amongst the poor and the landless. IDWP is a good programme but is being implemented least effectively in the North-Eastern region. That region needs this programme the most but it is not being run effectively in that very region. Hence emphasis should be laid on implementing this programme effectively in the North-Eastern region.

These are my few demands. All these works fall under your purview and that is why, I have drawn your attention towards the shortcomings in these schemes. With this, I conclude.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this discussion. At the outset, I would like to thank and congratulate Shri Raghuvansh ji, the Minister of Rural Development for implementing certain schemes in the interest of downtrodden and the poor. District level committees have been constituted for monitoring the said schemes and the hon. Members have also been honoured by taking them on such committees. I would like to make two-three points regarding this ministry as the hon. Minister desires that the poor get benefit under the said schemes, he also desires successful implementation of these schemes. I would give suggestions for removal of obstacles in these schemes.

First by, the Government of India has implemented PMGSY which is laudable. Budgetary allocation for the said scheme should have been enhanced. It has not been done. I think the scheme provided that each village having a population of 500-1000 would be connected with pucca roads. Perhaps, the said provision has been withdrawn. I would like the hon. Minister to address this aspect in his reply.

Sir, I would also like to point out that my colleagues, during a meeting on the said scheme, had demanded that concerned Members of Parliament should have the right to inaugurate the roads constructed under PMGSY in their respective constituencies. I think it was said that the letters in this regard had been dispatched to the MPs. But, perhaps the letter may not have been dispatched as no M.P. has received the said letter. I would like the hon. Minister to give a clarification in this regard that the roads under the said scheme will be constructed as per suggestion given by Members. During a Meeting such direction was given which has not been complied with. Officers prepare proposal as they like and quality norms are not adhered to in construction of roads. The contractors and officers specify the road route arbitrarily. I would like the hon. Minister to see to this aspect. Please clarify if circular regarding inauguration has been issued or not. I would also like the hon. Minister to check if the suggestions of MPs with regard to construction of roads are complied with. Poor and Downtrodden people from U.P. and Bihar, the state he hails from, are migrating to cities. The Government launched NREGS for them to check their migration but the scheme is not being implemented as was desired originally. Perhaps, the Minister may have received complaints in this regard. I want him to view it seriously. Lists are not being prepared honestly. The work should go on as per the targets fixed. The people who are forced to migrate should get employment. No uniform minimum wage has been fixed in the country. It differs from state to state. The wage in the poorest states, where people are dying of hunger, should be adequate. The prices of essential commodities are soaring. If wages of a labourer are not increased NREGS will prove to be a failure. I want the disparities to be removed. For this purpose, matter should be taken up with the concerned Ministers in the state Governments and their officers for bringing improvements in the said scheme.

The budget has a provision for Indira Aawas Yojana. The government have targeted to provide dwelling units to homeless. The hon. Minister was able to make his point quite emphatically. It kindled a ray of hope for slum dwellers who have no roof over their heads. I would like the Government to give a serious thought to Indira Awas Yojana. Corruption is rampant in it. There is groupism in villages. A person who has no link with any influential person, his name is deleted from the list. The lists are prepared on the basis of political affiliation. Even the names of employed persons or living abroad are included in the said list. A person who often visits concerned office which prepares the list get the dwelling unit allotted in his name whether his name is in the list or not by paying Rs. three to five thousand as bribe. It goes against the objective of the scheme. One who pays them Rs. 3-5 thousand as bribe gets a house under Indira Aawas Yojana and one who neither pays anything nor has a political link, is deprived of a house under the said scheme. The government desired that there should be no discrimination in it. But I feel, there is discrimination in it and it has created resentment in our minds. Last time I mentioned about price-rise. In view of it, how it is possible to construct a house within the amount remaining out of Rs. 25,000 after paying a bribe of Rs. 3000-5000. Therefore it should be increased. Perhaps, as he has said, it has been increased to Rs. 35,000. The Members present here are well aware that a small dwelling unit can't be constructed with any amount less than Rs. 50,000/-. Therefore, it should be increased to Rs. 50,000 and efforts should be made to ensure that the list of only eligible poor should be prepared so that they get allotment. Last time, I had urged the Minister in this House and after that, he had said that in case of natural calamities incident of fire or flood etc., the damaged house should be converted into Indira Aawas. I would like to make a mention of a letter of his Ministry dated 12.4.2006. With his permission, I would like to read out the letter of the hon. Minister wherein it has been stated that a burnt house should be converted into Indira Aawas. I think it has happened in many other states. But the instructions in this regard have not been followed in Deoria district of U.P. May be, the hon. Minister is not aware of it or this office may not have brought this fact to his knowledge. In case of damage caused by fire, some kind of help is provided. The state governments ask for the damage report. A proforma was circulated in 2006-07, 2007-08 asking details of damage caused by fire for providing benefit under Indira Aawas Yojana. The details sought in the proformas are name of the beneficiary, father's name, residential address, Caste, DPR No; nature of calamity, time of occurrence of calamity, quantum of damage, contribution by the state government. In the end, the person seeking benefit is supposed to submit a certificate

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

that assistance has not been provided by any other source. I mean, financial assistance, in case of damage caused to the house by fire, will be provided only on production of a certificate that assistance has not been provided by any other source. But which officer will issue the said certificate?

This order of the hon. Minister has not fulfilled his noble intention by which people would have got Indira Awas. Not even a single officer of any district in the whole of Uttar Pradesh has allotted an Indira Awas on the basis of this proforma under the scheme. I want that he should have a look at this proforma. An obstacle has been created in the promise made by him in the House in the public interest. He should make an announcement to fulfil his promise otherwise a person like me would feel that his words are not to help the people but to deprive them. His office has put a question mark on his promise. Therefore, he should take back this proforma. I want to tell him that even after such a long time period, pure drinking water could not be provided in the entire country. We can boast to any extent, but we have not been able to provide even pure drinking water to the people. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati ji is providing discretionary quota of 250 hand pumps to the MLAs of her own party and 100 hand pumps to the MLAs of other parties. Sometimes, the Government should accept the reality also. This is the situation of Uttar Pradesh today. But no Member of Parliament, irrespective of his party affiliation or the area from where he is elected, has the right to sanction hand pump. People have sent us to Delhi. Whenever we visit our area, the poor people ask us to arrange a hand pump for water but, I cannot do that. I want to tell the hon. Minister that our delegation which included hon. Rewati Raman Singh, Prof. Ram Gopal ji and Ilyas Azmi, who are present here, had met the hon. Prime Minister and had given him a memorandum to empower each Member of Parliament to sanction 500 hand pumps in his constituency. But, it did not materialize. We want to demand this right from the government even today. The Rural Development is a big Ministry and we are hopeful that hon. Minister will agree to our demand and would make announcement regarding discretionary quota of each Member to recommend 500 hand pumps, during his reply in the House in this last session of present Lok Sabha.

Secondly, I want to speak about water harvesting. There is a scheme to collect water by digging ponds. But, I guess, no pond was dug anywhere. They were dug only on papers and money was taken. Digging was not done by the labourers but by tractors. I want that the hon. Minister should pay some attention to it also.

Similarly, I want to speak about the people living below poverty line. Hon. Prime Minister had said in his speech that pension would be provided to the people having 65 years of age and living below poverty line. It is a very good scheme and he deserves accolades for this. But, this scheme has remained only on the papers and is not being implemented. I want that the hon. Minister should also look into it.

In addition, I want to make one more submission that Panchayat Bhavan should be provided in every Gram Sabha. There should be a Panchayat Bhavan so that the people can sit together at one place in a village and discuss the numerous Government schemes. We as well as the rural people, would be happy if Panchayat Bhavan facility is provided in every Gram Sabha. There is arrangement for teaching of children in primary schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but there is no arrangement of hand pumps for drinking water. I especially urge the hon. Minister of Rural Development to look into this problem.

Similarly, there is the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Project. But, the target of electrification of villages under the scheme is not being met. I want that the hon. Minister should also dwell upon it and try to meet the gap. With these words, I support the demands for grants. I hope that he will make announcement to empower the members to recommend 500 hand pumps. I would request him to make this announcement today itself. With these words, I support the budget of the Ministry of Rural Development.

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Minister of Rural Development that the Employment Guarantee Scheme is a very good Scheme for the poor and the unemployed and for the development of the villages.

But, at some places, the benefit of the scheme is not available even today like in coastal areas there is no solution for removing salinity of the sea water. There was a scheme for this during the NDA's regime which has been discontinued. Many places do not get the benefit of several schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development due to forest laws relating to Reserve Forests and Sanctuaries in force there. Villages covered under forest

*Speech was laid on the Table.

laws do not have roads and drinking water. Roads should be constructed in such villages under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana and there should be total development of these villages.

There are many villages in districts Narmada, Bharuch and Surat in Gujarat which are facing too many problems. They have no roads. Various schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development should be implemented in such villages. They should also get the benefits of the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Along with this, I would like to add that there are many areas where water on first and second levels is unclean. If arrangement for clean drinking water is made in schools, children would be able to get safe water for drinking.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Don't speak just in praise, also talk about other things in Bihar.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I know about Bihar so I am speaking about Bihar. Please remain calm...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving an opportunity to speak on the budget of Ministry of Rural Development. This is very important Ministry and as we all know 70 to 80 percent population of the country resides in the villages. As long as the villages do not prosper, the country can not prosper. The responsibility for ensuring prosperity of villages lies on the shoulders of the Minister for Rural Development as the head of the Ministry and he has shouldered this responsibility in a commendable manner. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Ministry for carrying out the very important Bharat Nirman Yojana. A lot of development has taken place in India but Bharat has lagged behind in this matter. As long as Bharat lags behind India and development of rural areas where the poor reside does not take place, till then overall development of the country cannot take place. The reason for the growing divide between villages and cities and for the migration from rural to urban areas is that the facilities which should be available to the rural poor, labourers and agriculture labourers are not available in villages. Hence, the rural population is forced to migrate to cities for employment, education of children etc. If these facilities are provided by the Government in villages the tide of migration can be stemmed and the people would not have to suffer the indignities they have to endure in cities. These people are moving to cities in search of livelihood. These are the poor who live in subhuman conditions in cities. They Can't send their children to school. They don't have access to drinking water and have to breathe polluted air in order to eke out a living in cities. It is the responsibility of the Rural Development Ministry to fulfil the needs of this category of people who are migrating to cities in droves.

Many of the hon. Members have discussed the schemes under the Bharat Nirman Yojana. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this point. The fact is that the hon. Minister deserves to be highly appreciated for the path breaking efforts he has made during the last four years for developmental works, allocation of funds in the proper ratio so as to make sure that the funds reach the right places. The previous government and the present one has given lot of money for various schemes—be it the Indira Awas Yojana, water supply scheme, Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, Development of Wasteland or the Employment Guarantee Scheme. I would say that giving legal status to Employment Guarantee scheme is a highly commendable step. It is a revolutionary step fulfiling a long standing dream of the people. I would like to express my gratitude towards the hon. Prime Minister and the UPA Government for taking this step. However, unless the benefits of the schemes reach the common people, merely formulating the schemes would be of no use. You are allocating funds, the funds are reaching the targeted beneficiaries and you also have a pure heart. You have a clean policy and good intentions. I feel that some responsibility also lies with the implementing agencies. The State Governments are the implementing agencies for this scheme. Under our federal structure if the state governments do not fulfil their responsibility properly, you will be unable to do much about it. You cannot force them to do anything—you do not have that power. In this matter, I would particularly like to draw the attention towards Bihar. Hon, Senior Member Shri Prabhunath Singhji was speaking just now. He belongs to the ruling party in Bihar. He is a reactionary. If the state government takes any wrong step, he berates it. This is true democracy. It is of no use to create a ruckus here, in the House. If any Government does not fulfil its responsibility, whether in the House or in the States, the

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

public is aware of it. The public keeps a watch on the Government because it is elected by the public. I think nowadays the government has become power hungry. That is why it has forgotten its responsibilities and the people are also not raising their voice against it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji is here to give a reply to you.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: He will give the reply. I am drawing his attention, through you, because he is a courageous and combative colleague. He has a history of fighting for issues but nowadays he remains quiet. May be he has reached some agreement or he has become attached to the party. This is why he is not able to speak-out for the right thing.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you and talk about wasteland. Conversion of wasteland into cultivable land is also part of Bharat Nirman Yojana. I think he must have allocated crores of rupees for the project all over the country. All the cultivable land is being acquired for industrial purposes. I am in favour of industrialization. If industries are not set up, employment avenues would not be created and development would not take place. But the common man must not be exploited in order to create employment and enrich the country. Lakhs of acres of land are being acquired in various states for setting up Special Economic Zones. You can so not but what will happen if you acquire this land? Our population is rising but productivity is falling. Productivity is falling because we are not able to irrigate cultivable land. There is lack of water together with many other problems. One of the problems is that cultivable land is being acquired for Special Economic Zones. This matter needs to be looked into.

The responsibility to convert the wasteland into arable land rests upon you. While replying, the hon. Minister should tell the amount allocated for conversion of the wasteland into arable land in different parts of the country, the amount actually spent and the total area of waste land converted into arable land. Otherwise, your scheme which is a popular scheme, will remain on paper and we will not have any information about it. I would like to know as to what extent we have succeeded in achieving the target fixed and our objectives. I would like to have this information because I want that the land under SEZ should compensate the state and achieve the production capacity. I would like to know the steps he is going to take and the steps he has already taken to reduce its adverse impact and to increase the national production capacity.

The second important scheme—National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)—has been discussed by a number of hon. Members. It is a very popular scheme. It has been much discussed but I feel that there are some drawbacks in the scheme due to which the benefit of thousands of crores of rupees is not reaching the common man. Job cards are not being made properly. As mentioned by the hon. Members here, work is being done through tractors of the contractors by making bogus job cards on a large scale. He should tell us as to how it is being monitored. He had said that they will provide job opportunities and will definitely provide money in cash for the number of days job opportunities are not provided. To how many people he has provided this money? I am speaking particularly about my own state Bihar which is a state of poors and there is problem of unemployment. We have two parts—one having floods and the other having drought. People have been migrating from there on a large scale for years. The Chief Minister of Bihar had claimed that when this Government is formed then he would provide so much job opportunities that no one will migrate and those who have already migrated will come back. He would create such an atmosphere and provide such jobs that people from other places will come to our state. I do not know how much information hon. Chief Minister must be having in this regard. He should have information regarding the number of job opportunities provided there. Even today, people of Bihar are earning their livelihood by putting in their hard work at many places including your state Pubjab, Haryana, Mumbai, Assam, Maharashtra and Delhi etc. I think this has made an impact there since the hon. Minister himself speaks to us off and on during the discussions that the amount allocated by him for Bihar under the NREGS is not being utilized. Not only under the NREGS but also under other various popular schemes like Indira Awas Yojana, money is not being spent. It is not being spent on drinking water schemes too. The money is not reaching there due to the irregularities. It is a matter of concern and our people are getting beaten up in other places like Maharashtra and Assam and now even in Delhi. Why will someone migrate if he gets job opportunity in his own area? Why will he go to other places just to get beaten up and hear abuses? There are many such problems. There are many poor and backward states whose objectives can be fulfilled under the NREGS but it is not being implemented properly. How is the CM

monitoring it there? What is he doing and how? The officials there have the freedom to loot it is free for all. Prabhunathji is also patronizing them. Why is he not speaking? I hope that he will definitely speak on this matter on his turn. He is a bold speaker and does justice. I am sure he will put up his point in clear terms. Job cards are not being received properly. I am speaking about my own area. There is Fulwari assembly constituency adjacent to Patna in my area. I had raised the issue in the House and drawn the hon. Minister's attention to it. Various works were executed there on a large scale but payment is not being made to the labourers. The payment is made through the state governments. Had the State Government been performing its duties honestly, the problem would not have been created and the situation of Dharna and demonstration would not have arisen. So long as the purchasing power of the country is in the hands of the poor...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been speaking for 15 minutes. Other hon. Members of your party have also to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me to speak a little more. There is a large population of people living below poverty line in Bihar. I think that the NREGS is very important for increasing their purchasing power. Therefore, whether we will think about increasing their purchasing power or not?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what else we should think about that? How will the progress of the rural people take place? Rural development is meaningless if the poor people do not progress, poor do not get money and their purchasing power does not increase. The condition of the country cannot be improved without increasing the purchasing power of the 70-80 percent poor people of the country. If he is there to improve the condition of the country, then he should increase the purchasing power of the poor. You are already watching the rising prices.

Sir, second important thing is drinking water. Sixty first year of India's independence has commenced but this freedom has no meaning if we are not able to provide drinking water to the people even after 61 years. You also come from a village and a poor family. You must have also realized it and the entire House must have also realized it. Even today, clean drinking water is not available adequately in our villages. People of some villages are drinking water from dirty wells while in some other villages they get it from dirty ponds, particularly in my State of Bihar. There is no doubt that there is poverty in my State, there are poor as well as backward people there. There are many reasons for it, but the most important reason is unavailability of drinking water.

Sir, water contains arsenic in several villages in Bihar. Consequently large number of people are suffering from one or the other disease. What action the Government has taken in this regard? We have schemes. The Government has reports about various parts of Bihar, but it has not been able to make drinking water available there so far. I would like to know what steps the Government propose to take to provide clean drinking water there? If the Government does not provide drinking water, it will be an injustice with the common people of the country.

Sir, the issue concerning toilets is directly related to hon. Minister's department. Even after 61 years of India's Independence our mothers and sisters have to go for toilet in open after sunrise and before Sun set. Our leader, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had once said that in today's India we do not have toilets for our mothers and sisters. No doubt we have gained freedom but its fruits have not reached the villages so far. The Government have launched toilets drive and that too quite effectively. But how far it is successful the hon. Minister knows it. I would like to know whether the Government have achieved the target in this regard especially in case of Bihar? I want that the Minister should tell about it while giving his reply. Despite Government intention, it has not been possible to construct toilets in villages on large scale. I won't say that he is not creating awareness. He is doing so, he is creating awareness. He is creating awareness among the people through meetings and his speeches. But it is the duty of the State Government and the State Government is not doing this task properly.

Sir, advertisements are being made about it. It is an attack on us. It is like enjoying at the cost of someone else's money, the Government of India is funding the said scheme and concerned M.Ps. are not called for inauguration as we belong to the Opposition. I don't want my photo to appear in the ads, I am concerned only about the development of our villages and that is foremost for us. Development of villages is the responsibility of State Governments. What is going on in the State is that the projects are funded by the Government of India while

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Chief Minister and Ministers in the States are taking the credit. The names of our Prime Minister, Union Ministers or even local M.P. do not figure. We find sign boards at various places inscribed with 'courtesy State Government'. I would like to know the Minister's views in this regard. While various works are being executed by yours and funds are being provided by the UPA Government, its credit is being taken by NDA Government. I would like to know what is the provision in this regard and how far it has been successful? The Chief Ministers of our State is taking credit for all developmental works. He is being termed as 'Vikas Purus'. He is claiming that he is doing development. What a development! Funding is done by the centre while credit is taken by State Governments. We command the support of the people yet the state is governed by someone else. It will not go on for long. The people of the country are aware that it is we who command their support so we should run the Government. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister to do something in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Kripalji, you have spoken for 20 minutes. Now you conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am concluding. Hon. Minister please look into it and do something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 20 minutes. I have no objection. If the hon. Minister wants, you may continue this debate throughout night.

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SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I will make my point on 2-3 schemes and then conclude. Pardon me if what I say is somewhat bitter. It is good that the allocation under Indira Aawas Yojana has been hiked from Rs. 25 thousand to Rs. 35 thousand.

Sir, having a house, has been the dream of the poor for thousand years. Indira Aawas Yojana has been launched to fulfil this dream. You have done excellent work by converting jhuggis into houses. I heartily welcome it. But how long it will take to provide house to each family, as the Government has not been in a position to construct as many houses as required. It is difficult to construct a house with Rs. 25,000 as stipulated under Indira Aawas Yojana. But now it has been increased to Rs. 35,000. The prices of iron, cement and other construction material have increased many fold, including the labour. In view of it how it is possible to construct a dwelling unit with Rs. 35 thousand? The hon. Members have rightly demanded further hike in it. One has to bribe the middlemen even to get this amount also.

14.21 hrs.

[Shri Giridhar Gamang *in the Chair*]

One has to pay Rs. 5-10 thousand to the middleman and also the staff who sanction the fund, otherwise, one cannot get it sanctioned. Though the Government has taken some measures to check it, they have proved to be useless. Large scale loot is going on in this scheme. Right from Panchayat level to BDO, all take a pie in it. How the Government would check it so that the money reaches the poor? Large chunk of Rs. 35,000 sanctioned under the said scheme is distributed amongst the middleman and full amount never reaches the beneficiaries.

I would also like to say something about Old Age Pension Scheme. It is a very popular scheme. The Government have increased it to Rs. 200. Its coverage has been extended in accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement. It is a very good step. You will be surprised to know that in my State two schemes were there. One is run by the Central Government and the second one by the State Government. Centrally sponsored scheme is still in vogue but the Bihar Government's scheme has been withdrawn. The State Government claims that it has hiked it from Rs. 100 to 200 and that it is disbursing the payment to beneficiaries. What steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

The State Government is not extending its cooperation there. The State Government is just taking credit for it. What do you propose to stop this? You should at least publish an advertisement to publicise the works undertaken by you. The State Government has not given a single paisa for this scheme. This Government has also stopped the funds sanctioned by the previous Government. The State Government is not contributing anything for this scheme that is why we want that the publicity of this scheme should be made through your Ministry so that the State Government is not able to claim the credit for the works undertaken under the scheme. Old Age Pension Scheme is a popular scheme. You have announced this scheme for senior citizens aged 65 years and above, you should implement this scheme. The State Governments have not contributed any funds so far. People are applying for the pension but they are not being given anything. I would like to make a last point regarding Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. This scheme is revolutionary step. You have made provision for implementation of the scheme throughout

the country and set the target of linking all villages having a population of one thousand people with roads by the year 2009. It is good that work is being done and people are praising it. But the point is that the central agency is working there. The pace at which you want the work to be done and funds be given, work is not being done at that pace in the country and particularly Bihar. I would like to know the manner in which the funds allocated during the last three or four years have been utilized? I have drawn your attention towards the quality of work. Due to lack of quality control, the roads constructed do not last even for five years. Four or five agencies, including NBCC etc., are working on the scheme but the pace of work is very slow. This is also a result of non co-operation by the State Governments. The work being undertaken by the Government of India is improving the image of the UPA and myself in the eyes of the people. Since, it is benefiting the Union Government and the MPs., the State Government is putting hurdles. The previous State Government and the present Union Government had signed an MoU and the implementation work was given to the central agency. The State Government has now started saying that it would not allow the central agency to work because its board is not being put up there. The state Government told them not to prepare the DPR. The Union Government gave directions for the DPR to be submitted and you are firm on getting the work done. The Union Government even told the State Government that all villages with a population of one thousand should get a road link by the year 2009. There is no paucity of funds. The State Government should let the central agency carryout its work. The State Government should also send scheme. We would give funds for that also. But, because of the obstructive attitude of the State Governments, particularly the Bihar government, people are not able to avail the full benefits of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to focus specially on Bihar because he is a son of Bihar. He should pay attention to all these issues. As regards the horticulture scheme, I would like to say that Bihar Government has been able to get thirty-five crore rupees only for the scheme during the last three to four years. This is the condition of Bihar where "Vikas Purush" are supposed to be in charge. I think that you would talk about all these things.

As long as various schemes are not closely monitored through Rural Development Ministry, proper allocation of funds is not made and development of villages does not take place, this country would not be able to make progress. This is what I believe. The Rural Development Ministry has enhanced the funds allocation from 18 to 19 percent this year as compared to last financial year. It has enhanced the allocation by three to four times when compared to the allocation made by the previous Government. The UPA Government, hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister are concerned about the villages and only they can do something to improve the condition of villages. There is no hope from the State Government. These people will not do anything for the development of the country. They merely believe in raising the slogan of 'India Shining'. Bharat Nirman is in your hands. The country and the villages will not develop until you give them your able leadership.

With these few points, I fully support the budget of the Rural Development Ministry and would like to say that he should try to remove the roadblocks on the way to development and play a supporting role in the progress of the country. The poor in the country are looking towards you. You are a son of the soil. You are a farmer who understands the needs of farming. I believe that the country will move forward under your leadership.

[English]

*SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Sir, a great privilege for me to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for 2008-09, and also to extend my support. While doing so, I would like to place the following few points for the consideration of this august House.

In rural development, we have three very ambitious and flagship programmes, *viz.* Bharat Nirman, NREG scheme and the PMGSY, among others. As regards Bharat Nirman, our country has made impressive progress in the previous year. Under Bharat Nirman on each day of the year, 290 habitations are provided with drinking water, 17 habitations are connected through all weather roads, 52 villages are provided with telephones and 42 villages are electrified each day. This is the achievement of our Government under Bharat Nirman, which needs recognition from all sections of the House.

Under this programme, action is being taken with regard to irrigation facilities, rural roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity, etc.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati K. Rani]

This is a programme envisioned,

- To connect 66,802 habitations with all weather roads
- To construct 1,46,185 kilometers of the new rural roads network
- To upgrade 1,94,132 kilometers of the existing rural roads network

The target to complete them is next year and hopefully, with the guidance of the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and under the supervision of our hon. Prime Minister, they would be completed by the targeted date, with sufficient allocation of funds for all the projects.

Coming to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, it is said that it will be rolled out to all the 596 rural districts in India. Here, Rs. 16,000 crore is provided to start with; and there is also an assurance from the Finance Minister that as and when there is demand, the allocation will be increased.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there are ten districts which are covered under NREGS now. This Scheme is a grand success all over the country and I request that it may be increased to cover more districts of rural Tamil Nadu so that many poor people are benefited.

In the case of Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, the goal is to supply safe drinking water to uncovered habitations and slipped back habitations. Here, the allocation has been increased from Rs. 6500 crore to Rs. 7300 crore this year.

The other important flagship programme of this Government here is the Rural Roads Scheme or PMGSY. Here also, rural roads are being constructed on a grand scale throughout the country, and this Government deserves congratulations from all sides of the House.

We know that real India lives in villages. Development has to hit rural India; villages have to be connected by Internet; there should be adequate push to rural economy; 'Roads' should lead to rural prosperity; health facilities should be extended to rural India. There is a need to look into all these major aspects and to make sufficient allocation of funds for these.

I hope the Government is focusing its attention on all these and making sufficient allocation of money to make rural India a prosperous India so that urban-rural divide is minimized.

With this, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development and I thank the Chair for having given me time to participate in this discussion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the budget. I am sorry to say that we go to the rural areas and come here, we find a world of difference—whichever party may be in power. When I come here and see that the Government has so many schemes for our people in the rural areas who are generally neglected and remain unnoticed. But the ground reality is that they do not get any benefits from these schemes. I go and meet them. They usually are in a very pitiable state. It is a fact that though almost sixty years have passed since independence, but when an MP meets the villagers, they are unaware of what he can do for them. Their demands do not go beyond old age pension, the red card, kerosene, Indira Awas and none of these things are in our hands. This is the truth. These are the only demands of the people of the villages in Bihar which are in my constituency. They suffer from the same problems which they were facing fifty or sixty years ago. Whichever Government may have been in power, it has only made promises to get votes. They are getting subsidy today, still they are not getting kerosene for less than thirty rupees. Though they are getting subsidy on it, yet the poor people do not get rice at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilo, let it be under Antyodya or Annapurna Yojana. Dealers openly sell it in the market in connivance with block staff including the officials of the FCI. Let the allocation under Indira Awas Yojana be increased to Rs. 35,000 or even Rs. 50,000 from present Rs. 25,000 the real beneficiaries will be the middleman and the panchayat.

The Government proposed to open bank accounts of beneficiaries so as to check corruption. Now, more important is to evolve plans to implement the said schemes. It will have to be taken block wise. The officials, members of panchayat, MLAs or M.Ps who take commission, they do not speak against them. I would like to say that DM, DDC, Block officials and even some of the M.Ps take commission. Be it MPLAD scheme or Rural Area Funds, 22 to 30 percent commission goes to the concerned officers. An M.P. has been reduced to a peon. No doubt concerned M.P. is nominated as Chairman

of the Monitoring Committee but if the concerned State is ruled by any opposition party then DM or other concerned officers won't listen to him or her as they know that actual monitoring is done at CM's level. I have held many a meeting but the fact is that now I have stopped holding meetings. I have brought many irregularities to the notice, let it be IAY, BPL list, Old Age Pension Scheme, Antyodya or Annapurna Scheme or even PMGSY. I presented even the evidence to corroborate the charges. The Government launched PMGSY but so far construction of how many roads has been completed under this scheme. Contractors who have been black listed a number of times are repeatedly awarded contracts. And none listens to any complaint against them. In fact, if we do not ensure that the schemes are implemented honestly and funds are utilized properly, it will not serve any purpose. What late Rajiv Gandhiji said that only 15 paise out of a rupee reach the actual beneficiary is true. Now I feel that this level has further gone down. The administration is acting arbitrarily in Bihar. Officers openly take PC and bribe. I would say that if PC is made mandatory through an amendment to the constitution, it will ensure at least 80 percent proper utilization of funds as officials take commission behind the curtain and none speaks against it. Genuine persons, who actually need help, get nothing under Indira Aawas Yojana. We prepared BPL list and in the first list, APL people were placed in the BPL Categary and BPL in the APL category. The people whose names were in BPL list for the last 20 years have now been deprived of BPL status. The matter was inquired into and BPL list was prepared afresh. General BPL holders have not been provided BPL cards so far. Even in the new list, names of many genuine beneficiaries are missing. I would like to ask the hon. Minister—if he is under that BPL list is prepared by the officials under the Panchayati Raj at the block level taking into account the fact which caste, which family, which villages and which locality votes for them. Foodgrains and Kerosene under Antyodaya and Annapurna are distributed on the basis of this BPL list. When I go to the villages people say that they have been at loss by voting in favour of me as I am in the opposition. The whole supply of kerosene is given to one group which then sells it @ Rs. 30-40 a litre and 70 percent of it is sold in the open market or is given to certain influential farmers who use it for driving tractor.

Just now our hon. Members made a mention of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. I would seek clarification from the hon. Minister—if the Government of India or the State Government of Bihar is getting the earthwork done? Everyone is aware that Bihar gets flooded by July 17 and that now no work, except the earthwork is undertaken there. The people employed for earthwork, be it under Zila Parishad or NREGS say that the officers are saying that some how they have to spend the funds released. Let them dig the earth anywhere, the money is to be spent. The funds are being spent unnecessarily. The diging of pits along the road has created mud and the roads are getting damaged. Apart from it pits have been dug in fields also. Has any kind of survey been conducted in this regard. Earthwork is done only for two months. The officers pray for the rain to come so that they can move their file for getting the payment sanctioned so that they can again start digging of pits.

Similarly, is the hon. Minister aware that Rs. 25 to 100-200 are taken for giving job card? The poor is exploited here also as in Indira Aawas Yojana. So far as paying commission of Rs. five thousand is concerned, I would like to say that one who can afford to pay this amount is not a poor. I visited the villages and found that those who were indeed in need of house under IAY could not afford paying rupees five thousand. They still, dream of a house under the said scheme by paying Rs. two thousand to the middleman. When we call a meeting, we find that 90 percent units have been constructed. Adequate funds have been spent on it, but if we go to the villages, we find that though by chance a few poor people may have got the fund under the said scheme and he may have constructed hardly walls of a small room measuring four into ten feet. The Government may hike it to Rs. 35 to 50 thousand but the Government should realize that with the hike in allocation commission also increases. And it is increasing day by day. A genuinely needy person neither gets kerosene nor a dwelling unit under Indira Aawas Yojana. Not only this, even his name is removed from BPL list. Same is the fate of Old Age Pension Scheme of the Government of India. Most important thing is public awareness whether the pension is being disbursed by the Government of India or the State Government of Bihar and what kind of benefit they are getting. Wherever I go, I try that the people should know about it but despite that the attitude of the officials is very lackadaisical. We should implement these schemes properly. First, we should make the people aware about the schemes formulated by the Government for their rights. But, they do not have the information. Even today, they are under the wrong impression that it

I also would like to congratulate and thank our Hon. Ministers for Rural Development both Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar Sahu for implementing various programmes for social, economical and infrastructural development of rural areas in the country.

As a Member of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Rural Development, I have witnessed a lot of improvement in the monitoring mechanism and I am sure that with the efforts put in by the Ministry, the status of our rural people in our country would considerably improve.

After becoming a member of this august House in 2004, atleast till 2006, whenever we met our Union Minister of Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad with some demands he would always be insisting on forwarding of recommendation from the State Government. The then Government in Tamil Nadu used to ignore all our recommendations. It is our good fortune that we now have good governance in Tamil Nadu with Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi at the helm of affairs. After his coming to power, we were spared from running from pillar to post. Instead of our going in search of officials the officials themselves are coming to people's representatives like me as directed by our Chief Minister. So the schemes suggested by us are being recommended by the State Government.

Hence I urge upon the Union Rural Development Minister to take note of the welcome change and concede to our rightful demands duly recommended by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to point out that Government of Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in implementing all the centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes. Our leader Thalapathi Mu. Ka Stalin, as Minister of Rural Development has done a very commendable job in making all round development particularly in providing good rural roads and clean drinking water to all the villages in rural Tamil Nadu under Anna Marumalarchi Scheme. Government of Tamil Nadu has made a great strides in computerization of records pertaining to land and rural water supply. As he has been taking very keen interest in all aspects of Rural Development, I personally appeal to the hon. Union Minister Shri Prasad to allocate additional funds for Rural Development Schemes in Tamil Nadu, especially to upgrade the rural roads from being mud road to metalled roads.

I am glad that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act that came into force in February, 2006, has been extended to all the 604 districts throughout the country. Government of Tamil Nadu has provided marketing infrastructure facility to women's self help groups under the Poomalai Scheme. This is a pioneering scheme to promote the sales of products manufactured by rural women in villages. I urge upon the Union Rural Development Ministry to encourage the State Governments towards construction of State level marketing complexes to provide linkage to the products of Self Help Groups (SHGs). I also urge upon the Union Government to render financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up pioneering marketing complex units.

Our UPA Government has increased the amount of National Old Age Pension from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 400/-. In Indira Awas Yojana that provide Rs. 22000 to construct houses in rural areas there has been an increase to Rs. 42000. I thank the Hon. Minister and Hon. Prime Minister and also the chairperson of UPA Madame Sonia Gandhi for this remarkable achievement. I thank them on my own behalf and on behalf of our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

I would like to make a few demands on behalf of the people of our State and my constituency Karur. Sanitation facilities including Aanganwadi buildings & toilets are not adequate and the number of toilets units should be increased. Fund allocation is made once in five years for their maintenance. It must be made annual. Allocation of additional funds under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana for my Karur constituency is not there anymore after the implementation of NREGA. I wish the scheme is continued with. Tamil Nadu must get more funds for rural roads.

I would like to request the Union Rural Development Ministry to enhance from Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000 the grant to convert Kutcha houses to Pukkah houses under Indira Awas Yojana.

Tamil Nadu Government has set up rural libraries extensively in villages. I urge upon the Union Government to provide them with computers so that rural youth will be connected to outer world and job market through internet in the information highway.

While contemplating rural development taking industries and infrastructure facilities there, unfortunately we find nationalized Banks moving out of villages. This

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While contemplating rural development taking industries and infrastructure facilities there, unfortunately we find nationalized Banks moving out of villages. This trend must be arrested. I urge upon the Union Rural Development Ministry to make a co-ordinated effort to expand and increase the services of Banks and Post offices in rural areas and villages. Information Technology, Postal Services and the Banking Services must be available in a co-ordinated manner in a knowledge society.

I have already requested Hon. Minister to look into these areas. I hope, he would consider these issues favourably for the welfare of rural people of my Karur constituency.

I sincerely express my thanks to the Chair for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants 2008-09 pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development.

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. On behalf of my party BSP, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-09. The Central Government is committed to provide housing facility under Indira Aawas to the homeless families in our State. According to the BPL survey conducted in the State in 2002, about 45 lakhs houses are needed by the end of the 11th five-year plan which were to be constructed at the rate of 9 lakh houses per year. The Central Government had provided Rs. 4032.70 crore to various States during 2007-08 under this head.

Step-motherly treatment was meted out to Uttar Pradesh in allocation of funds. An amount of Rs. 467 crore was provided with a goal of constructing 2.55 lakh houses while Bihar, which is our hon. Minister's home State, was allocated almost double the amount for construction of 5.67 lakh houses. Our State Uttar Pradesh, is a very poor State. Hon. Harikewal Prasad ji is sitting next to me and he has told that the victims of fire accident are not provided with houses. During theft, some goods are still left in the house but nothing remains in a fire accident. He should take on initative for providing houses to those whose houses are gutted completely. Sir he belongs to a poor family, therefore he can better understand the sufferings of the poor. I request him to pay special attention to the problems of the poor. He has increased the amount for housing to Rs. 35,000. I thank him for that but he also knows that this is quite inadequate an amount for constructing a house. The middlemen chop off Rs. 4000-5000 from it. Therefore this amount should be raised to Rs. 50,000. Today, inflation is on the rise and prices of every commodity have registered a steep increase therefore, houses should be provided to the poor and justice done to them. He should ensure that justice is done to the poor and they are brought to the mainstream of the country.

I thank him very much for according priority to my constituency, Sultanpur, under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana in the last budget. Similarly, he had provided Rs. 1213 crore to Uttar Pradesh during the year 2007-08 and the whole amount was utilized for the purpose. This time, the Uttar Pradesh Government has demanded Rs. 1087 crore but not even a single paisa has reached there. I urge him to send this money.

Last year, the Central Government provided Rs. 1657.60 crore under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. That amount has been utilized fully. Now more funds, approximately Rs. 1057 crore have been demanded. I demand that Uttar Pradesh should not be meted out step-motherly treatment and the funds demanded be released.

Sir, he is a good person having a kind heart for the poor. Through you, I would like to submit that a large number of poor people could not make it to the BPL list prepared in the year 2002. Poor people were cheated as the influential people managed to enlist their names in that list. Therefore, a fresh survey may be conducted for that list and justice done for the poor whose rights are being encroached upon by the influential people.

So far as hand pumps are concerned, my colleague demanded 500 hand-pumps. We face humiliation in our constituencies. Out of 542 elected MPs, barring a few high level ones, the rest, like us, are being tortured. Therefore, a quota of 1000 hand pumps should be sanctioned to each poor MP so that they are able to instal 100-200 hand-pumps in each assembly constituency and could do justice to the poor people. Muslims, other minorities and poor Brahmins and Thakurs among the upper castes could not get justice due to poverty because in our country only the rich and influential people get justice.

Sir, I request him to sanction 1000 hand-pumps to each MP. He has the resources and can do justice to all the Members of Parliament.

With these words I conclude.

*SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, whenever a political leader delivers his speech, at the outset he says that one can have the glimpse of real India in its villages. If a religious leader speaks, he says that if one wants to see the God, he can do so in Indian villages. The father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi had also envisaged the dream of upliftment of rural India and stated that India's development depends on the development of its villages. Perhaps, we have forgotten about our villages and their development after independence. We have forgotten our rural folk also. Governments are not contributing as much for the development of a village as a village is contributing for the development of the nation. Perhaps providing facilities of roads, drinking water, water for irrigation, housing, electricity and telephone under six Point Programme of Bharat Nirman is providing insufficient though the estamted

*Speech was laid on the Table.

expenditure under Bharat Nirman during the last four years is Rs. 174000 crore. Rojgar Yojana, Sampoorna Rojgar Yojana, Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, National Rural Health Mission etc. have not been able to accelerate the pace of development in rural India.

Today, our villages are facing many problems like lack of education, shortage of facilities like health-care, sanitation, drinking water, irrigation, roads etc. We can see a multitude of problems in our villages. There are some villages in our country where villagers have to walk miles to get education and health services. Even Government officials are not ready to go there to ascertain the condition of these villagers. The benefit of the schemes formulated for villages, does not reach the villages to the desired extent due to lack of willpower. Besides, the centre tries to shirk from its responsibility and passers on the burden to the States.

Today, migration from rural to urban areas is on the rise. It is affecting the urban areas also. This migration can be checked if villages are provided facilities at par with the urban areas. Cottage industry is on the verge of closure. Farmers' are also not getting adequate remuneration for their hard work. Therefore, agriculture is no longer a profitable occupation. Earlier agriculture used to provide employment to a large number of people and many families were dependent on it for their livelihood. Now land fertility is also depleting and income from agriculture remains uncertain due to natural calamities.

In view of all this, the question arises as to how to develop our villages. Despite providing huge funds, desired development is not taking place in our villages. Then, what is lacking? If it is not analysed, schemes will continue to fail one after the other and the result would be nil. I do not want to go into a lengthy debate but I have a suggestion. If we consider this suggestion, we can help in making villages self-reliant and ensure their development. The suggestion is that a fixed amount out of the total revenue collected through a village should be given to the Panchayat of the concerned village. It would enable the Panchayat to figure out the expected revenue in a year e.g. at present the revenue collected in a village through electricity and telephone bills, market fees etc. first goes to State or Central Government and is then routed back to the village. A large chunk of funds is lost in this process. Leaving a fixed percentage of the total revenue collected to the village itself directly will ensure a fixed income for it and the village will not remain dependent upon the centre every time for undertaking developmental works. Similarly, out of the tax collected from brick kiln petrol pumps, wine shops or industries, a fixed percentage thereof should be given to the village directly. It will strengthen the village economy and ensure its development. It will generate employment opportunities and strengthen the Panchayati Raj system. I hope the hon. Minister will formulate a scheme in view of this suggestion I mine.

15.00 hrs.

*SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you sincerely for allowing me to participate in the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development. As you are aware, the soul of India lives in her villages. Ours is a rural-based civilization. The Government which is not concerned about the villages or the upliftment of the rural population can never build a prosperous India. In this context we have to find out why some States in India are regarded as backward. Many of the backward States have majority of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Minority population. In the language of the UPA Government, they are the "Aam Aadmi". Gandhiji belived that if we fail to bring a smile on the faces of the common man, we can never prosper as a nation.

In our villages, the rural people face a multitude of problems like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment etc. They have no access to potable drinking water, no sanitation facilities or good quality roads. They remain cut-off from the urban cities and from development.

Sir, I represent a State called Orissa which is regarded as a backward State although she is richly endowed with bounties of Mother Nature like minerals, forests and a long coastline. Due to the negligence of the centre, the people of Orissa remain deprived and they have not benefited as compared to some other States.

Sir, you yourself represent a tribal-dominant area of our State. It is our good fortune that a revolutionary man like the Hon. Minister is occupying the highest chair in the Ministry of Rural Development. The Minister of State Mr. Chandra Sekhar Suhu, who is from my State is an equally capable man and a proactive leader. Both of them are great visionaries. They dream of a prosperous India by hastening the pace of work in rural areas. Whenever Hon. Minister delivers his speech, we all listen with rapt

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

attention and get deeply moved. We feel, if his vision of the future is translated into reality, very soon the face of rural India will be transformed. There will be no poverty, unemployment or deprivation and all our rural brethren will comfortably march forward to a better life.

In order to reach this goal, the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" is the 1st step. The Department of Rural Development has taken up the onerous task of connecting all the villages to sub-divisional headquarters and capital cities. But there are certain bottlenecks. In this context I would like to draw your attention to the bordering districts of Orissa as well as other States. There are certain districts which are located in the far flung border areas, in hilly, inhospitable terrain. These areas remain cut off from the national main stream, which has now become the brewing ground of Naxalism, Maoism and Terrorism etc. Sir, I believe the primary reason of this development is the absence of navigable roads. Even after 60 years of independence the tribal people have no access to good quality roads and they remain isolated. Hence I would request the Hon. Minister to give priority to tribal districts and far-flung border areas regarding construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. These areas which are infested with Naxalism, Maoism and Terrorism, the people are rather vulnerable. They are away from civilization and all its progress as they do not have even the most basic infrastructure like road. Thus if these areas are given priority under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, it will reduce their bitterness and may dilute their extremist mindset.

Sir, huge amount of funds have been allocated for the purpose of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. However, it is now observed that there is a lack of interest in the part of road-contractors. They are reluctant to apply for tender as the profit margin is stated to be very discouraging. Recently while I was chairing a Vigilance Committee, I interacted with district officials. They told me that, there has been an escalation in the price of cement, steel and other raw material. Again there are also problem of transportation. The bridges constructed on the roads are very narrow, their width being only 15 metres. If the width of the bridges are expended upto 20/30 metres it will greatly benefit the commuters.

Sir, 47.13% of the backward class people reside in Orissa. I am sure there may be some other States who will have similar population dynamics. Orissa is the holy land of Lord Jagannath, who is a symbol of secularism. Two of his most famous devotees are 'Salabeg', a Muslim and 'Dasia' a Scheduled Caste. The real theme of Socialism Communism and Secularism originates from the land of Jagannath.

Hon. Minister for Rural Development belongs to my neighbouring State. Orissa and Bihar have a rich, cultural, social and spiritual tie. We are thus in a position to demand from the Hon. Minister that he should be extra-generous to us. I am confident that he will respect our hopes with positive action. I would also request that Hon. Minister for State Mr. Chandra Sekhar Sahu be given some additional independent responsibility. As Rural Development is a huge department and Mr. Sahu is a competent, pro-active man, we can hope for better things.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): You make him Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Chairman Sir, drinking water is a basic necessity. It is very unfortunate that after 60 years of independence people do not get clear drinking water. I represent a constituency called Jagatsinghpur which is touched by the Bay of Bengal in four places—Balikuda, Ersama, Tirtol and Kakatpur. The people of some villages which are adjacent to the sea do not get potable drinking water. Villagers in many villages of Orissa have to drink with infected water. No wonder they suffer from Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Malaria etc. If after six decades of independence the 'Aam Aadmi' does not get a basic requirement like 'drinking water', it is a sad commentary on the state of affairs. It is sheer injustice. In Orissa the district of Ganjam faces acute shortage of drinking water. Other sea-bordering districts like Bhadrak, Balasore, Kendrapara etc. too face this hardship. If Desalination is done properly, this problem can be solved.

Again, the problem of sanitation is also very acute. Huge amount of funds are being allocated. But no monitoring is being done. I would request the Hon. Minister to constitute an Expert Committee under his stewardship to do periodical monitoring and establish inter-state coordination. So that progress can truly be evaluated.

Recently Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has expressed his concern about widening gap between rural and urban India and the mass migration of rural poor to the urban slums. Today bonded labours, workers etc. are leaving their native land to get exploited in an alien land. Are we

really the largest democratic country of the world? Is this the future we had dreamt of? We are the representatives of the people in this august House. We are here to voice their grievances.

Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is a very good step. But it is going through a lot of uncertainties and we are doubtful about its future. It is a scheme which is like giving homoeopathy to an ailing elephant. Merely ensuring 100 days work for a jobless person is very inadequate. It should be increased further. As one of my predecessor was mentioning, a member of the Legislative Assembly can sanction 200 hand-pumps. But we the Member of Parliament can not sanction even two hand-pumps. It is very unfortunate. Hence I would request the Hon. Minister to sanction at least 500 hand pumps per constituency and also speed up Indira Awaas Yojana for the rural poor. In many areas we see the poor homeless does not make it to the BPL list, but the well-to-do manages to do. I do not want to go into details.

As per the record of 1997, Orissa had 44 lakh beneficiaries for the Indira Awaas Yojana. But as per the BPL list of 2002 the number has been restricted to 34 lakh families only. We are very unhappy with this development. Our Hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has met Hon. Minister for Rural Development regarding this issue and hence we demand that the list of 2002 be made null and void and the list of 1997 be prevailed.

Sir, Orissa is a backward State where 70% of the people live in villages. I would like to recite a poem of revolutionary poet Dr. Sachi Routray-

"My village is a small one
it may not be found in a geography book
but if such small villages are happy
they will make India smile".

Sir, lastly I demand that 'Orissa' be given a 'Special package', so that it can prosper like the other States. Jai Jagannatha.

Glory to our Mother land Utkal.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He has praised the hon. Minister for putting forth his views very emphatically. His only demand is that as tube wells are sanctioned to MLAs, MPs should also be provided with some means to carry out developmental works in their respective constituencies.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. I rise to speak on behalf of Shiv Sena. I am speaking on the Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09 of the Ministry of Rural Development on behalf of the Shiv Sena. I support the Minister and his Ministry and hope that the Demands for Grants would be accepted at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the basis of the schemes being run by the Ministry of Rural Development I would say that the Minister is a very dynamic, efficient and down to earth person. He has worked at grass-root level and due to this he has made all efforts to implement the rural development schemes and ensure their completion. He is being supported by Sahuji and Smt. Suryakanta Tai Patil also. Even then his Ministry is not getting much publicity or accolades. Be it the district council, village panchayat or a panchayat committee, lack of publicity of works undertaken by the Ministry is visible at all levels. I feel that the officials of the Ministry are not giving him the required co-operation. As a part of the UPA Government he has been working with great diligence and the benefits should reach the rural people but he is not getting the support he deserves. I am saying this because there is lack of adequate publicity of the works undertaken by his Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place some figures before the House. Rs. 5262.14 crore earmarked for the main scheme pertaining to rural development during 2007-08 remained unutilized. Many MPs have raised the issue of rural housing. Rs. 1186.12 crore meant for rural housing have not been spent. Rs. 1491.02 crore earmarked for National Employment Guarantee Scheme are lying unutilized. I will take up this issue later. Rs. 835.74 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are lying unutilized. Rs. 434.26 crore under Swarn Jayanti Gram Swa-rozgar Yojana are also lying unutilised, that is to say, the work has not progressed. I would like to know the reason for the said lapse.

Why is it that funds allocated for rural development are not reaching the intended beneficiaries. The reason is that States do not extend their support to the schemes. The Zila Council Panchayat Committee under the Panchayati Raj does not extend its support. Establishment of a monitoring committee consisting of MPs is a laudable step of the Minister. I hold a meeting after every three months and many issues get resolved in it. When the

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State Government or the Union Government fails to provide the earmarked funds I seek the intervention of the hon. Minister for releasing the same. Hence, formation of this committee helps in resolving many issues but I would say that some officers in the Government are not very keen on these meetings. Why are these officers working in an arbitrary manner? This scheme is meant to benefit the poor but some officials are preventing the benefits of the scheme from reaching the poor. I am very concerned over this matter. Hon. Atal Behari Vajpayeeji had a dream which took the form of gaon chalo abhiyan. This was to counter the migration of farmers and their families towards cities in search of employment. Connectivity with rural areas has been improved so that it would facilitate transportation of the produce of the farmers to the cities and would also enable development of the villages. Hon. Atal Behari Vajpayeeji had started this scheme and I would like hon. Manmohan Singh ji too for continuing and expanding the scope of this scheme. Even after the expansion of scope of the scheme, the people keep telling me about the need for building roads. Now, I would like to bring to his notice that last time proposals for Rs. 110 crore had been submitted for my district. Out of those, proposals for only Rs. 40 crores were passed. When we made inquiries from officials they said that people from Maharashtra had already approached them in this regard. They told me that only Rs. 60 crore were likely to be sanctioned. At the time of submitting the Rs. 110 crore proposal. I had told the village people that the road they were demanding would be constructed. Now, what would I tell the people when they ask me about the road since merely Rs. 60 crore have been sanctioned. When I checked the figures later, even this amount had been curtalied. While supporting the Demands for Grants I would like to ask the Government to sanction more funds for rural development schemes. It has increased the budget for Home Ministry, and for Defence but it should provide highest amount of funds for schemes related to rural development.

Many roads fall under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana but people have not even submitted tenders under the sixth plan. They say that the rates of cement, tar, charcoal and gravel have risen so they are unable to buy the material. The people who have accepted tenders have not even started work. They did not start work even after they were penalised. When they were blacklisted they said that being blacklisted was acceptable to them but working for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was not. Sir, this is a very good scheme. You must have seen many roads. It is true that these roads would have to be maintained for upto five years. Many MPs have said that maintenance of roads should be taken over by State Government after five years. The State Governments should be happy that such a big scheme has been floated to help them out. I would also like to say that there is transparency in implementation of the scheme because it is being monitored by officials of the Ministry who come to inspect the progress of work. 55020 km. of road was supposed to be built in 2007-08 but merely 22237 km. of road was laid upto December 2007. This means that the work is not progressing. I do monitor the work since it falls in my constituency but the Ministry should issue a letter to all Chief Secretaries of States to the effect that in case the progress of work is not satisfactory the Collector or other Officers-in-charge, or the PWD or other implementing agencies would invite a fine.

I had submitted proposals costing Rs. 110 crore. I request him to include these proposals in the sixth and seventh plans. Also, since the rates of cement, tar and charcoal have gone up hence the plan outlay should also be increased accordingly.

The work under Bharat Nirman programme is going on in full swing. Large chunk of Grants meant for Maharashtra under the said programme is yet to be released. The programme provides that ten percent contribution for projects should be deposited by the public but I can say with conviction that the ten per cent amount is also deposited by the contractors. I had inspected the things while I was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development. I sought ledger book from the Sarpanch and Gram Sevaks in villages and sought date-wise details of the contribution paid. They were dumb founded. Some people act very cleverly in this regard also and the quality of the works undertaken under the said programme is also not good. My submission is that the government should depute someone to oversee the work as is done in PMGSY. I have forwarded a 783 plan for my village and work has already started. We have identified 1267 villages for providing clean drinking water under Bharat Nirman but the approval is yet to be obtained. Through you, I would like to say that ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, just now I have started. Please give me 15 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Make one or two points and conclude.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, my submission is that the approval for drinking water under Bharat Nirman may be granted. We can undertake one more work under Bharat Nirman, *i.e.* ponds can be dug in each village for preserving water as a measure to control flood. The proposal for acquisition of land has not come from his Ministry. The rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced families should also be taken up under Bharat Nirman. Thirdly, dredging and desilting of old ponds filled with waste and silt should also be undertaken. It will give impetus to several water related schemes. We should also desilt cement coated water channel. It will also strengthen Bharat Nirman. Old ponds, dug several years ago, also belong to the Department of Rural Development.

I will also take up Sarvasiksha Abhiyan. Under the said scheme the Government should make provision for repair and maintenance of rooms. The hon. Minister stated that the construction work will be undertaken jointly by the Sarpanch of the concerned village and Headmaster of the school. In this regard, I would say that sub-standard material is used for construction and rooms constructed thus may collapse anytime. This job should not be handed over to school teachers or headmasters. It will divert their attention and they will be more interested in construction and less in teaching. In my district, Rs. 28 crore were sanctioned for buying computers under a scheme. These were bought from the market through a committee. Computer seller wanted the purchased computers sold back to him for just Rs. 5 thousand per computer. And it was done. Many computers are not in use, so what is the use of buying them. The Government allocates crores of rupees for each village. There should be a centralized office and all the villages should buy computers through CEO from headquarters. It is that of the job of teachers etc. The construction of rooms in schools should be done through PWD. The Government provides Rs. 1 lakh 52 thousand for construction of rooms. The said construction work should be entrusted to PWD and it is not proper to entrust this job to Sarpanch. One day, when I went to inaugurate a road I found that the cement being used there was of very poor quality. I said I will open the road for traffic. I found that the funds allocated under 10th, 11th and 12th Finance Commission were misappropriated and were not properly utilized. Attention should be paid to this aspect also.

A provision should also be made for irrigation under the said scheme. When the Government allocates funds through 12th Finance Commission, the members of Zila Parishad feel that it is their fund, similar to that released under MPLAD or MLALAD schemes. And suppose if there are 60 Members, they divide that money among themselves and say that it is their fund, whereas, it is not so.

Sir, my submission is that more funds should be provided for general areas, especially on the basis of population therein. It is all right that a norm of the Government of India and the Finance Commission has been circulated by the Department of Rural Development. The officials were tight lipped when a letter from the Government of India was received in this regard. Central groups have been permitted to function in my area also. But the Self-help Groups constituted prior to the year 2000 are not getting any help. It is available to those set up after year 2000. My submission is that there should be no discrimination in granting help as these groups are helping in empowerment of women in rural areas. It would be better if such groups are granted help.

Sir, the toilets remain quite filthy as the hon. Minister has observed during his visit to Khandala. At that time, I had requested him for funds. The hon. Minister, at that time, had said that he will deliberate upon it in his budget speech. I made a demand for it in the House and also asked a parliament question in this regard. Consequently, Rs. 1500 were granted for people living below poverty line.

Sir, I urge the UPA Government and the concerned Ministry not to act in this fashion. Some villages have 500 houses, say some have 800 or even 900 houses and out of these number, hardly 200 belong to BPL. What about the remaining families. They go for toilet in open. Even our ladies go for toilet in the night in open, it is highly wrong. As the hon. Minister is aware, in Marathi, he launched a drive—Hagandari Mukt and even the Government provided incentive for it. We go to the villages and make publicity in this regard. My submission is that not only BPL families, all the families in rural areas should be provided equally the amount of Rs. 1500. If it is provided their dreams can come true. I would also like to speak a bit on Indira Aawas. As the price of cement, steel and other raw materials, have sky-rocketed, therefore, the allocation of Rs. 35 thousand for a dwelling unit under IAY is absolutely inadequate. My submission is that the said amount should be hiked to Rs. one lakh. If I provide the related figures the hon. Minister would realize that it is too less. Last year 97.71 percent target was achieved under the said scheme in comparison to current year's achievement of only 58 percent. Therefore,

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there is a need to fulfil the basic requirement under the scheme. I have welcomed the said important scheme launched by the UPA Government. The House sat till late in the night to pass the said Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire UPA Government including the hon. Minister, was so eager about the said Bill. The Bill was passed, but their dream could not be fulfilled. It could be a very comprehensive scheme but the officers at the lower level are not working in this, sometimes they boycott and sometimes resort to other things. Therefore, I would like to make a humble request that a letter in this regard should be sent to the Collector and CEO in order to make them responsible and the letter should clearly convey that if the Employment Guarantee Scheme is not implemented properly, then they would be held responsible. In Maharashtra a Bill has been passed for providing guaranteed work for 365 days, but the Central Government has passed a Bill for providing 100 days work but people are not getting even 100 days work. Its percentage is extremely low. You must think about it very seriously. Only 9,55,025 families have been provided employment under this scheme so far, this is not a good thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now with your permission I would like to raise a few issues in the House. Recently, there was a news item published in "Dainik Jagran" under the caption "Sansad ji ab sarkar aapse pochegi gaon ke vikas ka hisab kitab". This is a good idea. There are certain Central Government Schemes which are inaugurated without inviting us, how are we supposed to know about them and what can we say about them? Just now one of my colleagues had mentioned here that the inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be done only in the presence of a Member of Parliament or MLA of that area and the Chairman of District Council should also be present there, but this is not happening. Under this scheme anybody can go there and do the inauguration. The inauguration is either done by any Minister of the State Government or by somebody else. We do not get to know anything about it. Therefore, I would like to urge that the centrally sponsored schemes should be inaugurated by the Members of Parliament of that area. You must issue strict instructions in this regard also.

Sir, the second thing I would like to talk about is regarding Bharat Nirman Yojana. All the schemes under this are being inaugurated by the people of State Government. I would repeatedly like to say that the schemes sponsored by the Central Government should be inaugurated by the Members of Parliament only and in the presence of the MLA as well as the Chairman of District Council. Member of Parliament should be appointed as the Chairman of DRDA. A number of hon. Members have requested the House in this regard a number of times but so far nothing has been thought about this. The distribution of funds allocated by the Finance Commission is also done by the Chairman of District Council, which is wrong. It should be distributed through the Member of Parliament of that area. The distribution should be made according to the norms that I have mentioned. People other than BPL and belonging to the Upper class should also be provided with facilities under the Toilet Sanitation Programme. They have provided an assistance of Rs. 1500 respectively to the people falling under BPL in the rural areas. I would like to urge that the same kind of assistance should also be provided to the upper class people of that area. You should provide an assistance of Rs. one lakh under the Indira Aawas Yojana. The Committees constituted in the schools falling under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan should be dissolved and a central committee should be constituted in place of that. All the segments should get equal justice. With these words I would like to congratulate hon. Minister. I would like to say that through you rural development is certainly taking place but this scheme may get adversely affected due to non-cooperation from the officials and workers. All the work that we undertake is done in your name. Therefore, I would like to congratulate you and request you to become more strict.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request one thing to you right in the beginning itself that if you keep on ringing the bell frequently then I will conclude my speech right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, No. It is not so. You please start and finish in five minutes. He has taken 15 minutes in place of 5 minutes. This does not look nice. Then there will be no time left for the other people to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my speech in a very short time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is being held on the Demands for Grants of the Rural Development Ministry and I am also participating in this discussion, all these demands will get approved. We would cooperate. I think insufficient funds have been demanded. If the demand had been for more amount of funds there would have been no difficulty

for the House in granting that because all the people would have co-operated in that. All the speakers, who have spoken so far in the House, have welcomed him individually. They have said that he is the son of the soil and he understands the ground reality. No one has complained about his programmes but at the same time no one has expressed satisfaction about the results of the programmes. We will also do the same. The reason is that, rural development is not just about Bihar or Orissa, but it is about the entire country and I will talk about the entire country only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Rural Development Department is responsible for the development of rural areas and villages. Things like, equality between villages and cities, loan arrangements, creation of employment in villages and other basic facilities like electricity, water, roads and irrigation etc. are important things. There are three important subjects under the Rural Development Ministry, which include housing, drinking water and roads. The States are allocated funds for all the schemes. It is true that the works are not directly executed by the Ministry. This work has been assigned to the State Government. It is true that if full cooperation is not extended by the State Government or if its agency does not work properly, then your policies as well as your intentions can not be translated into reality.

I would like to draw your attention towards three four points. The Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana being run by the Government is a very good scheme. You are helping the poor and weaker sections of the people of the villages treating it as a unit to generate self-employment. As this unit proceeds with work, they can avail credit facility from banks at the rate of 10, 20, 30 or 40 percent. You know the reality, whatever I am saying is true but because there is a discussion going on in the House therefore, it is necessary to draw your attention. There is no cooperation from banks in this regard. Even if there is any cooperation, it appears as though the Government has no control over the banks. There is gross irregularity in the compliance of the laws, rules framed and the instructions given by you. It is not fair to say in the House that some percentage has to be given to receive money. As all the hon. Members have said you know the ground realities and I also believe you must be aware of the reality. Your intention to strengthen the economic condition of the rural people by providing them employment through Banks will not succeed if the Banks do not cooperate. Even if they are able to produce some particular commodities, then there is no market available for them.

You have presented the Annual Report wherein you have mentioned about the markets at 3-4 places in Delhi. You just think if poor women from rural areas can come to the markets in Delhi with their produce? Rural people will not benefit from such exhibitions. If exhibitions are to be organized then they should be organized, at least, at the district level with proper publicity. These exhibitons should be organised at the block level but if that is not possible then market should be provided for there products by organizing exhibitions, at least, at the district level in the country. This will bring you success in this work. You are giving incentives to the people to enable them live dignified life. What purpose such incentives will serve? Just now, a friend was saying that when you visited his constituency you asked him to demand something. He made a demand and you even made the announcement and funds were released for construction of toilets for the BPL people. An amount of Rs. 1500 has been provided for the purpose. Now, just think yourself, is it possible to make a toilet with Rs. 1500? Do you find this practicable? May be you are giving this money so that some people could divide this money among themselves. If there is one Sulabh Shauchalaya in a village then you should make it two in a village. You should provide for some toilets, for both men and women, at the same campus in a village. Why should there be differentiation between APL and BPL people? You are differentiating between APL and BPL even for use of toilets? Hon. Minister Sir, what kind of country is this where there is differentiation even for using toilets and cleaning of the body? I do not think that this is a good thing. This way, money is being looted directly. You are a practical man. There has been a consistent demand for it and it has also been raised through various mediums like calling attention, question hour etc. and you also keep giving replies. Since four years have already elapsed today, I hope for a practical reply from you. Perhaps it will be your last reply of this session. I do not mean that you will not remain a Minister after this session but it seems that it will be the last reply of this term. In these four years, you gave your replies by reading from whatever the officials had provided you. But, at least, at the last time you should be practical for the benefit of the people including the rural people of the country. I feel that you should stop the payment of Rs. 1500. You should raise this amount so that the people may utilize it because you want to raise their standard of living. I am sure that you will definitely take steps to ensure a hygienic life for them.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Hon. Minister, Sir, recently, a scheme namely Shram Vikas Yojana was launched for which Rs. 15 crore were provided every year in each district. The Chief Minister of Bihar had provided the same amount, as given by the Central Government, to the districts in Bihar to which you did not provide funds...*(Interruptions)* The funds provided by the Chief Minister were distributed to the districts in the name of Mukhya Mantri Vikas Yojana. The scheme was really good. You are very expert in changing the names. You can change names and give any name, we have no grouse against it. Now, the same funds have been released in the name of backward district scheme. There is a vast difference in the present utilization of the same fund as compared to utilisation made earlier. Earlier also, no MLA or MP was a member. In whichever areas work was done utilizing these funds it is visible. Now you give money in the name of backward district. I do not know about the whole country, perhaps you might be aware of the figures for the country, but this money is distributed in every Panchayat in Bihar like prasad distributed after the Satyanarayan katha. Who is doing developmental work with it? You allocate money to Panchayats. A lot of funds are given to Panchayats but Rs. 5 lakh given to each Panchayat for the development of the districts is, in my opinion, being misused. You should disburse the funds at district level in the same way as it used to be disbursed for the Shram Vikas Yojana. I am not saying that you should make MLA or MP as members for that. You may do as you like but provide funds only through district administration. You may give instructions to the district administration to utilize the funds as per infrastructure needs of the district. The funds should not be distributed like prasad of Satyanarayan Katha. This is my request to you through this august House.

Secondly, I want to mention about Indira Aawas Yojana. In this regard you do not know any less than me as to what is going in Bihar. You have provided the guidelines and on the basis of those guidelines, a list is sent from block through the Banks. Accounts are being opened in the Banks and money is being provided. The criteria regarding BPL, as fixed by you, is unjustified. I am saying unjustified because you hail from Bihar. People of Bihar have their own style of living. A person having 10 Katha of land buys a two-room house by selling all his land. He has a hand-pump at his door and he has a latrine, though it may not be a pucca one. Now, he has no land. He managed all this by selling his 10 katha land. He earns his livelihood by working as a labourer. It is quite possible that he and his family have to live without food for a month or for a few days in a year. His name cannot be come under the BPL category as per guidelines issued by your department. How can you think of uniformity in the country when you and your guidelines will differentiate so much that even number of the house, hand pump, latrine is to be noted? How can there be justice when you are dividing the rural people on the basis of your guidelines? I am not saying that you should include people who are well off and who have resources. But, genuine people have also suffered because of the faulty guidelines. There was another irregularity. All the contracts were awarded to the private computer companies. The names of the genuine people were removed from the list while names of others were added in connivance with the computer companies. People, whose names are there in the list, are taking the benefit of the scheme, while the real beneficiaries have been sidelined.

Therefore, attention should be paid to all these things. He has said that bank accounts will be opened and disbursement would be made on the spot. Allocations are sent at block level and block forward it to Panchayat level. Suppose in a Panchayat there are 50 persons name at one point and the number of houses to be allotted is ten. In such a situation large scale irregularities taken place while deciding about the allotment and middleman takes benefit from the situation. As soon as the beneficiary withdraws the money from the bank, the middleman takes it from him.

15.47 hrs.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*]

I must say that there is no legal way to check it out. The person who gives the money will never admit the fact and the receiver will not tell about it. I have a suggestion in this regard. Please get this work done departmentally. Funds are misutilised also. The Government is giving money to those who usually take loan from the moneylenders. When the moneylender come to know that these people have got money for the construction of the house, he also comes to recover his loan. Poor labourer is in the habit of taking alcohol to revive his strength after day long hard work. Hence he pays the rest of the money to liquor shop. Therefore, in this manner, it is impossible for them to construct houses. If the Government intends to do so, the houses should be constructed departmentally. The agency which would be involved should be instructed clearly that it is a time bound project and action would be taken if the project is

not completed within 2-5 months of sanctioning of funds. Otherwise, Government will continue to provide funds, bank details will show the disbursement of money and the number of houses constructed will also remain on the papers but practically the situation will not improve. Ultimately people will curse us. Therefore, please save the situation. Please make efforts for the construction of houses and to remove the middlemen. Improve the point system under Indira Aawas Yojana. This much I would like to request you.

We were discussing Bharat Nirman and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Nobody can say that it is a wrong step. Construction of roads is very important for the upliftment of villages. I do not know about rest of the country but in Bihar, State Government has not been deputed as the agency for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana rather the Central Government is doing it through some other agency. I feel it is creating hindrance in the development of the State. I would like to cite an example of a road from Majhi to Badauli which connects three districts—Chhapra, Siwan and Gopalganj.

Half part of my constituency which was in Chhapra district was covered under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. As the other part was not covered under it by the centre, the State Government allocated nine crore rupees for its construction. Thereafter, Central Government's agency IRCON informed the State Government that a DPR is being prepared in this regard and requested not to start the work on it. That road is in a bad shape. Imagine the feelings of the local people who are aware that the funds allocated for the construction of a road in their area have been withdrawn just because of a central agency. That is why I say that Bihar's development is being hindered. Not only this, but a competition is going on there for preparation of DPR. Central agency has prepared a lot of roads in the villages with their measurement. On the other hand, State Government's agency has also done the same. I think both the agencies are preparing DPR for the same road. And only the DPR is being prepared, the work has not yet started. Obstacles are coming in the construction of roads in Bihar. The work going on there is not up to mark. It is not my version. There is a report submitted by his department in this regard. A petition was received by the Petition Committee in regard to which the committee has sought a report from the department. The petition was given by Shri Pramod Kumar Singh of Baniapur block. I would like to state the main points of the report. M/s. IRCON International Ltd.—the agency which implemented PMGSY level-III and other subsequent projects in Sarang district of Bihar has informed that the road work has been completed in June 2007. Initial investigations conducted by an independent quality control assistant, has revealed the dismal condition of the road. Cracks on the entire road and broken pavements were the examples of its failure. What was written in the investigation report? The details of the inspections conducted by the National quality control officers during the period from 1.4.2002 to 31.8.07 in Sarang district of Bihar and the quality grading is as follows. They have written in their report that 53 inspections were conducted. During these inspections 20 roads were inspected out of which the work on three roads was found satisfactory and the work on the remaining 17 roads was unsatisfactory. The quality of the work done by the Central agency can be ascertained by the fact that only 15% of the work on the road is satisfactory, 62% of the work in the next phase is also not up to mark...*(Interruptions)* please wait for a while...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to you is over long ago.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am concluding my speech. I was saying that the central agency especially the IRCON is carrying out the work through some other agencies. IRCON invites tenders and awards the work to a contractor. The contractor, in turn, gives out the work on petty contract, *i.e.,* a contract is further sub-contracted. You can imagine how the work must be carried out. There is a 31.55 km long stretch of road, in my constituency, running from Ekma to Masrak about which I would like to make a mention. The various reasons cited in the report for non-completion of work on this road are rains, shortage of labourers and material, non-fulfilment of terms of agreement, Panchayat elections and also heavy floods. Floods have been blamed for the delay despite the fact that the area has seen no floods. This work has been going on since the year 2005 but has not been completed so far. Mr. Minister, you also belong to Bihar. The State Government keeps on changing. If your party was in power yesterday then some other party has formed the government today.

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*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

If he does not consider these issues seriously it would be unfair for Bihar. Hon. Member Shri Ram Kripal Yadav is not present here. He has said that corruption has been rampant in Bihar. I agree with him in this matter but he has not mentioned the other aspect that the Bihar Government has taken strict steps to curb corruption, as a result of which 175 persons have been caught red-handed. Action is being taken against these people and they have been arrested. Officers in the rank of DGP and IAS officers have been caught taking bribes and arrested. It is a fact that there is corruption but action is also being taken to check it. He says that he believes in calling a spade a spade but if it is so he should also be prepared to hear the plain truth. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to assure Ram Kripal Yadavji, through you, that whenever the State Government does anything wrong I always raise my voice against it in public interest. Ram Kripal Yadavji, I am a public representative and not bonded by any other loyalty. Whenever I find any deficiency whether on the part of your Government or the State Government we expose it to voice the feelings of the public.

I will conclude after raising one more point. Employment Guarantee Scheme is a dead scheme. I have opposed this scheme from the day of its introduction and even now I say how do you propose to provide employment to the people through this bogus scheme. In my constituency, I have observed that the roads for which earth work was carried out was being funded through the MPLADS fund at one time and for the same work six months later money was being paid by the MLA and by the district council, the Panchayat committee as well as the village Mukhiya—at various points of time thereafter. What are you doing? Would people get employment this way? It is said that if a person having a job card applies in the Panchayat and does not get a job within 15 days, he would be given money. I would like to know whether there is any system in place to know the number of such applications that have been received. Do you think a labourer would be able to confront the village headman. Even if a labourer tries to talk to him, the headman would put him in his place. Have you made any arrangement for receiving the applications in the Panchayat? Wherever people find a way to make money they come together to get the applications passed. After a lot of persuasion, the State Government have opened accounts and the payment is more on 50:50 basis without getting any work done. This is just a way to loot the government money. This is not the way to provide employment. Some other wayout has to be found...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken nearly half an hour. I cannot allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: So far, you have taken 40 minutes. Even the Minister is not permitted to continue his speech beyond that.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister, Sir the work of cleaning of 'Khand-bandhs' is going on in Bihar. A large area of land in Bihar is rendered useless due to water-logging. The funds in excess of those utilized for earth work for facilitating drainage in water logged areas should be allowed to be used for construction of pucca nullahs. As per the present provision, expenditure on kutcha work should not exceed 60 percent and on pucca work 40 percent. So there should be a relaxation to allow pucca work for facilitating drainage of water with the rest of the funds after carrying out earth work as per the requirement. If the problem of water logging is solved then thousands of acres of land in the State would become useful for cultivation and as a result there will be considerable increase in annual productivity.

With these words while extending my thanks to you, I conclude.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I must, in the very beginning, thank you very much for calling me to participate on the discussion on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development. I must thank the Minister and in fact, I am an admirer of the Minister. He is very active, very sincere and very dynamic. In fact, this Department has been playing a great role all over the country. Besides, the Ministry of Rural Development, there are other Ministries also for the development work in rural sector, particularly, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Human Resource Department, the Health and Family Welfare Department and so on and so forth. But, this Department has a greater role to play in the development of the social sector as compared to the other Departments. The schemes being implemented by this Department have their

tremendous impact on the social sector by providing drinking water, housing, employment, poverty alleviation, and increase in capacity building and improving rural infrastructure, sanitiation, encouraging group activities— all these things are there. My first point is that the development should be proportionate with tax revenue collection. I am talking about the proportion to the tax revenue collection. The tax revenue collection, the growth of tax revenue collection is there. But, the development in thr rural sector should be proportionate to that so that maximum benefit should go to the poor people, to the poorest of the poor and the farmers, to the agriculturists, labourers and so on. I am talking first about the BPL families. Many things have been said here by hon. Members, my predecessors. It is not quit understandable how the Government or the Planning Commission can set a limit on the number of the BPL households in the rural areas. It is not understood if BPL is staying in the village or BPL is staying in the Planning Commission. How is the Planning Commission limiting this BPL figure? The Minister should answer it and we should take concrete steps so that all the resources from below should come. Sometimes, it is said they add all the information, but source of information is not coming properly. So the exact number of BPL cannot be assessed. So, if there is something wrong in the information collection, if something is wrong in the collection from the sources, then of course, the BPL houses will be left out. These should be collected properly. Not only that, the criteria of fixing the BPL category should also be reviewed. In USA, it is said that at least one dollar per day should be the minimum number and so that is the line of the BPL category. I am referring to the Commission headed by Shri Arjun Sengupta. He remarks in his Report that about 63 crores of population of our country is living at Rs. 8 to Rs. 20 per day. It is assumed that more than 70 per cent of our population is living below the poverty line.

So, this should be reviewed and the assessment procedure should be changed.

I, now, come to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. It has been already mentioned by my predecessors that the hon. Finance Minister has made the announcement that the number of districts which are covered under this programme has been more than doubled now, but the increase in budget allocation is only 33 per cent. Why has it not been increased by 100 per cent? So, I demand that it should be enhanced by 100 per cent.

My next point about the NREGP is regarding the productivity norm in respect of work to be done by a labourer in a day. I had a talk with the hon. Minister and I also wrote a letter to him about this stipulation. I am particularly referring to the stipulation about the earth work. It is so harsh that no village worker can meet that norm in a day. The earth work of 100 cubic metres in a day cannot be met by any labourer. So, this norm should be changed. When fixing the stipulation, panchayats, their representatives and local people should be consulted. Not only that, the norm could vary from one district to another district and from one State to another State. So, there should not be a uniform stipulation for the entire country.

I, now, come to the minimum wage. There is no uniform national minimum wage in our country. The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 is still existing. A new Act should be enacted for the minimum wage because the minimum wage differs from State to State. So far as my State West Bengal is concerned, more than 70 per cent villages are irrigated and in the irrigated areas, there is no mono crop, there are multi crops and there are high yielding varieties. The farm worker in our State earns Rs. 100 per day. If an agricultural worker earns Rs. 100 per day in agricultural work or horticultural work, how will he be interested to work in the NREGP? So, I think the time has come for bringing a new legislation in respect of minimum wage.

Now I turn my attention to some other points regarding the NREGP. It has been correctly mentioned by some hon. Members here that the workers participating in this programme should be paid in kind. Earlier, the Food-for-Work Programme was there. Under that programme, some vegetables used to be given to the workers. Now, there is huge production of potato in our country and potato prices are gradually falling. The potato growers are not even getting the cost of production. So, why should potato not be given to the workers participating in the NREGP so that they can get potato and other vegetables directly?

I would like to say a few words about the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Many hon. Members have talked about the poor maintenance of PMGSY roads. There is a guarantee of five years for roads constructed under PMGSY, but the roads are damaged before five years.

What would happen to the flood prone areas? Who would guarantee that after five years, there would be no

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

floods and the roads would be all right? Who will take the responsibility of maintenance of PMGSY? Most of the States are not in such a position financially to take the responsibility. So, the Union Government, this Ministry, should take the responsibility and a ratio should be developed. The hon. Minister should think over the maintenance aspect also.

I would like to submit that no compensation is being given to the poor farmers whose land has been acquired for widening the roads. We take their land for widening the roads, but no compensation is being provided to the poor farmers. Land acquisition problem is there all over the country. The peasants are agitating; the public at large is agitating as far as land acquisition is concerned. But so far as the PMGSY is concerned, land acquisition is taking place, but no compensation is provided to the people. I would request the hon. Minister to think over it.

Coming to the SGRY, the banks are coming in the way of its implementation. In most of the Gram Panchayat areas, there are no commercial banks. There should be a mandatory provision to open the commercial banks at the headquarters of the Gram Panchayat and the process of giving the credit should be very easy so that it helps the poor farmers.

As far as Indira Aawas Yojana is concerned, it is a good programme, but cost escalation, that is the rate of inflation, should be taken into account. Day by day, inflation is going on and on. If you do not provide more money for the construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana, how will this small or meagre amount be sufficient for construction of houses?

I would also like to know what has happened to the land reforms. It has already been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme. But this UPA Government's time is running out fast, the time is going to be over. When will they respond to that? So, my request to the hon. Minister is to call a meeting, of all the Ministers of the State of the concerned Department, at the national level. Land is a scarce subject. So, this matter should be taken centrally as it is mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme.

What has happened to the land acquisition and rehabilitation matters? Some Bill has been introduced in the Parliament, but there has been no discussion on that. Even in this Budget Session, this point is not coming up for discussion. Lakhs and lakhs of farmers are agitating across the country. We should not be indifferent to that. So, we should bring forward a comprehensive legislation repealing the old one, which belongs to the colonial rule. It was enacted in the colonial time in 1894. So, they should repeal it and should bring forward a new comprehensive legislation as far as rehabilitation policy is concerned. Sir, much has been said in the Press and in the media, but nothing is being discussed on these matters in this Parliament.

Sir, the IWDP is a good programme. The Waste Land Development Programme is taking up good things, particularly, in the North-Eastern areas.

In conclusion, I would reiterate the historic remarks made by Bapu Ji. He said, "India lives in villages".

But in villages, disparity is happening and it is widening. If you do not address properly to the problems of the rural area and to the problems of the rural habitants, then the problems will not be solved.

With these few words, I would once again thank the hon. Minister and support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have a list of 40 hon. Members. I can give five minutes' time each, and even then it will take three hours. I am prepared to five minutes' time to all. Being the matter concerning rural development and rural issues, it is quite welcome to cover as many Members as possible. So, following that principle, in three hours' time, 40 Members can be allowed. So, I would request you all to co-operate with the Chair. Please do not think that I am unkind but this is the position.

Shri Subhash Maharia.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. Today, after 60 years of our independence, more than 70 crore people of the country live in rural areas. India is the largest democracy in the world because 70 crore people elect 34 lakh representatives here who work for the development of villages through 487 district boards, 6000 panchayat samitis and two lakh thirty two thousand gram panchayats. After independence everyone thought that with various works undertaken under rural

development programmes like providing water, electricity and roads etc. there will be uniformity in the development of villages in the whole country. But even after 60 years we find that out of 70 crore people 22 percent consist of those who subsist on a meagre earning of Rs. 12 per day. Former Primer Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayeeji had initiated the work of strengthening the rural infrastructure by announcing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25 December 2000. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that from the time of inception of that scheme till date a large number of villages out of the total six and a half lakh revenue villages have been linked with roads. After he has taken over the charge of the Ministry, the work is progressing even faster. I am happy to say that he has made the UPA to work at the grass roots level. He has a unique style of working. He never hesitated in funding the scheme started by hon. Atal Behari Vapayeeji because it was a historic initiative. However, I would like to draw his attention towards two or three points.

Thousands of villages having a population varying from 500 to 2000 in 28 States have been declared as revenue villages after 2001 but no amendment has been carried out in the guidelines for the recommendations by the State Governments for linking those villages by roads whereas I had made a request in this regard that the proposals for those villages, which have been declared as revenue villages after 2001, should also be invited from the State Governments through District Boards or Panchayat Samitis and those villages should be included in the list of villages for constructing roads. Now, there is a huge gap between those villages and other villages.

On the one hand we talk about the gap between the urban and the rural areas. But it is a burning problem. I am of the opinion that all the villages declared as revenue villages after 2001 should be covered under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. It is a very important matter and the entire House has been raising this issue.

With regard to roads I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that certain States have performed very well under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Rajasthan tops the list of such States. He has also praised Rajasthan's performance during his visit to Rajasthan. Rajasthan has an area of 3,42,000 square kms. and its population is 6.5 crore but Rajasthan gets only 40 percent of what it should get in proportion to its area. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that allocations to the States should be made according to their area. The area and the population must be taken into consideration under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. These days, many power projects are going on under Bharat Nirman Yojana in the villages but the people of Dhani, small habitations are not covered entirely under the scheme of FREP. The people living in Dhanis are very poor and they live in remote areas but the demand notices are such that they cannot fulfil them. If they do not fulfil the demand notices, they do not get power. On the one hand, the Government claims to provide electricity to all families in the fourteen lakh habitations but even today six lakh habitations have no electricity at all. I would like to make a submission regarding water. As of now, about five or five and a half lakh habitations out of seven lakh villages in our country are compelled to drink contaminated water. These people do not have any source of potable water even at distant places. Hence, there is a need to focus on the regional schemes out of the schemes being implemented by the Ministry. This problem cannot be solved unless we lay emphasis on these schemes. Handpumps and tubewells should be installed wherever required because the ground water level is depleting day by day. Hence emphasis must be laid on the regional schemes. Potable water is available at very distant places. Hence potable water should be supplied through the system created under regional schemes and this will be cost effective as well.

Sir, relaxations are given to the States many a time for want of monitoring and there are a few States where monitoring is done. There is lack of monitoring and there is a special need of deploying officers for monitoring on behalf of the Ministry so that the actual state of affairs may be brought to light. The funds allocated by the Central Government can be utilized properly only if there is proper monitoring. I would like to add something to the statement made by Shri Prabhunath Singhji with regard to Employment Guarantee Scheme that permanent works need to be included under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Separate allocations should be made for permanent works and this issue should be taken up with the State Governments if need be. Employment Guarantee Scheme cannot succeed unless permanent works are included thereunder. Misuse of funds in works like putting soil here and there should be stopped. A record of previous works should be prepared and there should be monitoring at panchayat samiti level, block level and district board level. If there is no monitoring, the employment guarantee scheme is likely to be the biggest failure in the country. We should take initiative in the works related to BPL families and their identification...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have just started. I hail from a village, hence I am talking about the villages...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the list submitted by your party.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: My colleagues would lay down their written speeches. They are given their time to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the other Members agree that you alone will be speaking, it is all right. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Therefore those villagers, who are compelled to commit suicide, must get work and unless they get work...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members from your party. If they agree that you alone will be speaking, then it is all right. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Then we cannot sustain ourselves in the financial race of life. Hence the Schemes for housing and electricity referred to by the honourable members...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Jai Prakash. You arrange your speech in five minutes. On no condition, further time will be given.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: We need to carry forward those schemes also. Hence I would again request him that more funds are needed for strengthening the rural infrastructure as this department caters to 70 crore people but the funds allocated are not adequate. Hence I would like to request, through the hon'ble Chairman that the present allocation should be increased four fold. This country cannot become powerful unless a person living in a village is empowered or made financially sound and we expect from an hon'ble Minister like him that more funds would be provided for the rural people in the 11th five year plan so that the rural people can participate in the economic development of the country. I would like to say that no NGO can be better than gram panchayats. There are 2,32,000 gram-panchayats and these are responsible bodies. The State Government as well as the Central Government controls them. All the mushrooming NGOs should be banned. The country cannot progress till these NGOs keep on usurping the funds of the Ministry. Directly elected representatives of the people, the gram panchayats, the panchayat samitis and district boards are the true NGOs. With this, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jai Prakash—please conclude within five minutes. I am telling this in your interest.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): I am the second speaker from my party.

[Translation]

Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, you arrange your speech by taking the important points.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: There are no two opinions about the fact that India lives in villages and 70 percent population of India lives in the villages, be they farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans or employees. But, today, I am very sorry to say that the preceding Governments have committed certain irregularities due to which the villages could not develop and the poor villagers were not able to get their daily wages, agriculture became a loss making vocation and the agricultural labourers migrated to cities. Therefore, the population of the cities increased and the cities had to face the problems of sewerage; water supply, electricity etc. The price of land in the cities also went up whereas the population of the

villages decreased. This is evident from the fact that when after every two or three years the voter list is prepared, the number of voters in villages shows a decline whereas the number of voters in the cities is increasing. In order to check this trend the decisions taken by the hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister under the guidance of hon'ble Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of UPA are laudable. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Gramin Swaraj tab aayega-Jab tak Bharatvarsh me gaaon ka vikas nahi hoga, kisanon ka vikas nahi hoga, tab tak Bharatvarsh tarakki nahi kar sakta". You will also agree with it. Therefore, I have some suggestions. Haryana Government has allotted plots measuring 100 square yards to the homeless poor. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to implement this scheme all over the country and land should be provided by the panchayats to those poor people who possess agricultural land but do not have houses. A large amount of funds would be required for this.

I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to allocate funds to the State Government of Haryana under this head as Rs. 250 crores was allocated two years back.

Much is talked about BPL. If the norms for identifying BPL families are followed in letter and spirit in case of Haryana, not a single poor will be covered under BPL as there is no Harijan in the State who does not have a pucca house, electricity or a TV set in his house. It is not fair to set uniform norms for identifying BPL families throughout the country. My submission is that the norms for States like Punjab and Haryana, where the labour class is somewhat better off, should be different. NDA Government has done great injustice to our country otherwise what was the need for a concept like BPL? My submission is that all the ration card holders should be allowed to purchase ration from fair rice shops as was in vogue prior to 1998.

Now let me take up National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the debate whereon was kickstarted by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Today some of our colleagues say that the country is not getting any benefit from it. I would like to say that by implementing the said scheme the UPA Government, has at least tried to make the previous Governments in the states to realize that each poor person in the country should get at least 100 days employment in a year. If the poor people get 100 days employment in states like Punjab and Haryana under the said scheme, they can work in the fields during the remaining period of Rabi and Kharif seasons and if they are also provided dwelling units under Indira Aawas Yojana, it can surely check their migration from villages to the cities. Therefore, my submission is that the allocation under Indira Aawas Yojna be hiked to Rs. 50,000 from Rs. 35,000.

Adequate funds have been allocated to States under PMGSY. But in this regard I would like to add that the funds of the States which have either overdrew the funds or have not utilized them should be diverted properly to the State of Haryana.

With regard to water supply scheme, my submission is ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is useful to you. If you help in installing hand pumps in your constituency, you will get more votes in the next elections. The Government of Haryana has purchased water tanks of 100 litre capacity for the poor Harijans. On these lines, I would urge the Government to grant permission to each M.P. for installing 1000 hand pumps in the assembly segments water pipe lines can't be laid in some areas. So, if such permission is granted it will serve the purpose.

Further, I would like to say that National Rural Health Scheme is a very good scheme Prior to the implementation of the said scheme there was no Pre-natal and post-natal medical facility available in rural areas. One of my friends, Shri Rajvir was here for 6 years prior to me. Did he ever care for the villages since several women died during delivery, may be because of septic infection or in the absence of proper medicare. But now this Government has implemented the said scheme...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Sir, my submission is that a maternity hospital should be set up in each village. Mid-day meal scheme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has created space crunch for schools having limited rooms. Secondly, we find that the students are engaged in cooking instead of studying. Therefore, my submission is that some other better system should be evolved for it so that children get meals in time...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing more will go on record except the speech of Shri Ponnuswamy.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

*SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (Akola): Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. I am grateful to you for having granted me an opportunity to speak.

Watershed development scheme has significance of its own. It is an important alternative for conservation of environment, providing drinking water and irrigation thereby solving the problem of foodgrains. A large number of NGOs are working on it with the help of various departments. Adequate funds have been spent on it but in the absence of proper utilization of funds it failed to deliver the desired results. There should be proper integrated planning, implementation and monitoring of funds. The people have no proper path way for going to the field in many States of the country. Problems are being faced in getting approval for it at the district level. The work hardly gets completed after the grant of approval and even if it is completed, it is of poor quality. Such kucha roads get damaged or even washed away within a year. I urge the Government to ensure that these roads are made of quality material and in a time bound manner.

First instalment amounting to 45 percent of the plan fund is released to Gram Samiti after the work is sanctioned under Swajaldhara Scheme. Under the scheme the work is not undertaken at some places and thus, second instalment is also not demanded. The Gram Panchayats do not have technical expertise, therefore, there is a need to make improvement in this system and provide for the first instalment of 10% in place of 40%. There is also a need for proper vigilance and monitoring of the work under the said scheme. There have been complaints from many quarters regarding the quality of work. Crores of rupees are being spent. There is a need to oversee the work and exercise some control. The responsibility of repair and maintenance of roads constructed under PMGSY in rural areas lies with contractor for the next five years. But the condition of the roads contucted five years ago, has worsened. The States do not have the funds, therefore, the Central Government should provide adequate funds for this purpose.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri E. Ponnuswamy, you can start your speech. Nothing else will go record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Nothing will be recorded. Shri E. Ponnuswamy, you can start your speech. He is just creating trouble.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. Shri E. Ponnuswamy, you can start your speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is only making noise.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is getting wasted. Shri E. Ponnuswamy, you can start your speech. Let him continue as it is only noise. I have politely requested all the hon. Members that everybody should be given time, but you would not cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Jai Prakash, you must realize.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded. Not a word will be recorded now.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not write anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have to tell you one thing. All those portions have not come on record. He is a Member of the Ruling Party, and I am here to help him, but he is not cooperating as he has kept on speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am doing this job for this House. If you do not agree.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already politely told you that there are about 40 Members who wish to speak on this issue. This being a topic on rural development, everybody must be given a chance and it would mean giving five minutes for each Member. This would itself take more than three hours. How can I conduct this job if hon. Member, Shri Jai Prakash, is doing like this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly allow me to conclude. I am on my legs. I am referring to the Ruling Party for the simple reason that they are duty-bound to see that the House runs more than these people sitting there. I am a person who is experienced with all these matters for over 50 years. That is why, I am speaking. They are not bound to conduct this House. They can criticize and cooperate, but it is the bounden duty of the ruling benches to see that the House functions. I am here doing the job for all.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): How can we complete in five minutes? It is not possible and, therefore, the time has to be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Opposition is cooperating in these matters, but the ruling alliance is not cooperative enough. It is in your interest only that I am mentioning all these things. If you do not understand the basic principles of parliamentary democracy, what can I do?

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, you increase the time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to me.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. I thank our hon. Minister also on behalf of my Party, PMK. The Rural Development Ministry is the most important one, only next to the Defence. It is an important Ministry like the Agriculture, Education and Health. Rural development is the lifeline of the village people. As our Mahatma said, "Our nation lives in the villages", and we have to do justice to the village people. Our hon. Minister really knows the pulse of the people because he comes from a village. He permitted me to opt for this Committee because I have not been nominated by the hon. Speaker to this Committee. I opted myself because I am interested in joining and participating in this Committee. Rural development, as I already said, is the lifeline of India. This is most important Ministry because it covers most of the basic needs of the people.

There are more than ten schemes. Kindly bear with me and I will not take more than five to six minutes. On each point, I will speak only one or two sentences. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a very important scheme by which the poorest of the poor gained considerably. But in our system, in India, any project, plan or scheme has got its own loopholes. Under the NREGA, the work is not being selected properly. Under NMR, if 100 people are supposed to work, the Panchayat President tends to add more people in the list. When you have to take job card, you have to pay something. It is a very shameful thing which is happening in every village. The wages have to be paid according to the work done, but the work taken up is also not being completed fully. It is being left half way. I told the Collector in my constituency that any work selected under this scheme has to be completed. I told him to select such works so that people in the village can have the full benefit of it.

Second, the self-employment scheme has to benefit the unemployed youth, but it is not going down well with this scheme. As far as my constituency is concerned, I used to call the District Administration, namely, the Collector, but he is not able to do justice to the expected level. I used to tell him that for the unemployed youth, though our Tamil Nadu Government under the dynamic leadership of Kalaignar is doling out some help to the unemployed youth, this scheme is an important one. Actually, this is a genuine scheme and its benefits have to go down to the people so that their expectations can be fulfilled. We have to take some steps in that regard.

[Shri E. Ponnuswamy]

I used to tell this in the Committee and also requested the hon. Minister to take necessary steps.

The third important scheme is Indira Awas Yojana. People in the villages erect some huts at places like the tank bund, the side of the road, on the Porambok land, and start living there. But they need houses. We have to increase the number of the houses. I made a request to the hon. Minister more than once in the Committee also. The assistance given for the construction of houses is inadequate. I have requested the hon. Minister to give houses to the beneficiaries instead of giving them the money. When the money is given, there is no guarantee that it would be properly utilised. I suggested that even big contractors like L&T can be taken into the fold and entrusted with the task of constructing pucca houses at a minimum cost. I would request the Government to consider this proposal of giving houses instead of giving money to the beneficiaries. Amounts of Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000 are not at all adequate to construct even one room. The hon. Minister is quite aware of this issue. So, I would request him to consider this suggestion of giving houses in lieu of money.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is no longer with the State Governments, it is being implemented by the Central Government. I would request the Government of India to give this scheme back to the State Governments because they know better as to what is necessary to be done and where.

Another important scheme is the Wastelands Development Scheme. There are a lot wastelands in the country which remain unutilised, undistributed to the needy. The poor people need land and they do not get it. If the Government wants to do justice in this regard, it can take over all the wastelands, develop them and distribute them to the landless, more importantly to the poorest of the poor like SCs, STs and OBCs and other deserving communities.

16.47 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I come to the Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme now. This is the most important scheme. Drinking water is available where some infrastructure like overhead tank or a pipe is created. But the water is not supplied adequately. Maintenance of the infrastructure is of great importance. The motors fixed are not in working order. In most of the villages we have to appoint a person on payment to maintain the water body to supply drinking water without interruption and according to the need of the people.

There is another scheme called Total Sanitation. This is a very important one, especially for the womenfolk in the villages. They are finding it very difficult to use this facility due to a lack of water. Sanitary halls and other things are constructed but they are not being maintained. That is why they are not being utilised properly. I would request the Government to do something through the State Governments and the District Administrations to maintain these things.

Computerisation of land records and other documents is a very important point which is being done remarkably well. I would request the Government to instruct the State Governments and the District Administrations to complete this task quickly so that valuable records will be protected.

My next point relates to the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. This is an important point. The local MPs are appointed as Chairmen. But, the importance and the role of a Member of Parliament are being totally ignored and minimised. No importance is being given to the MPs' requests or MPs' instructions. I have requested the hon. Minister more than once and he has also been periodically writing lengthy letters.

In spite of that, nothing moves on. Governments in several States have not been paying attention to this. Our Tamil Nadu Government is paying more attention. The present Minister is doing a very good work. We all in fact appreciate him. But the vigilance and monitoring Committee has to be activated effectively. Wherever the Minister is appointed, he is not convening the meetings and not being cooperative with others. So, I requested the hon. Minister to appoint Members of Parliament wherever they have got six constituencies in a District. This has to be considered.

Finally, I would say that the Ministry of Rural Development is an important Ministry. I have already stated that it is the lifeline of the society. Our hon. Minister is really doing very good work because he knows the needs of the people. We all cooperate in the Committee to help him find solution but the Government as a whole must provide more funds so that he would in turn provide more funds to the States and the districts so that these schemes can be bettered and the situation can be improved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next hon. Member, I would like to inform you that I have a list of 40 Members. Therefore, I would request those hon. Members who would like to lay their written speeches on the Table of House, they may do so.

Now, I call Shri Lakshman Seth.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the time for discussion should be increased upto tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only 40 Members are going to speak. To what extent can I increase it for them?

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, opportunity to speak shoul at least be given to those Members whose names have been given by the parties...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important topic and everybody wants to speak on this topic...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee has fixed the time for discussion on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there cannot be any topic more important than this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Four hours have already been spent its discussion.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Therefore, I would like to request that this should be extended upto tomorrow. We should be given an opportunity to make our point...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The BAC had allotted four hours time for discussion on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was only saying that those hon'ble Members who want to lay their speeches, can do so.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not want to lay our speech, we must be given an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That we would see later on.

[Translation]

Let it be 6 o'clock first, then we will se.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget allocation has been increased by the Ministry of Rural Development. It is a welcome step. In my brief speech, I would like to draw your attention towards the flaws that are there in the department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the year 1946 Mahatma Gandhi ji had envisioned India to be a country where there is no starvation where there is Gram Swarajya and every village is developed. But unfortunately even in the year 2008 people are starving and farmers are committing suicide. Keeping this in mind the UPA Government chalked out an ambitious scheme of Bharat Nirman. The Ministry of Rural Development has also formulated a number of schemes. Before I start assessing these schemes, I would like to draw your attention towards the schemes that have been formulated since independence and the reasons behind their failure?

[English]

In a survey regarding Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, 1972 which failed due to inadequate funding and lack of technical capacity of Zila Parishads to operate and maintain water supply and sanitation facilities. IRDP—Integrated Rural Development Programme, 1980—provided

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

rural poor subsidy and bank credit for productive employment, one time provision of credit without follow up; sub-critical investments, over-crowding and lack of market linkages weakened the scheme.

[Translation]

Indira Awas Yojana has been continuing since the year 1985. Why has that not been as successful as it should have been?

[English]

Aimed to give free housing in rural areas, especially to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and bonded labourers. It failed due to limited coverage, resource constraints and leakages to un-deserving candidates.

[Translation]

Employment Insurance Scheme was launched in the year 1993. Why did it fail?

[English]

Provided rural employment during lean agriculture season. It was unsuccessful due to corruption and uneven distribution.

[Translation]

I hope that the Government would have certainly learnt some lessons from the previous mistakes it made. They would certainly make improvements in the schemes they are going to implement in future now.

Our rural India is very important. Today, the rural India is contributing 50 percent to our country's GDP. The per capita income in rural India is 56 percent less than the urban average, whereas it contributes 50 percent to the GDP. According to a survey, the size of our rural market will be worth Rs. 25 lakh crore after 20 years and our urban market, share market would be four times more than that. Therefore, it is really important that the rural development schemes are successful and they are implemented properly.

Now, let us have a look at the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana under Bharat Nirman. You have borrowed money from the market for the PMGSY under Bharat Nirman. It is very important for us to ensure that this money, which also includes funds from the State Governments and foreign aid, should have proper audit and should not be misused. I see that only 20% target has been achieved under the PMGSY.

Let us have a look at the States. Let us look at the achievement under PMGSY in Andhra Pradesh which is a developed State. The fourteenth performance review committee's meeting on PMGSY was held by him. Only 19% of the work relating to the upgradation of rural roads has been completed in Andhra Pradesh. Only 431 km of roads were upgraded there in 2007-08 as against the target of 2258 km. Now, let us look at Karnataka. Only 869 kms. of roads were upgraded against the target of 2573 kms. Kerala had the target of 2201 kms. but

[English]

No progress has been reported so far.

[Translation]

These are the minutes of your review committee's meeting. He knows very well the result if you will do Bharat Nirman by depending on the States and your allies. Your should come forward and take a decision using your own discretion and do the needful. Tamil Nadu's situation is no different from Kerala. In this regard, it is necessary that project-monitoring units are strengthened. Tender document takes a long time. There should be a standardized document so that time is not wasted and all the projects are completed on time. Rs. 68-90 crore have been provided.

[English]

For management support to rural development programmes and strengthening of district planning process.

[Translation]

It is very good but this amount has not reached the districts. When we participate in the meetings of the vigilance committee and question them, then we are told that they have not received this amount. He should increase this amount and ensure that it reaches the districts. It is very important for the success of the scheme that the district planning work is assigned to the experienced persons. He has allocated a lot of money under the Wasteland Development Programme but just making allocation is not sufficient. Wasteland Development Programme is in vogne since 1992.

17.00 hrs.

Why is not wasteland development taking place? Because, on one hand, we do plantation and on the

other hand, it is grazed by the cattle. This is the problem due to which Wasteland Development Programme is not succeeding. India has 2.5% of the world's population and 20% of the world's livestock. Therefore, grazing land should be created for the livestock. For this, cowsheds (Gaushalas) will have to be developed and provided funds. To make available grazing land for our livestock. We will have to introduce stock feeding programmes. You are making SEZs in wasteland...*(Interruptions)* You will develop SEZs on the wasteland.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, conclude please.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I will conclude by saying one or two points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should give it in writing.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: All right. I will give it in writing.

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants introduced by the hon. Minister of Rural Development. First of all, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for increasing the amount under the Indira Awas Yojana from Rs. 25000 to Rs. 35000. Thus, common man in Gujarat will be able to build his house with an amount of Rs. 50,000 today. Besides, the Finance Minister has also announced to provide a loan of Rs. 20000 at the rate of interest of four percent to the beneficiary under the scheme. Thus, one can make a house in Gujarat at a cost of Rs. 70,000. The UPA Government has helped the common man in realizing his dream of having his own house. I, therefore, also want to thank the chairperson of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

I would like to say that I was an MLA in Gujarat in 2002. That time, I hardly got 140-150 dwelling units under Indira Awas Yojana in a year for my assembly constituency. I used to feel a great deal of dilemma that time as to whom I should give the house and to whom not. But, from the moment UPA Government has come to power, 900 units under Indira Awas Yojana were allotted for my assembly constituency in the first year itself because of which I could satisfy many people. But, I want to speak about the problems faced by the scheme. Taking into account the Census Survey of 2002, the number of BPL persons has shrinked in my constituency while the number of Indira Awas houses have been increasing. The day is not far off when not a single person will qualify to be the beneficiary of the 'ndira Awas Yojana in our area. I believe that the norms and the parameters of the survey were determined by a person who has never seen the villages and poverty.

Today, Bentley or Rolls Royce Cars worth Rs. 2 crore are available in India and Indian people purchase them. But, even the purchase of a bicycle by a poor man is enough for him to attract disqualification from the BPL category by you. Today is the age of computer and even a middle class family owns a computer. Each member of a rich family has his own computer, but if the poor man owns even a radio or transistor then he is considered rich and his name is removed from the BPL category. What kind of a survey is this? I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that the Gujarat Government had given the target to unemployed youth that they will get Rs. 100 for surveying 100 persons in a day. The youths went to the villages and did not know anyone there. Wherever they were served tea etc. they did survey there. Thus, the persons whose names should be included in the list were left out while the persons in whose houses they enjoyed hospitality were included in the list even though they had the motorcycle and tractor. I request the hon'ble Minister to cancel the existing survey and to reconduct the fresh survey in this regard. A fresh BPL List should be prepared and people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities should be included in it.

I would like to mention two points regarding Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. During the regime of NDA Government not more than 50-60 lakhs were spent on construction of roads in a single constituency. Since the UPA Government came to power, Rs. 6 crore and Rs. 8 crore and Rs. 10 crore have been spent in first and second years respectively in one assembly constituency under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. However, the guidelines framed by the Government under this scheme are not being followed in Gujarat. As per the guidelines, each and every proposal should be forwarded after consulting the MP. I have been a Member of Parliament for the last four years but I have not been consulted even for once. As per a circular, Superintending Engineer should inspect the Gram Sadak scheme once in six months alongwith Member of Parliament but I have not conducted any such inspection in the last four years. Member of Parliament should be invited for Foundation stone laying ceremony or inauguration of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. But I have not

[Dr. Tushar A. Chaudhary]

attended any such ceremonies or inaugurations in these four years. I am a member of state level vigilance committee also. Four years have passed but not a single meeting of this Committee has been held in Gujarat. Mr. Minister, please pay attention to it and take note of all these things next time while allocating funds. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-09. While supporting the Demands I would like to point out that the mandate of the Ministry of Rural Development is to alleviate poverty in the rural areas. With the objective of providing avenues of employment to the disadvantaged sections of the society, many programmes and schemes are being implemented throughout the country for improving the quality of life in the rural sector. The *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana* is a major self-employment programme that is being implemented all over the country. The guidelines of the programme stipulate that at least 50 per cent of the Swarojgaris would have to be from people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; 40 per cent would have to be women and three per cent would have to be disabled. The subsidy given is 30 per cent. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that this subsidy has to be enhanced to 50 per cent.

Sir, owing to paucity of time, I would like to briefly refer to the issue of supply of safe drinking water. Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a Plan to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09. This is the last year of that plan for building rural infrastructure. The objective of the said component is to provide 55,067 inhabitants with safe drinking water so as to address the problem of affected habitations by 2008-09. Here I would like to mention that this figure, as given, should be re-considered because I think, this is not the right figure, it will be much higher than this. In the rural drinking water sector the biggest problem is seepage. I would like to mention that the State of West Bengal is facing a formidable challenge in this regard as many parts of the State is arsenic affected. The other States where this problem is there are States of Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar. In the State of West Bengal eight districts out of 19 districts are seriously affected by arsenic. About 166 crore people are living in these arsenic affected areas of the State. These people are entitled for safe drinking water. The Government of West Bengal has tried its level best to supply safe drinking water to these areas.

Various projects are also being implemented successfully. It needs to be mentioned that upto 1977, only 0.07 per cent of the rural people were under pipe water supply scheme. Now, 33.55 per cent people have come under this scheme. Under arsenic sub-mission programme, on the basis of 75:25 share by Centre and State Governments respectively, projects were in progress. It is a matter of great sadness that the Central Government discontinued the scheme from 1st April, 1999. As a protest, an all-Party delegation from West Bengal Assembly came to Delhi to meet the then concerned Minister. In reply, the then Minister wrote a letter dated 26.9.2001 to the West Bengal Government informing that the matter was under consideration. But nothing has been done. In the meantime, the hon. Minister has done a lot by providing money for continuing the programme.

Furthermore, in January, 2000, the Central Government agreed to set up an Arsenic Free Drinking Water Research Centre of national dimension in Kolkata. Land has also been allotted for this Centre by the State Government. But no progress has been made as yet.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to take initiatives as regards the schemes which are pending for a long time.

As regards ARWS programme, the Central Government is to supply more money to the States and Union Territories for creating and augmenting drinking water supply infrastructure especially the arsenic and fluoride-affected States and areas.

Lastly, I want to add a few words about the Total Sanitation Campaign. More attention has been given with the object of improving the quality of life of the rural people and to provide privacy and dignity to women. The goals of Total Sanitation Campaign are, full-household coverage by 2012, and coverage of all schools by 2007-08. Emphasis is on attaining 100 per cent coverage in villages so that the practice of open defecation is completely eliminated. To have more success, more Central assistance should be given to TSC.

I conclude here by thanking you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): What should I say. I do not know. Such a huge sum of Rs. 37,000—38,000

crore is being given for rural development over a long time but things have not changed in our villages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should appreciate him.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: What should I say about the hon'ble Minister. Earlier MPs were assigned the role to submit the proposals for construction of roads in their constituencies and to lay foundation stones and inaugurate the same. Rs. 10,000 per road used to be give for this purpose but the hon'ble Minister has issued a circular to discontinue this practice. A Commission of Rs. 50 lakh is being taken per road but the practice of giving Rs. 10,000 to MP has been stopped so as to stop his involvements. During the last $1^1/_2$ years, the hon'ble Minister has assured me that it would be resumed soon. 32 roads in four blocks of district Lakhimpur Khiri of my constituency have been approved since 2003. However, not a single penny has been spent till date on these roads and no work has been started. I have written letters in this regard for several times. I am sure the hon'ble Minister has not taken any action on the proposals submitted by any of 545 Lok Sabha Members during the last four years. I am confident about it. The hon'ble Minister may please state as to how many times he has given assurance to restore the practice of giving Rs. 10,000 to an MP for inauguration of roads. The roads approved in 2003 are yet to be constructed. Very emphatically he had stated that by constituting vigilance monitoring committees, all powers have been given to Members. I am also a Member of Vigilance Monitoring Committee of my area and its meetings are held frequently. I ordered inquiries in respect of various works but the district level officers, be they from DRDA or the other technical sides, did not cooperate. As a result, not a single inquiry could be completed. Besides, the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee has no power except to call meetings and waste the time. Such meetings create furore for a day or two and thereafter everything calms down. These corrupt officers usurp crores of rupees meant for the poor people or for the rural development. Due to paucity of time I would not like to go into details as to how the funds are misutilized in the absence of any monitoring mechanism.

Take the examples of small schemes. The Ministry formulates the guidelines regarding these schemes for the whole nation but every State has different circumstances and even in various parts of a State situation can be different. The guidelines framed for defining poverty are same for Punjab and Orissa though both the States are passing through different circumstances. Therefore, adopting a similar guideline or yardstick for all the States would be inappropriate and funds will be misutilized. Funds meant for different schemes are being misutilized. I agree to what Shri Rahul Gandhi has stated about the schemes implemented through Panchayats. His father Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi used to say that only 15% of the funds sanctioned by the centre is spent on these schemes and rest is usurped mid way. But as Shri Rahulji has stated, today 95% of the fund is usurped and only five percent is spent for developmental works. This is what happens in the schemes being implemented through Panchayats. We may state at length in this regard but the hon'ble Minister never pays attention to it.

I would like to give a suggestion. Suppose, Rs. 200 crore is to be spent for implementing 10-15 schemes in a district. The lump sum amount may be given as per the condition of the district. MP, MLA, Collector or any other officer which would be deputed should be informed before hand about the works to be undertaken. I would like to state that except the two schemes Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna and Indira Awas Yojna, a lump sum amount may be given for rest of the schemes. If it would not be provided for the development of a district and till the temporary work is not banned and permanent work is not started, corruption will continue to take place. So much so that this scheme has been renamed as "Bhrashtachar Guarantee Yojna". I feel that injustice has been done to this scheme. Saying Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna and Indira Awas Yojna, public has named all the other schemes as "Bhrashtachar Yojna". Corruption is going on in all these schemes. I can give the solution in this regard. I can give in writing if he wishes so. I am ready to face any punishment if it fails to boost development. I would like to state that implementing the similar definition of poverty alleviation in the whole country would not benefit in any way.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): In U.P., funds are spent on Ambedkar Yojna only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make your point when you get the opportunity to speak. If you interrupt like this I would not be able to stop others when your turn comes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: A complete ban should be imposed on temporary works. Further, not even five rupees should be spent for development through Panchayat. Be compassionate, don't let crores of public

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

money be misutilised. If a complete district development scheme is chalked out and funded only then rural development would be achieved.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Sir, I am privileged to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development for the financial year 2008-09. For the first time, the allocation of funds to the Rural Development Ministry is the highest, second after the Ministry of Defence. After the UPA Government came into power, I am proud to say that the allocation for the Ministry of Rural Development has been stepped up year-after-year. Now it is Rs. 49,450 crores. This shows the concern of the UPA Government for the *aam admi;* and its focus on the economic development of the rural areas. Thanks to the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, Honourable Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji and Union Rural Development Minister Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji.

Sir, even as the Indian economy surged ahead at an unprecedented 8 per cent plus growth rate for yet another year, the realization that this growth has to be of an inclusive nature meant renewed importance for development of the rural areas of the country. The four years of the UPA Government so far has seen the introduction of new programmes and restructuring of the existing ones to deal with the task of ensuring reduction of poverty and creation of employment. The Ministry of Rural Development continued to play a key role in this strategy. A paradigm shift in the policy of rural development has also taken place, with the rural poor treated as resources who form an integral part of the development strategy, and not as burden. The Ministry co-ordinates, implements and funds scheme which aim at ensuring that the fruits of economic development reach the villages and the common man.

Now, I want to highlight some important programmes under the Ministry. *The NREGP programme* is one of its kinds in the world. As a member of NREGP council, I visited many villages in different parts of India. People are delighted to have this programme, which is guaranteeing wage employment and ensuring food security. More important is the Act brings equality between men and women as far as wages are concerned, equal wages are paid to both for equal work. For the first time in India's history, employment has been made a legal right through an Act of Parliament. The Act is structured towards harnessing the rural work-force, not as recipients of doles, but as productive partners in our economic development. The assets created result in sustained employment in the area for future growth, employment and self-sufficiency. From 1st April 2008 NREGP has been implemented in all the districts in the country. Thanks to the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister. I welcome the allocation of Rs. 16000 crores for this programme. As more to be done, I would humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation further.

Here I want to stress that, if all the State Governments increase their transparency and accountability and follows the systems established under the NRGPA, the misuse of funds in certain places can be greatly curtailed.

Under Bharat Nirman, development works are undertaken in the areas of irrigation, road, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication and rural connectivity. The mandate given to Rural Development Ministry under Bharat Nirman is viewed as an effort to unlock rural India's growth potential and to be a key for ushering in a new era. It is also expected that Bharat Nirman will lead to creation of considerable assets along with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Bharat Nirman, however, is a collective agenda in which every Indian has a role to play either as a user or as a partner. This programme is really creating ripples in rural areas and bridging the gap between the rural and urban divide.

As you know, Sir, in my Bobbili parliamentary constituency, there are about 150 panchayats with a population of less than 5000 in each panchayat jurisdiction and an annual revenue of less than Rs. 50,000. How is it possible for the panchayat to undertake developmental works with this meagre revenue? Therefore, I humbly request the hon. Minister to provide special corpus fund to develop these panchayats.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY): The promotion of self employment amongst the rural poor for their socio economic uplift has been long an integral part of the strategy for poverty eradication. SGSY is the largest self employment programme for the rural poor. Since its inception (Up to Dec. 2007) more than 27 lakh of Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed. Total number of

*Speech was laid on the Table.

swarozgaris assisted is 93.27 lakhs. Subsidy has been distributed to the tune of Rs. 540.98 crores. Per capita investment (Ave./per year) amounted to Rs. 27,069/-. Here I would like to add that Self Help Groups should be provided loans at Re. 0.25 interest. This would empower the women financially. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is already implementing it. This would make them economically independent. Agriculture and animal husbandry go hand-in-hand. Here I urge upon the hon. Minister to sanction milk dairy centres exclusively to be handled by women belonging to Self Help Groups under SJYS Scheme. In this connection, I have already forwarded to the Ministry a proposal for sanctioning the same. I request the Minister to approve the proposal at the earliest in my Constituency.

Thanks to the UPA Government that they have identified 42 lakh persons for the Aam Admi Bima Yojana. As per the information available about 42 lakh people were covered under this scheme in the country. Out of this, 38 lakh policies were covered in Andhra Pradesh alone. This was made possible because of the efforts of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in providing matching grants in the ratio of 50:50. This shows the success of the scheme if any State Government comes forward to implement schemes for the poor people. 'Aam Admi Bima Yojna's goal is to reach every poor men in the country'.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): aims at providing connectivity to un-connected habitations. It is expected under the scheme that an expanded and renovated rural network will lead to increase in rural employment opportunities, better access to regulated and fair market, better access to health, education and other public services and thus bridge the rural-urban divide and pave the path of economic growth. In the current financial year 2007-08, up to December 2007, nearly 50,000 kms of new all-weather roads have been completed. New connectivity has been provided to nearly 17,000 habitations and 65,000 kms of existing rural roads upgraded. Thanks to the UPA Government. I congratulate the hon. Rural Development Minister for this spectacular achievement.

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY): Rural housing is one of the components of Bharat Nirman package. In the current financial year *i.e.* 2007-08, 10.6 lakh homes have been built so far, while 8.40 lakh homes are under construction. The target is 21.27 lakhs for the current financial year. In a major initiative to impart transparency in the selection process a "Permanent Wait list" is being prepared under IAY. I welcome this step.

Here I want to bring to the notice of the Ministry that in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of hon. Chief Minister Dr Y. S. Rajasekhar Reddy the State has set an ambitious target to construct 60 lakh houses for the poor, in three years, ending with current financial year 2008-09. On behalf of the State Government, I thank the Central Government for extending overwhelming support.

Here I would like to add that instead of 5 per cent of the total allocated funds under IAY to meet the exigencies arising out of natural calamities and other emergent situations like riot, arson, fire, rehabilitation, etc., it should be enhanced to 20 per cent because my Andhra Pradesh State is situated in coastal area which is always on the radar of the cyclone. Very often my State has become a victim of cyclones resulting in unprecedented loss of life and property. There are many huts in villages. Very often fire accidents take place which also result in huge loss of life and property.

Land reforms: Aims at greater access to land by landless rural poor through various initiatives. In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has distributed more than 6.17 lakh acres of land to the landless poor. Thanks to the State Government and the Central Government for excellent coordination.

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP): By 2009, 55,067 uncovered, 3.31 lakh slipped back and 2.17 lakh quality affected habitations are to be addressed. Sir, the Ministry's efforts are praiseworthy for covering, by November, 2007, more than 30,000 uncovered habitations, around 2 lakhs "slipped back" habitations and 54,000 villages where water quality was a problem had been covered under Bharat Nirman.

Sir I am representing the Coastal, Tribals and plain areas which are suffering a lot due to brackish, salt and flouride problems. In this connection, I request for a special drinking water project in Echerla Assembly Constituency which is also a Coastal Area.

I will end my speech with Mahatma Gandhi's quotation. I quote: "We must be the change we wish to see. India lives in rural areas." For overall development of the country, the rural areas must develop. For this purpose, resources must be allotted on a priority basis. Therefore, I support the Demands for Grants for 2008-09,

[Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha]

in respect of the Ministry of Rural Development comprising the Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources and Department of Drinking Water Supply.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the demand for grants. India is an agrarian country and 80 percent of its population resides in villages. We talk of Bharat Nirman but how is this goal to be achieved when the common man lacks even basic necessities such as food, water and shelter?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from rural background. I would like to discuss the situation in Rajasthan *vis-a-vis* certain schemes that have been launched on a country wide basis. Rajasthan contains deserts, hilly terrains as well as irrigational plains. Irrigation is undertaken by means of ponds in some places and by canals in others. The point is that the physical features of the State be it desert land, hilly areas or irrigational plains cannot be disregarded and schemes cannot be implemented uniformly in the entire State. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers in the country are faced with adverse circumstances. The policy of economic liberalisation being followed since 1991 has also served to make matters worse for the farmers. Not getting the fair price for their produce is the worst thing that can happen to a farmer. The farmers have been forced to migrate from their villages as a consequence of economic liberalisation. He finds it an easier deal to move elsewhere in search of employment. A farmer gets no compensation if his crops get destroyed. Frost has damaged the crops of farmers in Rajasthan recently but frost is not deemed to be a natural disaster. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you to include frost in the list of natural disaster.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the NDA government was in power it had implemented certain schemes which have been discontinued by the UPA Government. The present government has dicontinued Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and the scheme to constitute an Agriculture and Rural Ministry in absense of which is causing extensive damage to the rural poor. The works undertaken under the scheme started under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA) are temporary in nature and not likely to provide any long-term benefits to the farmers. I would like to quote same figures in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government had set a target of construction of 50 thousand 674 km of road last year but only 49 thousand 476 km. of road construction has been completed. I would be the good fortune of the country if the Government strives to achieve the targets it has set. Bharat Nirman would be possible only when targets are achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had set the target of construction of houses for 60 lakh persons last year but only 28 lakh houses have been constructed so far. Even today, 19 percent families in villages live in Kucha houses, 50 percent live in pucca houses and 31 percent people stay in semi-pucca houses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has also not been able to achieve the target regarding supply of drinking water.

Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that more than 55 thousand habitations in the country lack drinking water facilities. Thirty percent of the cities fall under municipal corporation or the municipal council. Habitations in cities are still not being supplied with drinking water by municipal corporations and municipal councils. As much as 26 percent of the people in the country do not have access to toilets.

In 2007, the Government had set the target of bringing one crore hectare of land area under irrigations but so far it has managed to bring only 20 lakh hectare of area under irrigation. The Government should not breach the trust of the people. Many members have earlier said, in connection with the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, that villages with a population with less than one thousand should be brought under coverage of this scheme and funding there under should be proportionate to the land area of the village concerned. In this regard a Gramin Sadak Yojana can be started under which fifty or a hundred kilometres of road may be constructed on the basis of a recommendation by an MP. Land area should be a major consideration under this scheme because Rajasthan is a very Vast State. When the hon Minister had visited Jaipur and he had commended the fact that the best road construction work had been done in Rajasthan. The Government should keep land area in mind for this scheme. Sir, the union Government had targeted electrification of 125 lakh villages in order to benefit 230 crore BPL people but even now merely 56 percent of rural households have

electricity connections and 44 percent rural households light their homes with kerosene.

In the previous budget session the Government had mentioned that it would complete the work of setting up 22700 primary centres. But out of these 22700 primary health centres there are no doctors in 8 percent health centres. Where there are doctors, there are no compounders, where there are compounders, there are no nurses. At some place there is no building, somewhere there are no equipments, medicines etc, this is the condition of our country's Primary Health Centres. The Government should implement the announcements it makes. Even today there are only 9 percent people in the country who are using cooking gas. In the rural areas 74 percent people use wood for cooking.

I would like to say that the schemes launched by the NDA Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been discontinued and new schemes have been launched in their place. Proper implementation of these schemes is not being done.

Sir, I would like to request one more thing that concrete water bodies (thaals) should be constructed in the desert, hilly and irrigated areas. If such programme is formulated then this scheme will progress very well.

*Sir, India is an agriculture country. 80 percent people of India live in villages. India will become a developed country only when there will be food, drinking water and housing facilities available to all the rural peppie. When all these three basic facilities will be available to everyone then only India will become a fully developed country. The path to India's prosperity passes through its villages and fields. The condition of our villages is very critical. We are watching them very closely. Creating a man made infrastructure in any area is a boon for its development. The rural sector schemes implemented by the Central government are not reaching entirely to the rural sector. If we take the example of Rajasthan, there is desert, hilly and also irrigated land where irrigation is also done with the help of wells and rivers. The Union Government schemes should be implemented in different ways in different areas only then proper development of each area will be possible.

Sir, we talk about Bharat Nirman. There are a total of 582 districts in the country and there are 475 District Councils, 5913 Panchayat Samities, 227617 Gram Panchayats in the country. There are 34 lakh public representatives throughout the country. If we look at the rural areas of the country, we will find that even today the villages are extremely backward. Last year the Union Government had set a target for providing electricity to 1.25 lakh villages and, 230 crore people who are living below the poverty line. Only 30 percent people got electricity against the said target. Homes of only 56 percent people in rural areas have been electrified so far. We have completed 61 years of independence but even today 42 percent people use kerosene to light their homes. 55067 localities are deprived of drinking water even today. 30 percent people in cities do not get drinking water from the Municipal Corporation. 26 per cent people do not have toilet facility even today.

Sir, in the year 2007 the Government had set a target of irrigating 1 crore-hectare land out of which merely 20 lakh hectare land has been irrigated. The schemes that were launched by the NDA Government, have been discontinued by the present Government. The NDA Government had launched a river-linking project. The present Government has totally discontinued schemes like Sampooran Gramin Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana. This has caused losses to the villages. The Rashtriya Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Scheme (NREGA), which was launched by the Union Government, is not going to benefit the villages to a great extent. The unemployed people and workers in villages are not getting full employment under the NREGA scheme. This scheme has become a deep wound for us. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, the Rural Department had set a target for constructing 50674 kms of roads this year, but at present construction of only 39476 kms of roads has been completed, which is a betrayal of trust of the common people. Similarly, this Government had set a target of constructing 60 lakh houses but only 28 lakh houses could be constructed.

Sir, even today 19 percent families in the country are living in kuccha houses and 50 percent in pucca houses and 31 percent people are living in semi-pucca houses. There are 22700 Primary Health Centres in the country. Doctors are available only in few primary health centres. At some places there are no nurses, no compounders, no buildings or no medicines. In this country 40 to 70 percent people in urban areas use-cooking gas. 74 percent people in rural areas use wood as fuel. According to a survey only 9 percent people use cooking gas.

*...*This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Nihal Chand]

Sir, the economic liberalization policy of the year 1991 has worked as adding fuel to the fire. Even farmer has had to bear losses due to this liberalization policy. People migrated to other places. They migrated from their birthplace to other places, which led to losses to the rural section. The farmers of this country have been totally ruined, and as long as the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce there can be no development for them. Therefore, some provision should be made in the budget to provide remunerative prices to the farmers. The farmer's crops are destroyed due to frost. They do not get any compensation for that because frost is not treated as a natural calamity. Frost should be included in natural calamities. The Union Government and the banks take tehsil as one unit for paying compensation to the farmers. For this purpose village should be considered as one unit.*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to speak from here with your permission. First of all, on behalf of all the farmers and people of rural areas, I express my deepest gratitude to the hon'ble Prime Minister, Chairperson of UPA Government, Soniaji, hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Minister of State for Rural Development Salurji. After independence, Gandhi's movement reached from villages to shacks and through this budget, the UPA Government has played a very important role in realizing the dreams of Gandhiji and the rural areas have benefited a lot from it. Thirteen thousand crore rupees have been allocated for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. There is lack of education in primary schools in villages, lack of teachers and infrastructure at primary level. There is no clean drinking water for children, no toilet facilities. Students of primary schools remain hungry and receive education under the trees even today. Central Government's funds are given to the State Governments. Our friends from BSP were saying that all the funds in Uttar Pradesh are used for the Ambedkar scheme and not for the schemes for which the funds are meant. A provision of Rs. 8000 crore has been made for the mid day meal scheme in the budget. We should keep an eye over it. The benefits of this scheme are not reaching the children. Many State Governments, which are capable, are implementing this scheme. I feel happy to tell that there is an organization 'Aakshepatra' in Mathura which works in other districts also. It provides food to about 80,000 school children in my constituency. They have warm containers and vans through which they bring rice, cooked vegetables, warm chapattis and because of this the number of children has risen. I myself have eaten food there. I would urge the Central Government to make such schemes in future and NGOs should come forward to lend their assistance so that the money is used rightly. Under Rural Health Mission.

[English]

Social health activities have been taken up. Sanitation Committees are functioning in a number of villages. In 323 districts, hospitals have been taken up for upgradation.

[Translation]

Funds have been increased to Rs. 12,500 crore for this. There is shortage of health centres in rural areas even today. We should strengthen the primary health centres if we cannot cover every village. I would urge that there should be atleast 30 to 50 bedded hospitals at the Block level here facilities of maternity ward, blood tests, MRI, X-ray should be provided so that the patients could go there. Even today there was a question on the problem of doctors not going to the rural areas during question hour. Rural Health Service should be constituted. Doctors should be appointed in Rural Health Service so that they look after the health services in rural areas.

There is National Health Insurance Scheme.

[English]

This Health Insurance Scheme provides health cover of Rs. 30,000 for every worker in the unorganized sector falling under the BPL category.

[Translation]

I request that besides BPL category, the poor villagers should also be included in the scheme so that they can also get the benefit of medicines during their sickness and the limit should be raised to Rs. 50,000. At present, it has been kept Rs. 10,000 only whereas the prices of medicines have increased, fees of the doctors have increased, there are no means of travel and prices of food have also increased. Therefore, the health insurance cover should be raised to Rs. 25,000 and each family should be included so that they can get better treatment.

I express my gratitude to hon'ble Rahul ji with regard to the National Employment Guarantee Scheme because, earlier, only 200 districts were included under the scheme but now on his request all the districts in the country

have been included. I would request the hon'ble Minister that the cards should be made properly so that one member or one female from a poor family gets employment. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker and hon'ble Members must have seen an interview on TV recently showing all the irregularities. People were migrating from villages and they were asked by the electronic media persons as to where they were going as this scheme is in their area. They replied that they were going away from the village for work. On being asked if they did not get job in the village, they said that they have been threatened to leave the village. Fake cards are being made and funds are being misused by showing fake jobs. I, through you, would urge the hon'ble Minister that there should be a monitoring system. A Central Government team should be there which should study it deeply and hon'ble MPs, MLAs and people's representatives should be included in it so that monitoring is done properly. I want to draw your attention to the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, your area must also be having this problem like ours and hon'ble Members of the House are also facing this problem. There is no drinking water in villages today even after 60 years of independence. I have just returned from the tour of my constituency, which I visit regularly, and women there have to carry water on their heads from 2 kms. even today. What could be more shameful for our Government, for us and this House that our daughters, daughters-in-law and women from villages have to fetch water from far away. Last week, I was on a tour of villages on Saturday and Sunday. Many people told me that they bring a bucket of water, from 5 kms and pay Rs. 10 for it. Such things are happening even after spending so much money. About Rs. 6,500 crore has been provided for drinking water in this budget. With regret, I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that there are 12 blocks in my constituency for which schemes were sent for approval to the Uttar Pradesh Government but neither a single scheme has been approved nor any fund has been granted in four years. Department of Drinking Water, UP Govt. which looks after the schemes made during the time of late Rajiv Gandiji has told our officers that water will be provided to the villages having population of 5000 or above and not to those having population below it. The villages will have to share 25% of the cost while on the other hand, the hon'ble Minister says that no partnership is needed for it. The UP Government officials reject the schemes made by its officials because of which the people are not getting water. Not even a single paisa has been provided for any scheme during four years. Besides, about Rs. 7530 crore has been allocated for Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister and the Government that about 400 kms of roads have been constructed in my district under the PMGSY but, at the same time, I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that the quality of roads there is very bad. About Rs. 22 lakh per kilometer of road is provided. These contracts in Uttar Pradesh are dealt with by the RES department, which executes and monitors these works. District administration was informed many times in this regard. When I had complained to the hon'ble Minister in this regard then a team from Central Government was sent there. I got a call from a contractor who said, without disclosing his name, that they were collecting fifty lakh rupees to be given to this team. I think that nothing else could be more shameful than this that the team which went there for inspection returned after taking fifty lakh rupees. Now, who will take care of it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: With these words, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to allot one thousand hand pumps for my constituency, as there are five assembly segments in this area. Only a year has been left for the next elections, what will we reply to the people to whom we could not provide water. The Central Government has allocated funds but State Governments are not cooperating. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister is requested to send a team from the Centre for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan ji, please speak.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: The nameplates showing the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana with the help of central government's fund alongwith the name of the MP should be fixed there so that public could know about it. In my state, the Chief Minister hon'ble Mayawati ji is allocating this fund to Ambedkar Village only. Indira Awas Yojana is being propagated as State governments scheme and houses are being allotted to Harijans. The State Government is taking the credit of pension scheme also. Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to make proper arrangements for the publicity of the centrally sponsored schemes and programmes... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development,

Sir, there are many shortcomings in various programmes launched by the Central Government for rural development. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards these shortcomings. I also appeal to him to rectify the errors in these programmes.

Sir, more then 70% people living in the villages of our country are leading a life of hunger, poverty and deprivation. In the villages, there is no health-care, no electricity, no facilities for good education, no drinking-water facilities, no sanitation facilities and no road-connectivity. Sir, I would specially like to point towards the lack of pure and non-contaminated drinking water facility. On what basis can the Government claim that India is moving forward on the path of development? Without the development of our villages, we cannot claim to make real progress.

Of course, the Government has chalked out various schemes for the welfare of the rural poor. But, is the benefit of these programmes reaching the needy? Sir, if you provide water to a field, and instead of reaching the roots of the plants, if that water is squandered elsewhere, it does not serve the purpose. The implementation of these programmes is flawed.

For instance, let us take the case of BPL families. Time and again, we have exhaustively discussed this issue in this august House. Lacuna in its implementation has been repeatedly pointed out. However, the Government has failed to rectify its errors. Genuine people have been kept out of the purview of this programme meant for BPL families.

Sir, all states cannot be equated as far as implementation of programmes is concerned. Different states have different problems. Culturally and economically, Punjab is different from Bihar. Only 10% people of Punjab have been included in the BPL list. It is due to the faulty yardsticks adopted by the Government. There are 52 points to identify a BPL family. These include : a family should not own a fan or a fridge. Sir, when the heat wave sweeps the country, even the poor people try to get hold of a fan. How else will the poor people survive in the searing heat of 45 degrees and beyond? So, the norms and standards used to identify BPL families are faulty and far removed from reality. Fans and cold water have become the basic facilities needed by everyone.

Also, Sir, Panchayat members have been granted the power to identify BPL families. As a result, names of genuine people have not been included in the BPL list. Lot of politics is involved in this exercise. The village headman belongs to a particular party. He tries to include the names of his supporters and sycophants in the BPL list. Bogus people are included in this list. There should be a review of this entire scheme. The process of identification of BPL families should be simplified. The different conditions prevailing in different states should be kept in mind while fixing the norms pertaining to this scheme. Much water has flown down the Ganges since the UPA Government tried to implement the National Rural Guarantee Scheme. 4 years have passed but the UPA Government has failed to implement this scheme throughout the country. Wherever it has been implemented, it has been an utter failure.

It was announced that the scheme will be fully implemented soon. However, due to Panchayat and Zila Parishad elections, it was put in cold storage. Now, the Parliament elections are also round the corner. As a result, this scheme is bound to flop.

The Government provides only Rs.102/- as daily wage to one member of a poor family for 100 days. However, the poor person can easily get Rs.150/- to Rs.200/- as daily wage in Punjab. As such, he cannot benefit from Rs.102/- doled out by the Government. The Government should increase the amount given to the poor people as daily wage under this scheme. Village headmen should not be given the power to identify BPL person. Instead, a committee comprising of all political parties should discharge this function.

Many a time, thumb-impression of the poor people are taken on the paper that claims to pay Rs.102/- to them. However, actually, they are paid only Rs.50/-. All

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

these malpractises must stop. 60% money under this scheme is provided for payment of wages and 40% is provided as material cost for the equipment purchased. This ratio should be 50:50 and not 60:40.

Also, many works are excluded from this scheme. For instance, in Punjab, cleaning of water-works is needed. Why is this work not included under the Employment Guarantee Scheme? Sir, the need of the hour is to review this entire scheme and make it more people-friendly.

There is no monitoring of this scheme. How many people the family get to work for how many hours a day under this scheme? The Government has no data or statistics regarding these points.

Sir, under the Indira Awas Yojana, Rs.25,000/- is paid by the Government for construction of houses in the rural areas. This is a cruel joke played by the Government on the poor people, Rs.25,000/- is a drop in the ocean. You cannot construct a house in this meagre amount. I appeal to the Government to increase this amount to at least rupees 2 lakhs.

Sir, the Government pays Rs.600/- to the poor people in the rural areas for construction of latrines. But, the bricks used for this purpose cost Rs.1000/-. So, this is another cruel joke played by the Government on the poor people of rural areas. Punjab Government is paying Rs. 7800/- to BPL families and Rs.6800/- to non-BPL families. Under these circumstances, Rs.600/- is a pittance. It needs to be increased.

Sir, there is a dearth of clean drinking water in the villages of Punjab. The water that is available is contaminated with carcinogenic compounds. It leads to cancer. If a survey is conducted in Mansa and Bhatinda, it will come to light that every third family has a cancer patient. It is due to contaminated drinking water. So, I appeal to the Government to install submersible water-pumps in the villages and houses of poor people and Dalits, and in all educational institutes of the area.

Sir, the self-help groups in Punjab have failed as they do not get direct marketing facilities. So, I appeal to the Government to generate more employment for the rural poor. Only then can the villages taste the fruits of real progress. Also, the rural people should be made aware of the various schemes launched by the Government. A publicity campaign should be launched through the print and electronic media. Time should be fixed for the telecast of such publicity campaigns on T.V. Also, all programmes for the rural poor should be effectively implemented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh—your Party's time has already been exhausted. So, you are requested to speak only for four to five minutes.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time. I would like to state to the hon'ble Minister that he is well aware of the poverty prevailing in the area he hails from. Several Ministries are connected with his department. No good results can be achieved till all these ministries formulate a scheme in consultation with each other. Recently, the Governor of Reserve Bank Shri Reddy gave a speech in Argentina in which he mentioned our annual growth rate as 9%. With this rate of growth, disparities between agriculture and non-agriculture people will continue to increase. Therefore, he suggested that unless 40% agricultural growth is achieved, it cannot be implemented properly.

We all know that rural development is directly connected to agriculture. Development in agriculture sector will lead to rural development. Initially the schemes like Gramin Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana. Housing Scheme, Drinking Water and Telephony etc. were taken up by the Planning Commission in the year 2005. Many members have spoken in this regard and I would also like to speak about these. Hon'ble Prime Minister was also present in Chief Ministers' meeting alongwith Shri M.S. Ahluwalia. He mentioned that if quality work is not being done under Gramin Sadak Yojana, why not a scheme is formulated to fix some standards in this regard. An objection was raised on it that the contractors will not be ready to work then. It is unfortunate that the hon'ble Prime Minister is recommending to fix some standards to improve the quality but contractors will refuse to work according to these standards.

Sir, Government has B.R.O. which constructs roads at difficult places and under adverse circumstances. Why not a scheme is formulated to abolish the contract system and the construction is done by the Government itself. Quality cannot be achieved till this is done. It can be achieved only if the department and the people involved in it are from Government. In the initial two years, against the target of 50647 kms of roads to be constructed, roads

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

were constructed upto 39 thousand kms only. The situation is similar in regard to Indira Awas Yojana. Against the target of 60 lakhs houses, only 28 lakh houses were constructed. I would like to give suggestions regarding Indira Awas Yojana... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is 6 o' clock now. I think instead of extending the time again and again, it is better to extend the time till the business is over.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling about Indira Awas Yojana. A number of my colleagues have recommended to increase the financial assistance under Indira Awas Yojana from Rs. 25 thousand to 35 thousand and from 35 thousand to 50 thousand. But things will not change by this only. I would like to suggest that there are many far-flung areas in the country where cost of expenditure is more. Even with further increase in it, it would not be possible to construct the house with 50 thousand rupees. Therefore, it is better to decide the amount of assistance under Indira Awas Yojana in proportion to the price rise and increase in the cost of expenditure in far-flung areas. Only then, this scheme would be successful.

Sir, now comes the food problem. There was a time when Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh were providing food for the entire country. What has happened today that the Punjab which was at number one in Paddy production has now gone down to number five and Chhattisgarh which was at number 20 is now placed at number one? Whether it has ever been considered? No. As I myself have studied agriculture and I also do farming, I would like to mention that the excessive use of fertilizers has made land infertile. I would like to cite an example also. A dying person cannot be saved by injecting coramine. Similarly, our land has lost its fertility. Now it is difficult to increase the production. The reason is regular use of fertilizers lead to decrease in organic contents in the soil. It affected the land in two ways. Not only the fertility has been affected but it has contaminated the ground water also.

Sir, a short while ago, an M.P. from Punjab was stating that Carcinogenic content have been found in the soil there. There is a need to ponder over it. Otherwise, we would not get the desired results in proportion to the funds we spent. I know the Government have enough funds. The Union Government also issued instructions to the State governments as the Government is aware of the problem of poverty in the country. It also issued warnings to State Governments but of no use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only two minutes Please allow me two minutes as I seldom speak. Luckly today I got opportunity so I got up to speak. Installation of one thousand hand pumps in each constituency has been demanded. Has anyone given a thought to the water strata? Are the water harvesting scheme being implemented properly? I would like to tell you that the water level in my constituency has gone down by four metres. All the hand pumps installed two years ago have become useless. What is the use of installing hand pumps since funds for re-boring are not being provided? The people who have got boring done this year would return after three years with compliant that their hand-pumps have failed. I would like to ask what arrangements have been made for water harvesting. Is not this work related to rural development? Until you give due consideration to it your schemes would not be successful.

Sir, now I would like to talk about Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. It would be great if every village gets electricity but would they get electricity merely by erecting electricity poles? No, they won't. Have you ever given thought to the gap between demand for electricity and the quantum of electricity generation in the country? If you look at the electricity generation in various States, you will find that very little electricity is being generated. I do not know much about other States but Uttar Pradesh goes without electricity for 14 hours even today. What would you do there? Would you spend many on electricity poles and rivers?

Sir, it is unfortunate that when the issue of power theft comes up, our officers always attribute the cause to line losses. There is a limit to line losses. What is happening? I would say that you should invest in new powerhouses instead of erecting electricity poles in villages because villages won't get electricity merely by putting up poles. I will take just one more minute. I am concluding. My number was first but I had to wait because another colleague was allowed to speak first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling out names as per the list.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I would like to request that hand-pumps should be installed only after checking the quality of water. This is necessary for the health of the people. It is my special request.

Secondly, development is not possible until there is people's participation. Hon. Rajiv Gandhi had implemented the Panchayat Raj Scheme. According to the World Bank Report, this scheme has been successful only in Kerala and West Bengal. Why did it fail in the other States? This happened because mere two States invited public participation.

The Digvijay Singh government in Madhya Pradesh ended the middlemenship of bureaucrats. In Kerala, the government came forward to educate the people about its execution. It made schemes for the villages and told the Villagers about the expenses. If work is done along these lines, we can definitely dream of a prosperous country.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, I support the demands and thank the government that it has started working for the villages under a good policy and thinking. All the members have praised him and the Minister deserves the praise since he has envisaged the development of villages under Bharat Nirman Yojana. All the villages in the country have been brought under coverage of NREGA but in my view the budget provision for NREGA is not sufficient. The budget allocation needs to be increased.

Sir, there are good things in it. But there are some points on which I would like to make suggestions. NREGA is a good scheme. It will help removing poverty and facilitate development in the country. However, there are some States where the progress under NREGA is very slow. The figures show that in Bihar its progress is very slow. The progress in the State to which the hon. Minister belongs is negligible and the situation is the same in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government formulated this scheme and entrusted its implementation to the State governments. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in February 2005. This is the third year of the implementation of the scheme. The progress under the scheme is so slow that the Prime Minister and the Minister cannot form any opinion as to why the percentage is so low. Why the State governments are not cooperating in this regard?

Secondly, there are discrepancies in the job cards being issued under the scheme as per rules and less job cards are being given to people. It would take a big time to amend the mistakes that have cropped up in job cards.

The third point is that there are many irregularities in payment to the workers. The rules have been laid down, yet the workers are being paid in an arbitrary manner. The payment is made even after 15 days. The Central Government formulated this scheme with an objective and all of us supported that and the scheme carried a very good message with it but the intended beneficiaries are not directly benefited. A very small percentage out of those is reaping the harvest.

Even today this scheme is not being widely publicized in the villages. The Central government authorized the State government and the executive agency of the State i.e. from B.D.O. to Collector and Chief secretary is not publicizing the scheme widely. The government should think about it. It is a matter of concern. Such a large amount of funds has been provided with an objective to benefit the people at large but the public is not aware of it. So far as MPs and MLAs are concerned we have been making efforts but only these efforts are not sufficient. The government agency will have to strive for public awareness about this scheme.

Sir, I would like to say one or two more things. Several hon'ble Members have referred to those things. I want to state that even after sixty years of independence the members are discussing shortage of water in the House. First and foremost there's no water and secondly whatever water is available it's not potable. The UPA government is providing funds for the villages and several good works have been executed during the tenure of UPA government, which were not executed by the perceding governments. The opposition members had not even thought of it, yet it is a matter of great concern that water is not available in the villages in the country. Without sermonizing I would like to say that providing water in all the villages should be the first priority of the government.

You say that the government of India has provided funds for construction of toilets but the toilets are not being constructed. One or two states have received awards for it but the toilets are not being constructed for the poor, about whom you talk often, in the country. One hon'ble Member was rightly speaking public toilets should also be constructed. You have enacted a law for BPL but that has not been implemented in Bihar or its implementation has been negligible it is not even 0.5 percent. You will have to delvedrive deed into how it is implemented.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

Sir, so far as Indira Awaas is concerned, the government of India laid down a provision and it was said that the list will be displayed after determination of norms for the below poverty line. The fund for Indira Awaas will be provided according to that list but the norms for below poverty line have not been finalized in Bihar. The poor are being harassed there. One has to pay five thousand rupees as bribe. I am speaking loudly in the House, though I should not speak in this manner. Such a provision was laid down to check the corruption that first determine the BPL and then distribute Indira Awaas accordingly but it was not implemented. Even today the poor are facing problems. The BPL has not been determined. Hon'ble member was saying that the norms for BPL were incorrect I do agree that if any correction in the laid down norms is necessary, it should be done but the State governments are not implementing those norms. It has not been implemented at all in Bihar. BPL has not been determined in Bihar...*(Interruptions)* Prosperity line is being determined. I want to say that hon. Minister and hon. Prime Minister should speak to the Chief Minister in this regard. The Chief Minister should be directed to submit the report within time after fixation of BPL. The State government has only to distribute the funds provided by the Central government. The Central government is the provider and the State government is only the distributor. These funds should reach the poor. But it is not being implemented in our State of Bihar.

I want to say one more thing, which is the most important. You said that you would turn the barren lands into fertile lands and distribute these lands among the poor and perform better. Whether the government have got record of barren lands in the country? How much have you implemented during the last one-year, how much lands have been made fertile and how much land are likely to be distributed among the poor for farming? I suggest that in this age of computer and internet land record should be prepared first More formulation of programme will not do, a system needs to be put in place for implementation of the programme and only then you will be able to perform better...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You were asking for five minutes.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: The agencies involved in execution of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana need to be impressed upon to work expeditiously.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

*PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I rise to support the demands for Grants in the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009.

Rural Development occupies place of pride in the process of economic development of India. Despite faster urbanization in the country over the past 60 years, India still lives in villages. A projection report of UN has opined that though most countries would see rapid urbanization. India would continue to leave the longest rural population in the world until 2050.

Therefore, the hurdles of the Government lie in rural development. Development is not merely a proven of raising the perception or national income but of developing people or enhancing the welfare of the people, especially, the poor, weaker section, SC, STs, OBCs and women. Poverty alleviation through income generation is the surest way of promoting rural lives. Provisions of basic opportunities such as water, road, electricity, education, health, sanitation can also strengthen the lives of the people.

Realizing the above rationale, the UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singhji and guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhiji has launched a number of flagship programmes in the area of income generation and augmentation of basic facilities to the people. True to its commitment made in the common minimum programme, the Government implemented the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in 200 rural districts in 2006; extended it to another 130 districts in 2007 and to all remaining districts further April 2008.

NREGP is really or revolutionary programme and no country in the world a programme of such a scale as NREGP is implemented. This programme translates the rights of employment as a legal right and any rural household member who is prepared to do unskilled work is assured of it for 100 days in a year earning about Rs 8000 per year. This Programme over a period of time, improving the rural people, would help to eradicate poverty in rural areas.

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, through self help groups helps to generate self employment and income to rural people. This will also help to eradicate

*Speech was laid on the Table.

poverty. The Indira Awas Yojana by providing houses to the people would help to solve the problems of shelterlessness in rurual areas. The scheme of Provision to urban Amenitites in rural areas (PURA) would strengthen the growth potential in rural cluster and thereby stop rural urban migration. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) would provide road connectivity in rural areas. Integrated water lands Development Programme and land reforms Programme would also contribute to rural development.

The above mentioned programmes of rural development would require sufficient funds for their implementation. The Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development has come before the house for the approval of Rs 31,524.05 crores as budgeted outlay. Investment in public enterprises would be about Rs 7000 crores and the Central Plan outlay would be Rs 38,500 crores. In all, the expenditure of the rural development for this year would be Rs 77,024.06 crores and I am happy to approve this demand for grants.

While approving these grants, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to some of the important aspects of implementation.

The implementation of NREGP in some districts has attracted audit objections and revealed deficiencies. These should be carefully analyzed and remedial measures later improve the programme. The involvement of reported NGOs and external agencies in the implementation of the scheme and strict action against the corrupt and guilty can stem the mismanagement of the programme.

In the case of self employment through SHGs, adequate attention should be paid to link credit with SHGs and marketing and technological support to SHGs. SHGs should be encouraged to produce more goods and services and they should be marketed promptly.

There should be proper coordination between all schemes of rural development like NREGP Barath Nirman, Sarvashiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission etc. A logistic approach to rural development should be our endeavour rather than taking isolated action. There should also be coordination between elected representatives and social representatives represented by NGOs in the implementation of schemes.

All schemes should be properly monitored and evolutionally competent external agencies so that we are able to get maximum advantage.

We should set up an effective mechanism dedicated to rural development programmes from state to panchayat levels. Rural development should focus on creating move employment opportunities in the non farm sector.

There are huge unspent colonies under various schemes of rural development in the past. This has to be avoided. The monthly expenditure plan (2007-08) has not been followed. There is one urgent need for strengthening the expenditure monitoring machinery with the latest technology.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards certain issues related to rural development. I would like the hon. Minister to refer to page No. 7 of the report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development. I quote a few lines from the copy of the said report regarding the outlay provided therein for rural development:

[English]

"In 2007-08 and 2008-09, the allocation provided is not proportionate to the outlays approved for the Eleventh Plan. During the first two years of the Eleventh Plan Rs. 59,000 crore, just 30.2 per cent of the total outlay of Rs. 1,94,933.28 crore, has been allocated; whereas the proportionate allocation during the first two years should have been 40 per cent of the total outlay, Rs. 77,973 crore which means that Rs. 18,973 crore less have been allotted during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan."

[Translation]

The Minister of Rural Development always talks about the villages, the poor and the farmers but he will have to explain as to why the outlay has been so less. The Committee recommended:—

[English]

"The Committee strongly recommends to the Department to provide the allocation commensurate with the requirements under different schemes as proposed by the Department with a view to ensure inclusive growth so that the benefits of the growing economy are shared by the poorest of the poor in the country."

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

[Translation]

It shows that the government is not giving proper attention to the rural development.

I want to refer to another issue and that is related to unspent balance. We will have to see what the committee has said about the unspent balance till 31.12.2007. The amount of 11,430.78 crore rupees as unspent balance is not a small amount. It puts a question mark on the functioning of this department. Both the State government as well as the Central government are responsible for this. Their monitoring system is not right, hence the committee comments:—

[English]

Committee have repeatedly—the word used is 'repeatedly' - been expressing concern over huge unspent balances under various schemes of the Department. As per the information provided by the Department, Rs. 11,430.78 crore is lying unspent under different schemes as on 31.12.2007.

[Translation]

I do not want to go into its details. Hon'ble Minister should clarify it. The committee says further:—

[English]

"The Committee while expressing a serious concern over the huge unspent balances, would like to strongly recommend that the Government should analyse the position, State-wise, and take the corrective action accordingly. Besides, focussed attention need to be given to the backward States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and others. There was mention about recurring features, etc.

[Translation]

I would like the hon. Minister to explain as to what are its reason.

[English]

The Committee feel that there is an urgent need to strengthen the expenditure monitoring machinery with latest technology so that the expenditure progress reports and the proposals are achieved from the implementing agencies in time.

[Translation]

The hon. Minister, Sir, the report of the Standing Committee contains various paragraphs. But I would not like to go in details with regard to the remaining paragraphs because of time constraints. He should go in details. The committee constituted by this House comprises of 35 members. And he does not consider the recommendations of the said committee. His department doesn't want to carryout any change is that and the Government do not want to pay attention to it. I feel it will be highly unfair. I would also like to deliberate upon inadequate quantity of food fixed on monthly basis. More than 80 thousand in Godhchiroli, the district I hail from the Chandrapur, Gondia etc. are suffering from Malnutrition, which include the children of first stage to fourth stage, who are on the verge of death. The number of such children is more than five thousand. Is it the way to rule or govern the country? The Government releases foodgrains but it doesn't reach the beneficiaries. I have been to a number of villages. Everything has been exposed on television. The Government allots foodgrains through Anganwadi's. When I visited a village, I did not find any trace as to where the meal was cooked. I have taken photographs even. If I am given time, I can show the photographs. Therefore what I mean is that some States provide good cooked meal. It is so in Gujarat. But, it is not so in Maharashtra, the State I hail from. The department of rural developmen or women and child welfare make use of entire funds.

The provision for potable water comes under Bharat Nirman. Since beginning five things, *i.e.* employment, food, shelter, drinking water etc. have been considered essential in rural perspective. Adequate funds have been spent for providing clean drinking water. But, I would like to know —whether the villages have been provided with clean drinking water? Has it been made available in inhabitations deprived of it? Hydrocale is common in my area and it is a water born disease. Does the Government want the people to die of such disease? The Government should make it clear as to what is its intention? 60 years have elapsed, still the Government could not make provision for safe drinking water for the people, then it is matter of shame for all the Members. Our accountability is not just confined to spending the funds allocated by the Government. Our responsibility is to provide water. 72% of our population comprises of women and children. A separate Ministry was created in 2006 to look after this section of our population. I have a report of Gondia district as to how the cost efficient houses have been constructed. The Central Government has deputed an officer there? The report states that some of the agencies, *i.e.* NGOs constructed one thousand houses each. As a Chairman, I asked the concerned officer to suspend eight NGOs.

No action has been taken so far. Though I convene 3-4 meetings in a year, but we are unable to get desired results. They have no monitoring system. And in absence of it, the State Government act arbitrarily. The banks have been financing such cost efficient houses.. .*(Interruptions)* It is the factual position.

Sir, another important issue is providing self employment. This programme has failed. I had been to Bhandara to attend a meeting. I came to know that in whole year only 70 people got- benefit under the said programme. In my district, Gondia, only 1700 got the benefit of self employment. The cards for the people have been prepared, but there is no provision for providing employment. In this regard, the standing committee has stated that the Government has not empowered the committee in this regard. The officer concerned for providing employment does not take any action. Village Sarpanch Tehsildar and BDO provide employment only after one thousand works get sanctioned. The Government have extended the said scheme to 600 districts. The Government have announced prestigious schemes but how far these have been implemented successfully? Therefore, the Government should explain as to what the ground reality is? If the hon. Minister has no exact information in this regard, I would urge him to intimate it by post as to in 600 districts in the country, how many persons have been benefited under self employment scheme?

Indira Awas Yojana, a scheme meant for providing houses to the poor, has been much talked about. The prices of cement and iron have increased, still the Government allocates Rs. 28,000 for a dwelling unit and it is almost impossible to construct said unit with this amount. Therefore, it should be doubled as the prices of raw material have doubled. The hon. Minister should make an announcement regarding its hike in this very House, otherwise, I will oppose it. As Members of his party have also demanded, it should be increased to at least Rs. 50,000/- so far as death of people caused by malnutrition in district Godhchiroli and Chandrapur is concerned, I would urge for appointing a special IAS officer there or to hand it over to the Planning Commission, I am not saying this all just to criticise the Government. I know the hon. Minister has very good plans, but there may be others who do not allow him to function independently and properly. But, only good plans won't do, these will have to be implemented. He is a very good person, concerned about the poor. But, if he fails to deliver the goods public will curse him as he is responsible. Therefore, he should bring drastic changes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Govt provides Rs. 600-900 for constructing a toilet in rural area. It is quite inadequate. Please consider this also.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, for the information of the Members, I would like to state that now it has been increased to Rs. 1500 from Rs. 600.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rs. 1500 is also inadequate.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, it is inadequate. I know it, yet I have said so for information of the hon. Members.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: It should be increased to Rs. 3000.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please check it up, I think, it is still Rs. 900 only.

[English]

*SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil); Sir I wish to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development for his untiring and strenuous efforts taken in the matter of development of Rural India.

India lives in villages, this maxims is kept in sprit word and Act while formulating rural schemes and projects. The priorities are also being accurately addressed while exercising the financial allotments. Rural India is beginning to experience the results of 4 years of renewed efforts in the matter of infrastructural developments such as Rural Housing, Rural Roads, Sanitation, Electricity, Watersheds and Irrigation etc. of late various projects are being implemented and many more are in offing to make even the remotest village of India taste the fruits of Modern High Technological Developments.

Despite all these achievements to the credit of the Govt. there are still certain areas to which the pointed attention of the Ministry is to be focused. The first and foremost one is the Tardy allotment of the amount for the schemes. Constructing Houses under IAY., Say Rs. 37500/- including state share is a poultry some it should be considerably increased to Rs. 1.50 lac at least to construct a House with a plight area of 400 Sq. ft. It is to be noted such an amount is been allotted in Kerala

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri A.V. Bellarmin]

State. Also the allotments of all Rural Development Schemes should be increased, secondly, the newly introduced scheme which is the pet child of the UPA Govt. the Care should be exercised prudently in identifying and selecting the works under the scheme. Formulations, maintenance and renovation of water bodies should be given preference.

Lastly, the objective of the scheme to provide employment to rural House Hold to be kept in mind while executing the selected work. That is to say direct manual labour should be put into use avoiding contracting system and heavy mechanisms. Before I conclude I would like to invite the attention of the Govt. towards a fact of serious concern. It is authoritatively reported that in most part of the country. Paise 17 only reaching out to the target end out of the allotted 1 Rupee under the various development schemes. The grounds involved in the filferage of 83 paise should be probed into. A suitable mechanism with prosecuting powers should be constituted to moniter and keep in vigil upon the spending over the schemes. So that the peoples money reaches out to the people in full.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi) : Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi said, "India lives in its villages". In order to realize that dream to bring about a change in the lives of those who live in our rural areas and to enhance the standard of living of about 70% of our population living in our villages and also to improve the living condition of those who live below the poverty line, Union Ministry of Rural Development has been apportioned fund allocation. I would like to point out that it is not adequate and not at all enough.

The tax revenue of the Union Government has increased in the past year to the tune of 25.12%. But the Union Ministry of Rural Development that has got tc improve the lot of 70% of our population has got its allocation increased by a mere 10.52%.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was implemented in 330 districts of the country while the remaining districts had SGRY implementation. Now both the schemes have been merged and introduced in all the 604 districts in the country from the first of April this year. But a mere Rs. 200 crores have been allocated to meet the additional requirement and that may not be sufficient. It is a sorry state affairs. Hence I urge upon the Government to allocate more funds for this scheme.

Similarly the fund allocation for Rural Development during the Eleventh Five year Plan period is less by Rs. 18,973 crores. A scheme that has given rise to great hopes has been allotted with inadequate funds. I have a doubt whether we would be able to achieve what we aim at.

Seven hours of hard physical labour in the open on the dry lands in the scorching heat would prove tedious. Round the year the toil and moil for all the seven hours rendering labour is a heavy burden. Such rural agricultural labourers who get paid on a task oriented basis must get enhanced wages and duration of work hours must be reduced to 6 hours. There is also no uniformity through out India and the conditions vary from state to state. In Kerala, such labourers get Rs.125/-. But in Tamil Nadu where there is much of publicity to this scheme the rural labour get only Rs.80/- as minimum wages. Hence I urge upon the Government to increase it to Rs.125/- as uniform wages through out a country. I would like to point out that this anomaly must go.

About four crores of people have got identity card under this scheme. These job card holders must be extended with social security cover including insurance cover. Long term permanent activities like laying of roads and construction of buildings have been given a go by and jobs temporary in nature are taken up under this scheme. Additional jobs on long term basis must be identified under this National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which needs to be streamlined,

Indira Awas Yojana is a useful scheme for which an allocation of only Rs.5400 crores have been made whereas Rs.8000 crores of rupees was expected to be allotted for this scheme. The grants under this scheme has been increased from Rs.25000 to Rs.30000 and in hilly areas this has been enhanced to Rs.27500 from Rs. 38500. In some states further increased grants are paid to the beneficiaries of the scheme. Prices of cement and steel has increased today. In Tamil Nadu cost of construction materials like sand have increased three fold. It is just not possible to construct a house measuring 210 sq. feet even at a cost of rupees one lakh. The hope for a house construction should not end up as a dream for the poor. Hence I urge upon the Government to increase this allocation for the Indira Awas Yojana. It

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

is also necessary to ensure that such earmarked funds reach the needy fully with out being pilfered.

At least half of the women population of this country are benefited from the women self help groups. This good scheme must be utilized properly to improve the conditions of women. Such women who join such SHG's are extended with loans on rotational basis in the beginning and some get financial assistance. But efforts at co-ordinating both the training and infrastructure facilities are not there. Well Co-ordinated measures are necessary to ensure proper utilization of allocation funds.

We have known of tropical line and equatorial line but no one knows fully about the poverty line. The BPL figures identified in 2002 ought to have been updated in 2007. But it has not been done yet. Hence there is a confusion all over the country in identifying people living below the poverty line. Hence I urge upon the Government to prepare exact data of people living below poverty line.

There is a good Minister for this Ministry which aims high. But he has not got adequate budgetary support. Recording this anguish of mine, let me conclude my speech.

18.35 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-09. While we debate and discuss about the various programmes under the Ministry of Rural Development and the Demands of this Ministry, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of this august House the great contributions made by the late Indira Gandhi in this regard. Her *Garibi Hatao* slogan and the programmes associated with it were one of the most important milestones in the history of the development of rural India. It was the programmes enunciated by her under *Garibi Hatao* that led to the foundation for all the developments that have taken place in this respect over the years. Again, after her, the late Rajiv Gandhi carried on with those programmes and now due to the initiative and effort of the UPA Chairperson and our reverend leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the programmes have found a new boost, particularly under the Bharat Nirman programme. Also, the NREG programme came into being because of her directions to the UPA and the nation.

From this year the scope of NREG has been enlarged and from 200 districts the number has been increased to 596 districts. Under this scheme, a member from each and every household in the rural area, those who are poor and marginalized, would have guaranteed work for 100 days in a year. In no country of the world such a scheme has neither been contemplated ever, nor is in vogue. Owing to the rural poor and marginalized households getting guaranteed work for 100 days in a year, the poorest of the poor in the country are being benefited. The scope of the scheme has been enlarged to cover all districts in the country because of the effort made by the young General Secretary of the Congress Party, Shri Rahul Gandhi met the hon. Prime Minister along with his other young colleagues and made a demand that the entire country should be covered by this scheme. Today the scheme is being implemented all over the country with great vigour.

Sir, I would like to inform this august House that around 3.23 crore of households were covered under this scheme in the year 2007-08 as against 2.20 crore households in the previous year. These many people have benefited out of this programme. Now with the scope of the scheme being enlarged, a sum of Rs. 16,000 crore has been earmarked for this scheme. There were a few problems here and there at the start of the scheme. This is quite natural as any new programmes will have some initial problems. But this programme is working very well, though some of our friends and also people in the rural areas are asking for raising the amount from Rs. 80 per day as they consider this amount to be insufficient to meet the needs. So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Chairperson of the UPA and also to the hon. Minister of Rural Development to consider raising this amount from Rs. 80 per day to Rs. 125/- per day. That will be good.

I do not want to go into too many details of other areas. Another important area is drinking water. Again, I want to inform the House on this point. Our friends on the other side said that we have not done enough for the people. We have done maximum for the people compared to the NDA Government. In the last four years of their rule, Rs. 8505 crore were earmarked for this sector. But under the UPA Government, under the guidance of our beloved leader, Rs. 18,030 crore have been earmarked. This is our achievement. This is the programme under the Eleventh Plan and Rs. 39,490 crore has been earmarked for it. Our Finance Minister has announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission will have enough funds as and when there will be a

[Shri V.K. Thangkabalu]

requirement and there need not be any worry about it. But at the same time, there is another issue which is important, namely, housing for the poor. The Indira Awas Yojana has been one of the noble schemes which have been implemented. Last year, about 51.77 lakh houses were built as against 41 lakh houses.

Coming to subsidy, we have increased the subsidy from Rs. 12,500 to Rs. 15,000 to every beneficiary. Then, the increase from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 35,000 is not enough. In today's condition, under the Indira Awas Yojana programme, at least it should be made as Rs. 75,000 per house and only then, the poorest of the poor will be getting the benefit. This is due to the price rise today.

Another point is, in the Budget speech, our hon. Finance Minister had announced that an additional amount upto Rs. 20,000 will be given to people with four per interest for the purpose of loan. Instead of giving Rs. 20,000, it should be added in the component itself.

Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, this is another important programme where all the roads are connected and the rural areas are linked to the main cities. We would like to see that this programme should be implemented with more vigour. In fact, we, MPs, used to go to the rural areas and discuss with the district officers regarding this programme. Every year, there is damage of roads which should be contained immediately. The national programme should be remodified and we should see to it that, under the road development programme, when a road is laid, it should work for at least 40 years as per norms. But nowadays, it is not even working for two or three years. And during rain, the road gets damaged. This should not happen. There should be strict vigil on the part of the Central Government and directions should go to all the State Governments in this regard. The State Government should implement it in a rational way. Only then, the roads which are built with a noble cause will be in a good condition for the welfare of the people of this great land.

The other issue is about SJSY. We have integrated all the programmes under IRDP and this programme is now giving weightage to the vulnerable sections of the society, that is, 50 per cent of it goes to the SCs/STs, 40 per cent goes to women and 3 per cent goes to the disabled. Under this programme, maximum component, that is, the subsidy component, comes to Rs. 7500 and it should be increased to Rs. 10,000 because this is meant for the poorest of the poor, vulnerable sections of the society, that is, the SCs and STs. They should get the benefit of this programme.

Likewise, regarding SHGs, today, we are going to integrate 30 lakh SHGs with the insurance policy. It is one of the good ideas. Fifty per cent of the people are women in this country. They need more and more benefit. In Tamil Nadu, the hon. Chief Minister has increased their salary, their perquisites. Likewise, I urge upon the Government of India and the hon. Minister to increase the salary of SGH people to at least that of the minimum living standard of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 so that they will be able to work among the rural women and that they are empowered. This is another important area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thangkabalu, please conclude. There are some new and young Members who want to speak on this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : The SHGs play a very vital role and these SHGs have to be given more weightage by giving them additional support. If the Ministry gives them additional support, the rural poverty will be eliminated because they are the tools. They can go to the people; they can meet the people; and they can popularise the Government programmes. They have good linkages in our country and they should be supported by this Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I had to interrupt you. All the parties except the Congress have exhausted their allotted time. Even then I have a long list of Members who want to speak. I am sorry I cannot accommodate them. Already we have spent more than six hours on this discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, we have been sitting so long. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So kind of you. It is your job. It is everybody's job to sit here. No charity is done to anybody. Thank you for your patience.

Those hon. Members who wish to lay their written speeches on the Table, they are welcome to do so.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude in three minutes and as per your orders lay my speech on the Table. Today the House is discussing the demands for Grants pertaining to Ministry of Rural Development. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. The father of nation Mahatma Gandhi had once said that the soul of India lives in our villages. It is a vital fact which is relevant even after 60 years of our independence. Had the feelings of Mahatma Gandhi given due respect after Independence, the country would not have been facing such a situation. Today, there is shortage of drinking water in rural areas and even toilets are not available for women. Students are still compelled to sit on mats and neither furniture nor electricity or drinking water is there for them. Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad ji is trying to change this picture. He has taken up the challenging task of "Bharat Nirman". However, Bharat Nirman is not possible only by formulating schemes on papers or by having good intentions only. Had the Government really wanted "Bharat Nirman", more funds should have been provided to the schemes initiated by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji during the tenure of NDA Government and the scheme would have been implemented vigorously to fulfil the dream of "Bharat Nirman".

I would conclude after saying two-three things. There are 2 lakh 27 thousand 697 Gram Panchayats in the country. Whether any model has been prepared in this regard? Schemes are formulated by the centre for Gram Panchayats. Population varies in Gram Panchayats. It may have a population of one thousand, 2 thousand or some may have 12 thousand but a common scheme is implemented for all of them. Houses are being provided under Indira Awas Yojna but these are allotted in Gram Sabhas. Poor people get nothing, but middlemen manage to get these houses, their price is Rs. 25 - 27 thousand. On one hand people are distressed due to rise in prices on the other the amount under Indira Awas Yojna is a very meager one. Therefore, it should be raised to at least 50 thousand rupees so that poor people could construct their houses and get the benefit from this scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is another scheme. Hon'ble members have expressed their unhappiness over their role in this scheme. It is very insulting for them if being a member of Parliament they are not provided the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for the roads or to inaugurate these roads. Even their recommendations are not saught. They visit their constituencies and conduct tours also. They know as to where road should be constructed but the department is not accepting their recommendations. Besides, the quality work is not being done under this scheme. The quality is poor to the extent that in case of a construction of 10 km. long road, the initially constructed 5 kms of it will chip out before constructing the rest of 5 kms. please pay attention to it. The women employees of self help groups get work in villages but markets are not available for them. They will not come to Delhi's Pragati Maidan for marketing. Therefore, please set up markets for them in development blocks.

In the end, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister has got a very good department and he himself is connected to rural area. I would like to say something about Chhattisgarh. He had visited Chhattisgarh and appreciated the work undertaken there. Apart from Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, other programmes of rural development are being implemented there effectively. The only shortcoming is that quality work is not being done under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. Under Rural Sanitation Programme Rs. 1500 are being provided by the Central Government and the State Government is also contributing the same amount. However, a toilet cannot be constructed with an amount of Rs. 3000/- You will be embarrassed to see that there is no roof over these toilets and a curtain of sack cloth has been put there. How our sisters and mothers would use these toilets. Therefore, sufficient amount should be provided so that a quality work could be undertaken and funds may not be wasted. The Minister has good intensions and has a strong determination. With all honesty and confidence he accomplishes the work he undertakes. The dream of Bharat Nirman would be realized only when our villages would be prosperous and flourishing with harmony among the villagers. Villages would prosperous only when their basic needs will be fulfilled.

*Sir, discussion is going on the demands for grants pertaining to Ministry of Rural Development. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had stated that the soul of India lives in villages. There is a vital truth in this fact which is relevant today also. Prosperous and flourishing villages can boost over all development

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... This part of the Speech was laid on the Table

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

in urban areas as both urban and rural areas are complementary to each other. Equal development in both these sectors would built a strong and strengthened India. Only then Bharat Nirman would take a place.

Sir, our's is a democratic country where 2,27,697 Gram Panchayats, 5913 district committees and 457 district councils are functioning and 34 lakh elected public representatives are working in them. If asked. they all would be agreed to the suggestions given by all the Members.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards some schemes, please pay attention.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana: This scheme was initiated by our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji with a view that providing road connectivity to rural areas will boost the development of village and villagers. However, the situation under this scheme is that against the target of constructing 674 km- long roads in the initial two years only 394.76 kms have been constructed till now.

Due attention has not been paid towards the quality of roads under this scheme. In some areas of Chhattisgarh, roads are yet to be completed but have started chipping out. Please conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Indira Awas—Hon. Minister. Sir, Indira Awas Yojana is meant for the poor homeless people. The number of houses sanctioned is already less than the needed in Gram Panchayats and to worsen the situation, the middlemen charge a lot of money. Innocent villagers are conned by the middlemen. It would be more appropriate if under the Indira Aawas Yojana the Government formed an agency which selected one place in each panchayat and provided drinking water and electricity facility in that area. This scheme which has been running since the year 1985 has been a total failure even today and a budget should be fixed for the same. There is still time if we left the old things behind. A target of constructing 60 lakh houses was set in order to bring reforms in this scheme but only 28 lakh 69 thousand houses could be constructed. Even today the poor are forced to spend their nights outside the homes and in cow shelter of the rich.

Bharat Nirman: You have taken up the task of constructing toilets in the rural areas and have also envisioned a picture of village and the Gram Panchayat where toilets are constructed at every level and then to declared these villages as Nirmal Gram and get them awarded by hon'ble President. But the amount fixed by the Government is Rs. 1500 only and the Government of Chhattisgarh is also contributing Rs. 1500. They constructed toilets just to show but these toilets constructed with Rs. 3000 are not usable and even today both men and women have to defecate in the open. BPL survey should be conducted in villages once again because although the names of uppercaste people are there in the list but the names of poor people do not appear in the same. The criteria for the survey should be changed and those who appear poor by their standard of living should be added to the list instead of going by the amount of land they own. In Chhattisgarh 34 lakh families have been identified as poor.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a very good scheme brought by you and a good amount of work has been done in every district of Chhattisgarh under this scheme but there should be flexibility regarding the ratio of expenditure *i.e.* 60 percent for employment and 40 percent for equipments and machinery keeping in view the location and the works proposed to be undertaken. Construction of boundary walls of schools and other Government buildings should be allowed under this scheme. This will enhance security of these buildings and prevent land encroachments.

Market places should be constructed in all the development blocks to enable the *self help groups* to get access to markets for selling the products manufactured by them.

Land Reform Scheme: Sir, this scheme is very good and it will help proper maintenance of the land records. The work is going on at a very slow pace in some states therefore the same should be expedited.

Sir, as per the 11th Five year plan paper, the progress being made in the Bharat Nirman Programme is not satisfactory and in a large number of areas progress of works is far behind the target and at some places it seems that the will to achieve the targets is missing. Only 5 percent progress has been registered in the areas where the quality of drinking water was to be improved.

Rural School: Sir, drinking water and toilet facility should be made available in the rural schools because

children over there do not bring water bottles with them as a result of which they go home repeatedly if there is no water in the school which disrupts their studies therefore, facilities of toilets and drinking water should be provided in these schools. Even after 60 years of independence the village children study on mats in schools. Furniture should be made available to them and alongwith this, electricity should also be provided so that fans can be installed in class rooms.

Employment Guarantee Scheme: Seems to be a failure as funds amounting to Rs. 15 thousand crore remained unutilized till 29 January.

Health Services in the villages in the country are extremely poor. If primary health centers are available then there are no doctors and if there are doctors then there are no buildings as a result of which the people do not get proper treatment timely.

Sir, I would like to say that the gap between rich and poor is widening. Though the rural land is productive but the people are poor. This is nothing but ill fate of this country.

In the end, through you, I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister that if he wants the villages to prosper then cow protection and plantation of Mango and Mahua trees should be promoted. The childhood that used to be spent under the shades of these trees has got lost therefore measures should be taken to promote greenery in these villages.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Karuna Shukla, thank you very much for your cooperation.

Now, I call Shri Vijay Bahuguna. Since you are a New Member, please conclude your speech within five minutes.

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, I rise to support the budgetary demands of the Ministry of Rural Development.

The UPA Government has done commendable work in redressing the burning problems of the rural population of our country.

Sir in a ratio of 75: 25 per cent and in a ratio of 92: 8 per cent, the Central Government is flowing funds to the States under the DAVP and DDP schemes and under the National Rural Guarantee Scheme. Sir, what concerns is that the amount which is going from the Centre is not being properly utilized. In fact, it is being mismanaged. Now the only option that we have is that we take very stringent actions against the delinquent officers like the Election Commission has the power, during the course of elections, to take action against the officers. Unless and until there is an amendment in the Act and the power is vested that we recommend action against officers who are guilty of negligence and corruption in enforcing the Central schemes including the National Rural Guarantee Scheme, perhaps the purpose for which these schemes have been enunciated will not be fruitful.

Sir, on this occasion I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the serious drinking water problem which is being faced by the people living in the remote Himalayas. Both Ganga and Yamuna flow from my constituency, but nearly 68 per cent of the villagers are suffering from drinking water problem. The only option we have is that the Central Government prepares drinking water schemes through lift irrigation and we pump waters from the rivers so that there is sufficient water in the villages. The State Governments are not spending any money on these schemes and they are being spoon-fed by the Central Government. So we have to see that the State Governments also contribute in these social welfare schemes which the Central Government has enunciated.

Sir, the other problem is that during monsoons there is tremendous soil erosion, as a result of which, the cultivable agricultural land is being reduced in the entire Himalayan belt. For this we have to have major programmes for watershed management. So, for all the Himalayan States, the Government of India should come out with a policy and programme that we can conserve this water during monsoons so that there is less of soil erosion and the life becomes easier for the people living in the Himalayas. If we have to prosper then we have to look at the rural India.

I congratulate the hon. Minister and the entire UPA Government for the commendable work that they have done in bringing about a total facelift to the agriculturists and the people living in the rural India. We can see millions of smiles now especially on the face of women who have been benefited by these schemes.

With these words, I express my gratitude.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish to compliment you and your speech. You have done well.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I support the Rural Development Ministry's demand for grants for the year 2008-09. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a very important scheme of the Government. But as many members have pointed-out earlier the entire funding for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is being done by the Union Government but the departments executing the work are under State Governments and the local MLAs and the State Governments get the credit for works undertaken under the scheme. Hence, the members have been demanding of old that the names of local MPs should be indicated on the board announcing the works being done under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I feel it is very necessary and I support this demand. In my constituency the work has already been almost completed in keeping with the norms regarding the population of villages, a minimum distance of 500 m between two villages etc. But I have myself written to the Minister about Western Uttar Pradesh where there are many small villages with a population of two or three hundred and where the distance between two villages is too less. Such villages have not been brought under coverage of this scheme. I have recommended my entire amount under the MPLADS for construction of rural roads and even so, a lot of work remains to be done. I had also requested the hon'ble Minister to provide some assistance to my area so that roads could be built to link villages which do not confirm to the prescribed norms of having a population of 1000 and being 500 metres apart from each other. I ask the hon'ble Minister to grant this demand.

Secondly, the beneficiaries get funds under the Total Sanitation Programme in which a Rs. 400 is paid by the beneficiaries, Rs. 600 by the State Government and Rs. 900 is contributed by the Union Government to make a total of Rs. 1900. As far as I know, Rs. 1900 would not be sufficient to buy one thousand bricks in the present times, so how would it be possible to construct a toilet with this amount? Hence, the beneficiaries apply for funds under two or three fake names and are only then able to construct one toilet. Therefore, the minimum funding for one toilet under the total sanitation scheme should be raised to Rs. 5000 since prices of cement, bricks and iron bars have increased considerably these days. Hence, a practical approach should be adopted towards construction of toilets. Otherwise, construction of toilets with the present funding is simply not feasible or those toilets would be constructed on paper and the people would be deprived of the benefits of the scheme.

Similarly, although small cities do not fall under Rural Development Ministry, if the sewerage system for these cities is planned at district headquarters it would yield better results. Besides, the complaints that are made regarding the works undertaken under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are not redressed in a proper manner. The officials who are sent to look into the problems file false reports to the effect that the roads have been found in a good condition. But, it is not so in fact. None of those officers deem it necessary to talk to us or to call us to discuss the situation. They just make a cursory examination. Hon'ble Members have emphasized that the roads are not being constructed in keeping with the prescribed quality norms. I have been appointed the Chairman of the Committee but the bureaucrats do not pay heed to my authority as Chairman of the Committee, as Chairman of the District Monitoring Committee. The officers sent by the Union Government collude with the local district officials and suppress the facts in their reports. Hence, any complaints made by the public representatives should be dealt with in all seriousness.

19.00 hrs.

This issue should be examined with equal seriousness. As many Members have pointed out issuance of fake job cards under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be checked. There should be some guidelines to ensure appropriate use of job cards,

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You spoke well, Mr. Munshi Ram.

[Translation]

*SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE (Dhule): I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. I support you and will take up some issues very briefly as there is shortage of time. The Panchayats in my constituency Dhule and in Maharashtra in general, are reluctant to implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme through the Gram Panchayats. There are definitely some shortcomings which need to be

*Speech was laid on the Table.

addressed. Farflung tribal areas should be given priority for coverage under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. My constituency Dhule is a hilly tribal area. A proposal for Rs. 100 crore was submitted for that area out of which merely Rs. 19 crore have been sanctioned. Under Indira Awas Yojana, BPL card holders are proposed to be benefited on the basis of laid down norms but the second survey of BPL population is not accurate. Due to this reason many of the poor are deprived of the benefits of the scheme. Hence, another survey is necessary. The amount of income in funds sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojana from Rs. 28,500 to Rs. 35,000 is also not adequate. In view of the cost of cement, bricks and iron this raise is insufficient. It needs to be increased to Rs. one Lakh.

Under the Rural Water Supply Scheme the villagers have to contribute 10 percent of the total funding for the scheme. But, in fact, this amount is paid by the contractors and they carry out the work as well. Drinking Water Committee is run only on papers. The committee exists on papers but the work is done by contractors. The 10 percent village share under Swa-Jal Dhara Yojana is also applicable in the tribal sub plan areas. But tribal villages cannot afford to pay this amount. Hence, the drinking water scheme under the tribal sub-plan should not be a contributory scheme. Then the contractors will be out of the scene.

There should be schemes to facilitate sale of end products produced under Swarn Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana. For example, the food products such as chilli, turmeric and spices etc. produced under Swarozgar schemes by the residential ashrams or hostels being operated under tribal development or social welfare schemes should be marketed through Government run outlets. Only then a market for such products would be created.

There is a lot of bungling in funds granted for individuals under the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Scheme run by the Department of Tribal Development.

Contractors have been engaged for supplying cows, buffaloes and goats provided to the tribals during 2005-06 to 2007-08 whereas there is no provision for engaging contractors. The contractors have been given 45,000/- rupees and 30,000/- rupees respectively for supplying two buffaloes and two cows but all the cattle supplied by the contractors to the tribals in Maharashtra were not Producing milk and some of those died or were sold by the beneficiaries without spending a penny for the fodder.

The Central government needs to look into it so that the tribal people are benefited in real sense. How many animals were provided in Maharashtra and how many of them are still with the beneficiaries. A monitoring committee needs to be set up under the chairmanship of Member of Parliament to monitor the Tribal Sub-plan Fund so as to ensure proper development of the tirbals.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha. You are new to this House, but not so new. You are welcome to speak, please. You have four minutes.

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (Mormugao): I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009. I must congratulate and appreciate the efforts of the UPA Government to alleviate the sufferings of 70 per cent of India living in rural areas. If the influx of people from rural to urban areas in search of employment is to be stopped or arrested, it is only by improving the lot of the poor living in rural areas.

It is heartening to note that an amount of Rs. 49,450 crore has been earmarked for this Ministry bringing the Budget allocation only second to Defence. For the first time, the Government has brought National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme whereby employment of a minimum of 100 days is assured to every unemployed citizen of this country. Also, the other existing schemes like Indira Awas Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are very effective.

However, when you see the implementation of these schemes in the country, only 51 per cent of rural housing is achieved, 25 per cent of rural roads have been built and only 52 per cent of drinking water supply has been achieved. This only shows that there might be some inherent deficiencies in their implementation which must be corrected. Considering Indira Awas Yojana which is to provide shelter to the poor who are living below the poverty line, the amount earmarked for a new house and for upgradation of the existing houses has to be enhanced, as the amount is not enough due to existing prices of cement and steel. It also depends on the location of the site of the house from the existing roads because carrying the material on the head load will automatically increase the cost.

[Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha]

I would like this august House to realise some factual ground realities in implementation of the existing schemes. Every State is under different stages of development depending upon local economy, literacy ratio, urbanisation, industrialisation and historical and geographical background. Therefore, the schemes need flexibility in their application depending upon local scenario and the needs of the people.

Referring to Goa, which is a tourist State, where the literacy rate is very high, the road connectivity is good and the villages are semi-urban, we are not able to implement these schemes in toto, as the wages are high and our requirements are different. Therefore, first of all, minimum wages have to be increased. Goa needs wider roads and garbage free clean environment. Since the parameters of Central schemes, as mentioned earlier, are stringent, the benefit of the schemes mostly goes to the migrant population from the neighbouring States and not to the local unemployed educated youth who shun accepting the menial unskilled jobs.

In view of these practical constraints, I will urge the Ministry to modify the rural development schemes or to give flexibility to the States to address the local needs and psyche to suit the prevailing social conditions of the people. In short, the schemes should be State-specific and not generalistic. Therefore, while making modifications, State Governments need to be consulted to make the schemes more successful.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I wish to call two hon. Members if they commit to complete their speeches within three minutes each. If you do not commit to do so, please do not stand up. Now, Shrimati Sujatha.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Can I lay my speech on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Of course. I have already given you the permission.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Sir, there are many schemes under the Ministry of Rural Development. But over the years, the allocation of funds for rural development has been found to be shrinking. This has been affecting the rural poor adversely.

The present Central unit cost of the Indira Awas Yojana is Rs. 35,000. But the steep increase of the basic materials makes it impossible to complete the work within this budget. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the amount adequately, at least to Rs. 50,000 to general category and Rs. 1 lakh to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Secondly, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the width of the road is fixed at 8 metres. But Kerala being a densely populated State with per capita land availability being low, there is a difficulty in fulfilling the 8 metre norm. So, I request that it should be changed to 6 metres in view of the particular situation in the State of Kerala. Then, in the case of habitat connectivity roads, there is no provision to include the expenses on the bridges. Kerala has a long stretch of sea shore and a number of bridges are to be built between roads connecting habitats. Therefore, there should be a provision included to cover the construction of bridges also.

Thirdly, the construction of BPL houses and the preparation of paddy field for sowing should also be included in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.

Fourthly, solid waste management should be included in the Total Sanitation Campaign Scheme and 20 per cent of the funds should be kept separately for this purpose.

There are many NGOs involved in the implementation of rural development schemes. Though most of them are working as per the guidelines, some NGOs are facing charges of rampant corruption. So, the Ministry of Rural Development should have a transparent regulatory and controlling mechanism over the functioning of NGOs.

Sir, my last and the most important point is, there is a move by the Centre to release funds directly to the local self-government bodies. It is an ill-conceived idea and is an effort to undermine the federal system of the country. So, I request the Government to desist from any such move.

*SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, First of all I thank Shri Raghuvanshi for his active role played in the Ministry of Rural Development. We are discussing demands & grants (General) for the year 2008-09.

It is needless to mention that the allocation of fund is meagre specially 100 days National Rural Employment

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

Guarantee Scheme. Though you have increased total number of districts but the allocation is 30% what Minister is thinking to do the best of the development but the Planning Commission is not in a position to do that. This is the cause of neo-liberalization policy adopted in our country.

Sir, you are aware that more 75% are of our country fallen under rural area.

So Government should come out with a comprehensive planning by which Bharat Nirman will be completed.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a welcome step. But Government should come out for awareness of for job card holders and how they will get the job? What will be time limit? And if the Panchayat failed to give the job within 15 days job card holder will be paid unemployed allowance.

The payment should be made regularly. Sir, I am regret to say that while we were visiting Arunachal Pradesh as Standing Committee of Chemicals and Fertilizers. We visited three villages namely Mani, Juli Basti and Model Villages nearest to Itanagar of A.P. All the members of that villages complained that NREGS has not been implemented even 'Sikha Anjan' also in the same way.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the reason behind the non-implementation of NREGS.

Sir, regarding Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is not properly maintained.

Regarding Accelerated Rural Sanitation which is implemented from 1999. This year is called International Year of Sanitation.

The West Bengal Government has been doing its best for Nirmal Gram Panchayat. First of all Midnapur distt. has shown total sanitation of which 1st Nirmal Panchayat Samity is 'Nandigram' of Midnapur distt.

Sir, Burdwan distt. already applied for the year 2008 as Nirmal Distt.

I would like to remind you that 'Karisunda' gram panchayat which falls under Indus Panchayat of Bankura distt. in West Bengal was the icon of other gram panchayat of Indus Panchayat Samity to became Nirmal Gram Panchayat but still the 'icon' is not declared as Nirmal Gram Panchayat of Indus Panchayat Samiti of Bankura distt. in West Bengal.

Sir, sanitation is essential to reduce child mortality rate and morbidity.

So, it should be given top priority. Allocation of Indira Avaas Yojna should be increased and also sanctioned fund should be increased because the building material increase very fast.

I would like to submit regarding drinking water to be looked and irrigation facilities should be increased so that India as a whole will be developed.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I will touch upon two or three points only. The first is regarding the budget allocation. The Ministry of Rural Development is one of the most important Ministries of the Government of India, along with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which deals with most of the poverty alleviation programmes. In 2007-08, the budget allocation including Plan and Non-Plan was hardly Rs. 28,500 crore and this year it is only Rs. 31,524 crore which is not commensurate with the 11th Plan. So, if the Minister gets the opportunity of presenting the Demands for Grants next year, he should get the budget allocation enhanced. But I do not think he will get the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: You keep it for the next Government!

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : So, this should be enhanced.

Sir, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is considered to be a landmark programme in the history of rural development in this country in the last 60 years. The credit for this goes to the erstwhile Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and thanks to this Government they have decided to continue with this programme. But I want to point out one or two loopholes that are there in this programme.

Sir, in some places when the rural road construction work is taken up, some private lands are being acquired, but there is no provision in the PMGSY for giving compensation to the private land owners. Therefore, there is a lot of resentment and a lot of constraints are coming

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

in the way of implementation of this programme. So, there should be a provision that wherever private lands are acquired or taken up for the construction of rural roads, these private land owners should be given compensation so that the work can be accelerated and completed smoothly. This is my suggestion to the Government.

Another point is the impediment caused by the Railways and I had raised this point during the discussion on the Railway Budget also. In many places, when the PMGSY road construction work is taken up, the Railway is coming in the way because when it needs to cross a railway line, the Railway authorities are coming and stopping the work saying that they cannot provide any unmanned level crossing. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Railway Minister and also the Minister of State to this important problem and thanks to them they have assured me to look into this problem. This problem has occurred in my own constituency and that is one of the bottlenecks in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Sir, my last point is that the Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry to operationalise the National Mission on Biodiesel. But the point is, when the non-edible oilseed plantation like jatropha is done, it causes depletion of ground water.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come under this Ministry.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, it is coming under this Ministry. That has to be reassessed because there are two opinions. One of the opinions is, where large scale jetropha cultivation was taken up, the water level has depleted and that is damaging the neighbouring land. So, that should be reassessed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, so many hon. Members of our Party are there to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, time is long-long elapsed. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they have been waiting since morning... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Leave it to me.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, please give them some time. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. We have already crossed six-and-a-half hours. Your time has elapsed. I have called the hon. Member from your Party, please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. I rise to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-09. Several hon'ble Members have participated in this debate and majority of them have praised the hon. Minister. It is also a fact that hon'ble Minister hails from a village and knows the ground realities. Hon'ble Minister has got enhanced allocation for this Ministry and I thank him for that. I would like to draw your attention to a few shortcomings, which are still there.

Sir, this department is directly related to rural area. Several Members have repeated what Mahatma Gandhi had also said that the soul of India lives in the villages. Food, cloth and shelter and water are the basic needs. We regret that even after sixty years of independence we have not been able to provide these basic needs to our people. This department is related with many fields but any scheme of this department will not be implemented properly unless all the departments coordinate and chalk out a policy.

Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that even if he may be efficient but there will be a question mark on his performance of the Central government if the implementing officers of State Governments do not execute the schemes properly. I would like to remind you that you had mentioned this department and many of its achievements in a meeting of Members of Parliament convened by you. Even at that time I had told that there was corruption at a large scale in the works being executed under SGRY. This scheme was started on 1st of April in my constituency and now has been discontinued. The officers working there have sanctioned the works two times more than the budget earmarked. Though some works have been executed but the scheme has been discontinued, as there are no funds. I had told you earlier that the officers had unfairly sanctioned more works had written a letter also to you requesting to send a Central team to keep an eye on the project officer and to find out as to how extra works were sanctioned. If you do something about this discontinued scheme, I think the people there will get justice.

Sir, these schemes were introduced with a view to provide employment to the people but the works were executed with the help of machines. Even the people, whose names were included in the list, do not know that their names figure in the list and payment has been withdrawn in their names. I have told you many times in this regard. You had told me in a meeting that the officers would come to me and take the detailed information but neither any officer came nor this matter was discussed. This is the reality. Several hon. Members have spoken about the amount being provided for a house under Indira Awaas Yojana but if you look at DSR rates, you will find that the rates have increased many times. The beneficiaries under the above scheme get 28,000 rupees. This amount should be increased upto 50,000 rupees because a house can not be constructed with 28,000 rupees. A person has to sell many other things to construct the house and his position worsens and hence he gets no benefit in real terms.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to request the hon. Minister to look into it personally and only then something would happen. I have told you the facts, send a committee to investigate these facts and then there will be justice. I conclude with these words.

MR. SPEAKER: I request those hon. Members. who want to speak, to lay down their speech on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Sir, please give us two minutes time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, when Hon'ble Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, it was agreed upon that all the hon. Members willing to speak, migth speak and the time would be extended.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your seats? There are some procedures and some rules. We have fixed four hours but we have already taken six hours and forty minutes. I am very happy that the hon. Members are taking so much of interest.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to complete.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when all the members are willing to sit for more time why we are not being allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to dictate to me, you will never get a chance in your life. Be polite to the Chair. Listen.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You please listen now. There are still six names from your Party. What will happen?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Some Members are absent now...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not matter if some are absent. You have given the names.

[English]

I am assuring that they are present.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the hon. Deputy Speaker has said that it would continue and all the Members who have given their names would get a chance to speak. You kindly go through the records. The hon. Deputy Speaker has assured us. So, please allow some of our Members to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, please give us some time. Sir, what else the opposition has got?

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: No, Sir I do not have to speak other members of our party want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Listen the point is that it sounds good when we speak that we are sitting. It is our duty. The people have elected us for sitting here. Whether any charity is taking place here.

*SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Demand for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development is being discussed hare I would like to associate myself with this discussion and say that India is a country of villages. It is also being called Rural India. Seventy per cent of geographical area of our country comprises rural areas and barring twenty three percent forest area and seven per cent urban area the responsibility of development of rural areas rests with the Ministry of Rural Development. 70 percent of the total population of the country lives in villages. I request the Minister to make budget provision keeping in view the population and the funds required to carry out overall development of the area. A perusal of the demand for grant shows that the Ministry has kept a provision of Rs. 42,429.86 crore which is insufficient. The basic needs of the common man are food, clothing and shelter. Besides, education, medical care, safe drinking water, electricity, transportation etc. are the pillars of development.

I would like to draw attention towards Rajasthan where nearly 34183 rural halitations do not have access to safe drinking water. About 12000 villages lack electricity. People of many dhanis settlements are not aware of what electricity is.

The hon'ble Minister had announced Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission and Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in the name of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi but till now these schemes have remained on paper due to lack of funds.

Similarly, the labourers employed under the Watershed Scheme have not been paid their wages for the last two or three years due to non-allocation of funds in the budget. I request that adequate budget provision should be made for the purpose.

Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, at least two hundred days of work should be created for tribal, desert areas where there is always shortage of employment so that poor families are able to feed themselves throughout the year.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to suggest to the hon'ble Minister that his proposal of effecting amendments in the Land Acquisition Act and the new R and R Policy submitted by him have come very late. Acquisition of nearly two to three lakh hectares of land has been taken place in the country. This is giving rise to social unrest in the country and a public uprising against such acquisitions is taking place. Hence, new laws and amendments in this regard should be made and people's participation should be invited.

Sir, my second suggestion is regarding the BRGF scheme being run by the Union Government and the Panchayati Raj System. One of the two schemes should be implemented. A lot of duplication is taking place. Panchayati Raj Department and the Department of Rural Development should be merged. These should be unified instead of being run separately. These are my suggestions.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rural Development Ministry is a very important Ministry of the country. 65 to 70 percent of rural population of the country is under this Ministry. The Department that is under Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji is an important department and he is also a competent Minister. Hence, more funds should be sanctioned to enable him to carry out works related to rural development. As far as I know, India has 26 percent BPL population but a survey report of World Bank says that 46 percent of the population of the country lives below poverty line. I would like to request the hon. Minister to extend the maximum possible support to the poor to reduce the percentage of people living below poverty line. Many inaccuracies have been found in the BPL surveys conducted so far. Hence, a new survey needs to be conducted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you have properly utilized it.

Now, Shri Ganesh Singh.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are having a discussion on the demand for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. The identity of our country comes from its villages. 70 percent of the population of the country resides in villages. Whatever has been done for our villages during the last 60 years is insufficient. All of us feel that had we been running the programmes in a time bound manner the situation in the country would have been much better. Even today people are in utter poverty. The primary needs of rural areas are drinking water, roads, healthcare, employment and schools. I have no hesitation in saying that if a time bound programme for development of rural regions been made in a time bound manner alongwith the schemes initiated by our first Prime Minister Nehru, then things would have progressed a lot by now. Time bound schemes for rural development had been forumulated by the NDA government under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These same schemes are being implemented under the name of Bharat Nirman by the UPA government. Undoubtedly, many works are being implemented but there is no mention as to the timeframe for completion of these works. Only 50% of the target fixed for completion of works under Bharat Nirman upto the year 2009 has been achieved so far, as per the data available. A different situation exists in villages but the rate of completion work is below 50% although the government is nearing the end of its term. Can you point to any time bound programme and tell us about the problems that have been addressed a particular village? Not a single problem has been solved till date. I would like to take two minutes to talk about Madhya Pradesh. There are 38 districts and 165 tehsils in Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. There is no more time. You all agree to stick to two minutes time. Please follow it.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: The condition in villages is pitiable. They are facing severe drought, and also the problem of water. Repeatedly, I have been raising this issue in the House that not a single rupee is being provided by the Government for rural development. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ganesh Singh, Please do not interrupt your own party Member.

[Translation]

You have written speech, please lay it.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, it is not written speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot help you. Your name should have come earlier by your party.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Alright, Sir, I will write and lay it.

*Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Basically, India lives in villages as its 70 per cent population is reside in villages. Though 60 years have gone by since we became independent, yet our villages pine for basic necessities. Had our first Prime Minister envisioned a time bound programme for rural development, the shape of rural India would have been entirely different. Various Governments came and ruled, funds were also spent, but we find that not a single problem could be tackeled properly. Truly speaking, the NDA Government headed by the than Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee started a time bound programme. The UPA Government made efforts in its furtherance in the name of Bharat Nirman. But the pace of developmental works being undertaken under it is very slow. The work of rural electrification, telephony, rural roads, drinking water, housing and irrigation was covered under Bharat Nirman. The achievement of targets set for 2009 is less than 50 per cent.

If the report of Eleventh Plan is believed, the progress of works under Bharat Nirman is not satisfactory. During last two years, only 36 and 6 per cent targets of rural electrification could be achieved. There was a target of providing electricity connection to 2.30 crore families in 25 lakh villages. No idea, how far it could be achieved. The target of providing safe drinking water in 55067 habitations is yet to be completed.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Only 39476 kms road length could be constructed against a target of 50674 kms rural road length. 28.69 lakh dwelling units could be constructed against a target of 60 lakh. Still, 42 percent of our population has no electricity and 74 per cent, lack cooking gas and two lakh villages have no safe drinking water. There are only 22669 primary health centres and there is a 50 per cent shortage of doctors in hospitals in 6.5 lakh villages. Even now, people have to travel as far as 30 kms for medical treatment.

A primary health centre should be opened in each panchayat village. The rural India remained backward in absence of adequate budgetary provisions for rural development. The world over we are known as a backward country and the second reason is lack of rural development.

Basically, there is a need of road, power, water, schools, hospitals, employment, housing communication in villages in the country. Right from our first prime Minister Pandit Nehruji to Rajiv Gandhi ji stress was only on one slogan 'roti, kapada, makan' and Garibi hatao'. So far how many people have been provided with cloth to cover their body and how many people have a roof over their head? Indira Awas Yojana was launched in 1985-86.

Still, there are villages where not a single unit has been constructed. We do not find any villages in our country wherein all the poor families have been provided dwelling units. Even today, lakhs of people are forced to sleep under open sky.

Rahulji has himself visited tribal families. After seeing them he admits, even today people are forced to sleep on a broken coat under trees.

If the Government had a will, it could have provided houses to the homeless poor, but it could not do so. Rahul ji has expressed serious concern on the condition of tribals. They eat simple roti either with salt or chatney Has Rahulji not made a fun of these poors. Under the leadership of his family, the country travelled a period of 50 years.

If despite this, all the tribals are compelled to eat roti without vegetables, who is responsible for it. It is the congress party. In the present scenario of inflation, if they were in a position to buy cooking oil and vegetables, they would not have offered roti with chatney to Rahul.

Our villages can be developed only if the Government implements time bound programmes. It is because of time bound programme launched by hon, Atal ji led NDA Government that villages are being connected with roads. It seems that all the villages in the country may have connectivity by 2012. It was just because of his policies all the schools in the country now have their buildings.

A time bound programme was launched for providing safe drinking water to people but now that programmes has slowed down. Construction of roads has also slowed down. If time bound programmes were run right from Nehruji's time, then the entire country's face would certainly have changed by today.

Whether any review has been done regarding the ever increasing poverty in the country? What are the reasons behind it? 37 people out of 100 are poor. Whereas out of 100 more than 50 people are poor. In the name of proof the Government of Madhya Pradesh has identified 60 percent families so far, living below the poverty line. The poor people are not getting sufficient food. Red wheat is being imported from foreign countries which is not suitable for human consumption. This was also reduced but at the same time the Government of Madhya Pradesh is making wheat available to the families living below the poverty line at Rs. 3 per kg and rice at Rs. 4.5 per kg under the Chief Minister Annapoorna Yojana.

After the launch of Employment Guarantee Scheme the other rural development schemes that were running earlier were discontinued. The Labourers are not even getting minimum wages. In the absence of budget allocation from the centre, the workers have to wait for months for receiving their wages. As a result of non allocation of funds to Madhya Pradesh lakhs of workers have not received their wages.

The provision of Employment Guarantee Scheme do not fulfil the vision of complete development. There is a need to including certain building construction work also. Welfare being dug in fields under this scheme. It is not possible to construct houses for the poor people under this scheme.

Payments through cheque cannot eradicate corruption. This has added to the woes of the workers. The people whose houses had collapsed in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh due to floods, were given houses under the Indira Awas. But the second installment was not given. It should be given.

63 tehsils of 38 districts in Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of extreme drought. All the water resources like, rivers, ponds and wells have dried up. The tap water scheme require maintenance. New handpumps are required to be installed.

Therefore, an additional allocation of Rs. 25 thousand crores is required for the State Government. Otherwise also, the Madhya Pradesh Government has been executing all the rural development works properly. Therefore, the Government of India should award the State Government.*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion is going on upon the demands of Ministry of Rural Development and I have been listening to it continuously. All the hon'ble Members have emphasized on the 'Swachch Nirmal Gram Yojana,' which is being run by the Government. I would like to point out one thing to the hon'ble Minister that the amount of Rs. 1500, which is given for constructing toilet is not enough. This is a secondary issue, but they must deliberate on the issue as to where the country is heading to ? Drinking water is not available to people then how can they make toilets and keep them clean? When drinking water is being fetched from 3 kms away then how can we imagine that toilets would be cleaned. it is my humble request to you that the work provided by you under the Employment Guarantee Scheme should be connected to development. There are many such areas where there are no workers and the job cards are lying useless. No work can be done in those areas. Development work in those areas should be initiated in such a manner so that there could be maximum water conservation. Infact, I believe that in the coming 15-20 years, ration cards would be issued for water. But you are not paying any attention towards that. Your first priority should be to conserve drinking water so that drinking water can be made available in villages and thereafter, you should proceed and dream of making the villages, clean Otherwise, how can you dream such a thing?

Second important thing is that no physical verification is conducted of the budget allocation made under the IEC. The department spend a lot of money out of that. I would like to suggest that the Government of India should appoint any agency of its own which should decide as to how much money is being spent on this, and at the end of the work which village is getting how much funds respectively? The village people do not know as to how much funds are being provided to the Sarpanch and from which department?

MR. SPEAKER: Please send what you have written.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: It is very important to decide as to which village is getting how much money and under which head?

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking about eight per cent growth in the country. I would like to mention in the House regarding the per capita consumption expenditure. In the rural areas, it is less than Rs.12 a day. In the urban areas, it is Rs.19 per person per day. Out of every rupee spent in 2005-06 by average rural Indian on consumption, 53 paise was spent on food; 17 paise on cereals and cereal substitute; eight paise on milk and milk products; six paise on vegetable; and five paise on sugar, salt and spices. Sir, 40 to 75 per cent of the people in the urban areas use gas. But in the rural areas, more than 74 per cent of the people use firewood, which is degrading the forests, and it is initiating deforestation of the area and thereby it is spoiling the environment. Therefore, the biggest challenge to save the environment is to eradicate poverty. If you can eradicate poverty, then we can have a healthy environment.

Then, I would like to say here that about nine per cent of the people use dung cakes for electricity; and nine per cent of the people use LPGs. Sir, 50 per cent of the people in the urban area use electricity and 42 per cent of the people use kerosene. We have to depend on the Gulf countries for kerosene. The price has become 117 dollars. So, the Rural Development Ministry has taken up a Mission known as Bio-fuel Mission. It is a good Mission. I encourage it. I say that this should be encouraged. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, I need just one-and-half-a-minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken three minutes. Your watch is going slow. I am not very happy to interrupt. I am doing a very unpleasant job.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you, Sir.

Lastly, I would like to say that the main executive agency of the NREG Programme is the Panchayat Raj. I had gone to Jharkhand. I had gone to Daltonganj also. In that area, I travelled about 400 kilometres and I was searching and trying to find a logo of the *Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.* But there is no *Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana* in these 400 kilometres in Jharkhand.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It happens, Nobody writes our name.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: There is no Panchayat Raj in Jharkhand...*(Interruptions)* So, they must have elections. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may give whatever suggetions you have.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Even as the Indian economy surged ahead at an unprecedented 8% plus growth should be inclusive in nature. Bridging the rural-urban divides, a lot of schemes have come to the fore to eradicate poverty in the backward areas. NREGA Act, PMGSY, Restoring loss or depleted productivity of the land for better livelihood., Bharat Nirman, Samyojna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnajyanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), IAX , NOAPS, NFBS, NMBS, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), IWDP (Integrated waste land development Project), ARWSP, 9th Plan - Rs 42000 crores, 10th Plan - Rs 1,14000 crores. During 2007-08 an increase of 18.3% over 2006-2008. NREGA- completes 2 years, Dec 2007 2.67 crores households have demanded employment; while 2.57 crores given work. Dec 2007 - 12 lakh work, which 801 lakh in water conservation, irrigation & flood control. ARWSP, Six components or Bharat Nirman By 2009, 55,067 uncovered, 3.31 lakh slipped back and 2.17 lakhs quality affected habitation are to be addressed. National Mission on Bio-Fuel Central Rural Sanitation Programme Bio-Fuel Mission, Identification or non-forest land notable in consultation with State Government, PURA 2008-2009 pura has been allocated 27 crores rupees 18 crore more than Rs 9 crores it got in 2007-2008. At present PURA is restricted to seven clusters. Gohpur-Assam, Rayadurg in A.P., Madipur in Bihar, Basmath in Maharashtra, Knjanja in Orissa, Sohpure in Rajasthan and Bharthana in U.P. It should be extended to Kalahandi and KBK region of Orissa. Also budgetary allocation should be enhanced to 500 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, I have made you Convenor of the Water Forum. Did they help you? Speak about that.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for constituting a Monitoring Committee with the Members and for monitoring the same. In the last letter you have written as to how many meetings were held in a year. I would like to thank you for this. You hail from a village therefore, you have taken care of the villages and the Ministry also and I would like to thank you for that also.

Sir, I have 2-3 suggestions to give. First is regarding the Panchayati Raj Institute. As it has been said that a number of schemes have got mixed up, therefore, it is required to give priority to one of the two schemes. Second thing which is coming to our notice is that the Sarpanch has to visit either the tehsil or Collectorate or the DDO in every two-three days. They all give the details as to how much money they have been spending from their pockets? Therefore, it becomes a medium for corruption. Corruption prevails in the schemes that are implemented in the villages because they have been incurring the expenditures of the officals, MPs-MLAs who visit the villages. I think some suggestion is required in this regard.

I would like to make a mention about watershed Development Programme. We have to keep in mind the example of Gujarat. In Gujarat check dams have been constructed for conservation of water under watershed development programme. It needs to be implemented simultaneously all over the country. A lot has been made possible there because of the public participation, the political will of the State Government and cooperation from all sides including NGOs and Central Government.

PMGSY has been discussed here. Under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana a village with a population of 500 is said to have been provided road connectivity under the PMGSY on paper only. That road was constructed some 15 or 20 years ago. Now it has been damaged completely. Isn't there a need to make some amendments in the guidelines in respect of such villages?

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to mention about Indira Awas Yojna also. Sanitation is very important. Members are recommending to increase the amount from 900 to 1500 and 5000 but I would like to submit that sanitation work can be taken up properly if funds are provided through MPLADS scheme by making amendment in guidelines. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a need to include sewage work under Swajal Dhara Yojana...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, I wish to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members. We had a very useful and a comprehensive debate for seven hours, instead of the allotted four hours. It is three hours more. Let us now hear the hon. Minister who is waiting very patiently and hearing all of us. He writes also regularly; but nobody responds unfortunately.

Hon. Minister to reply now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my gratitude towards you. I would like to express my gratitude to the Business Advisory Committee and the entire House as well for allowing the discussion on the Ministry of Rural Development when only 4-5 ministries have been included for discussion. Instead of four hours, the issue was debated for more than seven hours. I understand the interest of the members. Hon'ble Members wished a full day discussion on the subject but there is paucity of time. As many as 40 hon'ble Members have participated in the discussion and I think a few have laid their speeches. So, I guess 50 hon'ble Members participated in the discussion enthusiastically. I am very happy and it has boasted my moral. I am watching the discussions in the House for the last 10-12 years. I have been actively participating in the discussion on rural development. However, the interest and enthusiasm I have seen among the members today and their knowledge about their areas has inspired me a lot and I feel that with such kind of zeal, India would definitely get through the struggle against poverty and employment. There is no doubt about it...*(Interruptions)*

I was happy when the former Minister of Rural Development Shri Kashiram Rana and the State Minister Shri Subhash Maharia initiated the discussion very effectively. Both of our State Ministers were also listening and comprehending seriously. Shrimati Karuna Shukla has left. Shri Kashiram Ranaji has gone through the budget and discussed effectively. In short I would like to state that in the 10th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 76 thousand crore was made for rural development. The initial two years of this plan period were completed in his tenure but the remaining three years fall in the tenure of UPA Government. I am happy that against the outlay of rupees 76 thousand crores an increase of one lakh 14 thousand crore i.e. 48% was made and we have spent that. It shows the emphasise given by the UPA Government on rural development. Even UNO has appreciated our National Common Minimum Programme which comprises of 15 point programme for the Ministry of Rural Development. We have achieved hundred percent sccess on these 15 points.

I would like to mention about the budget. What was spent during their tenure of six years from 1998 to 2004? They spent 67 thousand crore rupees.

Our Government has completed four financial years. In these four years we have spent one lakh eleven thousand rupees. If we go through the accounts in their six years tenure, we will find that they have spent approx 11 thousand crore rupees annually. We have spent 2.5-3 times more then them in four years ...*(Interruptions)* People have asked us to provide information in this regard. It is right that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna was started during the regime of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji but what was the budgetary provision at that time. It was only 2400-2500 crore rupees and that too was not spent fully. We have taken a resolution for Bharat Nirman. Under it we have made it mandatory to spent 48 thousand crore rupees in four years. They had spent 2.5 thousand crore in one year but we have spent 48 thousand crore in four years i.e. five times more than them. The amount they were spending in one year, we are spending five times more than that. As per the provisions of the budget in this regard, we have spent 4200 crore in 2005-06, 8 thousand crore in 2006-07 and 11 thousand crore in the year 2007-08. Now we have to spend 24 thousand crores more. We have to provide connectivity to the plains with the population of 1000 and to tribal and hilly areas with the population of 500. 'Bharat Nirman' is a time bound targeted programme now. We are determined to complete the remaining work of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna under which we would provide connectivity to the tribal and hilly areas with a population of upto 500 and 250. I am expecting this work to be completed by 2015...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will this Government be in power till 2015?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Are you trying for the same...*(Interruptions)* 11th Five Year Plan has been started. One year of this plan is over. Now the second year is going on. What happened in first year of 11th Five Year Plan? The UPA Government came to power in the year 2004-05. We spent 16 thousand crore in 2004-05, 24 thousand crore in 2005-06 and 31 thousand crore in the year 2006-07. Against the budget provision of 40 thousand crores of rupees in the year 2007-08 we spent 42 thousand crores. We are discussing the budget for the year 2008-09' A budgetary provision of 49,400 crore has been made but it would exceed to 60 thousand crores because people have raised objections on NREGS. Initially a budget provision of 11 thousand crore was made for NREGS but we could spent 8 thousand 600 crores only. In the second year the budget provision was of 12 thousand crores but we spent 12 thousand 800 crores. In the third year it was 16 thousand crore. We had become adamant that it is insufficient but hon'ble Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi stated that allocation would be made as per the expenditure.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has categorically said in his budget speech that though a provision of rupees 16,000 crore has been made for this scheme in the budget but whatever amount will be spent thereunder, that much amount will be provided. Hence we should not have any doubt about it. I think that 16,000 crore rupees will not be sufficient and 20,000 to 25,000 crore rupees will be required. That's why I say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Minister, the workers do not get the wages for four months...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will tell you about that also. Sir, all the hon'ble Members have discussed NREGS and flagship programme in detail. They have pointed out the shortcomings. The people have pointed out the shortcomings, anomalies and irregularities. We are also aware of those things and we are not sitting idle. Our aim is to introduce a five point programme. The people have said that there is lack of public awareness. We do admit that the employees, officers, hon'ble Members of Panchayati Raj and illiterate public as well as the workers do not have the required information. I am making efforts in this regard. A five point programme consisting of awareness, People's participation, transparency, strict and vigilant monitoring and accountability is on anvil. We have ensured participation of the state governments, panchayti raj institutions, the IIMs, IITs and the institutes imparting rural development education in this programme and have requested all of them to take part in it. We are going to convene a meeting of all the scholars so that all of them may have knowledge of this programme. We had launched this programme on 2nd February, 2006 in 200 districts all over the country and in one year one crore and two lakh families got employment under the scheme. When 130 more districts were covered during the second phase, 3 crore and twenty lakh families have got employment till 31st March. Shrimati Pratibha Singhji has said that it would be implemented over a period of five years but I would like to inform the House that it has been implemented all over the country since 1st of April. An act was passed to implement it over a period of five years but the UPA Government has implemented it all over the country within three years. The UPA Government's intentions are pro poor and village oriented. It is a programme which will metamorphose the society. It provides food security to the poor. This programme has been launched with an aim to provide food to the poor and check the starvation and migration. It was provided in NREGA that it would be implemented over a period of five years but we have implemented it within three years. 3 crore and twenty lakhs of families have got employment during two years. 90 crore mandays were created last year. 132 crore mandays have been created till 31st March in which the percentage of SC and ST is respectively 27% and 30% and the target for women participation was one third whereas their participation has been 42 percent at national level. The percentage of scheduled tribe will increase because the districts having scheduled tribe population have been included and therefore their percentage is greater. We have spent 8640 crore rupees out of 11,600 crore rupees during the first year, 12610 crore rupees were spent during the second year and this year 16,000 crore rupees have been provided in the budget but it is likely to increase. All the hon'ble Members have expressed their concern. Prasanna Acharyaji said that the country was likely to face water crisis, third world war would be fought over water. The people will see the results of this programme after three years. I visited Dungarpur in Rajasthan. There the groundwater level has depleted, the tubewells and handpumps have become useless. There six check dams

were constructed on a river over 12 km stretch under NREGS and water was stored in abundance. It facilitated irrigation in the surrounding areas and water level has also imporved. The ground water level has improved due to water conservation in Madhya Pradesh also. 48 percent work has been executed in the field of water conservation. Seven lakh and ninety nine thousand schemes have been covered. 15 percent work has been executed for provision of irrigation facilities, 17 percent for rural connectivity and 16 percent for land development for scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. It includes development and levelling of their land. The tribals living in Jharkhand, Jaspur region of Chhattisgarh near Gumla have been requesting for levelling of their land. Therefore it is clear that works have been executed under this scheme. The people have expressed their concern that irregularities and unscrupulous activities are taking place. It may be true as 2,38,000 panchayats, 6,000 blocks, 600 districts are involved and one cannot take it for granted that all the people involved therein are Satya Harischandra or Mahatma Gandhi or disciples of Mahatma Gandhi. No, we do not think so as Anarchists theory failed that all the human beings are prudent. Likewise we cannot take all the persons involved in this scheme to be right. Hence we have introduced the five point programme. If has been provided therein that all the payments will be made into the bank accounts. We have deposited one crore forty five lakh rupees out of three crore twenty lakh rupees in the accounts in the banks and post offices. We have instructed the State Governments, banks and post offices to make payments to all from the same account. We have adopted this procedure to check the fraudulent activities and dispense with muster roll. There may be further possibilities of irregularities. Art of theft is superior to all other arts, hence we have provided adequate check points in this five point programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Misappropriation of funds must be stopped.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Practice of making payments into the bank accounts has been implemented 100 percent in Andhra Pradesh, more than 50 percent in Jharkhand and has been started in other states also. Hence we are very much alert.

So far as staffing is concerned, there were no Block officers and Gram Sewaks. We have to work with the help of the State governments. Hence we have provided for dealing with the shortcomings of the State Governments and helped them in staffing. We have provided for a Rozgar-Sewak in every gram panchayat. 72949 Rozgar Sewaks have been appointed till date. Several states are performing well and many other states are lagging behind. We are dependent on states. Hence we are doing this. It is a full time programme.

[English]

A Full Time Programme Officer not below the rank of BDO per Block, one Technical Assistant per five Panchayats; two Data Entry Operators per Block, have been appointed. 1685 Programme Officers, 11464 Technical Assistants, 2578 Computer Operators, 75,131 Accountants have been appointed. States are in the process of completing deployment of personnel in Phase-3 Districts.

[Translation]

Hence we are dependent on the State Governments and it is our responsibility to inspire, encourage and help them. I write four letters to the Chief Ministers in a month.

[English]

One time expenditure in infrastructure.

[Translation]

Thus we have provided lump sum amount as one more type of assistance What is that-

[English]

Preparation for five years perspective plan.

[Translation]

Ten lakh of rupees have been provided to each district for prospective plan. We have provided the total expenditure for printing of job cards and photographs. Complaints have been received from some places that the workers are made to pay for even these things.

MR. SPEAKER: Yet it is charged and bogus job cards are also made.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, Sir.

[English]

At the Block and District Level Computer connectivity,

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

[Translation]

it sounds that e-governance must be used in a wrong way in rural development but it is not so. We are well ahead of all the departments in e-governance in the country and this is our mandate. We are using this technology of management of information system. We are well ahead of all in this field. Therefore, I send monthly progress reports to the Members through e-mail. We have got the e-mail address of 385 Members and we send the progress reports to them and we are making efforts to send the progress reports to the rest of the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether someone cares to go through them?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Some of the Members do go through these mails. Today's speeches of the Members have been highly encouraging as the Members are more informed now. I am glad that hon'ble Members have taken interest and are collecting information in this regard. I have mailed the information about e-governance to all the members whose address I had, but several people may not know ABC of computer and they may be learning it now. Therefore I believe that they will learn it and cooperative with us.

[English]

Almirahs and personal furniture at Gram Panchayat, Block, District level.

[Translation]

And several people were demanding Panchayat Bhawan. A Panchayat Bhawan has to be constructed in each village and a computer is to be provided there. One honourable Member demanded a certain thing. Whenever such demands are made. I wish to say that Gandhiji's dream of Gram Swaraj and Dr. Lohia's dream of Chaukhambha Raj should be fulfilled. Gradually all of these things will be in place and the people will know about these things. Therefore we believe in a decentralized system. Keeping in view the importance of Panchayati Raj we had passed the 73rd constitution amendment in this very House. It was already included in the directive Principles of State Policy. But we had added the 73rd constitution amendment for Gram Panchayat to the Chapter IX of the Constitution. Therefore till date one.

[English]

Comprehensive Waste Management Scheme has been implemented which places everything under public domain.

[Translation]

There is transparency everywhere. 2,56,74,292 job cards and 35,36,054

[English]

Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

[Translation]

so that all the people may know it and scrutinize it. I do admit here that this system can detect the shortcomings, errors, weak points, lack of information and intention in employment guarantee scheme. But we are moving towards

[English]

zero tolerance towards corruption.

[Translation]

After the third year all the people will say that this is the most successful scheme and it will bring a big change in the country and provide food security to the poor.

Then there is a programme called Bharat Nirman. This programme has six components. Initially the people thought that 1,74,000 crore rupees would be spent under this scheme and the Ministry of Rural Development has to spend 85,000 crore rupees on three components out of the six components of this scheme. One of them Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana about which we have provided the information to you in brief. This programme has also achievements and we are moving towards success but we have a doubt that this programme will spill over one year because we have spent 24,000 crore rupees till now and we have to spend 24,000 crore rupees more. This programme may spill over one year. This financial year ends on 31st March 2009 but I fear that this programme can go on till December, 2009 or March, 2010. There are many difficulties because several states have not been able to spend even 2,500 crore rupees and we have reached the figure of 11,000 crore rupees

till now. The consuming capacity of the state is increasing gradually. There is a shortage of contractors, material and at some places there are problems of law and order. We have to fight against the naxalites, rangdari etc. Sir, in Bharat Nirman

[English]

Habitation to be connected-59,461; Road length to be constructed-

[Translation]

and 1,46,185 kilometre is for connectivity. But we had added upgradation also because it was not included earlier when Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched. The State demanded and we realized that even if 1 or 2 or 3 kilomteres road is constructed for connectivity and the further length of 10-20 kilometres road length is not in good condition, the public will not be benefited. Hence we have included those roads state Governments, which were not maintained, under upgradation scheme. The target there under is 1,94,130 kilometre which has provided connectivity to 13,831 villages till 31st March.

[English]

Habitation likely to be connected in 2007-08 is 12,100 villages. Balance habitation to be covered during 2009-2010 is 15,430 villages.

[Translation]

Thus 59461 villages will be connected. The people have questioned the quality of the roads. Out of three tier quality system the State Government has control over two tier and one tier is controlled by the Central Government.

They are also accountable and the works are monitored. The Ministry seeks an action taken report from them. Everything is available on the website in this regard. The Planning Commission has praised the PMGSY for the transparency being observed in it. MIS system is working properly in it. All are following the same system. We have directed them that the concerned AC should invite the hon'ble Member representing that area. The constructed roads will be inspected jointly. The hon'ble Members are expected to seek time from them and time should be given to them.

Second issue is regarding laying of foundation stone. An announcement to this effect was made in this House and letters were written to all the hon'ble Chief Ministers. But ours is a federal structure and the State Governments have their own programmes. Hon'ble Brajesh Pathak ji is not here. Members from his party were saying that the State Governments do not even intimate them. And they do not care even for our MPs. They say that they have no funds. See, Rs. 5000 were sanctioned for stone laying ceremony, but a letter to this effect did not reach Harikewal Ji.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you sanction so much money just for ceremony.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I was not in a position to bear with it. The hon'ble Members was speaking in such a tone as if he was attacking me like an enemy. The Government is with the Members, to strengthen them, to respect them and to empower them. In the whole country, no one except the hon'ble Members, is with us. Therefore, I trust the hon'ble Members and I am ready to cooperate with them so that the poor people an avail benefit. The hon'ble Member did not get that letter, but I have received that one. It may be in the post and he will get it. I have asked the states to go ahead with the scheme recommended by the hon'ble Members. If the States do not do so, they will have to explain the reasons. I not only expect, but also urge the hon'ble Members to take interest in it.

There was a demand for funds from the State Government of Rajasthan under PMGSY and Bharat Nirman. We have allocated funds ten times more than their entitlement. We are asking the state to utilize the funds we release to them. Shri Laxman Singh ji was telling that 3-4 States are lagging behind in this aspect. Earlier, 15 states were lagging but now all the States have made progress. I have gone through the old report of performance review committee. All the States have improved. Members from Maharashtra were telling that their state is lagging behind. But, Maharashtra has made progress. Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. many states were lagging behind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Every honourable Member of Parliament ask his or her conscience.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Now I would like to take up the issue of construction of roads. A report of an international agency states that if rupees one crore are spent on construction of a road, it transforms 1640 BPL families of that area to APL. It facilitates education, people can easily go to hospital for treatment, the farmers can commute conveniently to sell their produce in the market. Roads provide avenues for rapid development. The UNO states that road connectivity provides seven times growth. If we construct roads, we are not wasting the money. It is affecting our rural economy in a better way and now it is clearly evident.

Second point is regarding Bharat Nirman and Indira Awas Yojana. Initially the Government have targeted to spend Rs. 85 thousand crore in three segments, and out of it, Rs. 12 thousand crore were to be spent on Indira Awas Yojana. The Government has enhanced this allocation. Initially rupees 12000 crore were allocated under this scheme. We have increased it. Earlier, Rs. 12000 used to be allocated under the said scheme, which was increased to Rs. 20,000. Later on it was increased to Rs. 25,000 which has now beein increased to Rs. 35,000. It is Rs. 38,500 for hilly areas.

Some of the State Governments also contribute funds under this scheme. Not only this, it was decided during Budget speech and later on it was approved by the Cabinet. A provision has been made from 1 April that if a person wants to construct a improved house, it can take a loan of Rs. 15,000-20000 at the rate of 4 percent interest under the said scheme. The RBI has directed that a person can avail loan in lieu of Rs. 35,000 upto Rs. 50,000 and construct his house. The State Governments are also providing some money for this purpose. The Government had set a target of constructing 60,000 houses in four years under Bharat Nirman. But the Government constructed 45,83,000 houses within three years only. There is a target of 21 lakh houses in the fourth year. 7,48,000 houses are under construction. We are way ahead of our target and will remain so. As we have a target of 21 lakh houses for this year, so we can say that Bharat Nirman is progressing quite satisfactorily.

20.00 hrs.

There are many poor families in our country who do not have even an inch of land to live on. They take shelter either on road side, in some temple or in school buildings. As they have no land of their own so it is not possible to construct a dwelling unit under IAY also. For the first time, in India's history, the Government have resolved to spend Rs. 100 crore to acquire land from states so that houses can be constructed there under the Indira Awas Yojana...*(Interruptions)* I would like to apprise the hon'ble Members that a provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for this purpose. See the irony, a person who does not have even an inch of land is chanting 'Sare jahan se achcha Hindostan hamara'. But we are going to resolve these disparities. However the cooperation of State Governments and the hon'ble Members is required for this purpose.

Enough debate has been held on the issue of water. It has three inherent problems-availability of water, sustainability of water, and quality of water. 5920 villages have not been covered as per the initial figures available. In these villages drinking water availability is less than 10 litre per capita. These villages are termed as not covered. Villages with 10-40 litre per capita availability are termed as partially covered. There are 5920 not covered and 69 thousand partially covered villages. The Government has set a target of 74 thousand villages under Bharat Nirman. But previous target slipped back. Slip back is also a problem. But we are going to achieve the targets. How much money has been spent on it so far? Rs. 2545 crore was spent in 2003-04, and there is a plan to spend Rs. 7300 crore on it during 2008-09, it means it is three times. Rs. 11 thousand 820 crore in 6 years and Rs. 18 thousand 30 crore in just four years.

Drinking water should be available to everyone. The poor people drink whatever water they get and thus fall sick. Fifty per cent of diseases among the poor are caused by drinking contaminated water and lack of cleanliness. That is why we want to do this work. A target of Rs. 49,490 crore has been set in the 11th Plan but, I guess, it will reach Rs. 50,000 crore.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): What is the scheme regarding digging of wells?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Digging of wells has been approved under the NREG. A cent percent provision has been made for sustainability this time. The State Government is facing problem because of resource crunch. That is why we are emphasizing sustainability. As far as quality of water is concerned, 2,16,000 habitations drink contaminated water. West Bengal and Bihar, which are on the banks of Ganga, have poisonous

water. Nalgonda region in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka too have the same problem...*(Interruptions)* Submission under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission was only for the quality of water but they have done away with it. We have restored it. We said that we will sanction it by providing funds separately for that and now bear whatever will be the cost. We will not let the poor drink poisonous water knowingly.

A question or two was raised by the hon'ble Members that the quality of water should be checked. For that purpose, five local persons from every Panchayat would be selected and provided kits after imparting training to them under the Quality and Surveillance Programme. All types of quality check of water are a must. Funds have been provided to the State Governments for setting up a laboratory in each district and a referral laboratory at the State level to check water and for procuring high technology equipments. Some States are ahead in this regard and some are lagging behind the schedule. Five persons in each Panchayat will be trained.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Please, provide more funds for all this.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is a provision for that also.

MR. SPEAKER: Proper use should be made of whatever has been provided.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: According to the report of the 12th Finance Commission, they have given top priority to the drinking water and sanitation and Rs. 20,000 crore will be provided to the panchayats in these five years. We are giving expenditure related information in this regard to the hon'ble Members which will help in monitoring and vigilance.

The Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, while he was in the Chair during the speech, has expressed concern over sanitation and drinking water arrangements in schools. We have provided entire funds required to meet the expenditure to all the States but some States are extending the dates. Earlier, it was 31st December, 2007 then it was extended upto 31st March 2008 and now, it seems, it will have to be extended further. But, even after that, we are moving towards success. There must be drinking water and toilet facilities in each school and they have to be provided. Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced in the Budget speech recently that

[English]

"A new programme will be started to provide safe drinking water in rural schools affected with water quality problems Rs. 200 crore in the year 2008-09."

[Translation]

This year, Rs. 200 crore have been provided separately to the schools facing water quality problems. Thus, the funds have been provided only for providing water facility in schools while funds for toilets have been provided separately.

[English]

All Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes habitations even with less than 100 population to be provided with drinking water facilities under ARWSP scheme.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Have you provided anything for Solid Waste Management?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will speak about solid waste management later as it falls under sanitation. I have already spoken about water. Gandhiji had said.

[English]

"Sanitation is more important than Independence".

[Translation]

We had forgotten what Gandhiji had said during the struggle for freedom. There were 1% toilets in rural areas in 1981, 11% in 1991 and 21.9% i.e. 22% in 2001. But, within three four years after 2001, this figure crossed 50%. We have set a target of Nirmal Hindustan, Nirmal Bharat under which 10% toilets i.e. one crore toilets will be constructed every year. Assistance amount for construction of a toilet has been raised from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1500 but, now, the hon'ble Members are demanding to increase it further. I do agree with their demand and I am soon going to take this matter to the Cabinet. The per unit allocation of funds for construction of toilets will be increased if the demand of the hon'ble Members is accepted by the Cabinet. Nirmal Gram Puraskar was started under the sanitation scheme to instill feeling of competition. The name was given by them but we have

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implemented it. This programme was started in 2005 with 40 Panchayats. There was 20% increase in it in 2006 and it reached to 770 Panchayats and to 4945 *i.e.* about 5000 Panchayats in the third year 2007. This year, this programme has been implemented in 30,000 Panchayats and 12 Districts while previously it was restricted to few blocks only. Now, this programme has made an amazing take off. Hon'ble Jawahar Lal Nehruji had also said that economic indicators have no meaning until water and toilet facilities are provided in each house. We should pay attention to it because in the absence of these facilities all the economic indicators become meaningless. The UNO had asked us to provide these facilities in 50% of areas by 2015 under the millennium Development Goal (MDG). We said that we will make it 100% by 2012. So, we are moving ahead of the MDG.

Sir, solid and liquid waste management work is going on in villages. Garbage lies strewn around on all the roads and public places in villages. Water remains stagnant in drains and also on roads due to hand pumps. Garbage lies stinking all around due to which flies, germs and diseases spread. That is why, I have asked to spend 15% of total sanitation campaign fund on solid and liquid waste management and this has been started at few places.

Like Nirmal Gram Puraskar Yojana, we have approved a prize scheme for the villages which becomes self-reliant in respect of water by adopting rain water harvesting, roof top water harvesting, water conservation etc. Every drop of water should be stored. It would help in solving the problems like depletion of ground water and contamination of water etc. We have made provision in this regard also. The issue is being discussed in the year 2008 which has been declared as international sanitation year by the UNO. We are making progress to achieve this objective also. Three sectors related to rural development have been included in it. Besides, three more sectors are there Under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, each village and each hamlet would be electrified by the year 2009 and every household would be electrified 2012. Each BPL and poor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe family would be provided electricity connection free of cost. The next issue is about generation. Though power generating projects were behind the targets during the past few years but now we would use full potentiality of water and hydro electricity, besides, the thermal power. We need nuclear power also but Leftists are creating hindrance. We need to generate electricity through all these sources to be self-reliant in this field and to ensure round the clock power supply. That is why vidyutikaran yojna has been included under it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, wage employment programme has been mentioned here but poverty cannot be removed till unemployment is prevailing there. There are approximately 5-6 crore families living below the poverty line. We have fixed a target that at least one member of each of these families should be given a job, if not a job; they should be brought under self-employment programme or protected self-employment programme. A seven year plan has been formulated for this purpose that by the year 2015 each BPL family would be provided with employment or self-employment so that they could earn an additional income of at least three thousand rupees or if possible 4-5 or 8 thousand rupees. Therefore, we have fixed a target that at least one member of these families joins self-help groups by the end of 11th Five Year Plan. Self-help group's movement should go on. Several hon'ble members have mentioned about it. Earlier I was having doubt whether members are aware of self-employment programme, SGSY, self help group etc. I am happy and it has boosted my confidence also that till now 29 lakh people have enrolled themselves in self-help group movement. It has been made mandatory for one member of each family to become a member of self-help group.

Besides, bank accounts will be opned in their names. Poverty cannot be removed without getting help from banks. Their help is essential. Though banks are not cooperating at various places but steps are being taken to tackle that problem also. Hence, as per the assessment, assistance has been provided to a total of 99 lakh persons pursuing self-employment out of which 52 lakhs are women. People demand 1/3 reservation to women. However, it is not a real empowerment of women. Real Empowerment of women can be done through self-help groups. A women when goes to a block alone does not get the desired response, on the contrary when she moves in a group it boosts her morale and self-confidence, bank account will be opened in her name and she will start feeling that she is also an empowered citizen of the nation. This is the real empowerment of women. Another step, which we have taken, is to know about the demand in the country and all over the world and to provide the quality training to meet those standards and thereafter to provide placement.

[English]

Fifteen per cent of the Central allocation is provided to special projects for creating new alternative models of employment generation.

[Translation]

BPL youth boy or girl would be provided training. So far 9 projects have been approved.

[English]

Rural BPL youths have been taken up under skill development and placement at a total cost of Rs. 117 crore.

[Translation]

At a very low cost, they become APL from BPL. Till date 35,000 rural youths have been given placement in various industries and services. 27,000 people are earning Rs. 3000, 5000, 8000 or 9000 per month at the rate of Rs. 5 per day. That Kashmiri boy stated that earlier they were forced into terrorism but now a ray of hope has kindled and he would be able to earn and support his family. I have seen this kind of self-confidence among the youths. Under self-help group movement and self-employment programme each family would be covered under Grade-I and Grade-II economical activities by the year 2015. In this context, several members have raised the question regarding marketing facilities for them. Our poor women and village artisans make different types of products with colourful clothes, papers, stone, clay, iron, brassware and various food items. However, markets are not available for them. We have provided them market space at Peetampura, Pragati Maidan and at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Jasola. State Government have been asked to provide land in the state capitals or in the district headquarters. We will provide funds to set up shops. 13 States have come forward. Under the marketing of rural products, the products made by poor rural people will be sold in the markets of Delhi, Patna, Kolkata as well as in foreign markets. It will enhance their income. Under it, they will be provided training for other aspects of marketing also like packaging, designing, branding etc. In this manner, we have planned self-employment. Our Leftists leaders are very much concerned about the land and land reforms. Their concern is genuine and we are duty bound to provide information to them. We have launched several programmes like area development programme, wasteland development, integrated wasteland development programme, desert development programme and drought prone area programme etc.

[English]

1227 projects completed against the target of 966.

[Translation]

The target was of 966 but we completed 1227 projects. The question was raised as to how much area was covered under it. Central share released was—1164 crore. Allocation was—1164 crore. Every single penny was utilized. Common guidelines have been framed. Recently, on 15th August, the hon'ble Prime Minister has announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the Government has framed common guidelines for the National Rainfed Area Authority and for Departments of Irrigation, Forest and Agriculture and we propose to implement them on a major scale. So, common guidelines have been framed and approved also.

Plan for implementation of the common guidelines 2008 has been circulated to all the States. It has been circulated to all states and a conference in this regard is also going to be held.

[English]

Zonal meetings of the detailed reviews have been scheduled. Professional support, scheme for IEC has been framed and capacity building institutions have been identified. Diploma and certificate course for capacity building and training by Indira Gandhi National Open University to be rolled out.

MIS for State/District/Watershed levels being developed under Integrated Wasteland Management Programme.

Demand for Grants 2008-09 Rs. 1825 crore for Integrated Wasteland Management Programme.

[Translation]

Let us talk of land reforms now.

[English]

The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007.

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[Translation]

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan had raised the point as to why the matter of enactment of this policy is pending with the Standing Committee chaired by you, even though it has been accorded a statutory status as per article 73 of the Indian Constitution and the law has been passed. I had requested Shri Hannan Mollah to submit the report at the earliest. The related, revolutionary Land Acquisition Amendment Bill was drafted after holding consultations throughout the country. Everyone has praised the Bill. We are ready to pass the report of the Standing Committee whenever it is submitted. The Rehabilitation Policy has been accorded the status of a law.

[English]

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of computerization of Land Records (CLR), 582 districts, 4484 tehsils/taluks/blocks/anchals and 1045 sub-divisions have been covered and Rs. 581.61 crore has been provided to States/UTs.

Under the scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records,

[Translation]

Rs. 475 crore have been provided to the states and will be spent alongwith the state share. Thereafter, a new scheme will be formulated

[English]

National Land Records Modernisation Programme

[Translation]

For which land records are up to date. This work is being carried out through surveys, and use of digital and remote sensing technology. This work was started from the era of Todarmal and has not been completed yet. Our target is to update all records within six or seven years. When farmers come to check the records many days are wasted in simply searching for the records. On providing citizen services, now they will be able to access land records immediately on payment of ten rupees. For land reforms Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Tasks in Land Reforms has been constituted. A meeting has been held under my chairmanship and a sub-committee was constituted on the 8th, which is now functioning. Experts from all over the country have been associated with this committee. National council for Land Reforms has been constituted with the Prime Minister as its chairman and is going to start functioning shortly.

[English]

The first meeting of the Committee has been held and seven sub-groups have been set up for in-depth review/studies.

[Translation]

We require your suggestions, contributions, knowledge and assistance.

People have have also raised the issue of bio-diesel. National Mission on Bio-diesel is ready. It is under consideration of the Group of Ministers. We have provided Rs. 50 crores each to the states during the last two years to prepare 5 lakh hectares of wasteland for growing Jatropha and Pungamiya seedling and plants within a period of five years. This will help in combating oil sortage to some extent. Other countries in the world have made rapid progress in this field.

Hence, I have provided a broad information and estimate regarding drinking water and rural development and drinking water and Land Resource Departments to the hon. Members of the House. Nearly 40 members have raised different sorts of questions after a vibrant informative and interactive debate. It is necessary to provide them the information they are seeking regarding important issues. Shri Kashiram Rana, a former Minister, has said that CAG report regarding NREGA has been published. Usually, CAG conducts a post mortem after three or four years. I have requested the CAG to go to the beginning and find out the reasons for the shortcomings. We will look into those and make efforts at our end and ask the State Governments to do the same to remove them.

I am looking into whatever shortcomings have been pointed out. He has said that the scheme will prove to be a failure. To hear this from a former Rural Development Minister is very painful. I would like to tell him that it is natural that some problems crop up in the beginning and lack of information also causes some mismanagement. He has said that people in Bihar and UP have got lesser employment. Shri Nitish Kumarji had said and you had

also stated in an international conference that there were one crore thirteen lakh BPL people. As per 2001 census, there are one crore twenty-six lakh rural households in the State and they are saying that there are one crore thirteen Lakh BPL families. As per this calculation 95 per cent of the population in Bihar falls in the BPL category and this is projected in conferences. I may get to concur with the one crore thirteen lakh figure but they have distributed only 64 lakh job cards so far. They have not given job cards to BPL families so far and when job cards have not been given how do they propose to provide employment. They have not distinguished between BPL and APL either. Madhya Pradesh is one state where job cards have been distributed to all families. In fact, job cards have been sent even to the homes of the collector and the Joint Secretary. This was published in newspapers as well. When the secretary was asked for an explanation for dispatching of job cards to the Collector's house, they said that they had committed a mistake. Job cards were to be given only when asked for, but we sent these because...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Did the collector get any job, and if not, he must have got the money at least?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: People have to come forward to demand work. It has been explained that if a person does not demand work it will be assumed that he does not need work. But in Bihar and UP, the poor people have not even got job cards. Repeated correspondence was made in this regard. Shri Mulayam Singh ji was in power earlier and now Mayawati ji is there. People of her party are not present here, otherwise I would have to ask them about this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): This is going to be the fate of NREGP as well...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: No, it won't...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not encourage theft and misuse of funds.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am telling you that a provision for social audit has been kept in that scheme. He has accepted that salinity has increased in coastal area. He said that it has been checked which is incorrect. Rs. 85 lakh were provided in 2004, Rs. 29 lakh rupees in March 2007 and Rs. 2.70 crore in June 2007. A total of Rs. 3.90 crore were provided but no one made proper utilization of the funds. No one gave any account of the expenditure. No one made any enquiries or asked for extension so what can we do about it. A total of Rs. 390 crore were released during 2004, March 2007 and June 2007. In the second scheme Rs. 76 lakh were given in January and Rs. 2.91 crore were given in February 2007. A total of Rs. 3.68 crores were provided. We did not stop them but their agency carried out no implementation and gave no account of the utilization of funds. We have given them notice for these things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Even if they give no account, funds are provided to them.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Then, we do not give them funds. He has mentioned the problem of drinking water but we are spending 3-4 times more than what he had spent during his tenure as a Minister. Shrimati Pratibha Singh ji is not here. She has mentioned all the schemes with much information and emphasis after making a detailed study. He has not mentioned that the cost of IAY has been increased by Rs. 35,000. For her information, I would like to tell her that NREGP has been implemented in all the districts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Hannan Mollah has mentioned all the schemes. All the Left leaders have greatly contributed at all the stages of inception, passing and implementation of the NREG Act and Hannan Mollah Saheb has had been looking after this work with alacrity as he is a active Member of the Standing Committee of the Ministry.

Sir, many hon. Members have mentioned the irregularities committed in the BPL list. It is necessary to know about it. This has been going on in the BPL list since long when there used to be the IRDP programme during the 8th and 9th plan period. That time, a person was included in the BPL list if his annual income was less than Rs. 12000. After that, it was raised to Rs. 20,000 from Rs. 12,000. There was a Lakdavala Committee having foreign economists who used to talk in terms of calorie. Now, what is this calorie? It said a

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person would be BPL if his calorie intake is less than 1800-2200 calories per day. Though, in foreign countries, this limit is 4000 calorie. Now, how will the calculation of calorie be made? There are many persons having no income at all. In 2002, experts made a survey for BPL for the 10th Plan and now the same people are criticizing it. The persons who fixed norms for preparing BPL list are criticizing it. So, what is our fault in this? The Supreme Court had stayed it. We requested it that we have to bring transparency and display all the details in this regard. So that the poor can know that the name of the poorest of the poor will be on top as per the marking. Some states had complied with and displayed this information but some states did not. That is why, complaints of irregularities under Indira Gandhi Aawas Yojana are being received and it is alleged that bribe of Rs. 4,000-5,000 is being demanded. We are urging all the state to display this information at public places.

Sir, there were 13 parameters, which multiplied by 4 comes to 52 and the persons getting zero out of 52 marks will be called the poorest of the poor. A person having no land, house, clothes, food, education or even a winnower, stool or a cot, will get zero marks. If he owns something then he will get marks accordingly from 1 to 52. In some of the states, a family having 12, 13 or even 14 marks has been included in the BPL list. The Planning Commission has fixed the number of BPL families in all the states through the National Sample Survey Organization. Now, the people of the state are confronting. We are urging the Planning Commission to clarify this point. We have no objection in accepting it. Now, it has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Tendulkar, a renowned economist and a scholar, which will rectify the BPL list. I want to inform the hon. Members that they should also give their views to the committee. If the members will give their views to us, then we will forward them to the committee. This survey was carried out in 2002 and is not very accurate but, in my opinion, it is very near to accuracy. Every family's name has been put on the website so that the details can be checked. I have said that in case of some irregularities, one should appeal at the block; district or tehsil level and it will be rectified. For example, if U.P. is one's state then he should get it corrected there in U.P. and ask the concerned authorities as to why a poor man's name has not been included while the name of a rich man has been included. Irregularity is possible and might have been committed. We have made provisions for rectification.

Sir, he had expressed concern over budget and we have told the budget of NREGA. The Finance Minister in his budget speech has said that it is demand driven and whatever will be the expenditure, it will be provided. We will make demands when we would have spent Rs. 12000 crore out of Rs. 16,000 and will get the supplementary demands passed from this very, House. Several hon. Members have asked to create employment guarantee fund. There is a provision that a State Employment Guarantee Fund should be constituted. Some problems have actually been faced in sending funds to the districts for it. We used to give money to the districts, which in turn distributed it to all the Panchayats. We gave seven crore rupees to them and they distributed it to all the Panchayats. Some of the Panchayats spent 100 per cent of their funds. Thus, Rs. 30 crore has been spent and about Rs. 25,30 or 40 crore has been left. We receive demand from them but the Finance Department here say that not more than 60 per cent has been spent. Some of the Panchayats there had spent 100 per cent of the funds some did not and else where it got dumped. That is why we have enacted a law for the State Employment Guarantee Fund. Now, we will provide funds only to the states, which will distribute it further amongst their districts. For the time being it is being practiced but, in future, we will not keep funds for it here.

Shri Hannan Mollahji has raised a question that the applicant does not submit the application. He asks for work after the job cards are issued. This is due to lack of awareness. We have noted it and we are working in this direction.

Earlier the minimum wage in Nagaland was Rs. 25. It was less than Rs. 40 in North East and Rs. 125 per day in Kerala. However, this revolutionary step has enhanced the bargaining capacity of labourers. The minimum wage fixed for Gujarat is Rs. 50 but output of the labourers is just half of what it should be in a day. Hence, if we figure it out properly, it comes at Rs. 100 though the actual wages are Rs. 50. There is a provision in the Act that the minimum agriculture wages prevailing in a State, which varies from State to State, would be provided in the NREG Programme till the Central Government declares its own minimum wages Different schedules of rates are prevailing in the districts, that is why steps have not been taken in this regard but we have two major concerns so that the interest of farmers should not get adversely affected. Farming is still not mechanical, it is still labour based. The employment guarantee scheme should not lead to a situation where

the farmers are not getting labourers. I had visited a village. A farmer told me that it is good that employment guaratnee scheme has been launched for labourers but labourer guarantee scheme should also be launched for us as we are not getting labourers. Therefore, a balance has to be maintained so that farmers may not suffer. Labour component is provided by Central Government and it encourages the State Governments to be revolutionary. But it will adversely affect the farmer. How they would be able to do farming without the help of agricultural labourers? Therefore, we have requested the State Governments to provide 100 days employment to the labourers at a time when they do not get any work. Some members suggest 200 days employment for them and some says why not for the whole year. We are providing 100 days employment so that it may not adversely affect the agriculture. Already the situation is that we have to import foodgrains but we would not allow it to worsen. Therefore, a balanced and a detailed consideration should be given to it so that farmers as well as labourers may not suffer and labourers get adequate wages for their work.

An hon'ble member had raised the issue regarding unavailability of water in the toilets in schools. I have spoken about that and about funds also. Through labour department, nine working hours have been fixed for labourers out of which one hour has been kept for having lunch and taking rest etc. hence eight hours have been fixed for work and one hour for rest.

We have made a rough list of works to be undertaken. Water conservation, flood proofing, minor irrigation, drought proofing and rural connectivity has been given top priority but we have made provision to add other works also in consultation with State Governments for any particular district in a particular State. You have passed the law in this regard. A question has been raised regarding payments from accounts department. Steps are being taken in this regard. I have told about achievements in sanitation. I have also spoken about land reforms and IWDPL. I hope members would be satisfied with my replies.

Hon'ble member has raised a question regarding increase in budgetary allocation for PMGSY. Such a substantial amount is allocated that it is not spent fully. Many hon'ble members who were speaking about it have left. Members have been given the right to inaugurate the roads. Chief Ministers have been intimated in this regard. They will soon get the letters in this regard. Suggestions of the Members cannot be ignored. We have stated that their suggestions would be accepted. If not accepted, the reasons for the same have to be given. NREG Programme has checked the migration. If work is being done using tractor, please inform. Investigations will be made and action would be taken accordingly.

Hon. Member had inquired about the fire. The number of houses of the poor burnt by fire is 25,000 to 40,000 whereas we construct 21 lakhs of houses all over the country. In case a few thousand houses are destroyed by any natural calamity or fire the collector has authority to provide new houses to the affected people at the earliest under Indira Awas Yojana and get funds from us. Earlier the names were sent and it would take one or two months time to sanction the houses and the poor used to get some temporary arrangement till then. Therefore we told them to do it at the earliest. Some have implemented it whereas some have not implemented it due to misunderstanding.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): The section 4 provides that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That clause has been deleted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As you have asked a question, I am going to reply. Sir, when a fire breaks out anywhere there is a provision to provide foodgrains for a week, Rs. 500/- for clothes or Rs. 1000/- for utensils at the earliest all over the country. At some places insurance money is given. Hence it was provided that if one does not get money for house then Indira Awas should be provided. If there is any confusion, we would like to clarify that. We are determined to provide Indira Awas to them whose homes are burnt. This is only for BPL and not for APL. Only BPL can avail the benefit of Indira Awas. We will rectify if there is any contradictory clause. I am glad to see that hon. Members take interest in it. We have asked the Collector as to why Indira Awaas was not sanctioned to a persons whose home destroyed infire. In case of delay I myself have phoned several Collectors. I asked them as to why they did not go through the document. They replied that they did not get the document and requested to send the document. Thereafter the document was sent. We will

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see whether the houses have been constructed or not even thereafter.

With regard to drinking water you said that hand pump should be provided on the recommendation of Member of Parliament. You delivered your speech but none clapped. You have raised a question and I would like to say that I do appreciate the demand of hon. Member Panchayat Bhavan is being constructed for BPL. Panchayati Raj Ministry is also working. I have already told about the provision of drinking water and toilets in the schools and Rajiv Gandhi electrification scheme. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav is not here. I have told about Bharat Nirman Yojana and development of wasteland. There is a national rehabilitation settlement policy which will resolve all the disputes arising out of SEZ. The best feature of this policy is rehabilitation before displacement. It also provides for voluntary displacement.

The Government spends Rupees ten thousand crore in the name of development, but, there is no scheme for rehabilitation. Therefore, I had said that there should be a separate scheme for rehabilitation on the lines of schemes for development. Development automatically results in displacement and provision has been made for it. As there was some problem in allotment under Indira Awas Yojana, so NREG's job cards were not distributed. The list of beneficiaries has not been displayed. I had written to Shri Nitish Kumar in 2005 that if the list is not displayed and disparities are not sorted out in BPL list, the Government will not release funds. He wrote to me in this regard and sought two months time. Again six months time was sought. But the disparities have not been sorted out. We have received information that irregularities has taken place.

Sir, so far as old age pension is concerned, national social assistance programme was launched in 1995. Under this programme 75 percent funds are provided by the Central Government and 25 per cent by the State Government. One hundred rupees were allocated for BPL.

MR. SPEAKER: You have come at number five, forty Members have also spoken. Ram Kripal ji's turn was at number five.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, now I will make it brief. I have replied to the queries of most of the Members. Earlier, there was no definition for destitute, helpless, eligible for old age, pension. An old man who either pays bribe or is able to get his case recommended by any MLA or MP gets pensions, whereas, actually needy old aged persons do not get it.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the reality.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: every person, who is of the age of 65 years and whose name appears in BPL list will be provided Indira Gandhi old age pension which we launched on 19 November. So far 87 lakh persons were getting it, whereas, now as per latest orders, one crore fifty seven lakh persons will get the said pension. Some states are lagging behind in this case. It seems, some State have not filled up their forms. But we are often this job. Under the said scheme the Central Government will pay rupees 200 and the States have been asked to pay rupees 200, *i.e.* the equal amount, thus, making it a total of rupees four hundred. Several States including Uttranchal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan have implemented it whereas, many other States have not done so. Some States are paying rupees 25, some rupees 50 and some rupees 100.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Members, who had said that they were sitting in the House for their turn to speak, are not here to listen to me.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I want to know by which date it is proposed to be implemented? Whenever I go to the villages people ask me as announcement has been already made.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It has been made effected from 19 November. The State Governments, which are neither remitting their contribution nor paying the money received from the Centre to the poor are doing injustice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Has the Central Government released funds?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, we have released?

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your State and ask them.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It has been implemented from November 19th. You should ask them why they have not implemented it. This is why I am informing the hon. Members about this.

Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan had raised certain questions. Wherever there is any irregularity or bungling, we want to remove that through transparency and public awareness.

Shri K.C. Pallani Shamy talked about Tamil Nadu. Dr. Kalinger Karunanidhi, the leader and Shri Satalin, who is a Minister, both have written that you have failed to utilize the released funds. If you utilize the funds, we will provide more funds. They have told me to be generous. It is not a question of being generous. The Government is being careful to ensure that work in Tamil Nadu is also carried out in an effective manner. Self-help groups are doing good work. I want this type of work to be done throughout the country. Maintenance of Anganwadis, increase in the unit cost of IAY, IT development are all being undertaken by us. Shri Tahir Khan is not present here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here to listen to you. Do you give replies to the questions of hon. Members who are not present in the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He said that Uttar Pradesh has been discriminated against. It is not so. The Government gives funds but they are not able to spend it. Still, we are giving them funds with alacrity. They say that we have given more funds to Bihar. The Planning Commission has set the criteria for allocation of funds. We are not the ones who decide how much to give to a State. It is decided by the Planning Commission. 75 percent weightage is given to people who are homeless in a State and 25 percent weightage is given to the BPL population of the State. The funds to be given to a State are decided on these basis and accordingly Bihar has been allocated funds according to the figures of the 2001 comes. It is necessary to explain this in view of the accusation made by him. Even if some other party is in power in a State it cannot say that fair allocation has not been done. The Chief Minister who belong to BJP may kindly clarify whether or not they are being given funds which are five times that of funds granted by NDA when it was in power. They have said that Bihar has been given more funds. Do we decide how much is to be given to Bihar? No, we don't...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You send it to Bolpur.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to quote something because he has made the allegation.

[English]

It says:

"For the sake of uniformity, for determining the State-wise allocation, the data of rural housing shortage provided by the Office of the Registrar General of India based on Census 2001 is taken into account. As per the information furnished by RGI, the rural housing shortage in U.P. 13,24,000 only, whereas the housing shortage in Bihar is 42,10,000"

[Translation]

They are facing a shortage of 13 lakhs. This is written by Registrar General of India's census. Where does our fault lie. We do not decide the number. 42 lakh is the number in Bihar and it has been given 75 percent weightage.

[English]

It further says...

"That is why, the share of Bihar is more than Uttar Pradesh, in so far as IAY is concerned. During 2007-08, Bihar has the Central allocation....."

[Translation]

Therefore, hon'ble Member is not aware of it. The Government has published this paper. They have asked for funds under NREGP. We have provided funds to the states but they have not utilized these funds. We have been writing to them repeatedly. Shri Mulayam Singh ji was the Chief Minister. He said that it was a useless scheme. Mayawati ji, the hon'ble Chief Minister has also called it to be a useless scheme, saying that she would be the Prime Minister, though she may or not. She said that she would cancel this scheme. This is like begging, the one presenting the petition was called a beggar. What reaction it will have now. I have held a meeting with all the senior officials of 70 districts in that area. They all said that they would do well and after two-three months our State will become the number one State. Now a contrary statement comes from the Chief Minister. Politicizing this issue and having unnecessary discussions and making charges in this will adversely affect the scheme launched for the poor. Therefore, No State can say regarding the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana that we have been biased to them. We are making large allocations. None of the states can claim that their demands were not met under the NREGP. We are always ready to meet their demands. We have already replied to hon. Tahir Khan's statements. It was stated that the MPs were insulted but we would not let that happen. We are there with all the MPs. We are ready to face anyone...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: MPs want to go there for inauguration only. They do not want to do anything else.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Brahmanand Panda was talking about the tribal and border areas. We are providing funds for the tribals. The allocation of funds is being made to the villages having a population of up to 500 people. You tell us the names of the villages. We will connect them all with roads. As per the statement you have made Bihar and Orissa were together since the year 1937. Therefore, we are alert for Orissa. We are providing funds. Just now an hon'ble Member raised a question regarding funds not being spent on drinking water. It is neither about Uttar Pradesh nor Bihar; we have to help them in any context. Shri Chandrakant Khaire ji had said that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are at number nine. There are names of 40 more Members.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will be brief in my reply. It was said that publicity is our weakness. They say that our officers are not cooperating. It is not true, our officers are alert 24 hours. There are 40 officers and 600 districts in our Ministry. There are 15 districts under each officer but still our officials are dedicated and vigilant. They are working with sincerity therefore; it is not appropriate to say so. I do not believe in publicity much. My work will speak for itself. My work will be in every house and village. It does not matter whether anything is published in newspapers regarding us or not Dr. Lohia had said that work will speak for itself and it is immaterial whether the paper writes it or not, the poor people do not read any newspaper. They do not even watch any pictures. They will have the facility of toilet, drinking water, roads and electricity in their homes. Our work will speak but this is an age of publicity. We have said that there should be improvement in that as well. Now it is being said that funds are not being spent in states. I say that these reports are old. We take up the data upto 31st March wehereas in some states accounts are not prepared till the funds are not spent, that is why, it seems that the funds have not been spent. It is not so anymore. We have given details of the work carried out under NREGP. You have asked us to grant funds to APL under the TSE. Certain State Governments have granted funds to the APL as well, even though the states may grant such funds but since the issue has been raised by you, we will also look into this matter. Shri Prabhunath Singhji has left the house...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to reply him. You reply to Shri Prabodh Panda's question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Prabodh Panda ji has in the BPL list...*(Interruptions)* Meeting of the Committee has been held. I have replied queries regarding the budget and minimum wages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly reply to Shri Lakshman Singhji's question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Chandrakantji, you have got your reply. It will take one hour instead of half an hour in this way.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have given reply to the question about land reforms. I have replied to all queries regarding SGSY, land acquisition, IWDP, Shri Subhash Maharia is not there in the House so I will let his question remain unanswered. Shri Jaiprakash and Ponnuswami ji is not present in the House. Shri Laxman Singh is present in the House, so I will reply to his question. Some states are lagging behind in the implementation of ARWSP, IRDP and Indira Awas Yojana. I have already replied to the query regarding PMGSY. I have also replied to the question put by Shri Tushar Choudhary ji...*(Interruptions)* Shri Abu Ayish Mandalji is present in the House. I have replied to his question. Ilyas Azmi ji is not present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Azmiji is not in the House, so you may carry on.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Nihal Chand is not in the House. Manvendra Singh ji often raised questions about the role of Radha-Krishnaji. I have replied to all of his question...*(Interruptions)* He had raised the issue of school. I have replied to that also. He often raises the issue of drinking water. That is about drinking water problem in Mathura. Water is saline in Mathura therefore, he has urged for making arrangements for

potable water there. The Members have also raised the issue of quantity and monitoring of works under PMGSY. At least there should be 12 meetings in 24 months...*(Interruptions)* In some of the states meetings are not held at state level.

MR. SPEAKER: This debate has taken almost eight-and-a-half hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sitaram Singh ji, Chandrabhushan Singh ji and Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankarji are not here. Ravichandran ji has gone. The hon. Members have said about the cooperation from bank that the cooperation of banks is must. Shrimati Karuna Shukla ji is also not present. Shri Thangabalu has raised the issue of low wages, the shortage of drinking water. I accept what he has said about AIGSY, PMGSY. Shri Munshiram ji has raised the issue of awarding of contractors of small stretches for construction of roads. We will consider this also. We are also considering increase in allocation of funds for construction of toilets. Shrimati Sujata has demanded that the width of roads under PMGSY may be reduced. We will do that and will provide help to Kerala...*(Interruptions)* Prasanna Acharya ji has raised the issue of compensations in lieu of acquisition of land. The State Government acquiries land under PMGSY, so it is their responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They have no interest.

[Translation]

They have left the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Ramdas Athawale has supported us and encouraged us to accomplish these tasks with full determination. Shri Ganesh Singh, Dr. Ramlakhan Singh and Shri B.K. Dev have left. Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria had mentioned about water but he has also left the House. Therefore, I am grateful to all the hon'ble members. I am confident that with such an enthusiasm and strong determination among the people, the country will definitely solve the problems of unemployment and poverty by the year 2015 and villages will progress and by the year 2020 India will be one of the leading nations of the world.

With these words while thanking all of you, I would like to express my gratitude towards the House. The hon'ble Members present here, would be provided with written replies also if they wish. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development to the vote of the House.

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 80 to 82 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

The motion was adopted.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 24th April, 2008 at 11.00 a.m.

20.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 24, 2008/Vaisakha 4, 1930 (Saka).

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