

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 14, 2007/Phalgun 23, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 221, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta—
not present.

Q. 222, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao—not
present.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Expenditure on Advertisements by BSNL

+
*223. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

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

(a) the total amount spent by the Bharat Sanchar
Nigam Limited (BSNL) on advertisements during the last
three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount spent in Maharashtra on this count;

(c) the details of the list of institutions/establishments/
media/press in which advertisements were given; and

(d) the amount paid on advertisements in each case?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI
MARAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of
the House.

Statement

(a) Sir, the total amount spent on advertisement in
BSNL during last three years, year-wise is as below:

(Rs. in Crores)

| | Year 2004-05 | Year 2005-06 | Year 2006-07 (upto Feb 07) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Amount spent on advertisement | 46.77 | 92.90 | 122.85 |

(b) The amount spent in Maharashtra alone on this
count is as follows.

(Rs. in Crore)

| | Year 2004-05 | Year 2005-06 | Year 2006-07 (upto Feb 07) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Amount spent on advertisement | 2.15 | 5.02 | 14.54 |

(c) and (d) The details of the list of institutions/
establishments/media/press in which advertisements were
given and amount paid on advertisements in each case
are given at Annexure.

Annexure

*Details of List along with amount paid in each case, of Institutions/Establishment/Media/Press in
which advertisement were given by Maharashtra Telecom Circle*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (upto Feb 07) |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Print Media | | | |
| Aikya, Satara | 27,135 | 78,732 | 2,39,987 |
| Dainik Bhaskar, Nagpur | 3,53,498 | 10,25,670 | 31,26,387 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Deshdoot, all editions | 76,602 | 2,22,261 | 6,77,483 |
| Deshonnati, all editions | 1,77,759 | 5,15,765 | 15,72,126 |
| DNA, Mumbai | 8,48,395 | 24,61,608 | 75,03,328 |
| Free Press Journal, Mumbai | 45,551 | 1,32,165 | 4,02,857 |
| Gaonkari, Nashik | 46,190 | 1,34,021 | 4,08,515 |
| Hindustan Times | 5,38,663 | 15,62,926 | 47,64,018 |
| Hitvada, Nagpur | 4,59,906 | 13,34,413 | 40,67,479 |
| IE + LS, all editions in Maharashtra | 20,19,987 | 58,60,971 | 1,78,65,067 |
| Kesari, Pune & Sangli | 54,326 | 1,57,628 | 4,80,471 |
| Lokmat, all editions | 29,38,408 | 85,25,759 | 2,59,87,718 |
| Maharashtra Times, Mumbai | 13,06,258 | 37,90,095 | 1,15,52,743 |
| Mid Day, Mumbai | 4,91,530 | 14,26,170 | 43,47,166 |
| Navakar, Mumbai | 89,553 | 2,59,836 | 7,92,018 |
| Navbharat, Mumbai & Nagpur | 4,30,931 | 12,50,341 | 38,11,214 |
| Navhind Times, Goa | 2,01,999 | 5,86,097 | 17,86,507 |
| O'Herald, Goa | 1,51,499 | 4,39,573 | 13,39,880 |
| Pudhari, all editions | 4,03,997 | 11,72,194 | 35,73,013 |
| Punyanagari, all editions | 3,98,184 | 11,55,328 | 35,21,602 |
| Ratnagiri Times, Ratnagiri | 81,203 | 2,35,611 | 7,18,176 |
| Saamana, Mumbai | 61,565 | 1,78,629 | 5,44,488 |
| Sakal, all editions | 16,76,589 | 48,64,606 | 1,48,28,006 |
| Sandhyanand & Aaj Ka Anand, Pune | 1,48,413 | 4,30,619 | 13,12,586 |
| Sarvamat, Shrirampur | 21,793 | 63,233 | 1,92,744 |
| Tarun Bharat, Goa | 1,51,499 | 4,39,573 | 13,39,880 |
| Times of India, Pune | 9,58,127 | 27,74,193 | 84,56,132 |
| Out Door Media | 70,22,485 | 78,82,253 | 1,89,01,311 |
| Electronic Media | | | |
| Radio Mirchi, Pune | nil | 3,96,610 | 8,89,767 |
| Local Cable TV | 2,73,671 | 8,12,801 | 4,30,097 |
| Total | 2,14,53,717 | 5,01,69,681 | 14,54,32,766 |

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any criteria have been fixed by BSNL to give advertisements.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the freedom for giving advertisements is given to the Board, Chairman-cum-Managing Director as well as to the circle CGMs. Circle CGMs are free to do whatever they feel fit under the prevailing market conditions.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister shows that the newspapers with very limited circulation are given more advertisement in comparison to the newspapers with having good circulation. Is there any method to keep a check on it or it is the discretion of CGMs, of circle to give advertisements in any newspaper?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, it is the pure discretion of the Circle CGMs. They also follow norms which are prescribed by the Board. Mostly they prefer to give these advertisements in newspapers which have good circulation and good reach. It is the discretion of the local CGMs.

MR. SPEAKER: Discretion cannot be arbitrarily exercised. The hon. Member is saying that newspapers with very limited circulation are being given these advertisements.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, we have given the details, as requested by the hon. Member, about the newspapers in which the advertisements have been given during the last three years and also the amount. If the hon. Member has any specific case in his mind, I would request him to bring it to my notice so that I can ask them to find out as to how it has happened.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, So far as Maharashtra is concerned, the reply has shown an amount of Rs. 14 crore as spent by the state on advertisements. However, even after the expenditure of Rs. 14 crore, the demand for BSNL connections is coming down day by day. Do the

concerned Ministry propose to make special efforts to increase the demand?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this regarding advertisement?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Sir, despite spending a large amount on advertisements, the demand for the connections is coming down and more and more people are opting private operators. It has become a fruitless expenditure. What efforts are being made by the hon'ble Minister to increase the demand?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very nice question. In fact, I have also been asking the same question in a different way. If you see, the turnover of BSNL is Rs. 40,176 crore.

The expenditure on advertisement is only Rs.122 crore. It is about 0.3 per cent of their turn-over. Whereas, if you compare with other corporates which are doing it, they do one to two per cent of their turn-over. We are doing only 0.3 per cent. It is low. To say that the demand for BSNL phone is coming down is not correct because basically, we have a very unusual demand. Our Cell One BSNL mobile phone is doing extremely well. Probably, landlines are getting surrendered. The reason is that people are going in for mobile phones. That is why, they are surrendering landlines.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: By giving such extensive advertisements, is it a fact that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is giving special attention to providing modern telecommunication facilities in the NCR for decongesting the National Capital Territory?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know about it. It has nothing to do with this Question.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Yes, Sir, it has got nothing to do with this Question. Basically, the NCR Region has a mixture of both MTNL and BSNL phones. It is very prestigious for us. We are making all efforts to ensure that more modern services are put in place not only in NCR Region but also in every part of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to hon'ble Minister that advertisements are given to attract the people and increase demand. But as the hon'ble Members have mentioned, despite spending a heavy amount on advertisements by BSNL, the demand for its connection is coming down especially due to the poor network service of BSNL be it is landline telephone or mobile one. I do the hon'ble Minister propose to take any step in this regard and reduce the expenditure?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not be unfair. There is a great demand for BSNL phones at least in my constituency.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Actually, that is not correct. There is a huge demand for the BSNL phones, as I mentioned earlier. Right now, we are expanding it. Every time we expand the capacity, the capacity is taken over immediately.

As far as the landline is concerned, it is a myth that landlines are being surrendered because there is no demand. Let us be very practical. The cell phone rates are very cheap. Today, we are the cheapest in the world with the rate of one rupee a minute. What happens is that the husband has a phone; the wife has a phone and even the children have a phone. They feel that the monthly rental in respect of the landline is more and there is no necessity to have a landline and pay additional rental on that. That is the reason why there is a decline in the landline demand.

MR. SPEAKER: Instead of the words "not true," write the word "incorrect."

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 224—Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen—not present.

Question No.225 Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid—not present. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana. Please put the Question Number.

[Translation]

Anti-Satellite Tests by China

*225. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has expressed concern over the recent anti-satellite tests conducted by China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the technological tests conducted by China has threatened civilian space programmes of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Indian Government has taken up this matter with the Chinese Government;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Indian Government at the international level to check the militarisation of space and the outcome of these steps?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

On 11 January 2007, China destroyed one of their inactive weather satellites in polar orbit with kinetic impact using a ballistic missile. The test has increased the quantity of space debris in low earth orbit. However, no damage has been observed so far on any Indian satellite. The Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed the test on 23 January 2007 while reiterating China's commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space.

The subject came up in discussions during Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Li Zhaoxing's visit to India from February 11-14, 2007. The Chinese side stressed that China was against weaponisation of outer space and that their test was of purely technological and scientific significance and not directed against any country. In response India's principled opposition to the weaponisation of space was conveyed and it was underlined that it was essential to preserve the longstanding international consensus on peaceful uses of outer space.

Government believe that this consensus could be undermined by continuation of such testing or deployment of weapons in outer space. The security and safety of

assets in outer space is today of crucial importance for global economic and social development. It should become the responsibility of every nation to maintain outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and guard it as the common, peaceful heritage of mankind. Government has called upon all states to redouble efforts to strengthen the international legal regime for the peaceful uses of outer space. Government will continue to be closely engaged with the multilateral effort towards keeping outer space free of weapons.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government of India has expressed concern over the recent anti-satellite tests conducted by China recently. If so, the details thereof.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, when this was brought to our notice, after the 11th January when the test by China took place, the first responses came from Australia, Japan and the USA. After that, on 23rd January, China admitted it. On the 4th of February, while participating in an international seminar on the "Utilization of the Outer Space," I, on behalf of our Government, expressed our view which is the traditional stand which we have always taken that the outer space should be free from weaponisation. The Disarmament Conference at Geneva is working and because of certain facts, it is not very active right now—practically from 1985 to 1998. International organizations were active. They were trying to have a legal framework for preventing the weaponisation of the outer space.

After 1998, the United States of America took a view that there is no arms race in the outer space and so, the work of PAROS has slowed down. But now, after this test, the Chinese Foreign Minister, during his visit to our country from 11th to 14th February, while having discussions with us, assured that this is not for weaponisation, but this is to test their scientific and technological skills and it is neither directed against any country nor is it meant for weaponisation. But still we do feel that the international community should address this issue and engage itself in ensuring that the outer space is free from weaponisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Avtar Singh Bhadana, do you have any second supplementary?

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : No, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the United States of America is addressing the issue of weaponisation of outer space by saying that no weapon should lie in outer space, with their technological monopoly they are holding all such spaces with their technological advancement and they are asking other countries not to weaponise outer space. This is the attitude of United States of America. In this matter, may I know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what is the Government of India's view on this kind of attitude of the United States of America?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as technological development is concerned, every country is entitled to have its technological advancement. Those who are having access to superior technology or in possession of superior technology, they will try to manifest it. We are also engaged in space research, but the basic objective is an accepted one and it is not new. Hon. Members may remember that for the first time, in 1957 Sputnik was launched. After that, in 1958 the United Nations adopted a Resolution and since then it is being worked out that the outer space would be used for the entire human community, it would remain the province of the entire human race and it would be the heritage of entire mankind. As a result of that, since then a large number of countries have launched satellites and those satellites have given very valuable information for development. It is not merely for academic pursuit of technological knowledge, but also for planning, development, mapping and for having various data and all these satellites are being used for this purpose. Therefore, the basic objective is that there should not be weaponisation of outer space and it should remain as the heritage of entire mankind and India is working for that.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears to me that due to the pressure of United States of America, the international forum has become inactive. So, keeping in mind the fact that India is the leader of the peace loving world, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will take an initiative to activate the international forum for preventing arms race in outer space and also for nuclear disarmament.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already replied it in my original answer to the question. Not only that, in my first response to this in an international seminar where a large number of countries were present, I shared my views with the Chinese Foreign Minister and the Russian Foreign Minister about the outcome of this event.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have mentioned that.

[Translation]

Unauthorised PCOs

+
*226. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the STD-PCOs allocated to the handicapped and the unemployed persons are being run by others unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the findings of such an enquiry; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Sir, as regards running of PCOs allocated to handicapped and unemployed persons unauthorisedly by other persons, no such case has come to the notice of the Government during the last two years.

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

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister to this question is contrary to the facts. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the Government has fixed a quota for handicapped in the allotment of PCOs. However, this provision is being misused by some persons who get the PCOs allotted for themselves in the name of handicapped persons. On the other hand, the handicapped persons get a negligible share in profit. The linemen and officers of Telephone Department are also aware of this practice. It has also been seen that some mafia have got PCOs allotted in the name of handicapped in connivance with the department. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a matter of speech.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the linemen and officers of the department have any role in getting the possession and benefit of those PCOs to the physically handicapped, which are reserved for them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has no information. You give the information.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister now many PCOs have been allotted to handicapped upto this session.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, so far we have not received any complaints of such kind.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hari Kewal Prasad, you send the particulars to him if you have.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know the number of PCOs in the country. The total number of PCOs in the country is 20,91,484 and out of that 28,395 have been allocated to handicapped persons.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any particulars send them to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any vigilance cell in his department to investigate such-types of cases. If so, whether, the cases in which other people are getting benefit in the name of handicapped, would be investigated through this cell?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you have it investigated?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, at this point the situation has completely changed. The hon. Member is asking about the quota system. There is no quota. Whenever there is a waiting list, 50 per cent of that was given, as a preference, to the handicapped people, SC/ST people or people who have retired from the Services and those categories. At this moment, we have totally liberalized. Now, private operators have also come in. There is no waiting list. There is not much demand for PCOs. The BSNL itself gives PCOs to whosoever wants on demand. It is not like those old days when anyone had to wait for a long time and get a special recommendation letter. The times have changed now.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether any policy change is there in relation to allotment of PCOs to unemployed and handicapped youths. He just now said that the times have changed. But I think, even now, these poor people, especially the handicapped and unemployed, in the effort to find self-employment, are looking for it. So, I would like to know whether the same policy will continue that they will be given priority.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The policy still remains, but there are no takers. We are in such a situation. The same policy will continue. But definitely there is rebate in security deposit for them.

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that PCO demand has come down. Everybody has his own telephone.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, even though it is a liberalized policy, it is also a fact that many blind persons and very poor handicapped persons are being rehabilitated

by the Communication Department in a big way. So, I would earnestly like to suggest, request and also put to the hon. Minister whether the Department will see to it that at least the allotment of those PCOs, which are run by the handicapped persons ...*(Interruptions)*, yes, physically challenged persons, especially the blind persons, is not hampered and that also the dependants of such physically challenged persons, who die all of a sudden, will be given a preference.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, as is the policy, we are always willing to help the physically challenged people wherever possible.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that in some cases the unemployed youth, who have been allotted STD PCOs, after getting jobs have allowed their family members to run those STD PCOs.

Is there any proposal to cancel such kind of allotments?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: We have not got any specific complaints on such issue. If they are brought to our notice, definitely proper action will be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh. Do you have any relevant question to ask?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Do you have any doubt?

MR. SPEAKER: I put that question because this Question has very elaborately been discussed.

Let there be little humour some time.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: It is my experience. I would like to know the percentage of quota fixed for handicapped. Out of 100 PCOs, how many PCOs & STD booths are allotted to handicapped.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: As I mentioned earlier, there is no quota as such but we are giving a preference of allotment—policy is there—when there is a waiting list for PCOs. It only comes into action when there is a waiting list. Now it is free for everyone; it is on demand. Definitely, if there is waiting, 50 per cent are given to

Defence and paramilitary establishments, war widows and dependants, SCs/STs, handicapped persons or physically challenged persons, and ex-servicemen.

MR. SPEAKER: My doubt is confirmed.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that PCO and BSNL connections are easily available now and a large number of people in private sector are also using it. Mostly the poor people and handicapped are taking benefit of this facility and open PCOs in rural and adjacent sub-urban areas in an effort to earn a livelihood. Sir, it is also a fact that though it is easily available, not many people are using it. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister whether under special circumstances, the poor handicapped people who are earning their livelihood through PCO will be given some concessions in tariff?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you wish to give any concession.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: At this moment, we are not proposing it because we are already giving concession on deposit for them. Whereas a normal person is charged Rs.1000, they are not charged that initial deposit. Frankly, I have been repeating earlier, times are changing. Now every individual is having possession of phone. The policy of the Government is also to increase tele-density, and more and more Indians use phone. And, naturally, when more individual have phones, the demand for Public Call Offices (PCOs) will be diminishing.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 227 - Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu—not present.

Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad - not present.

Well, the country is watching us.

Q. No. 228 – Shri Anil Basu – not present.

Q. No. 229 – Shri Asaduddin Owaisi. Thank you very much; you have come all the way from Hyderabad.

High Incidence of Cancer Cases in North-eastern Region

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*229. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the occurrence of certain types of cancer cases is higher in the North-Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons affected by such cases, State-wise;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of radiotherapy machines in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern Region;

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

(e) the action taken to check the increasing number of cancer cases and the total budget allocated for the region in the current year?

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

Statement

Population Based Cancer Registry Programme (PBCR) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) shows occurrence of certain types of cancer e.g. Oesophagus, Lung, Mouth, Nasopharynx, Stomach etc. relatively higher in North Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country. As per the available data, there is a shortage of Radiotherapy machines in the country including in the North Eastern Region.

Health being a State Subject, it is for the various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of RCCs and Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities.

To provide efficient and cost effective treatment to cancer patients in North Eastern Region, this Ministry has recognized three Regional Cancer Centres namely Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Civil Hospital, Mizoram, which are catering to the needs of the cancer patients. Sufficient amount of grant-in-aid has already been provided to these RCCs for development of infrastructure. In addition, grant-in-aid has also been provided to Medical Colleges/Hospitals for purchase of equipment under other scheme of the National Cancer Control Programme. RCC Guwahati has been identified for grant of financial assistance under a new scheme, namely, 'Upgradation of the existing RCCs into Centre of Excellence'. As a policy decision, 10% of the total budget of NCCP has been earmarked for NE Region. Over the past three years, total grant worth Rs.26.23 crores has been released to the North Eastern States under various schemes of NCCP including grant of Rs.8.80 crores for the Regional Cancer Centres, Rs. 16.99 crores under Oncology wing development scheme and Rs.44.00 lakhs under the District Cancer Control Programme.

This Ministry is also focusing on propagating early detection of the cancer and also to increase awareness among the general masses about the diseases through Media Publicity and also under various schemes of the NCCP.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, three RCCs in Guwahati, Imphal and Mizoram are being given grant-in-aid for development of infrastructure. In the answer given the Minister is accepting that the occurrence of cancer is higher in North East compared to the other parts of the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to extend the same scheme to Sikkim, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and NEIGRIMS in Shillong.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We started the Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) and these Centres are the Centres of Excellence. We identified these Centres. If the hospitals already have some beds allocated for cancer work and if they have some infrastructure, machinery, equipment or manpower, we identify the hospitals and make them RCCs to cater to our national programme. We have three RCCs in North Eastern Region. We are trying to upgrade more facilities. In fact we are building a new hospital, NEIGRIMS in Shillong where we are going to have another hundred-bedded hospital exclusively for cancer, and that is also going to

be made a RCC. So, we are going to have RCCs in all the States of this country. To have a RCC, they have to have certain criteria.

We are trying to upgrade these in the States of Sikkim, Nagaland, and Manipur. Our ultimate aim is to have one RCC in these States. Before that, we are trying to put up infrastructure in then existing Government hospitals and then upgrading them to the status of RCC.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, part 'B' of my Question—the number of persons affected by such cases, State-wise—has not been answered. Sir, it is possible for the Minister to give that information? What is the break-up of Rs.26.23 crore, which the Ministry of Health has given to the North-Eastern States, State-wise details?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: About the number of cases, I can get some more information from the State Governments and give it to the hon. Member.

About the break-up of allocations, State-wise, I will give it now.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the break-up of all the States?

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: North-Eastern States.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is as follows:

2004-05: For the development of Oncology Wing—Civil Hospital, Agartala—Rs. 1.6 crore; Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati—Rs. 3 crore; Civil Hospital, Nagaland—Rs. 2.21 crore; Civil Hospital, Shillong — Rs. 3 crore; Regional Cancer Centre—For the development of Oncology Wing—Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati—Rs. 2.84 crore.

2005-06: Silcher Medical College, Assam—Rs. 2 crore; Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal — Rs. 3 crore; and then Regional Cancer Centres—Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati — Rs. 0.16 crore; Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal — Rs. 5 crore; RCC, Mizoram — Rs. 0.8 crore;

2006-07: Assam Medical College, Assam—Rs. 2.18 crore; for the District Cancer Control Programme: RCC, Mizoram—Rs. 0.44 crore.

I can get some more information and give it to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar – Not present.

Now, Shri Anwar Hussain.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, as to which of the existing RCCs in the North Eastern States are proposed to be upgraded into the Centre of excellence; what special steps are going to be made available in the Centre of excellence; what are the additional funds required for it; and what amounts have been sanctioned already.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we are going to have a Centre of excellence in RCC, Guwahati, Assam. In our earlier programme, we have proposed a plan to spend about Rs. 30 crore to that Centre to make it as a Centre of excellence but then this will be split over in the Eleventh Plan due to some constraints of funds. Not only that, as I have already said, NEIGRIMS, Shillong, a 100-bedded exclusively cancer hospital is also going to be made as RCC and a Centre of excellence.

Our future priorities are to bring one RCC in each North Eastern States.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the number of steps taken by the Ministry for upgrading the cancer treatment facilities in the North Eastern Region, a large number of patients are still going to other States of the country for specialised treatment and also for diagnosis. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry has made any assessment about the requirement of further upgradation because so far whatever has been done has not yielded good result. There is Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, which is the oldest cancer institute of the Region. I would like to know whether it is being upgraded to a Centre of excellence. Is there any pending proposal from the Government of Assam so far as cancer treatment facilities are concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: Because of the disease, I am allowing so many part supplementaries.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is precisely we want that no patient from the North-East should go out of the North-East for treatment. That is the aim of the Government. For that only, we are now trying to upgrade the existing RCCs and also bring out new RCCs. It is not only RCCs but probably we have also an Oncology Scheme whereby we are upgrading all the Government

Hospital Cancer Blocks. We are giving literally two to three crores of rupees to upgrade them, to give them equipment and infrastructure for building the resources.

Also, we have a District Cancer Control Programme whereby we are implementing this in the North-East where we are holding camps for early detection. They are awareness camps. In that, even the NGO is inducted to conduct a camp to see about 100 patients a day. Once they check up the patients and see whether they have any problem, they could refer them to the nearest RCC.

We are trying to upgrade that but I would like to know the name of the institute which he has said.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: It is Dr. Bhubaneshwar Barua Cancer Institute which is the oldest Institute. It is in Guwahati.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will check it up and then let him know.

MR. SPEAKER: He will get back to you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given reply but the Kosi river in northern Bihar contains high quantity of arsenic and other contents resulting in occurrence of cancer in lakhs of people. Is the hon. Minister aware of it? Do the Government propose to get the contents found in said river water tested and take some precautionary measures? Districts, small towns, i.e. the whole area is affected by cancer. Do the Government propose to provide testing facility in district hospitals in affected areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Bihar is within North-East.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, we are aware of the problem of arsenic not only in Bihar but also in West Bengal, Jharkhand and in the neighbouring areas. This is a wider problem. It is not only a health problem but it is also a drinking water and social problem which we are trying to address with the help of the respective State Governments. Through the Indian Council of Medical Research, lot of research has been done for this problem of arsenic poisoning. We are advising the State Governments to take necessary steps. Also, through the

Ministries of Rural Development and Water Resources, we are trying to rectify this problem.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, one of the Cancer Centres in my constituency is the Cooch Behar Regional Cancer Centre where a large number of patients are getting treatment from Cooch Behar and also from nearest Bhutan and Assam. I would request the Minister to develop this Cooch Behar Regional Cancer Centre. So, I want to know whether the Government would be giving financial assistance to this Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: We are travelling far beyond.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We have a policy of having one RCC in each State, and in some populous States like Uttar Pradesh we are having two of them. If necessary, we can have more according to the requirement and population. We will consider this case. There are some basic criteria to have the status of RCC. If that fulfills the criteria, then it will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Bhavani Rajenthiran.

For this Question, Tamil Nadu is even within North-East.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir. It has nothing to do with the North-Eastern region but it is a general question. We, the Members of Parliament, recommend heart patients, kidney patients and cancer patients to our hon. Prime Minister's Fund. They select some patients.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it does not arise at all out of this main Question.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN : Sir, it is a very important question.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, it is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. You put a separate Question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJU: Mr Speaker Sir, there has been high rise in occurrence of cancer in the North-East.

[English]

Has the Government conducted any study on the food habits of the people living in the high mountain areas? It is because of this, this incident happening more here than in other parts of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it due to food habits?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is because of food habits, including chewing tobacco. That is one factor in the North-East where there has been a rampant cause of cancer. Like the hon. Member is saying, yes it is true that due to this, cancer is rampant. In fact, now it is a huge problem as a whole. In fact, there are other issues about Hepatitis-B and C which again cause cancer of liver.

Now, we have already a pilot programme of immunizing, providing vaccine for children against Hepatitis-B.

But, Sir, we are aware of this problem. We are trying our best to take this up by setting up more infrastructure in the North-East.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope tobacco is not treated as a food item.

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Commonwealth Games

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*230. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

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

(a) whether several important projects relating to the Commonwealth Games are pending due to objections raised by various departments as reported in the *Navbharat Times* dated January 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the projects; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to resolve the disputes in order to expedite the timely completion of these projects?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The process of seeking clearances from various agencies for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 related projects is an on-going process and any objections/clarifications raised by them are being suitably addressed by the implementing agencies concerned.

(b) The major sports infrastructure projects related to the Commonwealth Games, 2010 are: construction/up-gradation of Games Village and two Indoor Stadiums by Delhi Development Authority (DDA); Jawaharlal Nehru Complex, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Indira Gandhi Complex, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range and S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex by SAI; the Thyagaraj Sports Complex and Talkatora Indoor Stadium by the Government of NCT of Delhi/NDMC; and R.K. Khanna Tennis Complex by All India Lawn Tennis Association, apart from some smaller venues/training facilities at various places including Delhi University. In addition, the Government of NCT of Delhi has project proposals for a number of flyovers, bridges and roads/widening of roads etc., which are concerned with the requirements for transport and communication viz.-a-viz. the Commonwealth Games and/or with the general up-gradation of civic infrastructure in the city. These, inter-alia, include the project of the Link Road (Tunnel) from the Games Village site to the vicinity of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Bye Passes at Mahipalpur and Masoodpur for improvement in airport connectivity.

(c) For expediting the required clearances, an Empowered Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GNCTD with representatives from all the concerned agencies/authorities to facilitate speedy clearances in respect of the games related projects, which has been meeting regularly. Another Committee has been also set up with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as convenor to deal with clearances pertaining to Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC). All the Games related projects are expected to be completed in time for the Commonwealth Games.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It is very nice that Delhi will be hosting 2010 Commonwealth Games. Presently, Cricket World Cup is going on in West Indies. Yesterday West Indies defeated Pakistan....*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That portion is removed.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of holding of 2010 Common Wealth Games in Delhi, it is proposed to develop Delhi University and entire Delhi nicely. My first question is – how much expenditure in crores of rupees is likely to be incurred on development of Delhi, such as constructing new stadia, renovating old ones etc. and secondly, how Delhi Government and the Centre will share such expenditure?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask my second question?

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through EFC and with the permission of Planning Commission, an expenditure of Rs. 3002 has been sanctioned.*(Interruptions)* Sorry, Rs. 3002 crore have been sanctioned.

MR. SPEAKER: I think every Member would have done it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Out of it, Delhi NCT has been permitted to spend Rs. 770 crore for civic infrastructure.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Question?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I want to ask one more question.

*Not-recorded.

An Empowerment Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of Delhi Government. As the Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in the year 2010, so all the work will have to be completed 1 or 1½ years prior to commencement of games. My question is – By when the Government propose to complete the entire task? If the work is completed early, then only we can win World Cup.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I would like to assure the hon. Member that entire work would be completed in time and we would successfully conduct the games.

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Thank you, Sir. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has made any estimation about the number of visitors that are likely to come for the Commonwealth Games and whether adequate accommodation has been prepared for, for the visitors for the Commonwealth Games?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, necessarily at this stage, any estimate with respect to visitors from outside India as well as the very much larger number of visitors from elsewhere in India who would be coming here would have to be a 'guestimate' and in terms of that the appropriate accommodation arrangements are being made keeping in view also the need to expand the amount of tourist accommodation available in Delhi even beyond the Commonwealth Games. This is a matter under continuous review and I assure Shri Fanthome that we will be able to accommodate those who will be coming to this place.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sharad Pawar ji is sitting here. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that Kabaddi was included in Commonwealth Games and Asian Games because of efforts made by Shri Sharad Pawar ji and Late aunt Salvi ji. Khokho is one of Indian games. That is the fastest game. I too have played in many a game. Khokho is a very fast game. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now you are playing a special game.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will they include Kho-kho in 2010 Games.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that I alone can't take a decision in this regard. It can be decided after due deliberation with Commonwealth Games Federation. The Federation has permitted for 17 disciplines which does not include Khokho. But we are taking steps to encourage Khokho. In this regard, if he has any suggestion, I am ready to accept it. Similarly, Kabaddi, too is not included in Commonwealth Games, but, we are making efforts to get it included.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got complete reply to your Question.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Sir, the infrastructure such as stadium etc. required for 2010 Games is being constructed. Games village, for providing accommodation to the players is at least 15 kms away from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. As a player, several times I had been, abroad, but, nowhere I have seen residential accommodation for player as far as 15 kms. The players will have to waste adequate energy in traveling to the stadium. Pragati Maidan is near to Nehru Stadium. Construction of Games Villages at Pragati Maidan would have been much better.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a suggestion. She has personal experience.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, after due consultation with Commonwealth Games Federation it has been decided to construct Games Village beside Akshardham Mandir. However, we discussed other alternatives also. Since clearance for construction of Games Village has been granted, so we are moving ahead in this direction. We, too, had Pragati Maidan in our mind, but we were sceptic about its availability. Since it has been finalized now, so we are going ahead with it. But if any problem arises, we would consult.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: We have won the bid for Commonwealth Games. I was the Minister of sports when Sydney Olympic Games were being held. I had been there as the Leader of the Delegation. When any of our players wins a medal, it becomes an issue of wide discussion.

I would like to know if the Government is paying more attention to the training of sportspersons along with scaling up the infrastructure, so that we are able to win more medals. Today, the host country shows better performance. How much attention is being paid on it by the Government?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We have evolved a method whereby we discuss and decide after lengthy deliberations with the Sports Federations on how to improve the efficiency of our players in their respective disciplines. We are evolving scientific ways to motivate our sportspersons. Unfortunately, however we are not fully equipped to provide detailed information to our youths practising a sport. That is why our Ministry is now gearing up for a Panchayat Youth Sports Campaign. I hope that when this scheme would be cleared and implemented we would be able to perform those miracles which have been performed by other countries as a result of focusing on such works.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: A particular sport should be targeted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All money is monopolised by cricket only. Ministers are here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Panchayat Youth Sports Campaign Scheme referred to by the Hon. Minister is a good scheme since real talents are found in villages. If a talent is not promoted in young age then it is likely to underperform in a matured age. I would like to know from the Minister the time by which this scheme would be implemented and at present at which stage is it?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: While thanking the hon. Member for his support I would like to tell him that we have gone far ahead in this direction. Other Ministries have also given their replies. These are under consideration. I hope that this scheme would be forwarded to the Cabinet within a few weeks. The House will certainly be apprised of the decision taken therein.

[English]

Modernisation of Blood Banks

*231. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed blood banks which have been modernized by National AIDS Control Organisation in the country as on December 31, 2006;

(b) whether a number of blood banks which have been given financial assistance do not have any licence to function;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by NACO to set up at least one modernized blood bank in each district in the country?

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

Statement

National AIDS Control Programme under the Blood Safety component, provides one time equipment grant and annual recurring grant for establishing Blood Banks in Government, Voluntary and Charitable sector. Under this scheme, 1230 blood banks have been modernized as on 31st December 2006.

Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rules 1945, 'Blood' is classified as a 'drug'. As per the provisions laid down under the act, every blood bank has to be licensed after fulfillment of essential requirements of physical infrastructure, equipment and trained manpower. Therefore, only licensed blood banks are eligible for obtaining any kind of assistance from NACO or any other government agency.

Presently, there are 39 districts which do not have any government supported blood bank. On providing the required infrastructure by States, these districts will also be covered under the scheme.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement laid on the Table by the Minister is not convincing. The questions have not been totally answered. Parts (b) and (c) of the Question have not at all been answered. The

Minister wants to say that only licensed blood banks are eligible for obtaining any kind of assistance from NACO or any other Government agency. My question was to know whether there are any blood banks which have been unlicensed. According to the Minister, 1,230 blood banks have been modernised and there are 39 districts which are yet to be covered to modernise them. According to the 19th Report of the PAC, there are 1832 blood banks in the districts as well as bigger cities out of which, the Minister says, 1,230 have been modernised.

MR. SPEAKER: Come to your question.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: According to the PAC Report also, there are a number of blood banks which were assisted financially and not given the license. Out of 125 blood banks modernised by NACO and assisted during Phase II, 75 blood banks were not having any license.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked the Question about modernisation. Put a question on that.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, it is relating to modernisation, licensing and funding.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as it was observed in the PAC Report also, how many blood banks are yet to be modernised and licensed and how NACO has given license, and funds were released, without having the license.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already put two Supplementaries.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say no to me. When I say 'yes', it is 'yes'.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, my good friend, Dr. Jagannath has brought out an important issue of blood banks. He also said that NACO licenses these blood banks. I would like to inform that NACO does not license these blood banks. It only supports them for modernisation. No blood bank in this country can function without a licence. There are regulatory bodies at national, State and district levels which take care of licensing. If there are any blood banks functioning without a licence, I would like not only him but any Member or anyone

from the public or anybody else also to bring it to our notice and we will take severe action against the people responsible.

In the case of modernisation, NACO supports almost all the Government blood banks in this country for modernisation. It is a stage; it is a process. There are only about 39 district blood banks in the Government sector yet to be modernised, which are going to be modernised in due course of time after they fulfil the criteria for it. We are trying to modernise them. This is an ongoing process. If there is any issue, hon. Member can bring it to me and we can take up the issue.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: It was mentioned in the PAC Report that in Phase II, out of 125 blood banks which were modernised, 75 were not having the license.

According to the research conducted by western universities, out 13 million of unscreened annual blood transfusions, 95 per cent of them are deemed to be unsafe.

It is because of the lack of monitoring and operation of unauthorized blood banks, and absence of nation-wide networking of the blood banks. The Minister said that 39 districts are yet to be modernized, and he also said that the State Governments have to provide the infrastructure.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? Have you thought of your supplementary?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I am coming to the question. I would like to know whether the Government has got any time-frame to modernize the blood banks in these 39 districts.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good supplementary, please sit down.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Like I said, these blood banks have to fulfill the, basic criteria, and it is a continuous process. Once they fulfill the criteria, we are definitely on the way to modernize them. We will not only modernize them, but also we are going one step further and are supporting blood component separation units. There are about 82 units in this country, and in due course of time, our policy is that instead of giving total blood infusion to a patient, we have to break up the blood into components, like WBC, RBC plasma, so that

it will be easier and we could supply this blood to more number of patients. Today, unfortunately, only about 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the blood is being separated into components, whereas 80 per cent to 90 per cent is given as whole blood. However, in due course of time, the blood will be separated into components and given to more number of patients, and wherever required, the whole blood will be given to the patients.

Again, I would like to assure the hon. Member that this is a continuous process. The National AIDS Control Programme III (NACP-III) has got a large quantum of fund, and definitely we will take care of your views.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: The Minister is right that only 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the blood is being separated into components and is thus being given or being utilized in a better fashion. In most of the cases, whole blood is given, though it is not required. I would like to know in how many of our blood banks we have this modern arrangement of separating blood into different components, and in the rest of the blood banks, what is the time-frame within which we are planning to provide them with modern equipment for separating blood into components.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Like I said, there are about 82 blood banks which have the component separation units. Our policy, like I said, is that 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the blood should be separated as components. On these lines, NACP-III is going to function, and we are going to have a minimum of about 200 to 300 blood component separation units in all parts of the country so that once we get the blood, it is separated into components and distributed accordingly.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: As the House is aware, Thalassaemia is one of the major diseases that is affecting many children of our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking or what support the Government is going to give to the blood banks or has given to the blood banks in our country.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir, Thalassaemia is a problem, but I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question on that because this question pertains to the issue of modernization of the blood banks and not Thalassaemia.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Modernization of the blood banks and this issue are correlated.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue. Though it is correlated, if you put a separate question, you can have a proper answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I would get the details on Thalassaemia and provide it to the hon. Member.

Revival of Brahmaputra Waterway

*232. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for reviving the Brahmaputra Waterway which was declared as National Waterway No. 2;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the funds for the project are likely to be met;

(d) whether the work on the projects has commenced;

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

(f) the action plan prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the said waterway is likely to be made functional?

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

Statement

(a) to (g) The River Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya was declared as National Waterway in 1988 and is being developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) by providing Inland Water Transport infrastructure including navigational channel, navigational aids and terminals. For making this waterway fully functional, IWAI has prepared an Action Plan with an estimated additional cost of Rs. 203.10 crore. The Action Plan envisages a fairway with 2 m/1.5 m depth, 24 hours navigational aids

and judicious mix of fixed and floating terminals. Specific projects have been identified. The Action Plan is proposed to be implemented by 31.3.2009 subject to availability of funds. Out of the total 16 projects of this Action Plan, 13 have been sanctioned and these are under implementation, while remaining three are under process of sanctioning. Funds for implementation of these projects would be met from budgetary support by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope there will be a friendly response.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is my old friend.

MR. SPEAKER: Did not look like, yesterday.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the River Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya was declared as national Waterway in 1988. During these 17 years, this Waterway has not been fully developed. It is still being developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India by providing Inland Water Transport infrastructure, including navigational channel, navigational aids and terminals.

The estimate is Rs.203.10 crore. This amount has not yet been sanctioned. It has also been stated that completion of this waterway will depend on availability of funds. There is a demand from the people of Cooch Behar of North Bengal as well as Assam. A delegation met the hon. Minister. I was also there. Very recently, a delegation from Cooch Behar and Assam came and met the hon. Prime Minister. He also assured the delegation that all necessary steps would be taken to make it fully functional. Dhubri was a very important port even in the pre-Independence period.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no time for a reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know from the Minister whether the Government has received a proposal from the people of Assam as well as Cooch Behar to declare National Waterway No. 2 as an International Waterway and Dhubri an International Port?

MR. SPEAKER: I have been requesting that Supplementaries should be shorter than the main question.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there are 14,500 kilometres of navigable waterways in India. Out of that, 5,700 kilometres of waterways are navigable by mechanized

vessels. As far as this particular stretch of Dhubri-Sadiya is concerned, it is of about 891 kilometres forming part of National Waterway No. 2 on Brahmaputra. For the past 18 years, that is, 1988 onwards, till last year only an amount of Rs.130 crore was spent by the successive Governments. In 2006-07 we have identified projects, as my friend Acharia has said, for Rs.203 crore. This particular project is receiving a lot of attention by my Government. As I said, hon. Chief Minister and the West Bengal Government has sent a representation by Brahmaputra Waterway Demand Committee, that is Brahmaputra Jalpath Dabi Samiti. I have gone through that petition. After that we have appointed the IIT, Guwahati so as to prepare a feasibility study because there is a dispute about location, as my friend has already stated, about Dhubri being the location. I have already sent the Member of the Inland Waterways Authority to make a study. After that, I wanted to resolve the location of that. That is why we handed it over to IIT. They are preparing the feasibility study. The report will be received before 31st March, this month itself. I will definitely see that that particular project is taken up. It has to be fully functional after some time.

MR. SPEAKER: After this long and friendly reply, I do not think any more Supplementaries are required.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a very important Supplementary, Sir. I would like to know from the Minister whether necessary funds — the Finance Minister has come now — would be made available to complete the action plan by 31st March, 2009, as stated by the Minister in the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Give time for reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A doubt has been expressed here in regard to availability of funds. So, I would like to know whether funds would be made available to complete the Action Plan by the timeframe that the Minister has mentioned in the statement.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In 2006-07 we have provided Rs.52.5 crore. In 2007-08 the proposed expenditure is Rs.70 crore. The balance required is Rs.80.6 crore. Definitely, funds are not a constraint at all for any project as far as UPA Government is concerned. Moreover, they are the supporting party from outside. Definitely, we will see.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the only consideration. I think you have got the support of the Finance Minister.

Thank you for the wonderful cooperation I have received today.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Utilisation of MPLADS Funds

*221. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament have consented to allocate funds from their MPLADS funds for Tsunami rehabilitation/reconstruction works;

(b) the present status of utilisation of funds contributed by various Members of Parliament from their MPLADS for the Tsunami reconstruction/rehabilitation works;

(c) the details of the Tsunami rehabilitation works identified in various States and Union Territories to be carried out under the said programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes Sir. 207 Lok Sabha MPs and 167 Rajya Sabha MPs have given their consent for an amount of Rs. 22.74 crore and Rs.31.26 crore respectively from their MPLADS accounts for reconstruction works in Tsunami affected districts of Andamans & Nicobar Islands and coastal areas of south India.

(b) and (c) 182 works to the tune of Rs. 5313.81 lakh have been authorized from the funds consented by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the Tsunami affected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pudducherry and Andamans & Nicobar Islands. The details of works alongwith present status is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) As per the latest progress reports received from the District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts, from the funds consented by Lok Sabha members, out of 57 works authorized, 30 works have been completed, 20 works are in progress and 7 works are yet to be started. From the funds consented by Rajya Sabha members, out of 125 works, 11 works have been completed, 90 works are in progress and 24 works are yet to be started.

Statement

Details of the works alongwith present status

Andhra Pradesh

LOK SABHA

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Nellore District (as on 31.12.2006) | | | | | |
| 1&2. | Purchase of Ambulance (2) | Aliur and Vakada | 10 | Completed | 8.15 |
| 3. | Supplying and fixation of Desalinaiton Plant | Durgaraja patnam Vakadu | 12 | Not yet started* | — |
| Total | | | 22 | | 8.15 |

*Request received from DC, Nellore to change the work has been forwarded to MPLADS Committee (Lok Sabha) for consideration.

Prakasam District (as on 31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--|-----------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Supplying and fixation of Desalination Plant | Karedu | 10 | Not yet started | — |
| 2. | Purchase of Ambulance | Ulavapadu | 5 | Completed | 5 |
| Total | | | 15 | | 5 |

Guntur District (30.6.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Construction of cyclone shelter | Muthayapalem | 18 | Ongoing | — |
| Total | | | 18 | | |

East Godavari District (31.10.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--|------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Providing D.W. facility & Toilets to ZP High schools | Palem | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| 2. | -do- | Dontikoru | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| 3. | -do- | G. Vemavarum | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| 4. | -do- | G. Pora | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| 5. | -do- | Komaragiripatnam | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| 6. | -do- | S. Yanam | 1.50 | Completed | 1.5 |
| Total | | | 9 | | 9 |

West Godavari District (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. | Construction of Cyclone shelter | Molliparu of Perupalem | 20 | Ongoing | 19.42 |
| Total | | | 20 | | |

Krishna District (31.7.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--|---------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Construction of Cyclone shelter cum UP School building | Gollapudum | 10 | Ongoing | 2.6 |
| 2. | Construction of Cyclone shelter cum Community Hall | Malakayalanka | 10 | Ongoing | 2.5 |
| Total | | | 20 | | |

Kerala**Kollam District (31.1.2007)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--------------------------|---------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | New Public Health centre | Alappad | 100 | Not yet started | — |
| Total | | | 100 | | |

Alappuzha District (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|-------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Additional block for Public Health Centre | Arattupuzha | 18 | Not yet started | — |
| Total | | | 18 | | |

Tamil Nadu**Cuddalore District (28.2.2007)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--|----------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Restoration and improvement at Chitteripettai-Rasapettai road KM 0/0-3/0 | Chetteripettai | 42 | Completed | 42 |
| 2. | Construction of old age home | Cuddalore | 30 | Completed | 27 |
| 3. | Construction of old age home | Parangipettai | 30 | Completed | 27 |
| 4. | Restoration and improvement Rasapettai—Kudikadu road km 0/0 - 2/6 | Kudikadu | 36 | Completed | 36 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|-----------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| 5. | Reconstruction of the bridge @ 0/0-2/4 of Devanampattipam | Devanampattipam | 150 | Completed | 139 |
| 6. | Construction of Library Block (3200 sq.ft.) for the Kandhaswamy Naidu College for Women | Cuddalore | 20 | Not started | — |
| Total | | | 308 | | 271 |

Kanyakumari district (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--|--------------|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | Dredging of Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour and restoring of infrastructure facilities like generator room, water supply arrangements, auction hall, etc. | Chinnamuttom | 120 | Ongoing | 90 |
| 2. | Construction of fish landing centre with RCC Jetty at Enayamputhenthurai in Kanniyakumari District | Simon Colony | 150 | Ongoing | 112 |
| Total | | | 270 | | 202.5 |

Nagapattinam District (28.2.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|--------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Construction of service home exclusively for tsunami victims | Nagapattinam | 30 | Ongoing | — |
| 2. | Construction of orphanage building and shelter home for old age persons | Nagapattinam | 50 | Ongoing | 20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|--|--|-----|-----------|---------|
| 3. | Construction of additional facilities to the Taluk Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital 3 works — Rs. 15 lak each | (i) Tarangampadi Taluk Hospital (ii) Sirkazhi Taluk Hospital (iii) Nagore Govt. Hospital | 45 | Completed | 45 |
| 4. | Community Hall | Keelayur Block | 3 | Completed | 3 |
| 5. | School buildings | Thalanayar Block | 3 | Completed | 3 |
| 6. | Bridge | Sembanarkoil Block | 9 | Ongoing | 2.7 |
| 7. | Fishermen Multipurpose Hall | Sembanarkoil Block | 5 | Completed | 5 |
| 8. | Fish Drying Yard (3 works) | Kollidam Block | 7 | Completed | 6.99 |
| 9. | Women Sanitary Complex (3 works) | Kollidam Block | 7 | Ongoing | 4.87 |
| 10. | School buildings (2 works) | Sirkali Block | 7 | Completed | 7 |
| 11. | CC roads (1.60 km) (6 works) | Sirkali Block | 22 | Completed | 22 |
| 12. | Retaining wall | Sirkali Block | 2 | Completed | 2 |
| 13. | Compound wall (2 | Sirkali Block | 4 | Completed | 4 |
| 14. | Community Hall (3 works) | (i) Poompuhar, Sirkali (ii) Vanagirkuppam (iii) Melamoovarkarai | 15 | Completed | 15 |
| 15. | BT Roads (4.50 km) (5 works) | Sirkali Block | 40 | Completed | 37.84 |
| 16. | Women Sanitary Complex (3 works) | Sirkali Block | 7 | Ongoing | 2.07 |
| 17. | Fish Drying Yard (3 works) | Sirkali Block | 11 | Completed | 10.4 |
| 18. | OHT and Pipe line | Thirumarugal Block | 6 | Completed | 6 |
| 19. | Retaining wall | Nagapattinam Municipality | 4 | Completed | 3.8 |
| 20. | Black Topping of the approach road from Madathukuppam to the Permanent Shelter site in Perunthottam Pt. of Sirkali Block | Nagapattinam | 7.2 | Completed | 7.2 |
| 21. | Black Topping of the approach road to Permanent Shelter site at Chavadikuppam in Perunchottam Pt. of Sirkali Block | Nagapattinam | 3.8 | Completed | 3.8 |
| Total | | | 288 | | 206. 67 |

Rameswaram (Ramanathapuram District) (31.7.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Construction of Community Hall and Library Hall | Rameswaram | 20 | Ongoing | 6.5 |
| Total | | | 20 | | |

A&N Islands**A&N Islands (11.12.2006)**

Rs. in Lakh

| S.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Exp. |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. | Model Sr. Sec. School having classes from I to XII with Hostel. | Kamorta Island | 592.62 | 444.47 |
| 2. | Community Hall | Ferrargunj, Andaman | 49.25 | 20 |
| 3. | Community Hall | Govindnagar, Campbell Bay | 69.39 | 33 |
| 4. | Community Hall | Joginder Nagar, Cambell Bay | 68.34 | 48.81 |
| 5. | Community Hall | Katchal, Nocobar Islands | 67.82 | 48.44 |
| Total | | | 847.42 | |

Puducherry**Puducherry (28.2.2007)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Cyclone/ Tsunami Shelter | Nallavadu * | 45 | Not started | — |
| 2. | Cyclone/ Tsunami Shelter | Periyakalapet * | 45 | -do- | — |
| 3. | Cyclone/ Tsunami Shelter | Akkampettai | 45 | Ongoing | — |
| 4. | Cyclone/ Tsunami Shelter | Mandaputhur | 45 | -do- | 0.17 |
| 5. | Cyclone/ Tsunami Shelter | Kilinjelmedu | 45 | -do- | 0.31 |
| Total | | | 225 . | | 0.48 |

*Request received from DC, Puducherry to change the places of work has been forwarded to MPLADS Committee (Lok Sabha) for consideration.

RAJYA SABHA

Andhra Pradesh

Nellore District (31.12.2006)

| Rs. in Lakh | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
| 1. | Construction of Net Mending centre | Kavali | 4 | Not yet started | — |
| 2. | -do- | Bogole | 4 | -do- | — |
| 3. | -do- | Indukurpet | 4 | Ongoing | — |
| 4. | -do- | Mathukur | 4 | Not yet started | — |
| 5. | -do- | Vakadu | 4 | -do- | — |
| 6. | -do- | Kota | 4 | -do- | — |
| Total | | | 24 | | |

Prakasam District (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Construction of Dry Fishing Platform | Kothapallepalem, Utavapedu | 10 | Completed | 10 |
| 2. | -do- | Pedapattipupalem, Kothapatnam | 10 | Completed | 10 |
| Total | | | 20 | | 20 |

West Godavari District (30.11.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|---------|---|---|------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 to 2. | Construction of 2 Cyclone Shelters - @ Rs. 10 lakh each | Dibbalapallipalem of Mogalthuru (M) & Narasapuram (AC). | 20 | 1. Completed 2. Ongoing | 8.64 4.00 |
| 3 to 7. | Construction of Community Halls (5) - Rs. 5 lakh each | Chinamynavanilanka Sarudukodapa Biyyaputhippa Pedamynavanilanka Vemuladeevi (Est.) | 25 | Not yet started | — |
| Total | | | 45 | | |

Krishna District (31.7.2006)

| Rs. in Lakh | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
| 1. | Construction of Cyclone Shelter cum School Building | K.P.T, Palem of Machilipatnam | 10 | Ongoing | 2.7 |
| 2. | -do- | Padatadika of Kruthivenu | 10 | -do- | 2.4 |
| 3. | -do- | Yesupuram of Nagayalanka | 10 | -do- | 2.5 |
| 4. | -do- | Krishnapuram of Nagayalanka | 10 | -do- | 2.65 |
| 5. | -do- | Zinkapalem of Nagayalanka | 10 | -do- | 2.7 |
| 6. | -do- | Brahmarahgarimula of Nagayalanka | 10 | -do- | — |
| Total | | | 60 | | |

Kerala**Kollam District (31.1.2007)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|--------------|---------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | Old age Home | Alappad | 35 | Not yet started | — |
| Total | | | 35 | | |

*DC, Kollam has reported Shri Abdusamad Samadani, MP(RS) has contributed Rs.10 lakh for reconstruction and rehabilitation works in Tsunami affected area of Kollam District. But scheme was not specified. Hence, it has been decided to club this Amount for the construction of Old Age Home at Alappad.

Alappuzha District (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|-------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Old age Home | Arattupuzha | 35 | Not yet started | — |
| 2. | Laying 3.2 Kms of 300 sq. mm 11KVXLPEUG cable from Alappuzha Sub Station to Alappuzha | Alappuzha | 40 | Not yet started | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------|------|
| | Medical College Hospital situated in the Tsunami affected area of Electrical Section, Alappuzha Town for providing a standby 11 KV feeder to the Medical College Hospital. | | | | |
| | Total | | 75 | | |
| Ernakulam District (31.1.2007) | | | | | |
| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
| 1. | Old age Home | Edavanakad | 35 | Ongoing | — |
| | Total | | 35 | | |
| Tamil Nadu | | | | | |
| Cuddalore District (12.2.2007) | | | | | |
| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
| 1. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | One Fisheries Training Institute | Cuddalore | 92.50 | Ongoing | 22 |
| 2. | Putting up High Level Bridge | Uppanar Back water, Nochikadu | 150 | Not started | — |
| 3&4. | Construction of two Cyclone Shelters | Jayankondapattinam village | 70 | Ongoing | — |
| 5. | Putting up of protective bund | MGR Thittu village | 10.00 | Completed | 9 |
| 6. | Construction of Community Hall | Andarmullipattam village | 10.00 | Completed | 9 |
| 7. | Desilting and providing Retaining wall to channel | Samiyarpettai village | 20.00 | Ongoing | 12 |
| 8. | Putting up Jetty with Lighting arrangements for approach | Sothikuppam village | 10.00 | Completed | 10 |
| 9. | Putting Jetty with Lighting Arrangement | Devanampattinam village | 15.00 | Completed | 12 |
| 10. | CC Road and Flood Protection Wall in an around Kathirvelchetty Street, Devanampattinam, Cuddalore | Devanampattinam, Cuddalore | 20.00 | Ongoing | 6 |
| | Total | | 397.50 | | 80 |

Kancheepuram District (1.2.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---------------|--------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. | One orphanage | Kancheepuram | 45 | Ongoing | 23.3 |
| Total | | | 45 | | |

Kanyakumari district (31.1.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|--|-------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. | One orphanage | Kanyakumari | 45 | Ongoing | 33.75 |
| 2. | Construction of Boat Jetty | Arockiyapuram | 40 | -do- | 20.00 |
| 3. | Fish Drying and processing centre | Kovalam | 50 | -do- | 25.00 |
| 4. | Construction of multi-purpose hall | Pallamthurai | 25 | -do- | 13.00 |
| 5. | Construction of new pond and rain water augmentation | Mulloorthurai | 20 | Not started | — |
| 6. | Widening of Chempatti Odai for recharge of ground water | From Champakulam to Rajakkamangalam-thurai | 50 | Ongoing | — |
| 7&8. | Construction of culvert across AVM Channel | Kottilipadu (2 locations) in Colachel Municipality | 7 | 1-completed 2-ongoing | 6.13 |
| 9. | Construction of culvert across AVM Channel | Akkaraipalli in Colachel Municipality | 3.50 | Ongoing | 2.63 |
| 10. | Construction of Minor Bridge across AVM channel in Mandaicadu | Mondaicadu Special Panchayat | 5.00 | Completed | 5.00 |
| 11. | Construction of Minor Bridge | Mondaicaduputhoor in Kolukootam Special Panchayat | 5.00 | Completed | 3.75 |
| Total | | | 250.5 | | 109.26 |

Nagapattinam District (28.2.2007)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|---------|--|--|-------|---------------------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1&3. | Vocational Training Institutes Cost: Rs. 12 lakh x 3 works | Vedaranyam Kollidam Sembanarkoil | 36 | Ongoing Ongoing Completed | 16.8 |
| 4 to 6. | Special School for Mentally Challenged Children Cost: Rs. 40 lakh x 3 works | Nagapattinam Town Tharangambad Sirkazh | 120 | Ongoing (3 works) | 4 |
| 7. | Construction of Fish Auction Hall with Solar Fish Drier | Vanagiri | 12.50 | Ongoing | — |
| 8. | Construction of Fish Auction Hall with Solar Fish Drier | Kodiyakarai | 12.50 | Ongoing | — |
| 9. | Early Warning Multi-Hazard Shelter | Nagapattinam Municipality | 35.00 | Ongoing | 1.2 |
| 10. | Construction of Fish Auction Hall with Solar Fish Drier | Thoduval | 12.50 | Ongoing | 1.25 |
| 11. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Kameshwaram | 9.50 | Ongoing | 1.9 |
| 12. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Pushpavanam | 9.50 | Ongoing | 2 |
| 13. | Construction of Fish Auction Hall with Solar Fish Drier | Seruthur | 12.50 | Ongoing | 2 |
| 14. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Thoduval | 9.50 | Ongoing | 1.5 |
| 15. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Kaveripoompattinam | 9.50 | Ongoing | 1.5 |
| 16. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Manikapangu | 9.50 | Ongoing | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|--|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| 17. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Work Shed | Kollar | 9.50 | Ongoing | 2.1 |
| 18. | SHG Resource Centre with Common Works Shed | Vellapallam | 9.50 | Ongoing | 1.9 |
| 19. | Maternity ward at Sirkali Government Hospital in with prenatal and postnatal ward, with 15 beds and an operation theater | Sirkali, Nagapattinam District | 30.00 | Ongoing | — |
| Total | | | 337.5 | | 38.15 |

Villupuram District (31.12.2006)

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|----------|--|--|------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 to 23. | Working Shed for Knitting Fish nets (Unit cost Rs. 3 lakh)— 23 works | 23 places | 69 | Ongoing | 33 |
| 24 & 25. | School Building (Three class rooms) Unit cost Rs. 5 lakh — 2 works | Keel Puthupattu Koonimedu | 10 | -do- | — |
| 26&27. | Protection wall (Palm tree-bio shield and Groynes) (unit cost Rs. 25 lakh) | Thanthirayankuppam (2 works). | 50 | Not started | |
| 28. | -do- | Nadukuppam—1 work | 25 | -do- | |
| 29 to 33 | Community Halls (Unit cost Rs. 5 lakh) | 1. Keel puthupattu 2. Koonimedu 3. Chettikuppam 4. Anumanthai 5. Panichamedu | 25 | Ongoing | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----------|--|--|-----|-----------------|---|
| 34 to 38. | Anganwadi Buildings (Unit cost Rs. 2 lakh) | 1. Keel Puthupattu 2. Koonimedu 3. Chetrikuppam 4. Anumanthai 5. Panichamedu | 10 | Not yet started | — |
| 39. | School Buiding | Manadavaipudukuppam, Tindivanam Taluk | 5 | Ongoing | — |
| 40. | Community Hall for Tsunami affected families | Anumanthai, Tindivanam Taluk | 10 | -do- | — |
| Total | | | 204 | | |

A&N Islands**A&N Islands (11.12.2006)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|---|---|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Transit Hostel for 50 persons at Kamorta | Nancowry Group of Islands | 125.76 | Ongoing | 62.88 |
| 2. | Transit Hostel at Campbell Bay | Great Nicobar Islands | 82.2 | -do- | 30.00 |
| 3. | Model Sr. Sec. School having classes from I to XII with hostel facility | Diglipur | 554.60 | -do- | 415.95 |
| 4. | Development of Panchayat Fish Market | Bambooflat, Andaman District | 10.08 | -do- | 7.56 |
| 5. | Construction of Work Shed | Hut Bay, Little Andaman | 77.03 | -do- | 38.51 |
| 6. | Construction of Work Shed | Burmanallah, South Andaman | 65.58 | -do- | 32.78 |
| 7. | Construction of Work Shed | Near Guptapara, Panchayat Market, Guptapara Village | 50.21 | -do- | 25.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---------------------------|--|---------|------|--------|
| 8. | Construction of Work Shed | Chouldari Bazar At Chouldari | 52.73 | -do- | 26.36 |
| 9. | Construction of Work Shed | Wandoor Village under Humphrygum Panchayat | 43.79 | -do- | 21.89 |
| 10. | Construction of Work Shed | Collinpur under Tushnahad Gram Panchayat | 56.79 | -do- | 28.40 |
| 11. | Construction of Work Shed | Namunaghar under Namunaghar Gram Panchayat | 45.67 | -do- | 22.83 |
| 12. | Construction of Work Shed | Bambooflat Jetty Area/Bambooflat Bazar under Bambooflat Gram Panchayat | 67.59 | -do- | 33.79 |
| 13. | Construction of Work Shed | Sippighat village under Sippighat Gram Panchayat | 46.23 | -do- | 23.11 |
| Total | | | 1278.24 | | 769.17 |

Puducherry**Puducherry (31.1.2007)**

| Sl.No. | Work | Place | Cost | Status of the work | Exp. |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. | One Fisheries Training Institute | Karaikal* | 92.50 | Not started | — |
| 2. | Construction of Cyclone Shelter | MGR Naga & Rajiv Gandhi Nagar | 45 | Ongoing | — |
| 3. | Construction of Cyclone Shelter | Uppalapet | 45 | -do- | 0.31 |
| 4. | C/o Cyclone/Tsunami Shelter | P-15 M, Pudukkuppam | 45 | -do- | 21.28 |
| 5. | C/o Cyclone/Tsunami Shelter | P-14, Narambai | 45 | -do- | 8.30 |
| 6. | C/o Cyclone/Tsunami Shelter | P-9, Veerampattinam | 45 | -do- | 10.98 |
| Total | | | 317.50 | | 40.87 |

* Request received from DC, Puducherry to change the place of work from Karaikal to K-2 Kalikuppam Hamlet of Thiruvettakudi Revenue Village of Karaikal has been sent to MPLADS Committee (Rajya Sabha) for their recommendation.

Medical Grants Commission

*222. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Medical Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the main features, aims and objectives of the Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission. The mandate and functions of the Commission are being formulated. However, steps for setting up of the said Commission can be initiated during the 11th Five Year Plan Period subject to availability of necessary funds. The matter for provision of funds for this purpose is being pursued with the Planning Commission.

Utilization of Heavy Earth-Moving Machines

*224. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heavy Earth-Moving Machines (HEMM) are not being utilised or underutilised in opencast and underground mining activities by all the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidiaries of CIL have failed to achieve the norms fixed by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons for under utilization of the Heavy Earth-Moving Machines;

(e) the total number of Heavy Earth-Moving Machines, subsidiary-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to improve the utilization of HEMMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Heavy Earth Moving Machines (HEMM) are being utilised only in the opencast mines of all coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL). The utilisation of major HEMM in CIL over last three years is given as under:

Utilization of HEMM as % of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) Norms

| Equipment | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (Upto Feb) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Dragline | 109 | 111 | 107 | 107 |
| Shovel | 76 | 79 | 83 | 84 |
| Dumper | 66 | 70 | 72 | 72 |
| Dozer | 57 | 61 | 61 | 61 |
| Drill | 62 | 68 | 76 | 74 |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Apart from Dragline, the achievement of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)'s norms by the HEMM deployed in various subsidiaries of CIL in their mines/projects has been varying for different factors. The major ones are:

strata conditions, depletion of reserves, presence of active fires, working over depillared area, frequent local agitations, land/forest land availability, equipment age, inclemental weather, spares availability, tyres availability, etc.

(e) The total number of HEMM subsidiary wise is given as under:

| Equipment | Eastern Coalfields Ltd. | Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. | Central Coalfields Ltd. | Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd | South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. | Western Coalfields Ltd. | Northern Coalfields Ltd. | CIL |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Dragline | 1 | 2 | — | 6 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 41 |
| Shovel | 66 | 157 | 121 | 61 | 55 | 162 | 111 | 733 |
| Dumper | 261 | 613 | 590 | 400 | 321 | 715 | 545 | 3445 |
| Dozer | 95 | 131 | 168 | 103 | 155 | 172 | 176 | 1000 |
| Drill | 47 | 144 | 146 | 89 | 108 | 113 | 135 | 782 |

(f) The following major steps are being taken to improve utilization of HEMM:

1. Task force at the subsidiary level and area level have been constituted and utilisation of HEMM is being monitored closely.
2. Advance planning for procurement of spares, introduction of Maintenance and Repair Contract (MARC) with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for equipment life at the time of procurement & creating fully equipped workshop facilities are being followed.
3. Standardisation of equipment for better control on inventories, construction and maintenance of proper haul roads to reduce down time of dumpers and improved blasting for better fragmentation for proper handling and reducing down time of equipment are being implemented.
4. Staggering of shift duty timing and hot seat exchange to reduce delays and providing Mobile facilities like Canteen, Crane etc. at working face to save on time.
5. Integrated Mine Management System/Global Positioning System in large mines to monitor movement of HEMM.
6. Mismatch of digging & transport capacity in projects is being eliminated.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Bangladesh

*227. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he recently visited Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held during his visit;
- (c) whether the issue regarding cross border terrorism had also been discussed; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. EAM visited Dhaka on February 19, 2007.

(b) During the visit, the External Affairs Minister paid a courtesy call on the President of Bangladesh, Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed and extended an invitation to Bangladesh to participate in the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi from April 3-4, 2007. He also had detailed discussions with the Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed and Foreign Adviser, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. The discussions centered on bilateral relations and the forthcoming SAARC Summit. In the context of bilateral relations, both sides agreed to take steps to place bilateral relations on an "irreversible higher trajectory". The discussions on SAARC focused on ensuring the success of the forthcoming SAARC Summit and early & full implementation of SAFTA.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Both sides have agreed to jointly combat terrorism, which today poses a grave challenge to our society and threatens the economic development of both countries. The Caretaker Government assured us that they would not allow Bangladeshi soil to be used for activities inimical to India.

Development of Indigenous Computer Hardcore

*228. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop indigenous computer hardcore manufacturing capability in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) In the last few years, the Government has taken a number of measures to promote the growth of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Industry, as given in the enclosed statement. This is an ongoing process.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials / inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres / cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.

4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.

5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).

7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/ DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.

9. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

[Translation]

Road Safety Fund

*233. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether about 92000 deaths occur in India due to road accidents every year as per World Bank and WHO reports as published in the *Times of India* dated January 21, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Regulatory Authority to monitor the safety arrangements;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has mooted any plan to create a road safety fund by imposing cess on oil;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to control the road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The fatalities on road are dependent on many factors such as number of vehicles on road, population, road space, speed, different traffic condition etc. In absolute term the fatalities due to road accident have been increasing. However, the number of fatalities due to road accident per 10,000 vehicles is going down, which is evident from the following data:—

| Year | Number of fatalities | Number of vehicles | Number of fatalities per 10,000 vehicles |
|------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2001 | 80888 | 54991026 | 14.70 |
| 2002 | 84674 | 58924337 | 14.37 |
| 2003 | 85998 | 67007284 | 12.83 |
| 2004 | 92618 | 72717935 | 12.74 |

(c) to (f) As per directions of the Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister, a Committee was setup to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Sr. Fellow, The Energy Research Institute. The Committee on Infrastructure had also approved the proposal for setting up of a dedicated Road Safety Fund into which 1% of cess revenues allocated for National Highways, would be

paid. Subsequently, this matter was referred to the Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management for consideration. The Committee has submitted its report on 20-2-2007. It has recommended the setting up of a National Road Safety Board. It has also inter-alia recommended apportionment of minimum 1% of total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol to be available for National Road Safety Fund. The Report is presently under examination in this Ministry.

(g) Even though the safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

- (i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at 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 National Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities.
- (v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the States.
- (vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (vii) Conferment of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, rear view Mirror etc.
- (ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National 'Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National 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.

[English]

High Incidence of Anaemia

*234. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
ADV. SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) whether the prevalence of anaemia is very high in pregnant and lactating women, pre-school children, and adolescent girls in the country;

(b) if so, the number of women and children affected by anaemia, State-wise;

(c) the reasons alongwith the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to detect and prevent anaemia;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to furthering the availability, access, affordability and utilization of iron and iodine fortified salt (double fortified salt) and other micronutrients, as a means to combat anaemia, to the poorer segments of the population;

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

(f) whether a special programme for detecting anaemia on the lines of polio immunization would be undertaken throughout the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III, 2005-06), 57.8% pregnant women (15-49 yrs), 56.1% ever married women (15-49 yrs) and 79.1% children in the age group 6-35 months are anemic. State-wise prevalence of anemia is given in the enclosed Statement-I

According to survey conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of ICMR in 2002 in 8 states on micronutrient deficiency, the prevalence of anemia in the age group 12-17 year adolescent girls ranges between 69-70%.

(c) Anemia is a multifaceted problem. The important reasons for widespread anemia are inadequate intake and absorption of iron from cereal based diet, inadequate consumption of green leafy vegetables and citrus fruits, frequent pregnancies with shorter intervals, high prevalence of infections and infestations, faulty feeding practices and lack of dietary diversification. Apart from aforesaid factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development have a bearing on the incidence of anemia among people of our country.

Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability and access to health care. The interventions under NRHM include RCH-II programme wherein iron and folic acid tablets are provided to all pregnant women who come for antenatal checkup.

Several other measures taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the people including anemia are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) A Technical Committee constituted by Ministry of Health & FW under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Director General, ICMR, has recommended voluntary use of Double Fortified salt (DFS). DFS is being used as a Pilot programme in few states of the country. However, presently no data are available on its impact. Government of Chhattisgarh has been distributing DFS through the ICDS programme.

To improve the level of anemia, iron and folic acid tablets are distributed to pregnant women and preschool children under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II).

The Government has a National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme (NIDDCP), being implemented since 1962. Under this programme, intensive awareness generation activities are ongoing through various print as well as electronic media to promote the consumption of iodated salt by the population. In addition, the programme also addresses monitoring of the quality of iodated salt through States and UTs' Health Directorates.

Under the National Rural Health Mission, the states have been advised to organise monthly health and nutrition days where anemia prevention measures are also discussed.

(f) and (g) There is no special programme for detecting anemia on lines of polio immunization. However, there is a provision for hemoglobin estimation in Government medical college hospitals, district hospitals, First Referral Units, Community Health Centres (CHCs) etc. where ante-natal check ups are done.

Statement I

Prevalence of Anaemia State-wise—NFHS III

| S.No | State | Pregnant women (15-49 yrs) % | Ever married women (15-49 yrs) % | Children (6-35 months) % |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 56.4 | 62.0 | 79.0 |
| 2. | Assam | 72.0 | 69.0 | 76.7 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 49.2 | 48.9 | 66.3 |
| 4. | Bihar | 60.2 | 68.3 | 87.6 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 63.1 | 57.6 | 81.0 |
| 6. | Delhi | 29.9 | 43.4 | 63.2 |
| 7. | Goa | 36.9 | 38.9 | 49.3 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 60.8 | 55.5 | 80.1 |
| 9. | Haryana | 69.7 | 56.5 | 82.5 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 37.0 | 40.9 | 58.8 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 54.0 | 53.1 | 68.1 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 68.4 | 70.4 | 77.7 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 59.5 | 50.3 | 82.7 |
| 14. | Kerala | 33.1 | 32.3 | 55.7 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 57.9 | 57.6 | 82.6 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 57.8 | 49.0 | 71.9 |
| 17. | Manipur | 36.4 | 39.3 | 52.8 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 56.1 | 45.4 | 68.7 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 49.3 | 38.2 | 51.7 |
| 20. | Nagaland | NA | NA | NA |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|---------------|------|------|------|
| 21. | Orissa | 68.1 | 62.8 | 74.2 |
| 22. | Punjab | 41.6 | 38.4 | 80.2 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 61.2 | 53.1 | 79.6 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 53.1 | 46.8 | 56.9 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 53.3 | 53.3 | 72.5 |
| 26. | Tripura | 57.6 | 67.4 | 67.9 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 51.6 | 50.8 | 85.1 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 45.2 | 47.6 | 61.5 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 62.6 | 63.8 | 69.4 |
| | India | 57.9 | 56.2 | 79.2 |

Statement

The measures to improve the nutritional status of population

- Improving agricultural and horticulture produce.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating scheme
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.
- A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up
- Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) including nutrition programme for adolescent girl
- National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Programme)
- Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:

(a) Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of ANC, skilled care to Pregnant women, Post-partum care at Community level

(b) Immunization

(c) Integrated Management of neonatal and childhood illness and malnutrition

(d) Emphasis on Infant & Young Child Feeding

(e) Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic acid Supplementation for Preschool Children, pregnant and lactating women

- National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)

Rest Houses along National Highways

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

(a) the number of rest houses that have been constructed along National Highways in the country during the last three years;

(b) the location of rest houses already constructed/ proposed to be constructed in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the guidelines issued by the Government to use these rest houses by the public?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.BAALU): (a) and (b) No rest house has been constructed during the last three years. However, there is a proposal for construction of rest houses along National Highways at three locations in the State of Assam namely NH-152 at Baghmara, NH-154 at Hailakandi and NH-36 at Bakulia.

(c) The Ministry has issued guidelines for use of rest houses by public on payment of prescribed fee subject to the following order of preference:

- (i) Ministers; Central and State, Speakers, Chairman and Deputy Speakers of Legislatures;
- (ii) Government Officers (Gazetted) on inspection of the National Highways and District Collectors with their jurisdiction
- (iii) Government Officers (Gazetted) on duty, Heads of Hills Parishad and Panchayat Samithies and High Officers of Public Undertakings on official duty;
- (iv) Members of Legislatures;
- (v) Government Officers (Non-gazetted) on duty;
- (vi) Government Officers on duty;
- (vii) General public.

Doctor-patient Ratio

*236. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present doctor-patient ratio in urban as well as rural areas of the country; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The data relating to the doctor-patient ratio is not centrally

maintained. However, the doctor-patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required i.e. indoor/outdoor. According to the Medical Council of India, the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1:1722. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to more than 128 doctors per lakh population. There are 262 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 29,872 students who add up to the existing medical manpower. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population.

Foreign Exchange Earnings in IT Sector

*237. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

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

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned in IT Sector by exporting computer software during the last three years and the estimated projections for the next three years, State-wise;

(b) the name of foreign countries to which computer software was exported during the last year;

(c) whether there is a decline in the earnings of foreign exchange during the year 2004-2005 in comparison to the previous year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve software exports; and

(f) the number of software parks likely to be set up in Andhra Pradesh by the end of 2008?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) total export revenue in last three years from IT Sector are as follows (excluding hardware):

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|------------|------|--------------|
| Financial | Year | 2003-2004: | US\$ | 12.9 billion |
| Financial | Year | 2004-2005: | US\$ | 17.7 billion |
| Financial | Year | 2005-2006: | US\$ | 23.6 billion |

As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and NASSCOM it is expected that Computer Software and related service export (including ITES) will exceed US\$ 60 billion by the year 2010. The state-wise breakup of exports as per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under Department of IT, Ministry of Communications and IT, Govt. of India is enclosed as Statement-I.

As per NASSCOM mainly USA and European countries are importing IT products from India; and level of imports for Financial Year 2005-2006 are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| USA | 67.18% |
| Europe | 25.13% |
| Rest of the world | 7.69% |

(c) No, Sir. As per NASSCOM the total exports have grown from US\$ 12.9 billion in 2003-2004 to US\$ 17.7 billion in 2004-2005.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to promote the growth of IT Software and Services Industry are enclosed as Statement-II.

(f) As per STPI they had already set up six centers in Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad, Thirupati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Warangal and Kakinada. As per the current policy for setting up a new STPI Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq.ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal. There is no proposal pending at present to set up a new center in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has indicated that they propose to set up 8 IT Parks and 29 IT/ITES SEZs.

Statement I

Rs. Crores

| Name of the State | Exports in FY 2003-2004 | Exports in FY 2004-2005 | Exports in FY 2005-2006 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Karnataka | 18100 | 27600 | 37000 |
| Tamilnadu | 7621 | 10790 | 15500 |
| Maharashtra | 8518 | 11542 | 13960 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5025 | 8270 | 12500 |
| Haryana | 4292 | 5953 | 8358 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 2750 | 3825 | 5476 |
| Delhi | 2398 | 2453 | 3520 |
| West Bengal | 1600 | 2000 | 2500 |
| Orissa | 319 | 400 | 465 |
| Punjab | 182 | 125 | 182 |
| Chandigrath | 39 | 225 | 294 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Kerala | 212 | 270 | 452 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 102 | 140 | 189 |
| Gujarat | 141 | 187 | 247 |
| Rajasthan | 130 | 200 | 271 |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 22 | 30 | 40 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 5 | 0.60 | 1 |
| Uttaranchal | 1.0 | 6.2 | 8 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1 |
| Total | 51458 | 74019 | 100965 |

Statement II***Steps taken by the Government to promote the growth of IT Software and Services Industry***

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
2. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10% Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Information Technology (IT) Software is exempted from Customs duty.
3. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty.
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are counted for the

purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).

5. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/ DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits is available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
7. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under EOU/STP/SEZ schemes.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in house R&D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment,

computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.

10. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
11. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

Recommendations of the Indian Science Congress

*238. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Science Congress 2007 has given any recommendations regarding deregulation of prices of coal and modernisation of coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Recommendations of the Indian Science Congress 2007 have not yet been published. However, with the promulgation of the Colliery Control Order, 2000, the coal pricing was fully deregulated from 01.01.2000 and Coal Companies are free to fix the price of coal.

Modernisation of coalfields is a continuous process for improving safety and productivity of mines. Coal companies are planning new mines with mechanized workings both in underground and opencast mines

wherever possible for increased productivity and safety. Mines safety equipment and facilities including rescue stations are also being modernized wherever necessary.

[Translation]

Pollution-Related Diseases

*239. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution caused by vehicles is harmful to the health of the people;

(b) if so, the names of diseases caused by pollution from vehicles; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The vehicular exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, suspended particulate matter including PM-10, benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic hydrocarbons etc. Several epidemiological studies have shown that the exposure to these compounds is associated with breathing and respiratory problems, aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse effects on the immune system, damage to the lung tissue and carcinogenesis.

As part of preventive measures to check the pollution levels due to vehicular emissions, the Government has implemented vehicular, emission norms and other control measures such as introduction of:

- (i) Unleaded petrol.
- (ii) Bharat Stage-I, II and III emission standards.
- (iii) Low Sulphur diesel
- (iv) Low benzene gasoline
- (v) CNG fuels for commercial vehicles and public transport.
- (vi) 'Pollution Under Control' (PUC) certificate.

Central Pollution Control Board is the authority for checking the air pollution level in various cities and for

studying the effects of various control measures through the State Pollution Control Boards.

[English]

Banned Drugs

*240. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) whether a number of drugs, which are banned globally, are being sold in India;

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

(c) whether some drugs, which are banned in the country, are still available in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(e) whether any committee has been constituted to report on the banned drugs;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (h) There is nothing like 'Globally Banned Drugs' or 'Internationally banned Drugs'. Drugs withdrawn in some countries can continue to be used by other countries. The decision rests on various factors, such as the disease pattern in the country, varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of particular disease.

There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drug formulations in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in the international journals, WHO newsletters or when a drug formulation is reported to have been withdrawn in some country. The use of

drug so reported is assessed in consultation with the experts based on available technical information, benefit-risk ratio, local needs etc. The matter is further considered by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. So far 78 categories of drugs/formulations, considered irrational or harmful in the context of present knowledge, have been prohibited through notification under Section 26-A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Drugs banned under Section 26-A are not allowed to be manufactured and marketed in the country. As per information available with the Drug Controller, no such drug is being marketed.

A National Pharmacovigilance Programme has been launched in 2004 to capture data on adverse drug events in the country.

In view of the repeated coverage in the media alleging availability of Internationally banned drugs in India, a high level Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Health in the year 2001, under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services including Members of Parliament to go into this problem and to suggest measures to resolve it. The Committee in its Report, submitted in May, 2002, expressed that there is adequate mechanism in the country to examine and prohibit sale of drugs which are unsafe, irrational and which may be prohibited in some countries.

[Translation]

Power Generation from Atomic Energy

2050. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state:

(a) the details of the atomic energy sources for power generation during the last three years;

(b) the details of Central/State/Private Sector participation in power generation from atomic energy sources; and

(c) the scheme of the Government for augmentation of power generation capacity from atomic energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Current nuclear power capacity in the country is uranium based. While two reactors TAPS 1&2 (320 MWe) use

imported light enriched uranium, the remaining fourteen reactors (3580 MWe) use indigenous natural uranium.

(b) The nuclear power generation in the country is in the Central Sector. State/private sector participation has been indirect, as support/manufacturing of equipment/execution of EPC packages etc. to the Central Government companies engaged in nuclear power generation.

(c) The current installed capacity of 3900 MWe will reach 7280 MWe progressively by March 2011 by completion of projects under construction. The XI Plan proposals envisage start of work on 5600 MWe capacity based on indigenous design. The current initiatives for international co-operation in nuclear energy are aimed at accessing the international market for technologies and fuel, for setting up additionalities to the domestic programme to enable larger capacity addition to meet the electricity demand in the near term.

State-of-the-art Technology in Medical Sciences

2051. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to apply state-of-the-art technology in the field of medical sciences; and

(b) if so, the action taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India facilitates the application of state-of-art technology in health research. The National Health Policy, 2002 proposes to give thrust to the newly-emerging frontier areas of research based on genetics, genome based drug and vaccine developed, molecular biology etc. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is engaged in promotion of basic, applied and clinical research including clinical trials and operational research in areas related to medical/health, bio medical and medical profession and education through development of infrastructure, manpower for a better understanding of biology of health. The Council is committed to a research agenda in which state-of-art technology is an integral part.

[English]

Short-time Courses in N-E States

2052. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Development of North-East Region (DONER) Ministry is funding short-time courses for N-E Region;

(b) if so, the number of courses funded in the current financial year;

(c) whether it is likely to continue in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of DONER is supporting a number of training courses for the N. E. Region. During 2006-07 the Ministry has funded 54 short-term courses (of duration less than three months) from its Plan Scheme of Technical Assistance & Capacity Building. The North Eastern Council has also supported 9 such programmes during the year. The Programmes will be continued in future also.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of Schemes

2053. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to discontinue some schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan which were started under Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes which will be discontinued and the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent on these schemes under Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to take care of the interests of the employees employed under the schemes which are being discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise while preparing a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives & priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

[English]

CBI Raid on Officers

2054. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and IFS officers who have been raided by CBI during the last three years;

(b) the names of the officers of Joint Secretary level and above together with the names of the Departments to which they belong to;

(c) the authority which grants permission to conduct raid against the officers of Joint Secretary level and above; and

(d) the details with regard to such permissions sought for granted and rejected during the last three years?

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

(a) CBI has conducted searches in the premises of 14 IAS, 2 IPS, 4 IFS (Indian Forest Service) and 1 IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officers during the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto February 2007).

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Searches, as part of investigation, and are conducted based on facts and circumstances of the case under investigation. Under the provisions of Cr.P.C, the Investigating Officer can either conduct searches under the permission of the competent court or on its own in emergent circumstances.

Statement

Names of Officers of the Level of Joint Secretary and Above Whose Premises have been Searched during Last three years

| Sl.No. | Name and designation of the officers and their Departments |
|--------|---|
| 1. | Sh. Mandeep Singh, IAS, the then Director, Rural Development & Panchayats, Punjab. |
| 2. | Sh. R.K. Srivastava, IAS, the then Registrar of Coop. Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi |
| 3. | Shri K. Nagaraj, IPS, the then DIG, CRPF, Hyderabad now IGP Tripura |
| 4. | Sh. K. B. S. Sidhu, IAS, the then Chief Administrator, PUDA, Mohali |
| 5. | Sh. S.C. Aggarwal, IAS the then Chief Administrator, PUDA, Mohali |
| 6. | Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS (Indian Foreign Service), former Director Genl. of Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR), New Delhi. |
| 7. | Sh. J.S.L. Vasava, IAS, Commissioner, Lower Assam, Division, Guwahati. |

Guidelines for Tests of Donor's Blood

2055. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines set up to conduct the test of the Blood procured from the donor for detection of HIV and Hepatitis;

(b) whether all the blood banks of the Government, private, corporate or society-owned are technically equipped to detect the HIV and Hepatitis as per the guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has enacted or likely to enact a law, making it mandatory for every blood bank to fully equip technically to detect HIV and Hepatitis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The testing for transfusion transmissible infections, including HIV and hepatitis, is mandatory for the blood banks to obtain a license from the Drug Control Authorities.

(d) and (e) It is mandatory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1945 and Rules thereunder for every blood bank to be fully equipped technically to detect HIV and Hepatitis.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

MoU with France

2056. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France to set up the first International Thermo-nuclear Energy Reactor (ITER) at Marseles region of France; and

(b) If so, the salient features thereof including the details of cooperation to be extended by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government of India along with six other Parties, has signed a Joint Implementation Agreement on November 21, 2006 for establishing the ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation at St.Paul-les-Durance (Bouches-du-Rhone) near Marseles, France. The other six Parties to the agreement are European Union represented by the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of Japan, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America.

(b) The salient feature of ITER project is to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes, an essential feature of which would be achieving sustained fusion power generation. The aim of ITER project is to show that fusion could be used to generate electrical power and to gain the necessary data to design and operate the first electricity producing plant. The resources of the ITER organisation shall be from contributions of member states in agreed proportions. Each member including India shall contribute:

- (1) Equipments (in-kind contribution) to build the machine as agreed to in the Joint Implementation Agreement.
- (2) Staff to this project and
- (3) Cash contribution to meet the cost of some systems at the ITER International Organisation level.

The approximate financial implication on the part of India is estimated at Rs.2500 crores over a period of ten years, which will be largely in the form of in-kind contribution.

[English]

Non-utilisation of Budgetary Allocation

2057. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Coal has utilized only 1% of its budgetary allocation for the year 2006-07; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

Cyber Crime

2058. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing incidents of cyber crimes in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) With the greater use of computers, a general increase in cases of cyber crimes has been noticed worldwide. In India also a similar trend has been observed.

(b) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the incidence of cyber crimes registered in States/UT under the Information Technology Act 2000 and Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, during the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 471, 347 and 481 cases respectively and a total number of 1488 persons were arrested. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered 5 cases in the year 2005 and 2 cases in 2006, thereby showing a mixed trend.

(c) The Information Technology Act 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code provides legal framework for countering cyber crimes.

The Government has introduced Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in the Parliament which inter alia provides for:

New Forms of crimes, like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

The Government has also conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber laws and cyber crimes for Judicial Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies.

An existing investigation cell in CBI undertakes investigation of Cyber Crime cases apart from the Units set up by various State Police. CBI also acts as a nodal agency to train the State Police personnel who are dealing with the investigation of cyber crimes.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Doctors in Rural Areas

2059. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per joint study conducted by FICCI-Ernest & Young on Indian Healthcare scenario has predicted a shortfall of 45,000 doctors and 3,50,000 para medicos in India by 2012;

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

(c) its likely impact on overall health care system in the country particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The joint study conducted by FICCI-Ernest & Young on Indian Healthcare scenario has predicted a shortfall of 453785 doctors and 1290174 Nurses in India by 2012.

(b) and (c) As on March 2006, about 7.5% of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were without a doctor, about 38.9% were without a lab technician and about 17.7% were without a pharmacist. In the Community Health Centres (CHCs), out of the sanctioned posts, about 59.4% of surgeons, 45.0% of obstetricians and gynecologists, 61.1% of physicians and about 53.8% of paediatricians were vacant. Overall about 54.5% of the sanctioned posts of specialists at CHCs were vacant. Moreover, there is a shortfall of 70.2% of specialists at the CHCs as compared to the requirement for existing infrastructure on the basis of existing norms.

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs are being strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level.

The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs/ Nurses is being done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/strengthening of nursing & ANM schools, as incorporated in the PIP of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved.

Opening of CGHS Dispensary

2060. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

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

(a) the number of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Allopathic CGHS dispensaries functioning in Delhi at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of homoeopathy doctors working in CGHS dispensaries as compared to allopathic doctors;

(e) whether any suggestions have been received to increase their number to meet the growing demand; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) In view of resource constraints, approval for opening of more dispensaries is not possible.

(d) The number of Allopathic doctors working in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi is 558 and Homoeopathic doctors is 24.

(e) and (f) In view of resource constraints and fixing of staffing norms of Homoeopathy/Ayurveda dispensaries/units as per the average daily attendance by SIU, conveying overall surplus staff position in respect of AYUSH dispensaries it may not be possible to increase number of doctors in CGHS dispensaries.

Statement

Details about CGHS dispensaries in India under all systems as on 31.3.2006

| City | Allopathy | Ayurvedic | Homoeopathy |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Ahmedabad | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Allahabad | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Bangalore | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| Bhopal | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bhubaneshwar | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Chandigarh | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chennai | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| Dehradun | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Guwahati | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Hyderabad | 13 | 2 | 2 |
| Jabalpur | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Jaipur | 5 | 1 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------|----|----|----|
| Kanpur | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| Kolkata | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Lucknow | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Meerut | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Mumbai | 26 | 2 | 3 |
| Nagpur | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| Patna | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Pune | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Ranchi | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Shillong | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Trivandrum | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Delhi | 87 | 13 | 13 |

Coal Block for Captive Coal Mining

2061. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to allocate 38 coal blocks for captive coal mining with a total coal reserves of 62,907.078 million tonnes to the power, iron, steel and cement sectors by 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has asked the interested companies to file their applications by January 12, 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government will consider the companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for the allocation of one or more coal blocks of the 38 blocks for captive coal mining;

(f) the extent to which the Government is likely to receive response; and

(g) the time by which the coal blocks are likely to be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The coal reserves for 38 blocks to be allocated through the Screening Committee route is estimated to be 6086.67 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The advertisement issued by the Government in the month of November, 2006 invited applications from eligible companies for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining by January 12, 2007.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. A total of 1422 applications have been received. The allocation of coal blocks will depend on the time by which views/comments of State Governments/Nodal Ministries are obtained and the recommendations of the Screening Committee constituted for the purpose is received. No definite date can be given at this stage.

[Translation]

Electronic Telephone Exchange

2062. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges established in North-Eastern States especially in Sikkim during the last three years; and

(b) the amount earmarked/allocated and spent for this purpose during the said years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Details of electronic telephone exchanges established in North-Eastern States during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I. One exchange at Sherathang has been established during 2006-2007 in Sikkim.

(b) Details of funds earmarked/allocated and spent for this purpose during the said years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of electronic telephone exchanges established in North Eastern States

NE-I Circle

| State | Location/Name of Exchange | | |
|-----------|--|--|----------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Meghalaya | 1. Hallidayganj | 1. Kharkutta 2. Lawbah 3. Mendel 4. Umden 5. Malankona 6. Forest Colony | 1. Laska |
| Tripura | 1. Collegetilla 2. Silachari 3. Ramnagar 4. Dasda | 1. Salgarah 2. Golaghat 3. Kumwlong 4. Bodhjungle | |
| Mizoram | Nil | Nil | Nil |

NE-II Circle

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|-----|
| Arunachal Pradesh | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Manipur | 1. Kakching Khunou 2. Maram 3. Nungba 4. Putul | 1. Chakpikarong 2. Saitu Gamphajol 3. Sugnu | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | 5. Songdoh | | |
| | 6. Singhat | | |
| Nagaland | 1. Khonoma | 1. Phugoboto | 1. Bhandari |
| | 2. Piphema | 2. Chakabama | |
| | | 3. Chunlika | |
| Assam Circle | | | |
| Assam | 1. Patgaon | 1. Tilogi | 1. Goalpara |
| | 2. Basantiput | 2. Anandapara | 2. Gobradal |
| | 3. Srirampur | 3. Monoha | 3. Dangtol |
| | 4. Chandkuchi | | 4. Makum Road |
| | 5. Ambari | | 5. Tengapukhuri |
| | 6. Mazgram | | 6. Ambari |
| | 7. Saderi | | 7. Singimari |
| | 8. Ranigang | | 8. Phuroniati |
| | 9. Lakhiganj | | 9. Kujisatra |
| | 10. Borobazar | | 10. Gorajan |
| | 11. Jamira | | 11. Sibpur |
| | 12. Kakojan | | 12. Kaptanpur |
| | 13. Ketetong | | |
| | 14. Nayabazar | | |
| | 15. Koya | | |
| | 16. Dhamdhama | | |
| | 17. Hengrabari | | |
| | 18. Rangia Market | | |
| | 19. Hawaipur | | |
| | 20. Jalugun | | |
| | 21. Amsoi | | |
| | 22. Boha | | |
| | 23. Rajamayong | | |
| | 24. Marzatkandi | | |
| | 25. Dualia | | |
| | 26. Borbali | | |
| Sikkim | | | |
| Sikkim | Nil | Nil | Nil |

Statement II*Details of funds allocated and spent for this purpose (Rupees in Crores)*

| Name of Circle | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| | Amount Allocated | Amount Spent | Amount Allocated | Amount Spent | Amount Allocated | Amount Spent |
| NE-I | 1.12 | 0.79 | 1.30 | 0.64 | 0.10 | 0.06 |
| NE-II | 3.00 | 5.22 | 7.22 | 9.26 | 0.33 | 0.33 |
| Assam | 9.52 | 6.53 | 0.90 | 0.62 | 5.60 | 3.80 |

*[English]***Hosting of Rugby**

2063. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University of Delhi has agreed to host Rugby 7's in its Sports Complex and provide its sports grounds to participating athletes for practice sessions during Commonwealth Games, 2010 as reported in the *Indian Express* dated January 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the University administration was earlier reluctant to host the event at its outdoor stadium;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the proposal is being considered by the Commonwealth Organizing Committee (CWOC);

(f) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on hosting the event; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi University's main ground has been selected as competition venue for Rugby 7's. Besides, the grounds of various other colleges of the University are also likely to be utilized as training venues.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The proposal of having the competition venue of Rugby 7's at Delhi University has been considered by the Commonwealth Games Organizing Committee 2010 and found acceptable.

(f) The detailed estimates are yet to be received from the Delhi University.

(g) The decision on Competition venue has already been taken. Discussions are underway with all the stakeholders with regard to finalization of details in respect of training venues.

Mobile Number Portability

2064. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

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

(a) whether the recommendations of TRAI regarding implementation of mobile number portability is being opposed by large mobile operators such as BSNL, Bharti and Hutch etc.;

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

(c) the progress made so far by the Government for implementation of TRAI's recommendation on Mobile Number Portability (MNP)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) During the consultation process, prior to issue of the Recommendations by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Mobile Number Portability (MNP), some of the stakeholders have stated that:

- (i) In most of the countries the Mobile Number Portability was introduced at a time when the tele-density was around 25 to 30%.
 - (ii) Most of the mobile operators are at present involved in rolling out of their network in the semi urban/rural areas and hence it is not the right time to introduce Mobile Number Portability as they will have to incur heavy expenditure on upgradation of their network/switches for Mobile Number portability.
 - (iii) There is enough competition in all the license areas and hence the introduction of Mobile Number Portability will not yield major benefit to the customer.
- (c) As on date, no decision has been taken in the matter.

Land Acquisition by MCL

2065. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated and executed by Mahanadi Coal Field Ltd. (MCL) for land acquisition, compensation, rehabilitation and other related matters at different areas;

(b) the new mining areas located and the steps taken for land acquisition and other related matters;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the existing policy keeping in view the discontentment amongst the displaced and affected families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Land acquisition is done under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act,

1957. Compensation is paid according to the provisions of the Acts. Rehabilitation and resettlement benefits are provided to land oustees as per the Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R & R) Policy of Coal India Limited.

(b) MCL has identified new projects e.g. Bhubaneswari, Kaniha, Kulda & Garjanbahal in the State of Orissa for mining activities. MCL will follow the Acts/ Rules/Policies mentioned at (a) above for land acquisition and other related matters.

(c) and (d) Revision of National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement (NPRR) 2003 is presently under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Interstate water Transport in Bihar

2066. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs.30 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government during the year 2003-04 for collecting Hydromorphological data and to prepare a DPR for developing Interstate Water Transport facilities in Gandak river in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of proposed route for this project; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue after finalisation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) At the time of sanction of this project, an amount of Rs.5.00 lakhs had been released in March, 2004 to the State Government of Bihar. However, no fund has been utilized by the State Government till December, 2006. The State Government is in the process of finalizing the tender for appointment of Consultant for preparation of Detail Project Report.

(d) and (e) The proposal is for collection of hydro morphological data and preparation of Detailed Project

Report (DPR) of river Gandak in Bihar. However, Specific route and the benefits likely to accrue will be known only after the Detailed Project Report is prepared by the State Government.

[English]

Coastal Security

2067. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently convened a meeting to discuss the issue of coastal security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to keep a close watch on the maritime borders in the country which are having constant security threats?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The 24th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held at Hyderabad on 12.02.2007 where issues relating to internal security, coastal security etc., were discussed. A scheme for providing assistance to the coastal States and UTs to enhance infrastructure for patrolling and surveillance of the coastal areas is under implementation from the year 2005-06. The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 400 crore for non-recurring expenditure and Rs.151 crore for recurring expenditure for 5 years.

A meeting was also held at Chennai on 31.07.2006 to review security measures in Indian Ports. The major ports and some non-major ports in the country have implemented the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) and monitor the ships that call at these ports. Besides, the Coast Guard ships and aircrafts keep a close watch along the International Maritime Boundary Line by regular patrolling.

Performance of Indian Athletes

2068. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the performance of Indian athletes and sportspersons in international sporting events;

(b) the results achieved or likely to be achieved as a result thereof;

(c) the approach adopted by the Government for the identification and development of athletes and sportspersons in the country and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the amount allocated for the development of sports in the country for the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The primary responsibility for the development of various sports disciplines vests in the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. The Government supplements their efforts through financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this connection, detailed discussions are also being held with the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to further streamline the process of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of winning medals and related training requirements such as exposure and participation in events at the international level, and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. Efforts are also being made to further expand and strengthen the infrastructure and arrangements for training etc., under the various schemes of the SAI.

(b) As a result of these efforts, there has been vast improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons in international events. India won 54 medals in Asian

Games", 2006 against 36 medals won in Asian Games 2002 and 234 medals in SAF Games, 2006 against 191 medals in SAF Games, 2004.

(c) Action is being taken by the Sports Authority of India for scouting and nurturing talent and training of the identified sportspersons at the sub-junior, junior and senior levels by providing vital inputs i.e. coaching, infrastructure and equipment support, sports kit and competition exposure etc. under the following schemes:

- (i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme;
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme;
- (iii) SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme;
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme; and
- (v) Centre for Excellence Scheme.

The number of trainees under SAI has already increased from less than 10,000 at the beginning of 10th Five Year Plan to 13,000 at present. The Ministry is also considering launching a scheme under the title of 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with a view of providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports activities at the grass root level both as an essential ingredient of youth development and for significantly widening the catchments area for the identification and nurturing of sports talent.

(d) A budget provision of Rs. 540.00 crores has been made for the sports during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Promotion of Sports

2069. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any concrete scheme to promote sports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether schools and colleges are not giving adequate importance to sports;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of the schools and universities from where sportspersons represented in Olympics and Asian Games; and

(f) the measures taken to promote sports in schools and colleges of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Sports is a State subject and the primary responsibility for promotion of sports in their respective States vests with the State Governments, while the responsibility for the development of different sports disciplines lies mainly with the respective National Sports Federations (NSFs) which are autonomous registered institutions.

However, the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of State Governments and NSFs for promotion of sports in the country through the following schemes:—

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation;
- (ii) Scheme of Talent Search & Training;
- (iii) Scheme of State Sports Academies;
- (iv) Scheme relating to Awards;
 1. Special Awards to Winner in International Sports event and their Coaches
 2. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
 3. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy

In addition, the Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in sports, the Dhyan Chand Award for life-time achievement in sports, and Dronacharya Awards for eminent coaches are awarded every year under Non-Plan Scheme.

- (v) Incentive for Promotion of Sports Activities;
 1. Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons.
 2. Rural Sports Programme.
 3. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools.
 4. Sports Scholarships.
 5. National Sports Development Fund.

In addition, Sports Authority of India (SAI) implements the following schemes to promote sports in the country through grants provided by the Ministry:

- (i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) ;
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- (iii) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG) and
- (v) Centres of Excellence (COX)

The SAI has established extensive infrastructure and training facilities at its Centres in various parts of the country, and the number of trainees under SAI schemes has increased from less than 10000 at the beginning of the 10th Plan to around 14000 (anticipated) by the end of the current year. This is proposed to be further increased to 50000 in the XIth Plan.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is also considering the launching of a scheme "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" with the objective of developing basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities, at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the Youth and to significantly expand the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal

(c) and (d) It is a fact that the Sports and Games require greater attention in Schools and Colleges. The emphasis on sports & games in the Schools/Colleges has not been sufficient on account of:—

1. General lack of sports consciousness, and focus on academics, among parents and teachers;
2. Inadequate emphasis on implementation of the policy to make Sports & Physical Education compulsory;
3. Non-availability of adequate sports facilities and playgrounds in educational institutions.

(e) This information is not maintained in the Ministry.

(f) The Government promotes sports in Schools and Colleges in the country through organization of Multi-sports

competition in Identified Olympic and indigenous disciplines at District, State and National level through the Sports Authority of India in coordination with the State Governments.

Committee on the Inclusion of Hindi in U.N.

2070. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Committees/Sub-committees/Core Group constituted for making Rajbhasha Hindi as the language of the United Nations and the progress made as a result thereof;

(b) the details of the Committees/Core Group including the total expenditure incurred in this regard;

(c) the number of delegations including the names of representatives in each of the delegation visited abroad during the last three years and till date for promotion of Rajbhasha Hindi in foreign countries and the success achieved as a result thereof; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on their visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Following a decision taken in the 26th meeting of the Kendriya Hindi Samiti held on 6th September 2002, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a high level committee under the chairmanship of EAM on Hindi in the UNO was constituted on 26th February, 2003. A meeting of this committee was held on 29th July, 2003. Thereafter, a follow-up sub-committee on Hindi in UNO was formed under the chairmanship of the then Minister of State. A meeting of this committee was held on 22nd August, 2003. Subsequently, a core group under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs was formed. Meetings of this core group were held on 17th October, 2003 and 10th February 2004.

In the meeting of 29th July, 2003, mentioned above, the idea of preparing an Advocacy Paper was mooted. The objective of having an Advocacy Paper was to present India's case with regard to introducing Hindi in the UN and mobilising world opinion on the issue. The task of preparing this Paper was first assigned to Shri Nirmal Pathak, a journalist from 'Dainik Jagaran'. Later,

he was replaced by Shri Akhilesh Suman of 'Rashtriya Sahara' in November, 2004. Shri Suman submitted a draft Advocacy Paper in May, 2005. This was supplemented with further inputs by the Ministry.

Subsequently, it was decided to bring the subject of Hindi in UNO under the purview of the follow-up committee of World Hindi Conference (WHC) which was set up in 2003 after the VII WHC under the chairmanship of the then MOS with the objective of ensuring follow-up action on the Resolution on the subject passed during the WHC. Meetings of this Committee were held on

8.1.2004, 8.6.2005 and 1.6.2006 and discussed modalities of achieving the objective of introducing Hindi at the UN.

The expenditure incurred on organising the meeting of the follow up committee on World Hindi Conference held on 8th June 2005 was Rs. 54,088/- and on the meeting held on 1st June 2006 was Rs. 26,730. As the other committees mentioned above consisted of only the officers of the Ministry, no expenditure was incurred on the meetings of these committees.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Hindi conferences are organised in different countries by the Ministry/Indian Missions abroad as part of Ministry's efforts to promote Hindi abroad. Details of the Conferences held in the past three years till date, names of the participants and the expenditure incurred are as follows:

| S.No. | Place of the Conference | Held on | Expend. incurred on Conferences | Names of participants from India |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Bucharest (Romania) | 28-30 July 2004 | Rs. 3,70,162 | 1. Shri Mahesh Sachdev, JS (Europe.II) 2. Shri S.K. Srivastava, DS (Hindi) |
| 2. | Sydney (Australia) | 3-5 Feb, 2006 | Rs. 9 Lakh | 1. Shri Vijay Kumar, Secretary (Coord) 2. Shri S.K. Srivastava DS (Hindi) |
| 3. | Abu Dhabi (UAE) | 24-26 Feb, 2006 | Rs. 7.5 Lakh | 1. Smt. Madhu Goswami, DS(Hindi) |
| 4. | Tokyo (Japan) | 28-30 July 2006 | Rs. 15 Lakh | 1. Dr. Ashok Chakradhar 2. Dr. Suraj Bhan Singh 3. Dr. V.K. Malhotra 4. Sh. Narayan Kumar 5. Smt. Madhu Goswami, DS(Hindi) |

These conferences helped in generating considerable interest in Hindi in the region concerned.

High-tech Parks

2071. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up high-tech. parks in all the States to promote information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of high-tech parks in the country and the investment made in each of them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under

Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India has setup 48 centres across the country, the state-wise centre details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

As per the current policy for setting up a new STPI Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq.ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to

evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal.

Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology has promoted Science and technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs), which are established in and around academic and R&D institutions of excellence for the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship. The STEP's thrust are as (s) including IT. State-wise details of STEP's are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Software Technology Parks of India

| S.No. | States | STPI Centers |
|-------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad, Thirupati, Vijayawada, Vizag, Warangal, Kakinada |
| 2. | Assam | Guwahati |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | Bhilai |
| 4. | Gujarat | Gandhinagar |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 6. | Jammu & Kashmir | Srinagar, Jammu |
| 7. | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 8. | Karnataka | Bangalore, Hubli, Mangalore, Manipal, Mysore |
| 9. | Kerala | Thiruvananthapuram |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | Indore |
| 11. | Maharashtra | Aurangabad, Nagpur, Nasik, Navi Mumbai, Kolhapur, Pune |
| 12. | Manipur | Imphal |
| 13. | Orissa | Bhubaneswar, Rourkela |
| 14. | Pondicherry | Pondicherry |
| 15. | Punjab | Mohali |
| 16. | Rajasthan | Jaipur, Jodhpur |
| 17. | Sikkim | Gangtok |
| 18. | Tamilnadu | Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thirunavelli, Trichy |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | Kanpur, Lucknow, Noida, Allahabad |
| 20. | Uttaranchal | Dehradun |
| 21. | West Bengal | Kolkata, Durgapur, Khargapur, Siliguri |

Statement II***Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs)***

| Sl No. | States | Location | Area of Operation | Project Cost (in Rs Lakhs) |
|--------|------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | Jharkhand | Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra Ranchi | Mech. Engg., Mining equipment, electronics | 148.00 |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | H.P. University, Simla | Software and Computers | 109.00 |
| 3. | Karnataka | (1) SJ College of Engg, Mysore | Electronics, Software development | 215.40 |
| | | (2) National Institute of Technology, Karnataka Surathkal | Software, Biotech, Environment engg. | 217.00 |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | Maulana Azad College of Technology, Bhopal | Electronics, Software, Power Engg. | 170.00 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | University of Poona, Pune | Instrumentation, solar power, computers | 70.00 |
| 6. | Punjab | Guru Nanak College of Engineering, Ludhiana | Machine tools, automation, electronics | 200.00 |
| 7. | Tamil Nadu | (1) Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli | Electronics production & Mechanical Engg. | 150.00 |
| | | (2) PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore | Electronics, Software, Mechanical Engg. | 388.80 |
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh | Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur | Chemicals, Electronics, Computer | 205.00 |
| 9. | Uttanchal | Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee | Electronics, Computer, Mechanical Engg | 150.00 |
| 10. | West Bengal | Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur | Mechanical, IT, Agriculture, Metallurgy, Food Processing | 287.00 |

*[English]***Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**

2072. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently enacted Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up Food Safety and Standards Authority of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(f) the measures taken by the Government for proper implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The Draft Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 piloted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which was subsequently enacted by the Parliament as Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006), has received the consent of the President of India.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been entrusted with the implementation of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. As per provision of Section 92 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, the Food Authority is to make regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act.

The Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may notify in the Official Gazette. A

Steering Group for setting up of the Food Safety and Standards Authority under the Food Safety Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

[Translation]

National Knowledge Commission

2073. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted its report as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated February 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the main recommendations in the report;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended to set up a National University during the next three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the locations where these universities are likely to be set up;

(e) whether the Government has consulted the Planning Commission to consider its recommendations;

(f) if so, the recommendations which have been accepted;

(g) whether a review of the recommendations will be undertaken by the Parliamentary Forum;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the Government proposes to bring about reform in education sector;

(j) if so, the details thereof including the funds for the education sector; and

(k) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Report on Higher Education are:

- Expand massively to around 1500 universities nationwide that would enable India to attain a gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015.
- Establish an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education.
- Increase public spending and diversify sources of financing.
- Establish 50 National Universities as multi disciplinary exemplars whose admissions would be on an all India basis.
- Reform existing universities to ensure frequent curricula revision, introduce course credit systems, enhance reliance on internal assessment, encourage research and reform governance.
- Restructure the system of affiliated undergraduate colleges.
- Promote enhanced quality through stringent information disclosure norms, upgradation of infrastructure and looking at salary differentials.
- Ensure access for all deserving students through well funded scholarships and affirmative action that takes into account multi dimensionality of deprivation.

(c) to (k) The comments of the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India have been sought by the Planning Commission. The question of a Parliamentary Forum reviewing the recommendations will only arise after the Government of India takes a decision on the recommendations contained in the report.

[English]

National Commission for Libraries

2074. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Knowledge Commission has recommended for the setting up of a National Commission for Libraries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose thereto;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A copy of the report of the National Knowledge Commission on Libraries is enclosed as Statement.

(d) The Planning Commission has forwarded the report to the concerned Departments of the Government of India.

Statement

Libraries

Public libraries play a pivotal role in dissemination of knowledge and are an extremely important element of the foundation of a knowledge economy. There is widespread agreement that there is an urgent need for reform in the Libraries and Information Services (LIS) sector. Several initiatives in this regard have already been taken by the Government. NKC has consulted extensively with diverse stakeholders, including a Working Group of experts and professionals. NKC's recommendations for formulating strategies in the LIS sector are as follows:

1. Set up a National Commission on Libraries: A permanent, independent and financially autonomous National Commission on Libraries should be set up by the Central Government as a statutory body to address the information and learning needs of the citizens of India. To launch the process in a mission mode, a National Mission on Libraries should be set up immediately, for a period of three years.
2. Prepare a national census of all libraries: A national census of all libraries should be prepared by undertaking a nation-wide survey. Collection of census data on libraries would provide baseline data for planning. The Task Force that has been set up by the Department of Culture for this purpose should be given

financial and administrative support to implement this activity and complete the survey on a priority basis (within one year). User needs and reading habits should be periodically surveyed at the national level as part of the National Sample Survey.

3. Revamp LIS education, training and research facilities: The proposed Mission/Commission on Libraries must assess as soon as possible the manpower requirements of the country in the area of LIS management, and take necessary steps to meet the country's requirement through LIS education and training. To keep the LIS sector abreast of latest developments, necessary encouragement should be given to research after evaluating the research status in this field. Establishing a well-equipped institute for advanced training and research in library and information science and services would provide the necessary impetus to this task.
4. Re-assess staffing of libraries: In the changed context, it is necessary to assess the manpower requirements for different types of libraries and departments of library and information science, keeping in mind job descriptions, qualifications, designations, pay scale, career advancement and service conditions.
5. Set up a Central Library Fund: A specified percentage of the Central and State education budgets must be ear-marked for libraries. In addition, a Central Library Fund should be instituted for upgrading existing libraries over a period of 3-5 years. The initial funding from the Government may be Rs 1,000 crores, which may be matched by the private sector through corporate philanthropy. This fund should be administered by the National Mission/Commission on Libraries.
6. Modernize library management: Libraries should be so organized and the staff so trained that they become relevant to user communities (including special groups) in every respect. Also, to optimize resources, efforts should be made to synergize the strengths of different types of libraries through innovative collaboration. NKC proposes the creation of a model Library Charter, a list of services to be performed by libraries, a Library Network and a National Repository for Bibliographic Records.

7. **Encourage greater community participation in library management:** It is necessary to involve different stakeholders and user groups in the managerial decision-making process for libraries. Public libraries must be run by local self-government through committees representing users of the library. These committees should ensure local community involvement and should be autonomous enough to take independent decisions to conduct cultural and educational community-based programmes. Libraries should integrate with all other knowledge-based activities in the local area to develop a community-based information system. In the rural sector, the responsibility for village libraries or Community Knowledge Centres must lie with the Panchayats. These should be set up in close proximity or on the premises of schools.
8. **Promote Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all libraries:** The catalogues of all libraries should be put on local, state and national websites with necessary linkages. This will enable networking of different types of libraries and setting up of a National Repository of Bibliographic Records and a centralized collaborative virtual enquiry-handling system using the latest ICT. To enable equitable and universal access to knowledge resources, libraries should be encouraged to create more digital resources by digitizing relevant reading material in different languages, which can be shared at all levels. Peer-reviewed research papers resulting from publicly funded research should also be made available through open access channels, subject to copyright regulations. It is recommended that open standards and free and open source software may be used for the above.
9. **Facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections:** There are numerous rich private and personal collections in India which need to be identified, documented and preserved for posterity. While there is a need to create a decentralized model for identification of personal collections, it is also necessary to sensitize organizations to receive and preserve donations of personal collections through a simplified process. The National Mission/ Commission may set up a committee on private and personal collections under the chairpersonship of an

eminent scholar. Since special facilities for maintaining private or personal collections are not easily available, it is suggested that 10 regional centres with specific mandates be set up in different parts of the country for this purpose.

10. **Encourage Public-Private Partnerships in LIS development:** Philanthropic organizations, industrial houses and other private agencies should be encouraged through fiscal incentives to support existing libraries or set up new libraries. The ingenuity of civil society may also be utilized to prepare necessary infrastructure to meet the special ICT needs of the LIS sector. In order to facilitate the coordinated development of libraries across different sectors and to provide the legislative framework, required legal support and financial backing to the library sector, the Government could, in course of time, consider including libraries in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. This should be done without in any way abrogating the existing responsibilities of the States towards libraries.

Deprivation Index Formula

2075. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended the adoption of a Deprivation Index Formula to assess the backwardness of students, to quantify deprivation of various kinds to introduce affirmative action and make higher education as inclusive as possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Deprivation Index Formula was intended to assess deprivation on various counts including economic backwardness and poverty apart from mere caste and community backwardness;

(d) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up an Independent Regulatory body to monitor standards and degrees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The National Knowledge Commission in its Recommendations for Higher education - Section VII-ACCESS has mentioned that "a major aim of the higher education system must be to ensure that access to education for economically and historically socially underprivileged students is enhanced in a substantially more effective manner.

- Reservation are essential but they are only a part, and one form, of affirmative action.
- Disparities in educational attainments are related to caste and social groups, but are also strongly related to other indicators such as income, gender, region and place of residence. Therefore, there is a need to develop a meaningful and comprehensive framework that would account for the multi-dimensionality of differences that still persist. For example, a deprivation index could be used to provide weighted scores to students and the cumulative score could be used to supplement a student's school examination score. After adding the score from the deprivation index, all students could compete for admissions.
- The indicators need to be easily identifiable and verifiable for the system to work effectively. They should cover the different types of disadvantages that a student could face at the school level, and while applying for admissions to higher education. This system serves the dual purpose of considering various disadvantages and ensuring that a reserved category student who has otherwise enjoyed other benefits does not get great preference at the time of admissions.
- Illustrative indicators of backwardness that need to be measured by such an index could include social background covering caste (keeping in view regional variations), religion and gender, family education history, family income, type of school distinguishing between government and private schools and between schools from different locations, the medium of instruction, place of residence distinguishing between urban and rural areas and accounting for regional deprivation by sorting districts along an index of infrastructure or access to social benefits and physical disability."

The above paras indicate that the proposed deprivation index is intended to be a comprehensive index covering different types of disadvantages giving weightage to various counts like economic backwardness/poverty caste and community backwardness, social indicators such as family education history, place of residence, type of school attended physical disability etc.

(d) to (f) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Higher Education including the proposal to set up an Independent Regulatory Authority have been sent to the concerned Ministries for their comments.

Bus Transport Dispute between Delhi and U.P.

2076. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute between the Government of U.P. and Delhi pertaining to bus transport has not been resolved even after the intervention of the Hon'ble Court;

(b) Whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the people from Delhi and vice versa to reach their work places; and

(c) the action being taken by the Central Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the State Governments can enter into agreements for operation of bus services between them. The procedure for entering into such agreements has been prescribed under section 88 (5) of the M.V. Act, 1988. The Court has not given any direction to this Department in the matter relating to the dispute between Government of U.P. and Delhi for bus transport services.

(b) and (c) Road Transport falls under the purview of State Governments. It is for the concerned States to provide efficient, well coordinated passenger transport services for its people.

Issue of Substitute Medicines

2077. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS dispensaries are issuing substitute allopathic medicines in place of the prescribed medicines by the doctors;

(b) whether even for low-priced medicines, substitutes are also issued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether even for a single medicine prescribed, two or more or inappropriate substitutes are given; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Medicines to CGHS dispensaries are procured and supplied on the basis of list of finalised formulary and generic drugs, through Medical Store Depot-II (MSD) and Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC). Chief Medical Officers in the dispensaries are expected to prescribe medicines from the formulary/generic drugs. In case of medicines being not in stock in a dispensary, then an indent is placed on the authorised local chemists. If the chemists supply substitute medicines rather than the indented medicines, CGHS has the power to impose penalties under the provisions of Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) signed with the authorised local chemists.

Upgradation of Medical Colleges

2078. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an additional grant of Rs. 120 crore from Vidarbha package for upgradation of Government Hospital, Nagpur under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana is proposed to be sanctioned keeping in view the difficulties of the poor tribal patients of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (c) There is no proposal

for sanction of additional grant of Rs.120 crore from Vidarbha Package for upgradation of Government Hospital, Nagpur under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

[Translation]

Implementation of MPLAD Scheme

2079. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines in respect of utilisation of funds released under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund Scheme is not being implemented properly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received from various Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of action taken so far in each case;

(d) whether orders regarding holding prescribed meetings of Members of Parliament and officers implementing the scheme under the Chairpersonship of Divisional Commissioner twice in a year are not being held as per guidelines; and

(e) if so, the action being taken against such Divisional Commissioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, there were some complaints with regard to non-implementation of MPLADS Guidelines. A list of complaints received from some Members of Parliament along with details of Action Taken by the Ministry is enclosed as Statement.

(b) As per Para 6.3 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, a committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary is required to review MPLADS implementation progress with the District Authorities and MPs at least once a year. The Planning Department, Govt. of U.P. has intimated, since U.P. is a large State having 80 Lok Sabha Constituencies and 31 Rajya Sabha MPs, it has been decided that meetings will be organized at Division level twice a year in 15 Divisions. So far the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has received the details of meetings of the Divisional level Committees held in Faizabad, Bareilly and Kanpur Divisions.

(e) Since the District and Divisional Authorities are under the administrative control of the State Government action, if any, against State Govt. Officials has to be taken by the State Government.

Statement

Lok Sabha

(1) Shri Shishram Singh Ravi, MP (LS)—Bijnore (UP)
Lok Sabha Constituency:

Complaint

Misappropriation of MPLADS fund of Rs. 1.24 crore for purchase of Computers for 48 Schools in Bijnore (UP).

Action Taken

The matter has been investigated by Commissioner, Moradabad and report submitted to Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Principal Secretary, Planning was requested to apprise the Ministry of action taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh against the offender supplier, namely M/s SRJ Software Ltd., Wazir Nagar and action taken for the recovery/recoupment of MPLADS fund from the offender supplier. Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is also taking action against the officers responsible.

(2) Shri Rajnarayan Budholia, MP (LS)—Hamirpur (UP)
Complaint

Seven "Swagat Dwars" have been constructed at different specific places in his constituency out of MPLADS Fund of his predecessor ex-Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Shri Gangacharan Rajput and inscribed with the slogan which is creating confusion among the public.

Action Taken

DM, Hamirpur has stated that 03 Swagat Dwars were constructed in Mahoba district and 02 were constructed in Hamirpur district. The Ministry has instructed DM, Hamirpur to remove the name of ex-MP (LS) immediately from these Swagat Dwars and to take action to recoup MPLADS Fund utilized for the construction of these Swagat Dwars, as the same is not permissible under MPLADS Guidelines. Government of Uttar Pradesh has also been requested to take disciplinary action against the officer found responsible for this.

(3) Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, MP (LS)—
LS Constituency, Mirzapur (UP)

Complaint

Holding of meeting of Chief Development Officer during session period under MPLAD Scheme.

Action Taken

Ministry had sought clarification from Planning Department, Govt. of U.P. That Department vide its letter dated 19.9.2006 has stated that they have issued necessary instructions to all District Magistrates not to hold any meeting on MPLAD Scheme during Parliament Sessions. They have regretted the matter.

(4) Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, MP (LS)—
LS Constituency, Mirzapur (UP)

Complaint

Delay in execution of MPLADS works by DM, Mirzapur and non-cooperative attitude of Chief Development Officer, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Bhadoli, Uttar Pradesh.

Action Taken

Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, has been expelled from Lok Sabha on 23.12.2005. The State Govt. has been instructed that all works recommended by the expelled MP till the date of his expulsion may be executed, provided they conform to the MPLADS Guidelines.

(5) Shri Swami Chinmyanand, Ex-MP (LS)—Jaunpur
Lok Sabha constituency

Complaint

Non-release of Rs. 10 lakh of MPLADS Fund for the construction of the building of Jamia Monima Lil-Banat (Girls School), Jamia Nagar Sipah, Jaunpur.

Action Taken

Action Taken Report received from District Magistrate, Jaunpur vide his letter dated 22nd July 2006 states that the complete amount of Rs. 10 lakh of the project has been released to the Implementing Agency.

(6) Shri Mansoor Ali Khan, Ex-MP (LS)—Lok Sabha constituency, Saharanpur (UP)**Complaint**

Misutilization of MPLADS fund in District Saharanpur (U.P.) from the MPLADS funds of Shri Rashid Masood, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha).

Action Taken

Report dated 18.1.2007 received from DM, Saharanpur has been examined in the Ministry and found that no misappropriation of MPLADS fund was done during the execution of construction of Kharanja from Khera Afghan to Jajwa with estimated cost of Rs. 7 lakh and construction of two class rooms of Guru Nanak High School at village-Mahangi, bloc-Gangoah on the recommendation of Shri Rashid Masood, Hon'ble MP (LS). However, irregularity has been made in not observing the laid down procedure and the State Govt. has been instructed to take necessary action.

(7) Shri Ilyas Azmi MP (LS)—Lok Sabha constituency Sahabad (UP)**Complaint**

Alleged that District Administration is asking for 10% of Stamp duty on formal agreement to be executed by the Society/Trust with District Authority in favour of Government in respect of works relating to Schools/Colleges.

Action Taken

Instructions have been issued to the District Magistrate, Hardoi vide Ministry's letter dated 30.1.2006 that agreement be registered under the relevant Registration Act on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10 or more, as is applicable in the State/UT. No stamp duty would be required to be paid for registration as there is no formal transfer of assets.

(8) Shri Ilyas Azmi MP (LS)—Lok Sabha constituency Sahabad (UP)**Complaint**

Misappropriation of MPLADS funds by deducting 10% of cost of the project and taking of 15% of the cost of work as commission by Government Agencies.

Action Taken

The Ministry has sought factual report in the matter.

Rajya Sabha**(9) Shri Vidya Niwas Mishra, ex-MP (RS)****Complaint**

Shri Mahendra Nath Yadav, President of Shiv Harsha Kishan College, Basti has alleged that Principal of the College is trying to misuse Rs. 15 lakh of the MPLADS fund recommended by Shri Vidya Niwas Mishra, ex MP (RS) for construction of multipurpose hall in the college under MPLAD Scheme.

Action Taken

The matter has been taken up with DM, Basti. Vide his report DM, Basti had selected PWD as implementing agency for the above work whereas Hon'ble MP was insisting on getting the work done through the Principal of the College or UP Project Corporation. The Guidelines on MPLADS gives the responsibility of deciding a "satisfactory" implementing agency to the Head of the District. As such, the request of the Hon'ble MP does not appear to conform to the instructions issued by this Ministry.

Connecting Chitrakoot with NH

2080. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by the Government to connect Chitrakoot Dham, Karvi(Uttar Pradesh) via Kalinjar, Khajuraho(Madhya Pradesh) with the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal; and

(d) the time by which the 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]***Drug Resistant TB**

2081. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
 SHRI AJIT JOGI:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Multi Drug Resistant TB and XDR-TB are spreading in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether XDR-TB strain, mixing with the HIV/AIDS, is causing high percentage of mortality;

(d) if so, the steps taken to cure and check the spread of the disease;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up Advanced Reference Test Labs exclusively to detect Drug Resistant TB; and

(f) if so, the number of Test Labs setup or likely to be set up in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no evidence to suggest that Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) and/or Extensively Drug Resistance TB (XDR-TB) is spreading in the country. Results from Drug Resistance Surveys conducted since 1997 in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra indicate that there has been no increase in the level of MDR-TB, which continues to be about 3% in new TB cases and 10-20% in retreatment cases. As of now, there is no documented case of XDR-TB in the country.

(c) TB disease caused by XDR-TB strain is virtually incurable in any patient, with or without HIV infection. People infected with HIV are more vulnerable to all forms of TB, including XDR-TB, and are more likely to die from TB. This was recently reported in a hospital-based outbreak in South Africa. However, till date there has been no such case reported in India.

(d) MDR-TB and XDR-TB develop when TB patients are incompletely or inadequately treated. Therefore the first priority is prevention of the development of drug resistance by detection of TB patients and effective treatment as per RNTCP guidelines. The Phase-II Project Implementation Plan of the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) has the full range of activities as recommended by the 2006 WHO Stop TB Strategy, which are needed to prevent the development of drug resistance. These activities first include the maintenance of good quality DOTS services for early detection and curing of drug susceptible TB cases. RNTCP has a system for making patients adhere to treatment and the cure rates within RNTCP have been in excess of the global benchmark of 85%. Furthermore, RNTCP has developed a system in accordance with international guidelines for the effective treatment of MDR-TB, which is currently being pilot tested in Gujarat and Maharashtra. To ensure that TB patients get standard diagnostic and treatment services as per RNTCP, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy.

(e) and (f) Yes. Currently TRC, Chennai, National TB Institute, Bangalore, and LRS Institute, Delhi have the capacity for conducting quality assured culture and drug susceptibility testing to detect MDR-TB. Under Phase-II of the RNTCP two laboratories one each in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra have also been established.

*[Translation]***Indian System of Medicines**

2082. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
 SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether there are advertisements appearing in the media claiming to cure diseases like cancer, HIV/AIDS by individuals/companies;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to amend Drugs and Magical Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 and ban all advertisements of claims to treat incurable or complicated health ailments;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government has set up a Committee to suggest amendment in the Act;

(f) if so, the suggestion made by the said Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Advertisements claiming cure from disease like Cancer, HIV/AIDS some times appear in media. The advertisements usually claim cure by individuals. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 at present does not apply to 'clinics or any claims made by medical practitioners about the treatment of diseases or consultation offered for treatment. The provisions under the said Act at present under review to make it more responsive and to exercise effective control over advertisement related to medical products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) In order to review the existing provision and suggest suitable amendments to the Act to meet the present day needs, a committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ranjit Roy Chowdhary Emeritus Scientist National Institute of Immunology (NII). The major recommendations of the committee are given below:

1. The "Treatment" may be brought within the scope of the Act so as to bring claims by medical practitioners or clinics within its ambit.
2. Definition of "Advertisement" may be amended to specifically cover advertisement through electronic media.
3. The Quantum of punishment may be enhanced to make it deterrent to the offenders.
4. The present Schedule may be deleted and a revised list of diseases, disorders and conditions, in line with "Schedule J" to the Drugs and

Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to be brought under the Rules framed under DMR (OA) Act for flexibility of revision of the list.

(g) The final decision has been taken and the A Draft Bill for the amendment of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 would be introduced in the Parliament with the approval of the Cabinet.

[English]

Sterilization Operations

2083. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of sterilization operations and the cases of deaths due to sterilization that occurred during the each of the last three years and till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether such unsuccessful cases of sterilization have been reported wherein both husband and wife have also been sterilized; and

(c) If so, the state-wise number thereof and the provision regarding payment of compensation to them and the conditions under which compensation have been denied to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Information for each of the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) During the last 3 years no such case has been reported by any of the states or U.T. However, one such case had been reported in 1998 from Jash Pur, M.P.(now in Chhattisgarh). Compensation was denied to Smt Urmila Tiwari and Sh. Ranganath Tiwari by Govt. of M.P. on the ground that there are chances of failure of 0.5% in female sterilization and 0.1% in male sterilization.

Prior to the introduction of the National Family Planning Insurance scheme in November 2005, there was no provision for compensation for failure of sterilization operation. Under the present Family Planning Insurance scheme Rs. 25,000 is payable (once) for failure of sterilization operation.

Statement*Number of sterilisation and deaths during last three years & upto latest*

| S.No | State/UT | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 (Prov. upto Dec.06) | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | | Steril | Death | Steril | Death | Steril | Death | Steril | Death |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Major States | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 330,503 | 31 | 7,36,417 | 5 | 7,44,271 | 26 | 4,75,310 | 18 |
| 2. | Assam | 45,134 | 0 | 39,555 | 2 | 24,201 | 0 | 8,509 | 0 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1,09,625 | N.A. | 88,126 | N.A. | 96,341 | N.A. | 21,268 | N.A. |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 1,15,848 | 0 | 1,24,478 | 3 | 1,24,499 | 2 | 71,868 | 2 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 2,62,896 | 0 | 2,78,133 | 7 | 2,80,334 | 5 | 1,41,785 | 4 |
| 6. | Haryana | 91,280 | 0 | 89,893 | 0 | 92,950 | 2 | 60,499 | 0 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 48,960 | 0 | 41,621 | 0 | 84,613 | 0 | 20,234 | 0 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 3,77,091 | 25 | 3,76,960 | 25 | 3,76,308 | 19 | 2,82,840 | 16 |
| 9. | Kerala | 1,51,586 | 0 | 1,51,071 | 1 | 1,33,000 | 4 | 89,431 | 3 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 3,52,000 | N.A. | 3,69,039 | NA | 3,66,930 | N.A. | 2,28,268 | N.A. |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 6,89,000 | 23 | 6,89,747 | 10 | 6,59,557 | 12 | 3,83,599 | 9 |
| 12. | Orissa | 89,021 | 0 | 99,872 | 3 | 83,049 | 6 | 45,617 | 4 |
| 13. | Punjab | 97,598 | 0 | 1,02,468 | 0 | 1,07,591 | 1 | 62,916 | 0 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 3,00,068 | 4 | 3,33,971 | 6 | 3,17,307 | 9 | 1,63,358 | 5 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 4,87,517 | 36 | 4,17,027 | 31 | 3,80,028 | 26 | 2,70,064 | 19 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 4,87,517 | 24 | 5,03,602 | 15 | 4,50,431 | 20 | 2,38,092 | 17 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 2,16,524 | 0 | 2,88,951 | 2 | 1,94,993 | 2 | 71,760 | 1 |
| Smaller states | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1,632 | 0 | 2,101 | 0 | 1,417 | 0 | 778 | 0 |
| 19. | Delhi | 39,269 | 0 | 39,641 | 0 | 34,168 | 0 | 14,304 | 0 |
| 20. | Goa | 5,090 | 0 | 5,196 | 1 | 5,351 | 0 | 4,127 | 0 |
| 21. | Himachal Pradesh | 32,337 | 0 | 33,531 | 1 | 28,383 | 0 | 11,566 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|----|
| 22. | Jammu and Kashmir | 19,663 | 0 | 21,597 | 0 | 21,466 | 0 | 10,014 | 0 |
| 23. | Manipur | 1,265 | 0 | 518 | 0 | 1,743 | 0 | 128 | 0 |
| 24. | Meghalaya | 2,642 | 0 | 2,205 | 0 | 2,264 | 0 | 2,061 | 0 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 2,560 | 0 | 2,140 | 0 | 2,319 | 0 | 1,633 | |
| 26. | Nagaland | 1,086 | 0 | 754 | 0 | 1,195 | 0 | 729 | 0 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 1,355 | 0 | 1,173 | 0 | 1,518 | 0 | 1,176 | 0 |
| 28. | Tripura | 3,010 | 0 | 2,274 | 0 | 3,978 | 0 | 1,855 | 0 |
| 29. | Uttanchal | 31,200 | 0 | 34,799 | 2 | 34,980 | 3 | 16,610 | 0 |
| <i>Union Territories</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| 30. | Andman and Nicobar Island | 1,304 | 0 | 1,418 | 0 | 1,111 | 0 | 766 | 0 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 2,908 | 0 | 2,393 | 0 | 2,202 | 0 | 1,546 | 0 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 785 | 0 | 943 | 0 | 930 | 0 | 536 | 0 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 560 | 0 | 579 | 0 | 469 | 0 | 377 | 0 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 19 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 44 | 0 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 12,545 | 0 | 11,932 | 0 | 10,213 | 0 | 7,575 | 0 |

Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan

2084. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a small section of the people enjoy the sports facilities;

(b) if so, the details of Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure access to sports and games by large section of people?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. This is on account of the fact that there is a serious shortage of sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, thus depriving vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas of

access to organized games and sports facilities and activities.

(b) and (c) In recognition of this situation, and the globally accepted role of sports and games in the healthy development of youth, and in pursuance of the basic policy objective of broad-basing sports and developing a sports culture in the country, the Ministry is considering the launch of a Scheme titled "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" (PKYA). The objective of the Scheme is to provide capital and recurring grants for the development/improvement of basic infrastructure at the village and block levels, provision of support for sports equipments and in organization of competitive and non-competitive sports events and activities at the grassroots level. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented by bringing in synergy and convergence, between, and using the resources of various schemes of the Central Government and State Governments, as also of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, and integrating the sports activities under the Scheme with the higher level competition structure, talent spotting

and professional training for identified talent sportspersons, In the process, it is expected that the number of talented sportspersons under training would significantly increase from the present level of around 13000, and for which a target of 50,000 by the end of the XI Plan has been set.

Condition of National Highways in Kerala

2085. SHRI C.K.CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of N.H. 49, N.H. 208, N.H.202, N.H.213 and N.H.222 passing through Kerala is bad;

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

(c) the details of works undertaken by the Government on these Highways during the last three years and the current year till date;

(d) the amount spent on each of these roads during the said period; and

(e) the plans of the Government to improve the conditions of these National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) NH-202 and NH-222 do not pass through State of Kerala. The remaining National Highways i.e. 49, 208 & 213 are being maintained in a traffic worthy condition.

(c) 20 works amounting to Rs.39.52 crore have been undertaken on these National Highways during the last three years. During the current year four works amounting to Rs 16.60 crore have been undertaken till date.

(d) An amount of Rs. 11.94 crore, Rs. 2.96 crore and Rs. 15.88 crore has been spent on NH-49, 208 and 213 respectively during the said period.

(e) The development of National Highways is a continuous process. The improvement works are taken up on various National Highways as per overall availability of funds and inter se priority of works.

[Translation]

Power Problem due to Supply of Coal

2086. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal based power plants have to face problems due to non-supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the power companies including those in the private sector have to witness decline in their megawatt capacity as a result of inadequate supply of coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total quantity of coal in tonnes supplied to the power plants during the last two years including the current year 2006-07 and the percentage of supply out of the total demand made by the plants; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of coal to the power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The supply of coal to power plants is maintained as per Annual Action Plan target, however, some times supplies get affected due to factors like unloading constraints at power house ends, regulation of coal supply by the power plants, blockage of railway lines due to accidents/floods, local problems in mining area etc. The generation of power, has thus not been affected due to non-supply of coal. The power generation has registered a growth of more than 7% in coal based power plants during the current fiscal, till January 2007 in comparison to corresponding period of the previous year.

(e) The demand of the power plants is assessed by the Planning Commission & Central Electricity Authority and the supply is accordingly made. The target of supply of coal viz-a-viz supply of coal through indigenous sources made during the last two years including the current year 2007 (Upto January 07) are given below:—

(figures in million tonnes)

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (Till January, 07 provisional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---|
| Demand as per Plan Document | 279.52 | 303.56 | 322.00 |
| Actual Supply (indigenous) | 285.18 | 299.76 | 251.00(Prov) |

(f) In order to ensure adequate supply of coal to all power utilities, the supply of coal is reviewed by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), which is an inter-ministerial body, under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal). This Committee decides allocation of coal on quarterly basis. There is also a Sub-group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary(Coal) comprising the representatives of Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority to monitor supply of coal to various power stations. The corrective measures taken by the Sub-group in the past ensured supply of coal to various power utilities to minimize loss of generation in power.

Expenditure on Social Sectors

2087. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase expenditure on the development of social sectors in order to increase the annual growth rate of human development index in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to expenditure made in this regard during the last three years;

(e) if so, the percentage of the gross domestic product spent separately on development of social sectors during the said period, year-wise; and

(f) the contribution of the Union Government and the State Governments in the said expenditure, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (f) Central Government expenditure on Social Services which includes expenditure on education, health, water supply etc. have gone up consistently over the years, increasing from Rs. 28462 Crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 55969 Crores in 2005-06 (RE). Therefore, during this four year period, 2001-02 to 2005-06, the Central Government expenditure on Social Services has increased by 96.6%. As per the latest available information the Human Development Index (HDI), compiled by the UNDP has been observed to increase from 0.577 in 2000 to 0.611 in 2004. The expenditure on social sectors as well as its share in GDP in the last three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

The Social Sector is given priority while finalizing the Plan outlays for the Central Ministries as well as Central Assistance to State Governments. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan specifies monitorable targets for certain indicators of social development in health, education and gender equality. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched by different Central Ministries/Departments for Social Sector development. Some of the programmes/schemes include National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Programme), Integrated Child Development Services, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Bharat Nirman, etc. In addition, some programmes/schemes specifically for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, elderly, etc. have also been initiated.

The Centre-State sharing of the expenditure varies from scheme to scheme. State-wise information on the contribution of the Union Government and State Governments in the expenditure on social sectors is not available.

Statement*Social Sector Expenditure by Government (Centre and States Combined)*

| Items | Actuals | | RE 2005-2006 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | |
| Expenditure on Social Sector | 156893 | 177016 | 222210 |
| (a) Education | 76878 | 85793 | 102628 |
| (b) Health | 34822 | 39078 | 50164 |
| (c) Others | 45193 | 52146 | 69418 |

Source: Economic Survey, 2006-2007

Social Sector Expenditure as percentage of GDP

| Items | Actuals | | RE 2005-2006 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | |
| Expenditure on Social Sector | 5.68 | 5.66 | 6.23 |
| (a) Education | 2.79 | 2.74 | 2.88 |
| (b) Health | 1.26 | 1.25 | 1.41 |
| (c) Others | 1.64 | 1.67 | 1.95 |

Source: Economic Survey, 2006-2007

RE: Revised Estimates

*[English]***Use of Mercury**

2088. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether India is the second largest consumer of mercury in the world;

(b) if so, the details of its quantity used for health care purposes;

(c) whether health hazards are very high owing to the use of mercury, especially in the Government hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any policy to regulate the use of mercury especially in health care industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Information about India's ranking in terms of consumption of mercury and total quantity used for health care purposes is not available. However, mercury is used in medical equipments like thermometer, sphygmometer and dental amalgams in hospitals. Regular exposure to mercury may cause damage to the brain, the kidneys and developing foetus.

No ill effect of mercury in any Central Government Hospitals have come to the notice of the Government.

The disposable mercury waste, irrespective of the source of generation containing mercury and mercury compounds are disposed as per the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003.

Inhuman Treatment to Indian Prisoners in Pakistan

2089. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any reports of inhuman treatment meted out to Indian prisoners in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Instances of inhuman treatment of Indian prisoners come to the notice of consular officers of our mission in Islamabad from time to time. Pakistan authorities do not inform the Indian Mission of the arrest of Indians and consular access is not given until their sentence is complete. In many cases, it is delayed even beyond that. According to available information till date, at least 92 Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistani jails are yet to be given consular access. 390 fishermen and 149 civilian prisoners and 74 PoWs are still languishing in Pakistan jails. Indian prisoners released by Pakistan have reported ill-treatment during imprisonment.

(c) Government have consistently taken up the issue of the humane treatment and release of prisoners with Pakistan. During the Home Secretary talks on May 30-31, 2006, it was agreed to release all the remaining fishermen by 30 June 2006, exchange lists of civilian prisoners by 15 June 2006 and facilitate consular access by 31 July 2006 for subsequent release. As agreed, on 30 June 2006, India released 38 Pakistani civilian prisoners who had completed their sentence and provided consular access for the rest. Pakistan, however, released only 19 Indian civilian prisoners. During the FS talks on November 14-15, 2006 both sides agreed to release eligible civilian prisoners and fishermen whose nationality had been confirmed by December 25, 2006. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007, both sides agreed to establish a committee

on prisoners, comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms. The names of judges have been exchanged by both sides.

CNG Vehicles

2090. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of public and private vehicles have opted for CNG during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Registration of Motor Vehicles is the responsibility of the State Government. This Ministry does not compile information on the number of vehicles separately on the basis of the use of fuel such as CNG.

Accredited Social Health Activists

2091. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has appointed professionals to monitor Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) presently working in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the functioning of ASHA; and

(e) if so, the details of the observation made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The NRHM has an inbuilt, three pronged monitoring framework which includes internal monitoring, external surveys and community monitoring. Health professionals are involved in the

monitoring of NRHM at all levels. At the Union level, eminent health professionals are members of the Mission Steering Group and Empowered Programme Committee which are the highest policy making bodies for NRHM. Similar mechanism also exists at state level. NRHM also involves health professionals, eminent NGOs and other resource institutions for mentoring of ASHA and for Community Actions. As part of external evaluation, Institute of Public Auditors of India has been allocated the concurrent evaluation of financial systems under NRHM in selected states.

(c) As on date over 3.48 lakh ASHA have been selected in the 18 high focus states and hilly, tribal and backward areas of the non-high focus states. The status of selection in various states is as per enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Concurrent evaluation of ASHA initiative has been allocated to professional agencies in the states of UP, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and J&K.

Statement

Statewise Status of ASHA as on 20.02.07

| State | No of ASHA Proposed for the Mission Period | No of ASHAs selected during 2005-06 | No. of ASHAs selected during 2006-07 | Total No. of ASHA selected Till date | No. of ASHA trained during 2006-07 till date |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| High Focus Non-NE | | | | | |
| 1. Bihar | 74313 | 36488 | 18663 | 55151 | 37495 |
| 2. Chhattisgarh | 29437 | 5030 | 24407 | 29437 | 29437 |
| 3. Jharkhand | 18000 | 2096 | 11261 | 13357 | 2096 |
| 4. Jammu and Kashmir | 9500 | 2773 | 6565 | 9338 | 5093 |
| 5. Madhya Pradesh | 44379 | 16090 | 11266 | 27356 | 12816 |
| 6. Orissa | 47592 | 12730 | 16996 | 29726 | 12729 |
| 7. Rajasthan | 42592 | 20785 | 11215 | 32000 | 23443 |
| 8. Uttar Pradesh | 123450 | 19887 | 91523 | 111410 | 8058 |
| 9. Uttaranchal | 9517 | 4104 | 3112 | 7216 | 6419 |
| 10. Himachal Pradesh | 7750 | — | — | — | — |
| Total Non-NE | 406530 | 119983 | 195008 | 314991 | 210586 |
| High Focus NE | | | | | |
| 1. Assam | 26427 | 9058 | 16342 | 25400 | 14030 |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | 3862 | — | 2027 | 2027 | — |
| 3. Manipur | 3000 | — | 2840 | 2840 | — |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------|---|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4. Meghalaya | | 6180 | — | — | — | — |
| 5. Mizoram | | 943 | — | 674 | 674 | — |
| 6. Nagaland | | 2000 | — | 1309 | 1309 | 759 |
| 7. Tripura | | 3902 | — | 1229 | 1229 | — |
| 8. Sikkim | | 665 | — | 450 | 450 | — |
| Total NE | | 46979 | 9058 | 24871 | 33929 | 14789 |

Non High Focus-Tribal Area

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Gujarat | 549 | — | — | | |
| 2. Karnataka | 2934 | — | — | | |
| 3. Maharashtra | 9000 | — | = | | |
| 4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 250 | — | = | | |
| 5. Daman and Diu | 250 | — | | | |
| 6. Lakshadweep | 60 | — | | | |
| 7. Andhra Pradesh | 8500 | — | | | |
| 8. Andaman and Nicobar | 100 | — | | | |
| Total-Tribal Area | 21643 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 475152 | 129041 | 219879 | 348920 | 225375 |

Pending Grants-in-aid with NACO

2092. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grants-in-aid pending the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of applications disposed so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under National AIDS Control

Programme-phase-II, the funding of NGOs for HIV/AIDS prevention and control has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies since 1999. The applications for grant-in aid of NGOs are received by respective SACS through a transparent and streamlined procedure as per NACO guidelines by inviting Expression of Interest from the NGOs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tapping of Sports Talents

2093. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has explored avenues for tapping maximum sports talents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the facilities being provided by the Government to the sportspersons to have up their talents;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give stipend or financial support to the prospective sports persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any dispensation to provide Government jobs to all the medal winners in international games and sports events;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, whether the Government would like to initiate any such scheme;

(h) whether various sports federations are not utilising the facilities for the benefits of the sportspersons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIRYAR): (a) to (d) Sports is a State subject. The National Sports Policy 2001 envisages that the broad-basing of sports would primarily remain the responsibility of the State Governments and the Union Government would actively supplement their efforts in this direction and for tapping latent talents. The following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for tapping and nurturing of sports talent:

- (a) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme
- (b) Army Boys Sports Company Scheme
- (c) SAI Training Centres
- (d) Special Area Games Centres
- (e) Centre of Excellence
- (f) Talent Search & Training

(g) Assistance to National Sports Federations

(h) National Sports Development Fund

(i) Sports Scholarship Scheme.

The sportspersons identified for training in the various Centres of SAI are being provided stipend, sports kit, medical/insurance expenses, competition exposure, etc. besides facilities for scientific training and coaching.

In addition, the Ministry is also providing incentives for sportspersons through Special Awards for medal winners in international competitions and their coaches, and various other awards to sportspersons for outstanding performance; and through the Scheme of Pensions for medal winning sportspersons, who have brought glory to the country, after they retire from an active sports career.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is also considering the launching of a scheme "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" with the objective of developing—basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities, at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the Youth and to significantly expand the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal.

(e) to (g) As per Guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training, upto 5% of the vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Government Departments/ Ministries/Undertakings can be filled up from among eligible meritorious sportspersons by relaxation of rules pertaining to age limit.

(h) and (i) Government of India gives financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations for organizing domestic and international tournaments in India, participation of Indian teams in tournaments abroad, coaching through Indian and Foreign coaches, backed up with the requisite scientific support, purchase of equipments, etc. Funds under these schemes are being released after duly audited accounts and Utilization Certificates are submitted by the Federations.

Pension Reform

2094. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a comprehensive pension reform in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the new Pension Policy; and

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be introduced? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) A new restructured defined contribution pension system for the new entrants to Central Government service, except to the armed Forces, was notified on 22nd December, 2003. The New Pension System (NPS) was implemented with effect from 1st January, 2004. The NPS will also be made available, in due course, on a voluntary basis to all persons including self employed professionals and others in the unorganized sector.

Delay in Four-Laning of Panagudi-Kanyakumari Stretch

2095. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable delay on the progress of work on the four-laning work on the Panagudi-Kanyakumari Stretch;

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

(c) whether the work on Kanyakumari-Trivandrum stretch has also not been started;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work;

(f) the total cost of these projects; and

(g) the time by which the work on the said stretches are likely to be commenced and get completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Four-laning of Panagudi-Kanyakumari Stretch has suffered delay due to land acquisition problem, delay in shifting of utility services and poor performance of the contractor. The contract for the work in this stretch has been terminated.

(c) to (e) Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Kanyakumari-Trivandrum stretch is in progress. The work is to be taken up on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis after approval of Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).

(f) and (g) The cost and time for completion of this work is subject to completion of bidding process and finalization of bids.

[Translation]

New and Old Passports

2096. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference between the new passports and the passports issued after renewal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the differences between the process of issuing new passports and renewal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A new passport is one, which is issued to a person who has never held a passport earlier. On the other hand, a renewed passport is one, which is issued to replace a passport held by a person earlier and whose validity has expired. Both passports are of 10 years validity. A new passport is issued either after police verification or on post-police verification basis under the Tatkal scheme. Certain cases of issue of new passports such as those issued to Government servants, senior citizens and minors are exempt from police verification, subject to the completion of required formalities. In the absence of anything adverse against the applicant, no

police verification is required in case of renewal of a passport.

(English)

Subsidence-prone Area

2097. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any reports on coal fields which are prone to subsidence;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any technical survey by experts to scale the depth of subsidence chances;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government to rehabilitate the people and to restructure the high subsidence-prone areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Problem of subsidence in coal mines in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is confined mostly to the eastern sector i.e. in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). These two subsidiary companies were formed out of fragmented small units worked by erstwhile owners in pre-nationalisation era. These small units worked different coal seams without any scientific planning and with scant respect for conservation and safety. Thus, today there is a legacy of a large number of old abandoned workings, which are mostly waterlogged at shallow depths and inaccessible. Over the years old abandoned workings gradually became more and more unstable with the weakening of the left-out pillars due to aging and also due to occurrence of fire in few of such workings, which were not waterlogged. At many places the pillars got so weakened as to cause collapse leading to subsidence. As per updated Master Plan dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the lease hold areas of Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields 595 sites in BCCL and 139 sites in ECL have been identified for rehabilitation of in-habitated areas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The various Committees and Sub-Committees constituted by the Government of India submitted their reports and observed that subsidence problems in these two coalfields were caused due to existence of old workings with full height extraction and wide galleries, multi seam and multi section workings under shallow depths, existence of developed coal seams under extracted lower seams with stowing etc. As a sequel to the above studies, Master Plans for both the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields have been prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) in 1999 and updated in 2006. On the directions of Supreme Court to monitor the actions taken by Coal Companies in regard to the Master Plans, Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) constituted a committee and submitted its report in August 2005 with the following observations:—

"As there is no scientific method available to check long term stability of the site stabilized by sand stowing, it might not be possible to certify that the areas thus stabilized. The present stabilization work may restrict the effect of subsidence and allow some time. The final and permanent solution is evacuation of the affected area and rehabilitation".

(e) and (f) The updated Master Plans of 2006 for Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields presently under process for approval of the Government provides for the following:—

- (1) All the subsidence prone areas where stabilization through hydraulic stowing are being carried are now proposed to be considered for rehabilitation.
- (2) The execution of the Master Plans of Jharia and Raniganj coal fields is to be completed within a period of ten years (excluding two years of pre-implementation activities).
- (3) An amount of Rs. 8668.87 Crores (Rs 6368.45 Crs. for BCCL and Rs. 2300.42 Crs. for ECL) have been estimated for implementation of the Master Plans.

Moreover, in accordance of the directives of the High Powered Committee in 1996, a number of stabilization schemes in ECL and BCCL have been completed/undertaken. The jobs are entrusted to the Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) in case of ECL and Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority

(JRDA) in case of BCCL. Construction of 1500 houses has been taken up by BCCL and 176 families have been shifted from unstable locations.

Fund for E-governance

2098. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized any plan to bring e-governance to the grass-root level as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated December 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(c) the number of services that have been rendered under e-governance;

(d) the time by when the rural areas in the country are likely to have connectivity of this facility;

(e) the benefits are likely to be accrued to rural people from the scheme;

(f) whether the Government has set up a road for total e-governance; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The report in the *Rashtriya Sahara* relates to the Common Service Centre Scheme of the Government. The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in

the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private Services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership. The full details of the Scheme are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in. The total outlay of the Scheme is Rs 5742 crores, including the cost of establishment of the CSCs and their operation for four years thereafter. The Government support in the form of viability gap funding is estimated to be Rs 1649 crores, with the balance coming from private sector investments.

(c) The services to be delivered under the CSC Scheme are primarily to be delivered by State Governments. Various States are at various levels of e-enablement of their backends for delivery of e-governance services. These services would be e-enabled gradually by the State Governments

(d) The CSC Scheme is to be implemented by the States Governments. All attempts are being made by the Government of India to expedite the implementation of the Scheme. The government has also appointed a National Level Service Agency to assist it as well as the State Governments in developing, implementing and managing the Scheme. However, since the Scheme is to be implemented by the State Governments, the time by which these centers would actually come up would depend on the initiatives of the State Governments concerned.

(e) The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate delivery of e-enabled government services at the doorstep of the citizen. Further, since these centers would also be providing private services, a large number of private services in the area of agriculture, banking insurance, entertainment etc. would also be e-enabled at the village level.

(f) and (g) The Government has approved the National e-Governance Plan comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 components. These MMPs are to be implemented by a designated Nodal Ministry/Department. The designated Nodal Ministry/Department is to define the scope of its project as well as the timelines for its implementation, at the time the Ministry/Department seeks formal financial approval for the MMP from the competent authority.

[Translation]

**Nuke Issue between India and
other Countries**

2099. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has taken place between India and other prospective countries for supply of nuclear fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such countries with which India has held discussions;

(c) the names of countries which have agreed to supply nuclear fuel;

(d) whether any conditions has been imposed on India by these countries to supply nuclear fuel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) India is looking to expand international civilian nuclear cooperation and is exploring possibilities with potential partners. No final decision has been reached since the discussions with the various nations are still in the exploratory stage.

[English]

Central Schemes in Orissa

2100. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Central schemes/projects in Orissa have not been completed and delayed by ten to fifteen years;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has any system for monitoring such schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated initial cost of such schemes/projects as on date; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Although there are some Central projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above which were taken up in Orissa more than ten years ago, there are no on-going Central projects which have been delayed for more than ten years from the original scheduled date of completion.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is a well established system of monitoring Central projects costing Rs. 20 crore, and above at various levels including the concerned administrative Ministries, Planning Commission and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

World Bank Assistance for Drug Testing

2101. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a World Bank assisted project on enhancing the Drug Testing Capacity at Central and State levels; and

(b) if so, the names of the States where this WB aided project is being implemented and the quantum of assistance being provided to each State?

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

(b) 6 Drug laboratories in the Central Sector and 21 Drug laboratories in the State Sector have been covered under the World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs, with a total quantum of assistance being Rs. 69.71 crores including Rs. 15.27 crores for Central laboratories and Rs. 54.44 crores for State laboratories. Details of quantum of assistance to each drug laboratory in the Central and the State Sector are enclosed as Statement I and II.

Statement I*State-wise Total Quantum of Assistance under World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project on Quality Control of Drugs*

(Rs in crores)

| Name of State | Total Project Cost |
|--|--------------------|
| Central Sector | |
| Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad | 2.26 |
| Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Mumbai | 7.77 |
| Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh | 3.44 |
| Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Guwahati | 1.18 |
| Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata | 0.39 |
| Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Chennai | 0.23 |
| Total | 15.27 |

Statement II*State-wise Total Quantum of Assistance under World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project on Quality Control of Drugs*

(Rs. in crores)

| Name of State | Extent of Coverage (Drug labs) | Total Project Cost |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| State Sector | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad and Vijaywada | 5.41 |
| Delhi | Dehi | 1.06 |
| Gujarat | Vadodara | 4.21 |
| Haryana | Chandigarh | 0.63 |
| Himachal Pradesh | Kanda Ghath | 1.01 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | 3.27 |
| Kerala | Thiruvanthapuram | 0.70 |
| Karnataka | Bangalore | 5.01 |
| Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal | 2.78 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Orissa | Bhubneshwar | 2.42 |
| Pondicherry | Pondicherry | 0.92 |
| Rajasthan | Jaipur | 0.98 |
| Tamil Nadu | Guindy | 3.93 |
| Tripura | Agartala | 1.58 |
| Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | 2.50 |
| West Bengal | Kolkata | 2.30 |
| Chattisgarh | Raipur | 3.14 |
| Jharkhand | Ranchi | 3.14 |
| Uttaranchal | Rudrapur | 3.14 |
| Maharashtra | Mumbai and Aurangabad | 3.75 |
| Goa | Panaji | 2.56 |
| Total | | 54.44 |

Promotion of Medical Tourism

2102. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether Indian Healthcare System is cheapest or comparatively cheaper in the world;

(b) if so, the number of people from abroad visited India for treatment to various ailments and the revenue generated by the Government through medical tourism during the last three years;

(c) whether this factor is helpful for promoting Medical Tourism in India;

(d) if so, the extent to which it has achieved indicating the State-wise details of such ventures;

(e) the initiatives taken or planned by the Government to attract more patients from all over the world to India;

(f) the contribution made by Ayurveda in this regard, State-wise particularly in Kerala; and

(g) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost medical tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the allopathic and AYUSH systems are cheaper in India compared to developed countries. Although no information is maintained about the exact number of people from abroad visited India for treatment of various ailments, however, according to some studies, about 150,000 foreigners sought treatment in a year in private hospitals. The information about revenue generation is not available.

(c) to (g) Yes Sir, The hospitals in private sector are providing treatment under medical tourism. No State-wise details are available. For providing better cost effective health care services, Quality Council of India started accreditation work of hospitals. The Government has introduced a new category of "Medical Visa" ('M'-Visa), which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment. For Accreditation

of Ayurveda/Panchkarma centers, the detailed guidelines have been issued by the Government. The State of Kerala has implemented an accreditation mechanism for registration of Ayurveda and Yoga based centers/resort. The Government is supporting establishment of AYUSH facilities in allopathic hospitals also besides conducting national and international events for showcasing strength and products of AYUSH systems for generating public awareness in India and abroad.

Lab Testing of Tobacco Products

2103. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up first State-of-the-art laboratory to test the percentage of nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide in tobacco products;

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

(c) the time by which such lab is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the extent to which such laboratory will boost Government's fight against tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government is actively engaged in the process of building capacity in the country for setting up Regional/Referral laboratory facilities for testing tar and nicotine content in all forms of tobacco products. Establishment of these labs will facilitate the implementation of the provisions of 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' under which Tar/Nicotine contents of tobacco products alongwith maximum permissible levels thereof are to be indicated on its label.

[Translation]

Brides Deserted by NRI Husbands

2104. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the number of women abandoned or cheated by their NRI husbands have increased;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received from such women, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy to provide assistance to the deserted women;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring in any legislation to prevent such frauds committed by immigrant Indian;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Such data is not maintained. However, the Ministry has received about 100 complaints from women victims of NRI marriages which are given State-wise in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Recently a scheme has been launched to provide legal and counseling assistance through Indian Missions abroad to Indian women who have been deserted or divorced within two years of the marriage by their overseas Indian spouses in the form of financial assistance on a case to case basis. The scheme will cover cases pertaining to USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and countries in Gulf. Besides, there are

two schemes, namely, 'Swadhar' and 'Short Stay Home' to provide shelter, maintenance and rehabilitative services to women in difficult circumstances.

(e) to (g) There is no such proposal presently under consideration.

Statement

| States | Number of cases |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Delhi | 25 |
| Punjab | 18 |
| Haryana | 09 |
| Kerala | 05 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 11 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 14 |
| Tamilnadu | 03 |
| Bihar | 01 |
| Maharashtra | 04 |
| West Bengal | 02 |
| Rajasthan | 02 |
| Gujarat | 02 |
| Karnataka | 01 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 01 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 02 |
| Total | 100 |

Growth of Sick Persons

2105. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) the number of sick persons in the country;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the number of healthy and sick persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the funds allocated are being utilised properly in the States;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether there has been any laxity in the formulation of schemes and utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) According to the Report of NSS 60th Round on Morbidity, Health Care and the Condition of the Aged, the morbidity rate (estimated proportion of persons reporting ailment) was 91 persons per 1000 population.

(d) to (f) According to available information, funds allocated to states are being utilized in accordance with the guidelines issued under the different Programmes. Mechanisms have also been put in place to monitor the fund utilization by states. The states are also required to submit Statements of Expenditure, Audited Statements of Accounts and Utilization Certificates, as the case may be under the financial provisions laid down by the Government, which are being regularly monitored.

[English]

Co-relation of Poverty with Diseases

2106. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether according to World Health Organisation poverty is one of the major factor behind the occurrences of diseases;

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

(c) whether the WHO has made any suggestion to check the deaths occurring due to poverty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The WHO considers poverty as one of the contributory factors behind diseases such as TB, filariasis, leprosy etc. and it has been collaborating with the Government of India in developing appropriate technical strategies and interventions to counteract them.

[Translation]

BSNL Connection to Block Headquarter

2107. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have decided to connect all block headquarters in various States of the country especially in Bihar with mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the number of blocks in each State especially in Jharkhand which are having mobile service, State-wise;

(d) the number of blocks yet to be connected with mobile service;

(e) the action plan to connect completely each block and village of the country especially blocks of Jharkhand with mobile services and by when; and

(f) the total number of complaint redressal mechanism set up by the Government to provide regular mobile/telephone services in rural areas and to provide various types of facilities to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, having complied with the license conditions of covering District Headquarter, BSNL has now focused its Mobile expansion plans for extending its coverage to block headquarters and villages having population greater than 1000 progressively in next three financial year depending upon business and commercial viability.

In addition, a scheme is being launched by the Government to provide support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites spread over 500 districts for provision of mobile services in specified rural and remote areas including Bihar and Jharkhand where there is no existing fixed wireless on mobile coverage.

(c) to (e) Status of Mobile service coverage of block headquarter by BSNL as on 31-01-2007 is given in the enclosed Statement. All block headquarters of Jharkhand are scheduled to be covered by mobile service during next three financial years.

(f) Following Public complain redressal mechanism have been set up in various circles of BSNL:

- * Telephone Adalat—Bi-monthly at Secondary Switching Area (SSA) level and once in three months at Circle Level.
- * Call Center (1500 for land line and 9400024365 for Mobile).
- * Complaint of landline over phone (198 at each exchange, 1095 at District level and 1094 at circle level). Besides this, Open House Sessions are organized by respective SSAs from time to time.

Statement

Status of Mobile service coverage of block headquarter by BSNL as on 31-01-2007

| Name of States | Total number of Block Headquarters | Number of block Headquarter covered with cellular Mobile Services as on 31.1.2007 | Number of Block Headquarter not yet covered with cellular Mobile Service |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Bihar | 533 | 313 | 220 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Jharkhand | 211 | 158 | 53 |
| Orissa | 314 | 253 | 61 |
| West Bengal (incl. Sikkim) | 354 | 241 | 113 |
| North East I (Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram) | 101 | 38 | 63 |
| North East II (Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland) | 145 | 64 | 81 |
| Assam | 225 | 117 | 108 |
| Gujarat* | . | . | . |
| Madhya Pradesh | 313 | 303 | 10 |
| Chhattisgarh | 146 | 119 | 27 |
| Maharashtra (incl. Goa) | 358 | 358 | 0 |
| Haryana | 116 | 112 | 4 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 75 | 74 | 1 |
| Punjab | 143 | 142 | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 237 | 228 | 9 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 836 | 763 | 73 |
| Uttaranchal | 95 | 91 | 4 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 119 | 78 | 41 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1123 | 828 | 295 |
| Karnataka | 750 | 640 | 110 |
| Kerala | 152 | 152 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu (incl. Pondichery) | 408 | 364 | 44 |
| All India | 6759 | 5441 | 1318 |

*Block Head Quarter concept does not exist in Gujarat State. All 225 Taluka's of Gujarat are covered.

Gramsat Scheme

2108. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent on GRAMSAT

scheme especially in backward and rural areas during the last 3 years and the current, year till date;

(b) the details of the telecast programmes transmitted under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve tribal people for promoting tribal culture through this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) GRAMSAT/TDCC (Training and Development Communication Channel) Pilot projects were initiated in States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The overall expenditure under TDCC/GRAMSAT in the last 3 years and the current year is as follows:

| Year | Expenditure |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 2003-2004 | Rs. 205 lakhs |
| 2004-2005 | Rs. 473 lakhs |
| 2005-2006 | Rs. 1000 lakhs |
| 2006-2007 (GRAMSAT + VRC) | Rs. 430 lakhs |
| Total | Rs. 2108 lakhs |

(b) These schemes are used to provide state based connectivity for the rural specific needs. Interactive Training Programmes (ITPs) in the fields of education, Panchayati Raj, engineering, health, water, women and child welfare, medical, transport, industry, forestry and fisheries are broadcast regularly.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Govts. of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are regular users of the GRAMSAT network for training. The present average utilization is about 25—30 days a month with 100 to 110 interactive training programmes using 6 uplinks simultaneously. The tribal/Adivasi population from Jhabua, Dhar, Badwani in Madhya Pradesh; KBK region in Orissa and Jhalawar and Baran districts in Rajasthan participates in these programmes, specially suited for tribal development and training.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Annual Plan for Himachal Pradesh

2109. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annual Plan outlays for the States including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand for the year 2006-07 has been sanctioned;

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

(c) the total allocations made thereunder for agriculture, industries, housing and health sectors and for Social Justice Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes sir, the details of Annual Plan outlay of the States sanctioned during 2006-07 (including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) A statement indicating allocation made under agriculture, industries, housing, health and social welfare sectors for the State of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

(Rs. Crore)

| Sl. No. | States | Annual Plan 2006-07 Approved Outlay |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 20,000.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1056.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 3798.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8250.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 5,378.06 |
| 6. | Goa | 1200.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 12503.50 |
| 8. | Haryana | 3300.00 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1800.00 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 4,347.67 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 6500.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------|----------|
| 12. | Karnataka | 16166.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | 6210.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 9020.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 14829.00 |
| 16. | Manipur | 1160.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 900.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 758.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 760.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 3500.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 4000.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 8501.42 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 550.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 12500.00 |
| 25. | Tripura | 950.00 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 19000.00 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 4000.00 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 8024.36 |

Statement II

(Rs. Crore)

| Sl. No. | Sectors | Allocation made during 2006-07 | |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Himachal Pradesh | Uttarakhand |
| 1. | Agriculture | 231.84 | 427.09 |
| 2. | Industries | 30.54 | 139.16 |
| 3. | Housing | 75.90 | 11.43 |
| 4. | Medical & Public Health | 199.49 | 186.00 |
| 5. | Social Security & Welfare | 71.75 | 43.82 |

Eradication Hepatitis B and Polio

2110. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Indian Medical Association had set up a special Committee to look into the problems of Hepatitis B and Polio eradication in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Indian Medical Association had set up separate committees to look into the problems of Hepatitis B and Polio eradication in the country. A summary of recommendations of the two committees is enclosed as Statement. The recommendations are under examination by the Government of India.

Statement*Summary of recommendations on Hepatitis-B*

1. Detailed Meta analysis of published studies reveals that the point prevalence rate of Hepatitis-B is 2.1% amongst non-tribal population in India. This corresponds to a chronic carrier rate of above 1.6%. In view of these estimates, the cost efficacy of universal immunization with Hepatitis-B in non-tribal population needs to be re-evaluated.

2. Vertical transmission of infection from mother to Child is an important mode of acquiring Hepatitis-B infection—more so in establishing chronic carriers. Vertical transmission may be contributing between 30-40% to the chronic carrier pool in our country.

Before launching any national programme it would be vital to assess the contribution of vertical transmission to the overall Hepatitis-B carrier pool. If universal Hepatitis-B vaccination

is to be carried out, currently available data though inadequate, would strongly favour initiation of Hepatitis-B vaccination starting at birth, to derive maximum benefit from the programme.

3. A pilot project for Universal Infant Immunization with Hepatitis B was carried out in Andhra Pradesh with a schedule of 6, 10 & 14 weeks. No evaluation of this project has been done. It is very important to do so as till now study is available in the world which has demonstrated the efficacy of this schedule (6, 10 & 14 week) in decreasing the chronic carrier rate of Hepatitis-B.

It will not be advisable to initiate a National/ Sub-national immunization program without proper evaluation of the pilot project. The reduction in carrier rate in the pilot project areas needs to be evaluated.

4. Chronic carrier rate among tribal population is much higher (19.4%). A well designed epidemiological study is needed among tribal populations to study the natural history of the disease. After that if necessary, a vaccination programme, with first dose being given at birth, could be considered in these population groups.

Dr. S.N. Misra
Hony. Secretary General
Indian Medical Association

*Summary of recommendations on
Polio Eradication Initiative*

1. Polio eradication initiative has helped to dramatically decrease the incidence of paralytic Poliomyelitis from over 40,000 cases to less than 200 cases per year now. P₂ virus has been eliminated and P₃ virus has also been largely contained and only a few pockets of P₁ virus remain in the country. Despite the positive gain, continued circulation of WPV is a cause of deep concern. The strategy of increasing the number of pulse polio rounds each year to meet the challenge of continuing transmission of WPV does not seem to be meeting the desired objective and needs to be reviewed.
2. There has been unprecedented increase in cases of Acute Flaccid paralysis in the country.

These reported cases need thorough evaluation, including clinical follow-up, to assess the possible causes, and sequelae thereof.

3. There is a need to immediately evaluate the import and side effects, if any, of the use of multiple doses of mOPV1.
4. District-wise and state-wise data on VAPP should be made available on a regular basis. Efforts must also be made to assess VAPP among contacts of Vaccines. It is also important that the state initiates a comprehensive program of rehabilitation and possible compensation for the victims of VAPP.
5. There is also an urgent need of establishing an independent agency (separate from NPSF) for carrying out surveillance activities and their review.
6. There is a need for an independent National Export Group to consider future strategies, which would be best, suited to our country within the overall objectives of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The possibility of failure to achieve zero polio status needs to be kept in mind. Strategies for maintaining effective polio control if polio eradication is not achieved within a definite time frame, needs to be considered. The desirability and feasibility of introducing Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV) and the suitable timing and phasing of the same also needs to be examined by this expert group. If recommended, it would be important to license the manufacturing of IPV in the country in sufficient quantities, before deciding to use the vaccine in the National programme.
7. Advice by some experts to introduce I.P.V. in the high prevalence areas, needs to be viewed with caution. This may not only cause adverse community reaction, but may even increase the chances of injection provoked paralysis in these areas.
8. The improvement of sanitation and safe water supply should be taken up as the highest priority, specially, in those urban and rural pockets of UP & Bihar which have been reporting the case of WPV in the last three years.

Dr. S.N. Misra
Hony. Secretary General
Indian Medical Association

*[Translation]***Malaria Control Programme**

2111. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the details of on-going Malaria Control Programme with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) whether the programme has been discontinued in some States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether any new drug has been discovered/ formulated for the cure of Malaria;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Rapid Diagnose Malaria Testing tests for detecting both types of Malaria are provided to the Health Centres in Malaria-affected areas;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether mosquito nets are also provided by the Government to control Malaria; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance covered eight states namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. The project was closed on 31st December 2005. Government of India is negotiating with the World Bank for new project on Vector Borne Disease Control Program. The above eight states are included under retroactive financing provided by Bank to support ongoing malaria control activities. Enhanced support to the state of Madhya Pradesh is being provided under retroactive financing.

(d) and (e) Under the programme ACT (Artesunate+SP) combination has been approved to be used as second line for treatment of *P. falciparum* cases in chloroquine resistant areas.

(f) and (g) Under the programme, Rapid Diagnostic Tests Kits for detection of *Plasmodium falciparum* (Pf) cases are being provided to high Pf endemic states for use in those areas where microscopy facility is not available. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(h) and (i) Under the programme, Mosquito bednets are being provided to high *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria endemic states for control of malaria. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement—II.

Statement I*State-wise Supply of Rapid Diagnostic Kits*

| Sl. No. | Name of State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (Allotment) |
|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 40000 | 75000 | 90000 |
| 2. | Jharkhand | 150000 | 600000 | 625000 |
| 3. | Chattisgarh | 190000 | 275000 | 350000 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 40000 | 150000 | 175000 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 15000 | | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 6. | Maharashtra | 40000 | 70000 | 83500 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | 200000 | 200000 | 248000 |
| 8. | Orissa | 150000 | 1750000 | 1795000 |
| 9. | Rajasthan | 20000 | 30000 | 35000 |
| 10. | West Bengal | 50000 | 875000 | 1000000 |
| 11. | Assam | 70000 | 1250000 | 1250000 |
| 12. | Meghalaya | 50000 | 100000 | 350000 |
| 13. | Arunachal Pradesh | 40000 | 60000 | 160000 |
| 14. | Tripura | 35000 | 175000 | 275000 |
| 15. | Mizoram | 40000 | 50000 | 325000 |
| 16. | Manipur | 35000 | 130000 | 208000 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 35000 | 110000 | 210000 |
| Total | | 1200000 | 5900000 | 7179500 |

Statement II**State-wise Supply of Bednets**

| Sl. No. | Name of State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 (Supply under pipeline) |
|---------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 316250 |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 350000 | 385250 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 0 | 172500 |
| 4. | Jharkhand | 370000 | 287500 |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | 195000 | 0 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 0 | 143750 |
| 7. | Orissa | 625000 | 862500 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 0 | 57500 |
| 9. | West Bengal | 260000 | 0 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 120000 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 11. | Assam | 0 | 632500 |
| 12. | Meghalaya | 0 | 115000 |
| 13. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | Tripura | 100000 | 115000 |
| 15. | Mizoram | 100000 | 172500 |
| 16. | Manipur | 100000 | 115000 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 100000 | 115000 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 400000 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 2,720,000 | 3,490,250 |

*[English]***Aswagandha for Treatment of HIV/AIDS**

2112. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ayurvedic researcher and Professor of Dravya Guna of Nori Rama Sastry Government College of Ayurveda has proved that "Aswagandha" is effective for curing HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted to prove the scientific efficacy of Ayurvedic medicine by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No such claim has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) HIV/AIDS is one of the disease conditions identified for standardization and clinical trials of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha formulations under the Golden Triangle Project initiated by the Department of AYUSH and its Research Councils in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research and the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research. Details of some of the research

proposals funded by National AIDS Control Organization for scientific validation of Ayurvedic medicines for treatment of HIV/AIDS are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

1. Research Study on Screening of Western Himalayan Plants for anti-HIV activities at Institute of Himalayan Bio Research Technology (IHBT), Palampur and All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
2. Phase II vaginal Microbicides - Clinical Trials Praneem Polyherbal Formulation by National AIDS Research Institute, Pune.
3. Therapeutic evaluation of an Ayurvedic Medicine "Immu-25" in HIV/AIDS patients at Saharanpur, UP.
4. "Evaluation of Immunorestorative properties "Jyoti Amritum" an herbal preparation at Sir J.J. Group of Hospital, Mumbai.

Female Foeticide

2113. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

(a) whether the violations of PNDT Act are increasing day by day in various parts of the country in the form of sex determination tests;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against the doctors and clinics who are involved therein;

(d) whether the Government has recently set up a Committee to look into the violations of PNDT Act, as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated 10.1.07;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions given by the Committee, if any; and

(f) other measures taken/proposed to be taken to discourage female foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The number of ongoing court cases filed against violators of PC & PNDT Act/ Rules, as on 1.3.2007 are 256, out of which 58 are related to the cases filed in respect of communication of sex of the foetus. The State-wise details of cases filed are given in the enclosed Statement. The cases are in the various stages of hearing in the respective courts.

In Punjab, registration of a doctor has been suspended for five years by State Medical Council of Punjab. In Haryana, a doctor & his assistant in the district of Palwal were sentenced to simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- each under PC & PNDT Act.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. A committee has been set up recently under the chairmanship of the Secretary (H&FW) to look into the issues.

(f) Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practices of prenatal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television and print media units. The voluntary organizations have been funded to create awareness on the issue at state/region/district/block levels. Cooperation has been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. Professional Medical Organization was aided for organization of sensitization workshops for its members. Funds were provided for organizing Padyatras by Swami Agnivesh. UNFPA along with Art of Living Foundation had organized multi faith religious meet on the issue. Training of trainers from State Judicial Academies was done by National Judicial Academy (Bhopal). "Frequently Asked Questions" about the PNDT Act useful to the lay persons, medical community and Appropriate Authorities have been developed for wide circulation.

Statement

Details of ongoing cases filed against violators of the PC & PNDT Act/Rules

| S.No | State/UT | Non register- ation | Non- maintenance of records | Comunic- ation of sex of foetus | Adm. about pre-natal / conception diagnostic | Other violations of Act/ Rules | Total cases | Number of cases decided/ closed |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8 | — | — | — | — | 8 | — |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 6 | — | 3 | — | — | 9 | — |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 6. | Goa | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 7. | Gujarat | 3 | 89 | | 3 | — | 95 | 3 |
| 8. | Haryana | 2 | 4 | 17 | 5 | — | 28 | 5 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 11. | Jharkhand | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 12. | Karnataka | 15 | | 1 | — | 4 | 20 | 16 |
| 13. | Kerala | — | — | — | — | — | | — |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | — | 7 | — | 7 | — |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 16 | 3 | 13 | 6 | — | 38 | 18 |
| 16. | Manipur | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 17. | Meghalaya | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 18. | Mizoram | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 19. | Nagaland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20. | Orissa | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 21. | Punjab | 11 | 23 | 17 | 3 | 21 | 75 | 13 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| 23. | Sikkim | — | — | — | — | — | | — |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 45 | | 1 | 1 | — | 47 | 48 |
| 25. | Tripura | — | — | — | — | — | | — |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 3 | — |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 17 | — | — | 1 | — | 18 | — |
| 28. | West Bengal | 10 | — | — | — | — | 10 | 150 |
| 29. | Andaman & Nicobar Island | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 30. | Chandigarh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 31. | Dadara & Nagar Haveli | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 33. | Delhi | 35 | | 4 | 12 | 5 | 56 | 1 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35. | Pondicherry | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | | 168 | 119 | 58 | 40 | 30 | 415 | 256 |

Usage of Atomic Energy

2114. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of the Government to harness atomic energy for health, food, livelihood security and supply of drinking water during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (b) The XI Five Year Plan proposals of the Department of Atomic Energy include strategies to harness atomic energy for health, food, agriculture and supply of drinking water. These are summarized below:

1. Health

- Expansion of existing programmes and initiation of new programmes at Tata Memorial Centre through Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) and Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) on prevention, clinical management and basic clinical research in cancer.
- Greater deployment of indigenous technologies and supply of radio-isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment.
- Additional plants for radiation sterilisation of medical products.

2. Food

- In food technology, the emphasis would continue on the development of new products, processes and applications. This objective will be pursued coupled with the identification of appropriate packaging materials suitable for the newer applications.
- Towards increasing public awareness and entrepreneur development, the emphasis on working in collaboration with Universities, NGOs and other institutions and organizations would continue.

3. Agriculture

- Work on mutation breeding for Biotic and Abiotic stresses and quality improvement in oil seeds and pulses and seed multiplication of BARC varieties will be carried out.
- Development of Mutants/Genotypes with higher productivity, resistance to specific diseases, - tolerance to Abiotic stresses and improved quality for enriching germ-plasm is envisaged.

4. Drinking Water

- Advanced Membrane Development, Characterisation and Diagnostic Facility
- Advanced Desalination Technology Studies
- Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plant at Vizag (2.0 million litres/day (mid) capacity)
- Solar Driven Desalination Systems
- Design, development and deployment of state of art desalination plants in rural areas
- Experimental studies for recovery of valuable materials from reject brine stream

Uniform toll tax on Golden Quadrilateral Project

2115. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether toll tax has been levied for using National highways developed under Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any order to collect uniform toll tax all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Except for some small exempted length, fee shall be levied on all completed highways under Golden Quadrilateral Project.

(b) The details of stretches under levy and collection of user fee under G.Q. as on 08.03.2007 is enclosed as Statement—I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Highways (Rate of

Fee) Rule 1997 provides capping rate for conversion projects from two lanes to four lanes and user fee is collected accordingly as per Table enclosed as Statement—II.

Statement I

National Highways Authority of India

List of Stretches Presently Under Collection of Fee as on 08.03.2007

| S.No | Section | Kms. of Tollable Reach | NH | Length in Kms |
|------------|--|--|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. | Public Funded Projects | | | |
| I. | Golden Quadrilateral | | | |
| (a) | Delhi-Mumbai | | | |
| 1. | Gurgaon-Kotputli | Km 42.0 - km 162.5 | 8 | 120.500 |
| 2. | Kotputli-Chandwazi | Km 162.5 - km 220 | 8 | 57.500 |
| 3. | Jaipur Bypass Phase I & II | Phase I taking off at Km 246.00 of NH 11 and Joining at Km 273.50 of NH 8 length 13.70 Km & Phase II taking off at Km 220.00 of NH 8 & joining at Km 246.00 of NH 11 length 34.70 Km) | 8 & 11 | 48.400 |
| 4. | Kishangarh - Village Kavalias (Bhilwara) | Km 0.00—Km 35.00 & Km 15.00-Km 81.00 | 79 & 79 A | 101.000 |
| 5. | Bhilwara-Chittorgarh | Km 81.00 - Km 163.900 | 79 | 82.900 |
| 6. | Village Rithola-Udaipur | Km 213 - Km 113.830 | 76 | 99.170 |
| 7. | Udaipur-Kherwara | Km 278.00 - Km 348.00 | 8 | 70.000 |
| 8. | Kherwara-Ratanpur | Km 348.00 - Km 388.180 | 8 | 40.180 |
| 9. | Ratanpur-Himatnagar | Km 388.180 - Km 443.00 | 8 | 54.820 |
| 10. | Himatnagar-Chiloda | Km. 443.00 - Km 495.00 | 8 | 52.000 |
| 11. | Vadodara-Bharuch | Km 109.0 - Km 192.0 | 8 | 83.000 |
| 12. | Bharuch-Surat | Km 198 - Km 263 | 8 | 65.000 |
| 13. | Chalthan (Surat)-Waghakhara | Km 263.4 - Km 318.6 | 8 | 55.200 |
| 14. | Waghakhara-Kajali | Km 318.60 - Km 381.60 | 8 | 63.000 |
| 15. | Kajali-Manor | Km 381.6 - Km 439.0 | 8 | 57.400 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------|----------|
| 16. | Manor-Baseen Creek Dahisar | Km 439.00 - km 502.00 | 8 | 63.000 |
| | Sub Total 'A' | | | 1113.070 |
| (b) Mumbai-Chennai | | | | |
| 17. | Khandala-Satara | Km 772.00 - Km 725.00 | 4 | 47.000 |
| 18. | Maharashtra Border-Belgaum | Km 592.24 - Km 537 | 4 | 55.240 |
| 19. | Hosur-Krishnagiri | Km 34.00 - Km 89.00 | 7 | 55.000 |
| 20. | Krishnagiri-Ambur | 89.00 to 92.380 & Km. 0.00 to 70.00 | 7 & 46 | 73.380 |
| 21. | Ambur-Walajahpet | Km 70.00 - Km 145.352 | 46 | 78.201 |
| 22. | Walajahpet-Kanchipuram | Km 107.200 - Km 60.100 | 4 | 47.115 |
| | Sub Total 'B' | | | 355.936 |
| (c) Delhi-Kolkatta | | | | |
| 23. | Badarpur-Kosi | Km 18.8 - km 108.9 | 2 | 90.100 |
| 24. | Kosi-Agra | Km 108.9 - km 199 | 2 | 90.100 |
| 25. | Barwa Adda- Panagarh | Km 398.75 - km 515.236 | 2 | 116.486 |
| 26. | Budbud-Palsit | Km 525.853 - Km 587.853 | 2 | 62.000 |
| 27. | Palsit - Dhankuni | Km 587.853 - Km 651.602 | 2 | 63.749 |
| | Sub Total 'C' | | | 422.435 |
| (d) Kolkatta-Chennai | | | | |
| 28. | Dhankuni-Kolaghat | Km. 18.50 - Km. 72.00 | 6 | 53.500 |
| 29. | Dantan-Kharagpur | Km. 69.450 - Km. 119.737 | 60 | 50.287 |
| 30. | Bhubaneshwar-Cuttack-Jagatpur | Km 00 - km 27.8 | 5 | 27.800 |
| 31. | Jagatpur-Chandikhole | Km 27.8 - Km 61.0 | 5 | 33.200 |
| 32. | Ichhapuram-Nandigam | Km. 226.15 - Km. 160.00 (New Chainag Km. 477.054 - 543.204) | 5 | 66.150 |
| 33. | Nandigama-Srikakulam | Km. 160.00 - Km. 97.00 (New Chainage Km. 543.204 - Km. 606.204) | 5 | 63.000 |
| 34. | Champavati/Kopperta-Visakhapatnam | Km 49.00 - Km 2.837 (New chainage from Km 700.544-Km 654.204) | 5 | 46.340 |
| 35. | Visakhapatnam-Ankapalli | km 2.837 - km 0.00 & Km 395.870 -Km 358.00 | 5 | 40.707 |
| 36. | Ankapalli-Tuni | Km 358.00 - Km 272.00 (New chainage from Km 830.535 - Km 741.255) | 5 | 89.270 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------|---|--|---|----------|
| 37. | Tuni-Rajamundry (Bummuru) | Km 272.000 - Km 187.600 (new chainage from Km. 914.883 - Km 830,525) | 5 | 84.400 |
| 38. | Bommuru-Gundugolanu | Km 187.6 - Km 81.6 | 5 | 107.611 |
| 39. | Gundugolanu-Vijayawada-Including Eluru bypass | Km 81.60 - Km 42.5 | 5 | 39.100 |
| 40. | Gundugolanu-Vijayawada-Including Eluru bypass | Km 42.50 - Km 3.4 | 5 | 39.100 |
| 41. | Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet | Km 354.775 - km 434.150 | 5 | 83.000 |
| 42. | Chilakaluripet-Ongole | Km 358.00 - Km 291.00 | 5 | 67.664 |
| 43. | Ongole-Kavali | Km 291.00 - Km 222.00 | 5 | 72.059 |
| 44. | Kavali-Nellore | Km 222.000 - km 16 1.034 | 5 | 60.963 |
| Sub Total 'd' | | | | 1024.151 |
| Total A (a+b+c+d) | | | | 2915.592 |

B. SPV of NHAI**(a) Delhi-Mumbai**

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | A V Expressway Phase I | Km 0.00 - km 43.4 | NE-1 | 43.40 |
| 2. | A V Expressway Phase II | Km 43.40 - Km 93.302 | NE-1 | 49.902 |
| Sub Total (a) | | | | 93.302 |
| Total B | | | | 93.302 |

C. BOT Projects of NHAI**(a) Delhi-Mumbai**

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| 1. | Jaipur-Kishangarh | Km 273.50 - Km 363.885 | 8 | 90.385 |
| Sub Total (a) | | | | 90.385 |

(b) Mumbai-Chennai

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| 2. | Neelmangla-Tumkur | Km 29.5 - Km 62.0 | 4 | 32.5 |
| 3. | Satara-Kagal | Km 592.240 - Km 725.00 | 4 | 132.76 |
| Sub Total (b) | | | | 165.26 |

(c) Kolkata-Chennai

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---|---------|
| 4. | Tada-Nellore | Km 52.8 - Km 163.6 | 5 | 110.517 |
| Sub Total (c) | | | | 110.517 |
| Total C | | | | 366.162 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------|---|-----------------------|---|----------|
| D | Other BOT Projects on GQ | | | |
| (a) | Delhi-Mumbai | | | |
| 1. | Udaipur Bypass Phase II | | 8 | 10.920 |
| 2. | Narmada Bridge and its approach on Vadodara-Surat Section 4 laned | Km 192.00 - Km 198.00 | 8 | 8.000 |
| | Sub Total a | | | 16.920 |
| (b) | Mumbai-Chennai | | | |
| 3. | Mumbai-Pune Expressway (4 laned) | Km 0.00 - Km 90.00 | | 90.000 |
| 4. | Khambakti Ghat (4 laned) | Km 781.00 - Km 772.00 | 4 | 9.000 |
| 5. | Dharwad-Hubli (2 laned) | Km 433.00 - Km 404.00 | 4 | 29.000 |
| | Sub Total (b) | | | 128.000 |
| | Total D (a+b) | | | 144.920s |
| | Grand Total (A+B+C+D) | | | 3518.976 |

Statement II

Initial cost of the bridge and its approaches
(Rs. in crores)

Toll Rates (Rs. Per Vehicle)

| | Cars/Jeep, etc. | Light Commercial Vehicles/Minibuses | Trucks/Buses and Multi Axle Vehicles |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Below 50 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| 50-75 | 10 | 10 | 25 |
| 75-100 | 10 | 15 | 30 |
| 100-125 | 15 | 20 | 40 |
| 125-150 | 15 | 20 | 40 |
| 150-200 | 15 | 25 | 50 |
| Above 200 | 20 | 30 | 60 |

2. The fee under sub-rule (1) for projects involving conversion into four-lanes of existing two-lane of National Highways shall not exceed the capping rates given below at June 1997 prices, namely:—

| S.No. | Type of vehicle | Rate |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Car or Jeep or Van | Rs. 0.40 per km |
| 2. | Light commercial vehicles | Rs. 0.70 per km |
| 3. | Truck or Bus | Rs. 1.40 per km |
| 4. | Heavy Construction Machinery and Earthmoving Equipment | Rs. 3.00 per km |

3. The rate of fee fixed under sub-rule (1) and sub-rule (2) may be reviewed after every five years based on wholesale price index and fixed in multiple of rupees five by the Central Government over the rates notified.

[Translation]

Construction of overbridge at Shikarpur in M.P.

2116. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to construct an overbridge at Shikarpur in order to regulate the heavy traffic going towards Gwalior;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which construction work on the project is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Vacant Posts of Sports Trainers

2117. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of trainers, coach, physios etc. are lying vacant in his Ministry;

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

(c) the adverse impact on sports activities as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to fill up these vacant posts;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the details of the percentage of funds allocated under the Union budget for Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and

(g) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) According to information received from the Sports Authority of India (SAI), there are two vacancies in the posts of Physiotherapists. As far as coaches are concerned, the situation is dynamic because the need for coaches depends upon the number of centres of SAI established under various schemes, the number of trainees in the SAI centres, which has grown significantly over the years, the diverse requirements of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) with reference to the coaching/training of national teams, etc. At present, there are 1382 regular coaches and 59 coaches have been employed on contract basis by SAI.

There has been a ban on direct recruitment since 1996, due to which vacancies have not been filled up on regular basis, and efforts have been made to engage persons on contract in different functional areas, based on need. After the ban on direct recruitment, studies were also done by the Staff Inspection Unit to assess the requirements between 1998-2000. In terms of these studies, there are no significant vacancies in respect of coaches, but when analysed on the basis of discipline-wise requirements and availability, there are imbalances which, put together, reveal a situation of both excess and shortage.

Keeping the above situation in view, the SAI has been asked to conduct a detailed study of their human resource requirements and put up a comprehensive proposal before the Governing Body.

(f) A perusal of the relevant budget documents indicates that the funds allocated under the Union budget

for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, at Rs. 669 crores (BE), amounts to 0.1186% of the total expenditure budget.

(g) In view of the reply to parts (a) to (e), no specific time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Employment Guarantee Scheme

2118. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any new employment guarantee scheme for the unemployed youth of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is not satisfied with the present schemes to remove unemployment in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government is not contemplating to formulate any new employment guarantee scheme for the unemployed youth of the country. However, the coverage of the existing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be expanded from the current level of 200 hundred districts to 330 districts in the second phase in 2007.

(c) to (e) As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, employment opportunities to the tune of 45.46 million have been generated in the country during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The Approach Paper to the 11th Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities.

Outsourcing of Healthcare Services

2119. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and prospects of outsourcing business in healthcare services in the country;

(b) the forex earning by the healthcare outsourcing business each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage healthcare outsourcing business and create adequate training facilities to provide skilled manpower to handle services and business coming in clinical and technological aspects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Sourcing of healthcare services by other countries from India takes place in the form of medical transcribing, diagnostics and clinical services. The cost of treatments is also much lower in India compared to most other countries. Besides there is no waiting list. However, outsourcing in Government hospitals and institutions is not permitted. The information about earning by the healthcare outsourcing business is not available.

Government has already permitted medical education and training of skilled manpower through involvement of the private sector, which is intended to enhance the availability of such personnel.

[Translation]

Complaints regarding Distribution of Telephone Bills

2120. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints in regard to the distribution and dispatch of telephone bills in the rural areas of various districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve such complaints;

(c) whether telephone subscribers are receiving/have received the bills after the expiry of the due date of payment; and

(d) since when the problem is being faced by the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, BSNL has received some complaints regarding distribution and dispatch of bills in the rural areas of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

(b) The following measures have been/are taken to resolve such complaints:—

(i) The postal authorities of the concerned area are regularly contacted regarding such complaints and apprised of the problems occurring due to non-delivery of bills.

(ii) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) gives information regarding bill amounts and bill date to the subscribers including rural subscribers. Notice(s) regarding dispatch of telephone bills for every billing cycle are also published in local newspapers.

(iii) Provision for issue of duplicate bills to the customers is made at Customer Service Centres.

(c) Yes, Sir. In some cases, the subscribers located in remote areas receive bills after the expiry of the due date of payment. However, efforts are being made to ensure timely delivery of bills.

(d) In stray cases the problem has always existed. The incidence of such complaints is however very small at 0.35% of total bills issued.

[English]

Central Assistance to States

2121. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to amend the existing Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for allocating Central assistance to State plans;

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

(c) whether the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for backwardness; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The allocation of Central Assistance from Centre to States for the Annual Plans of States comprises of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for special and other programmes. Allocation of NCA is based on the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991. A change in the criteria for allocation of Central Assistance requires approval of the NDC. There is no proposal at present to change the criteria for allocation of Central Assistance to States.

Performance in International Events

2122. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted an in-depth study to know the reasons for the poor performance of our contingent at different international events in the last decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The performance of Indian sportspersons in international events is being regularly reviewed in the process of the preparation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) of various National Sports Federations. India's performance in major International events during the last decade in terms of medals won is indicated in the enclosed Statement. It would be observed that there has been some improvement in performance in recent years. However, there is still considerable scope for further improvement. Various aspects of this have been recently reviewed and examined in detail as part of the deliberations of the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission in context of preparations for the Eleventh Plans.

Multi-pronged efforts are being made; to improve the performance level of Indian sportspersons. While the National Sports Federations (NSFs) are primarily

responsible for the development of various sports disciplines and excellence therein, their efforts are being significantly supplemented by the Central Government through the Scheme for Financial Assistance to National Sports Federations for organizing national and international tournaments in India, participation of Indian teams in tournaments and events abroad, provision of coaching through Indian and foreign coaches, backed-up with requisite technical support, procurement of equipments etc., within Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for each discipline. Detailed discussions are also now being held with individual Federations with a view to further streamlining the process of preparation and implementation of these plans and making them more result oriented, and suitable modifications in the various norms under the scheme are also proposed. In addition, action is being taken under the various schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to establish state-of-the-art training infrastructure and facilities in different parts of the country and spotting and nurturing sports talent in their Centres spread across the country, including in areas with special potential for different identified sports disciplines. As a result of efforts of SAI, the number of trainees in their Centres has increased from less than 10,000 at the beginning of

the Xth Plan to around 14,000 (anticipated) by the end of the current year, and a target of increasing this to 50,000 during XIth Plan has been kept. The Ministry is also providing support to talented and elite sportspersons for further improving in their performance through its Schemes of Talent Search and Training and the National Sports Development Fund, which are proposed to be expanded. In this context, ways to increase the participation of the private/corporate sector in the promotion of sports excellence are also being explored.

With a view to broad-basing sports and creating avenues to provide access for the vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas, to organized sports and games facilities, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and with a view to significantly expanding the catchment for spotting talent, the Ministry is also considering the launching of a Scheme titled "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" (PYKA) during XI Plan. Consultations with various stakeholders and Ministries etc., are underway for finalizing the Scheme. It is expected that, this would also result in the generation of greater sports consciousness and culture at different levels in the country.

Statement

Details of medals won by India in Major International events during the last decade

| Event | | Medals Won |
|--------------------|------|---|
| 1 | | 2 |
| Asian Games | 1998 | 35 |
| | 2002 | 36 |
| | 2006 | 54 |
| Commonwealth Games | 1998 | 25 |
| | 2002 | Total 69 (43 after reducing 2 medals in Judo, 6 in Wrestling and 18 medals of Weightlifting) |
| | 2006 | 50 (Judo and Wrestling were not included as an event and Weightlifting had only one medal for each weight category thereby reducing the number of medals available as compared to the last Games. |
| Olympics | 1996 | 1 (Bronze) |
| | 2000 | 1 (Bronze) |
| | 2004 | 1 (Silver) |

| | 1 | 2 |
|-----------|------|-----|
| SAF Games | 1995 | 185 |
| | 1999 | 197 |
| | 2004 | 191 |
| | 2006 | 234 |

[Translation]

Pits Created by Coal Extraction

2123. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge pits have been created as a result of extraction of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) and their ancillaries, particularly by CCL, BCCL, ECL, MCL etc and have abandoned those pits unfilled;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not filling those pits;

(c) whether these pits have posed a threat to the environment and the lives and property of the people of the area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) During the process of opencast mining, all voids created during excavation of coal are not filled up by backfilling and some portion of excavated land remained unfilled in coal mines at the time of closure of mines.

(b) Back-filling of voids is done in opencast mines as the mine progresses. However, due to presence of multiple seams and other reasons some exhausted mines can not be back-filled which in due course of time gets filled up with water from natural precipitation. These voids with water generally get converted into large storage tanks which caters to domestic and industrial use of nearby mines and colonies/villages.

(c) No, Sir. The voids that eventually get filled with water become the source of water for domestic as well as other uses for the habitats of nearby colonies and villages. Some such water bodies have been developed

into nature parks and picnic spots also. These water bodies also recharge ground water tables in the surrounding areas.

(d) All new mines as well as expansion projects have to prepare Environment Management Plan (BMP) and get it cleared by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). All mining projects have to follow the environmental stipulations and guidelines in accordance with the EMP. Apart from the measures taken for the pits as mentioned above, Coal India also takes mitigation measures by creating dense afforestation on the inactive overburden (OB) dumps. Avenue plantation is also done in and around mining areas to prevent dust pollution. Various technical reclamation measures have also been taken for many OB dumps such as re-grading the steep dump slopes into allowable slopes, constructing garland drain, toe walls and benching to stop erosion and implementation is monitored by State Pollution Control Board & MoEF.

Spread of Diseases

2124. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the criterion fixed by the Government for declaring a disease as an epidemic;

(b) the names of diseases spread in the country during the last two years; and

(c) the details of the diseases out of them declared as epidemic, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) An epidemic is defined as the unusual occurrence of a

disease, specific health related behaviour or other health-related events in a community or region, clearly in excess of expected occurrence.

(b) and (c) During the last two years, National Institute of Communicable Diseases investigated reported outbreaks of diseases like Japanese Encephalitis, Chickungunya, Avian Influenza, Meningococcal Meningitis. However, none of them was declared as epidemic by the State Governments.

Artificial Reproduction

2125. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale and purchase of sperms and ovule are unethical trading in the name of surrogate mother by the clinics engaged in artificial reproduction work;

(b) the details of clinics engaged in the artificial reproduction work as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to check such practice in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government has asked Indian Council for Medical Research for formulating guidelines for such clinics; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) involves use of donor ovum/sperm/embryo for treatment of infertile couple. There is chance of some clinics indulging in sale and purchase of sperm and ovum and unethical trading in the name of surrogate mother.

(b) There is no reliable information on the number of infertile clinics in India in the absence of a National Registry. However, approximate estimate of ART Clinics Statewise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The Ministry has drafted a Bill to Supervise and Regulate ART Clinics in India and has circulated the draft Bill to all States/UTs Governments for their

comments. The draft Bill along with comments received from State Governments have been sent to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for evaluation by experts.

(d) Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Academy of National Sciences has prepared National Guideline for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India. The Guidelines have been approved by this Ministry and circulated in November, 2005 to all State/UT Governments for Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics.

(e) Important salient features of the Guideline is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Approximate No. of ART Clinics in India

| Name of State | No. of ART Clinics |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Assam | 10 |
| Bangalore | 24 |
| Bihar | 7 |
| Chattisgarh | 4 |
| Chennai | 23 |
| Rest of Taml Nadu | 33 |
| Delhi | 32 |
| Goa | 6 |
| Gujarat | 43 |
| Haryana | 11 |
| Hyderabad | 28 |
| Jharkhand | 1 |
| Kerala | 9 |
| Kolkata | 13 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 14 |
| Mumbai | 54 |
| Rest of Maharashtra | 48 |

| 1 | 2 |
|------------------|------------|
| Orissa | 2 |
| Punjab | 21 |
| Rajasthan | 14 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 18 |
| Uttaranchal | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 |
| Total No. | 423 |

Statement II

Important salient features of the National Guideline for Accreditation, Regulation and Supervision of ART Clinics in India.

Right of a Child Born through various ART Technologies

1. Will have all the legitimate rights as a child born out of wedlock.
2. The children born through donor gametes and their 'adopted' parents have a right to avail medical or genetic information about the genetic parents. The children however, do not have any right to know the identity (such as name, address etc.) of their genetic parents. However, on reaching 18 years, the children can get information on the genetic parents excepting name and address i.e. the individuals' personal identity.

Criteria for Registration of Clinics

- Any treatment involving the use of gametes which have been donated/collected/processed in vitro except for AIH & IUI by level IA Clinics.
- Any infertility treatment that involves the use and creation of embryos outside the body.
- The processing or/and storage of gametes or embryos
- Research on human embryos.

Code of Practice

1. No human embryo may be placed in a non-human animal
2. All research projects should be approved by Institutional Ethics Committee before submission to accreditation authority.
3. No bar to the single woman who wishes to have child and no ART may refuse to offer its service for this.

Surrogacy

1. A child born through surrogacy must be adopted by the genetic parents.
2. Should normally be considered only for patients for whom it would be physically or medically impossible/undesirable to carry a baby to term.
3. Payments to surrogate mothers should cover all genuine expense associated with pregnancy. The ART Centre should not be involved in this monetary aspect.
4. Advertisement regarding surrogacy should not be made by ART clinic.
5. A surrogate mother should not be over 45 years.
6. A relative, a known person as well as a person unknown to the couple may act as a surrogate mother. In the case of a relative, the relative should belong to the same generation as the women desiring the surrogate.
7. The surrogate mother should be tested for HIV & ensure that she is not infected with HIV.
8. No woman may act as a surrogate more than thrice in her lifetime.

[English]

Setting-up of an Ayurveda University

2126. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Kerala Government to establish an Ayurveda University in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up an AYUSH project for an International Institute of Ayurvedic Medical Sciences at Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 101.60 crores from the Government of Kerala was received in 2004. Government of Kerala was informed that the Department of AYUSH does not have any scheme under which financial support could be extended to the proposed project. It was also informed that after the amendment of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (IMCC Act) in November 2003, prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for establishment of an educational institution under Indian Systems of Medicine and it could apply for the permission in the prescribed format within the stipulated time schedule under the relevant regulations notified by the Central Council of Indian Medicine in March, 2004. A copy of the regulations alongwith the application form was also sent to them.

The Department has not received any application in the prescribed format along with the prerequisites from the Government of Kerala so far.

Four-laning of NH-9

2127. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved to develop and convert NH No. 9 into four-lane between Hyderabad and Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure involved for this project; and

(d) the time-frame by which the projects is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Sir, four laning of Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section of NH 9 has been approved under NHDP Phase IIIA.

(b) and (c) Preparation of Detailed Project Report for this stretch of NH 9 is under progress. On finalization of the said report only, the estimated expenditure for this project will be known.

(d) NHDP Phase IIIA is planned for completion by the year 2010.

Setting up of FAB Units

2128. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for development of electronic and IT hardware production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to announce special incentive package for setting up of FAB (fabrication) units in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which IT industry is likely to be benefited by such initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) In the last few years, the Government has taken a number of measures to promote the growth of Electronics/Information Technology Hardware Manufacturing Industry, as given in the enclosed Statement. This is an on going process.

The Government has accorded approval to the Special Incentive Package Scheme to attract investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India. The incentive would be 20% of the capital expenditure if the units are set up in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ). For units set up outside SEZ, the incentive would be 25% of the capital expenditure plus exemption from countervailing duty (CVD). 'Fab units' with threshold Net Present Value (NPV) investment of Rs. 2500 crore would be covered by the Special Incentive Package Scheme.

For other units in the ecosystem, there would be a threshold NPV investment of Rs. 1000 crore. The details to implement the scheme are being finalized.

The Special Incentive Package will attract investments to set up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, which will also create an eco system for the development of Electronics/IT Hardware manufacturing.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/ electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal in CIL

2129. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether transportation of coal in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries is undertaken by the transport companies of Ex-servicemen;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount paid to these transport companies for transportation during the last three years, year-wise and subsidiary-wise; and
- (d) the amount spent on transportation of coal by each of these subsidiaries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A

portion of transportation of coal in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is undertaken by Ex-servicemen (ESM) Transport Companies.

(b) Details of deployment of ESM companies in CIL subsidiaries and quantity of coal transported by ESM companies in 2005-06 are as under:—

| Company | Surface to surface | Face to surface | Both surface to surface and face to surface | Total | Quantity transported (Lakh Tonne) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 87.98 |
| Central Coalfields Limited | Nil | 1 | Nil | 1 | 3.01 |
| Western Coalfields Limited | 8 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 200.38 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Limited | Nil | 21 | 3 | 24 | 636.47 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | Nil | 34 | Nil | 34 | 660.19 |
| Coal India Limited | 9 | 58 | 9 | 76 | 1588.03 |

(c) The total amount paid to the ESM companies for transportation is Rs. 425.10 Crore in 2003-04, Rs. 482.20 Crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 536.90 Crore in 2005-06.

Year-wise and subsidiary-wise details are given below:

| Company | Value of Work (Rs. in Crores) * | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 42.44 | 26.63 | 29.27 |
| Central Coalfields Limited | 8.16 | 5.53 | 1.17 |
| Western Coalfields Limited | 49.87 | 49.82 | 68.81 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 154.40 | 179.91 | 202.95 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | 170.27 | 218.32 | 234.68 |

* It also includes cost of loading in most of the cases.

(d) The total amount spent on transportation of coal by the above subsidiaries both for ESM and Civilian transport companies is Rs. 711.28 crore in 2003-04, Rs. 828.72 crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 910.56 crore in 2005-06.

Year-wise and subsidiary-wise details of each of these companies where ESM companies are engaged is given below:

| Company | Value of transportation (in Crores)* | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 52.85 | 47.00 | 52.51 |
| Central Coalfields Limited | 137.55 | 168.96 | 175.86 |
| Western Coalfields Limited | 96.95 | 101.80 | 118.83 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 207.59 | 240.32 | 266.96 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | 216.34 | 270.64 | 296.40 |

(English)

Rabies and Snake Bite Deaths

2130. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether as per WHO report 63 per cent of the global rabies and snake bite deaths are in India and the people affected are agriculture labourers, women, children and infants;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of deaths registered during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for the said treatment to various States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per WHO report, globally 55000 deaths occur due to rabies with 56% of the deaths estimated to occur in Asia. It is estimated that 20,000 rabies deaths occur in India. 40% of the cases occur in children below the age of 14 years and 80% of these deaths are estimated to occur in rural areas. As per the compiled data based on the information received from the State Governments, the number of deaths reported due to snake bite in the country is 1502 in 2005 and 814 in 2006. The number of deaths reported due to snake bites and rabies during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I & II.

(c) to (e) Health is a State subject, therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure the availability of anti-snake venom serum and anti rabies vaccine serum in the health care facilities of the respective States. The Government of India extends technical support and guidelines for the prevention and management of the snake-bite and dog-bite cases. The use of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies vaccine by intra dermal route has recently been approved so as to economise the vaccination cost. The anti-snake venom serum and anti rabies vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing units.

Statement I

*Number of deaths due to snake-bites reported by the States during 2004, 2005 and 2006
to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence Division*

| Sl. No. | States | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 22 | 113 | 17 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | — | 12 | 12 |
| 4. | Bihar | 193 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — | 32 | 14 |
| 6. | Goa | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 40 | 44 | 31 |
| 8. | Haryana | 19 | 12 | 2 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 14 | 16 | 15 |
| 10. | Jammu Div. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | Kashmir Div. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 18 | 3 | 14 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 261 | 250 | 193 |
| 13. | Kerala | 28 | 17 | 8 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 76 | 31 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 104 | 158 | 12 |
| 16. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | — |
| 19. | Nagaland | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Orissa | 77 | 86 | 61 |
| 21. | Punjab | 11 | 22 | 13 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 126 | 102 | 142 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 90 | 51 | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|-----|
| 25. | Tripura | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 13 | 7 | 15 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | — | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 374 | 460 | 181 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | — | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | 8 | 5 | 25 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | Delhi | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 12 | 19 | 20 |
| Total | | 1423 | 1502 | 814 |

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage.

Statement II

Number of reported cases/deaths due to rabies reported by the States during 2004, 2005 and 2006 to Central Bureau of Health Intelligence Division

| Sl.No. | States | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------|-------------------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 49 | 24 | 41 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | | | |
| 3. | Assam | 0 | | |
| 4. | Bihar | | | |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | | 11 |
| 6. | Goa | 0 | | |
| 7. | Gujarat | 0 | 12 | |
| 8. | Haryana | 0 | | |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1 | | |
| | Kashmir Div. | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 11. | Jharkhand | | | |
| 12. | Karnataka | 79 | 6 | 8 |
| 13. | Kerala | 20 | 26 | 16 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | | 1 | |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 85 | 60 | 7 |
| 16. | Manipur | | | 4 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | | | |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1 | | |
| 19. | Nagaland | 0 | | |
| 20. | Orissa | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1 | | |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 19 | 16 | 18 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 2 | 1 | |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| 25. | Tripura | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 0 | 0 | |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 2 | |
| 28. | West Bengal | 268 | 122 | 124 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | | 10 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | | | |
| 31. | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | | | 1 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | | | |
| 33. | Delhi | 13 | 11 | |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | | | |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 2 | 4 | |
| Total | | 556 | 302 | 269 |

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage.

Modern Sports Infrastructures

2131. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of modern infrastructure for sports in the country and the infrastructure of International Standards are not available in India;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to create modern infrastructures of International Standards for the development of sports and sportspersons?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, there are serious inadequacies in sports infrastructure and sports facilities in the country, which are being addressed. However, 'Sports' being a State subject in the Constitution, the primary responsibility for the creation of sports infrastructure facilities lies with State Governments. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of State Governments by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Scheme in accordance with the approved pattern subject to receipt of viable proposals. But with effect from 1.4.2005, the

sports infrastructure schemes were transferred to the State Sector. Thus, fresh cases of sports infrastructure projects will have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. Details of Sports Infrastructure Projects, completed by the State Government with central assistance during the last three years are given in the annex.

In addition, the Sports Authority of India has also developed extensive infrastructure for sports training which is being further expanded and upgraded. Emphasis is also being given for maximum utilization of the infrastructure created in different parts of the country for events such as the National Games, SAP Games, Afro-Asian Games, etc., and under the State Governments Schemes. All this is in addition to the proposed creation of State-of-the-art infrastructure in the context of the Commonwealth Games 2010 and Commonwealth Youth Games 2008.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is also considering the launching of a scheme—"Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" with the objective of developing basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities, at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the Youth and to significantly expand the catchment for sporting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal.

Statement*List of completed Projects under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure***2004-2005**

| Sl. No. | Name of the project/location with relevant file no. | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Volleyball court at Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. Chinnadarapura, Distt. Karur, Tamilnadu | 0.24150 |
| 2. | Indoor Stadium (cat.I) at R.K.Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu | 9.00 |
| 3. | Indoor Stadium cat. III at Patil Maidan, Ajmer, Rajasthan | 8.725 |
| 4. | Outdoor Stadium cat. I at Pune by Maharashtra Mandal, Pune, Maharashtra. | 8.00 |
| 5. | Swimming Pool (cat. II) at Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari Distt., Tamilnadu | 2.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|------------------|--|----------|
| 6. | Volleyball court at Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Uppdam Angalum, Distt. Karur, Tamilnadu | 0.245 |
| 7. | Taluk Stadium at Yellapur, Distt. Uttara Kannada, Karnataka | 1.80 |
| 8. | Playfield at Govt. Vocational Hr. Sec. School, Kayyar, Distt. Kasargode, Kerala | 1.50 |
| 9. | Taluk Stadium at Haweri, Karnataka | 2.00 |
| 10. | Basketball court at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lohara, Distt. Una, Himachal Pradesh | 0.10 |
| 11. | Mini Stadium at Kotli, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh | 0.22400 |
| 12. | Basketball court at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chaitara, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh | 0.06250 |
| 13. | Outdoor Stadium at Kurukeshtra, Haryana | 1.75 |
| 14. | Outdoor Stadium at Arasikere, Distt. Hassan, Karnataka | 1.05 |
| 15. | Cycling Track at Distt. Stadium, Bijapur, Karnataka | 5.40 |
| 16. | Development of playfields at Distt. Unit Stadium, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu | 2.35 |
| 17. | Swimming Pool Cat. I at Mandasour, Madhya Pradesh | 4.90 |
| 18. | Indoor Stadium Cat. I at Rajkot Municipal Corporation, Gujarat | 20.00 |
| 19. | Distt. Level Sports Complex at Ariyalur, Tamilnadu | 6.90 |
| 20. | Development of football field at Govt. Hr. Sec. School, West Mambaloo Ashok Nagar Chennai, Tamilnadu | 0.739 |
| 21. | State Level Sports Complex at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | 5.00 |
| 22. | Distt. Level Sports Complex at Adukottai, Tamilnadu | 10.42925 |
| 23. | Swimming Pool cat. II at Mehaboob Nagar, Andhra Pradesh | 24.00 |
| 24. | Sports Hostel at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh | 4.50 |
| 25. | Indoor Stadium (cat. II) at Chhara Jhajjar by Lala Dewan Chand Modaru Wrestling & Yoga Centre Chhara, Jhajjar, Haryana | 4.41 |
| 26. | Indoor Hall (cat. III) at Paddal Ground, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh | 3.00 |
| 27. | R.L. Tawade Foundation, Maharashtra | 4.54 |
| 28. | Swimming Pool cat. II at Madurai, Tamilnadu | 12.50 |
| 29. | Swimming Pool cat. II at Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh | 6.25 |
| NE States | | |
| 30. | Indoor Stadium cat. III at Thoubal by Thoubal Distt. Table Tennis Association, Thoubal, Manipur | 3.00 |
| 31. | Playfield at Nakohou, Nagaland | 0.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|-------|
| 32. | Playfield at Kumpung, Nagaland | 0.25 |
| 33. | Playfield at Ngongchung, Nagaland | 0.19 |
| 34. | Playfield at Longia, Nagaland | 0.25 |
| 35. | Playfield at Punbak, Nagaland | 0.25 |
| 36. | Playfield at Noksen, Nagaland | 0.04 |
| 37. | Swimming Pool cat. I at Dimapur by Expression Vol. Organisation, Dimapur, Nagaland | 36.50 |
| 38. | Indoor Stadium cat. II at Nagarjun by Nagaland Tennis Association Nagarjun, Dimapur, Nagaland | 27.50 |
| 39. | Outdoor Stadium cat. I at Chen by Chan Wankan Development Society, Nagaland | 13.00 |
| 40. | Indoor Stadium cat. II at Chen by Veda Spoting Club, Nagaland | 27.50 |
| 41. | Tennis Court at Lamphal Pat Imphal by Manipur Tennis Association, Manipur | 1.50 |
| 42. | Outdoor Stadium cat. I at Umrangsnu, Assam | 27.00 |

List of Completed Projects under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure

2005-2006

| Sl. No. | Name of the project/location with relevant file no. | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Maharashtra Grants for Development of Sports & Games released of 2nd Instalment of grant during 2005-06. | 0.08 |
| 2. | Multipurpose G.M.C. Balayogi Memorial Indoor Stadium at Amalapuram, Distt. East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh | 45.00 |
| 3. | Swimming Pool by Central Hindu Military Education Society Nagpur, Maharashtra | 45.00 |
| 4. | Indoor Stadium cat. III at Kolongpur, Distt Nagaon, Assam | 7.00 |
| 5. | District Level Sports Complex at Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu | 5.52667 |

List of Completed Projects Under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure

2006-2007

| Sl. No. | Name of the project/location with relevant file no. | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Development Basketball ground at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhawarna, Distt. Kangra . Release of Final instalment | 0.10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|---------|
| 2. | Govt. of Maharashtra — Grants for construction of Indoor Stadium (Cat.I) at Dombivli (East) | 60.00 |
| 3. | Gujarat — Grants for construction of Swimming Pool (Cat. I) at Navsari Nagar Palika | 45.00 |
| 4. | Govt. of Maharashtra — Grants for construction of Indoor Stadium (Cat. I) at Chincholi, Distt. Nashik (Hilly Area) Release of funds 2006-07 | 90.00 |
| 5. | Andhra Pradesh — Grants for construction of Swimming Pool at Visakha Pamam | 21.50 |
| 6. | Manipur—Grants for construction of Cricket ground with pitch at Kyam | 0.33800 |
| 7. | Andhra Pradesh—Grants for construction of Swimming Pool (Cat. I) at Warangal | 5.32 |
| 8. | Kerala — Grants for construction of outdoor stadium at Pathanamthitta | 1.55 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh — Grants for construction of Indoor Stadium (Cat.II) at Ranital, Jabalpur | 4.06500 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh — Construction of Chhatrasal Sports Stadium, Pichhore, Distt. Shivpuri | 0.60000 |
| 11. | Nagaland — Construction of Indoor Stadium (Cat.III) at Chethaba by Hill Pioneer | 15.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka — Grants for construction of Swimming pool (Cat. II) at Maniknagar, Distt. Bidar, Karnataka. | 12.50 |
| 13. | Nagaland — Grants for construction of Indoor Stadium cat. III at Pfutsero | 10.00 |
| 14. | Tamilnadu — Grants for construction of Swimming pool (Cat. II) at Dolphin club, J.J. Nagar Moyappais West, Chennai. | 22.50 |
| 15. | Govt. of Tamilnadu — Grants for construction of Outdoor Stadium of outdoor Stadium (Cat. I) and outdoor playfields in Distt. Sports complex at Tiruvannur. | 23.00 |
| 16. | Govt. of Himachal Pradesh — Grants for construction of Ice Skating Rink at Shimla | 37.43 |
| 17. | Govt. of Tamilnadu — Grants for Distt. Level Sports Complex at Villupuram | 9.25 |
| 18. | Govt. of Himachal Pradesh — Construction of Swimming Pool at Una | 3.00 |
| 19. | Govt. of Maharashtra — Grant for construction of Swimming pool cat. I at Katol, Maharashtra Distt. Nagaon, Municipal council, Katol. | 40.00 |
| 20. | Govt. of UP-Grants for construction of Outdoor Stadium (Cat. I) at Kalhatt, Mirzapur, Rajdeep Smarak Samity | 15.215 |
| 21. | Govt. of Tamilnadu — Grants for construction of Stadium (Cat. I) at Rajan Thattean Mayiladuthurai, Distt. Nagapattinam | 18.00 |
| 22. | Govt. of Himachal Pradesh — Grants for construction of Basketball court at Govt. Sec. School, Balakrupi, Kangra. | 0,07250 |
| 23. | UP-Grants for construction of Playfield at Saffai, Etawah | 24.00 |
| 24. | MP-Grants for construction of Outdoor Stadium, Morena | 3.00 |
| 25. | Tamilnadu— Grants for construction of Distt. Level Sports Complex at Dindigul . | 13.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|--------|
| 26. | UP—Construction of Indoor Stadium cat. III at Vill. Pijokhara, Muzaffamagar | 2.50 |
| 27. | Nagaland — construction of Indoor Stadium cat. III at Chizami by Society Society Nagaland (President Distt. Sports Council Panipat) | 14.01 |
| 28. | UP—Grants for construction of Sports Hostel at Saffair, Etawah (Secy. Sports & Youth Deptt. Govt. of UP, Lucknow. | 15.00 |
| 29. | Assam — Construction of Indoor Stadium cat. III at Tezpur (President, Tazpur Distt. Sports Assam, Polo Field Tezpur, Distt. Sonitpur, Assam | 3.00 |
| 30. | Govt. of Tamilnadu— Construction of Distt. Level Sports Complex at Tiruvaunanalai, Tamilnadu | 19.20 |
| 31. | Maharashtra — Construction of Indoor Stadium cat. I at Sangali (Managing Trustee Rajarambabu Patil Endowment Trust, PO Sakharale Distt. Sangli | 33.23 |
| 32. | Tamilnadu — Construction of Swimming Pool (Cat. I) at Ettimadu Village, Coimbatore (Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Ettimadai Vill. Distt. Coimbatore | 45.00 |
| 33. | Himachal Pradesh — Construction of Distt. Level Sports Complex, Una. | 8.13 |
| 34. | Haryana — Construction of Indoor Stadium (Cat. I) at Village — Garhi Bohar Distt. Rohtak Chairman Sindhu Edu. Foundation, New Delhi. | 15.00 |
| 35. | Rajasthan— Construction of Basketball court at Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Deogarh, Distt. Rajasmand | 0.0500 |

*Project completed under the Scheme of Grants for Installation Synthetic
Playing Surfaces during the last three years*

| Sl.No. | Project | Amount Released Rs. In lakhs |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Synthetic Athletic Track at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi | 100.00 |
| 2. | Synthetic Athletic Track at J.R.D.Tata Complex, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand | 100.00 |
| 3. | Synthetic Hockey Surface at Nehru Stadium, Gurgaon, Haryana | 100.00 |
| 4. | Synthetic Hockey Surface at Biju Patnaik Stadium, Rourkela, Orissa | 100.00 |
| 5. | Synthetic Hockey Surface at Railway Hockey Stadium, Gwalior | 100.00 |

Privatisation of Health Services

2132. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to focus on the increasing privatisation of health services in the country;

(b) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made/proposed to be made by the Government to protect the interest of the poor patients?

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

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No Sir. Under the National Rural Health Mission, the Government seeks to focus on strengthening the public health system for providing better health service delivery, particularly to the poor of the country. It is seeking pro-people partnership with the non-governmental sector.

[Translation]

Transmission Towers in Rural Areas

2133. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the scheme to set up transmission towers to strengthen telecommunication system in rural areas as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 23, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the tenders from private companies are being invited for this purpose;

(c) if so, the total number of rural areas in the country where the necessity of setting up towers has been estimated;

(d) whether these towers are being set up in all parts of the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The tenders have been invited from Basic Service Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers, Unified Access Services Licensees (USAL) and Shortlisted Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) comprising of both private and public sector companies.

(c) A total of 7,871 towers will be set up in specified rural and remote areas of the country in 500 districts of 27 States.

(d) and (e) These towers will be installed in the specified rural and remote areas of the country where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

[English]

Breach of Law by Foreign Vessels

2134. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreign ships come in and get out of Indian waters without seeking permission as reported in the *Times of India* dated January 26, 2007;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether Norwegian Ship sought permission from the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) to clean its tank and after getting permission, the ship was moved out of the inner anchorage area for three years and sneaked out of Indian waters; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government against such shipping companies/countries for violating the Indian Law?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No foreign ship can enter or move out of an Indian Ports without clearances from the Port and Custom authorities. The Norwegian vessel "Crystal Sea" referred in "Times of India" dated 26th January, 2007 remained in the Mumbai Port limits between 31.10.2006 and 19.01.2007. The Vessel was issued clearance by the Custom Authorities to proceed to Mumbai High on 19.01.2007 valid upto 22.01.2007 and also obtained port clearance before sailing out on 19.1.2007. No permission, was sought by the vessel for cleaning its tanks. Since all port dues and charges were paid and there was no arrest order from any court in India and also the documents were in order, the vessel was allowed to sail out of the Port.

Child Health Schemes

2135. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing any scheme for the protection of the health of children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of child health institutes functioning in the country as part of the Medical College Hospital;

(d) whether there is any proposal for the upgradation of such institutes in order to facilitate better treatment for children in hazardous situations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Child health activities have been a part of the Family Welfare programme of the Government since 1977. The initiatives which have been in operation are:

1. Universal Immunization Programme
2. Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal disease
3. Control of deaths due to pneumonia
4. Newborn care programme
5. Promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding
6. Supplementation with Vitamin A and Iron Folic Acid since 2005, a strategy with an integrated holistic approach, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) is being implemented in 75 districts throughout the country. A health facility based and a community based newborn care programme is being devised for implementation.

All health facilities in the country provide services for child health and all medical colleges in the country have a department of Paediatrics which provides health services for children.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), health facilities are being strengthened and upgraded to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). Funds have been released for comprehensive development of the health facilities so as to equip them for provision of requisite health services.

Toll Collection at Aroor-Kumbalam Bridge

2136. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fund spent for the construction of Aroor-Kumbalam Bridge along NH-47;

(b) the details of the annual toll collection for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the time till which the toll collection is likely to be continued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) An amount of Rs. 6.64 crore has been spent for the construction of Aroor-Kumbalam bridge on NH-47 which falls on Cochin bypass.

(b) The annual toll collection for the last three years starting from 2003-04 is Rs. 1.20 crore, Rs. 1.58 crore and Rs. 1.79 crore respectively.

(c) As per the direction of Kerala High Court, the collection of toll for the bridge is to be continued up to March, 2009. After the completion of four laning of Cochin bypass, NHAI will start collecting the toll for four lane section.

Regional Branch Offices of MEA

2137. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Branch Secretariat Offices of the Ministry are functioning in various cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up such offices in Chennai and other parts of the country including in North Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the locations when these offices are likely to be set up location-wise;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the time by which these offices would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Branch Secretariats of the Ministry are functioning in Kolkata and Hyderabad.

(c) to (e) At present, a proposal to open a Branch Secretariat of the Ministry in Chennai is under consideration of the Ministry. This office will start functioning after administrative and other arrangements have been made with the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Government.

Two-Child Norm for Panchayat Polls

2138. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States like West Bengal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have adopted the 'two child' norm for Panchayat polls;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) whether 79th Constitution Amendment Bill, introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1992 on the subject, is pending for consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Bill is likely to be taken for consideration during the ensuing session of Parliament; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The 'two child' norm for Panchayat Polls has been adopted by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Madhya Pradesh initially made a similar announcement but subsequently modified the 'two-child' norm to a 'three-child norm'. At present, no such norm exists in West Bengal or Haryana.

(c) to (f) The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December, 1992. The Bill seeks to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide that the State shall endeavor to promote population control and the small family norm and to include in the Fundamental duties, a duty to promote and adopt the small family norm. Under the provisions of the Bill, a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assembly or, as

the case may be, either of the Legislature of the State, if he/she has more than two children. However, it will not apply to those who already have more than two children or those who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act.

The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development for examination. The Committee examined the Bill and recommended the Bill for passage without any change. While recommending the Bill for passage, the Committee also recommended that the Government might convene a meeting of leaders of various political parties in Parliament to evolve consensus to ensure the passage of the Bill. However, no consensus could emerge among the political parties. This issue was discussed in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on 2nd May, 2003 where a consensus emerged among the members on the need for more effective measures for controlling population growth in the country.

Since the policy of the Government is to keep a family welfare programme as voluntary, free from any incentives, disincentives or coercion, the option of withdrawing the Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Visit of Chinese President and Prime Minister to India

2139. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President and the Prime Minister of China have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held during their visits and the outcome thereof;

(c) the bilateral agreements signed on the occasions and the benefits likely to be accrued for both the countries as a result thereof;

(d) whether the border disputes also came up for discussion;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to resolve the border issues and the progress made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Premier Wen Jiabao of China paid a State visit to India from April 9 to 12, 2005. Prime Minister and Premier Wen Jiabao signed a Joint Statement in which the two sides established a "Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity". Eleven other agreements were signed and the report of the India-China Joint Study Group on comprehensive trade and economic cooperation was also released.

During the State visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India from November 21 to 23, 2006, the two sides issued a Joint Declaration that spelt out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The two sides also signed thirteen bilateral agreements.

(d) to (f) A major outcome of the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in April 2005 was the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of India-China Boundary Question. It, inter alia, provides for a political settlement of the boundary question in the context of the overall and long-term interests of the two countries.

During the visit of the Chinese President to India in November last year, it was agreed that the early resolution of the boundary question would advance the basic interests of the two countries and should be pursued as a strategic objective. Prime Minister and the Chinese President directed the Special Representatives on the boundary question to intensify their work to explore the framework of a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles.

There have so far been nine meetings of the Special Representatives of India and China who were appointed in June 2003. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question. During the last four rounds, Special

Representatives have continued their discussions on an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the above-mentioned Agreement.

[English]

Training of IAS Officers in American Universities

2140. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chosen three American Universities to train Senior IAS Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of training to be imparted therein,

(c) the number of officers trained so far;

(d) whether any Indian Universities would also be given the opportunity to train such officers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount earmarked for the said training in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (f) The Government has decided to introduce mandatory mid career training programme for IAS officers at three different levels in their career. These will be a programme of 8-weeks between the 7th and 9th year of service, another 8-weeks between the 14th and 16th year of service and a programme of 4-weeks between the 26th and 28th year of service. This Mid Career Training programme would henceforth be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for promotion. Further, participation in the programme designed for officers between the 26th and 28th year of service shall be a minimum requirement for empanelment as Additional Secretary or Secretary in Government of India and for further increments after the 28th year of service.

The work of detailed design and delivery of each of the Phases of the Mid Career Training has been entrusted to the following pairs of institutions selected by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose:

1. The TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi and the Duke Centre for International

Development of Duke University for the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service.

2. The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University for the programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 years of service.
3. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University for the programme designed for officers with 26 to 28 years of service.

A premier Indian institution is associated with each phase of mid-career training of IAS officers.

The primary objective of this programme is to help develop "next level competency" before the officers get promoted to higher positions. The course content of these programmes will focus on project formulation, policy analysis, perspective building, public-private partnership, responsive government and service delivery, macro economic policies, financial management etc. Two of the programmes designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service and for officers with 14 to 16 years of service also have a two week exposure visit abroad.

The programme designed for officers with 26 to 28 years of service has been conducted at IIM, Ahmedabad from the 2nd to 25th January, 2007 at which 93 officers participated. The programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 years of service is scheduled to commence from the 23rd April, 2007 and the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service is proposed to be conducted from the 11th June, 2007. Both these latter two programmes would be conducted at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

An approval has been obtained for an expenditure of Rs. 50 crore approximately on the Mid-Career Training of IAS officers over a three year period which includes expenses on the conduct of the programme at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and at IIM, Ahmedabad and also on the exposure visit abroad of the participants over the three year period.

[Translation]

Pilot Project for Waste Disposal

2141. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking financial assistance under pilot project of waste disposal in Government hospitals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments for creating infrastructure in Government hospitals for disposal of Bio-medical waste has since been discontinued and no proposal for providing financial assistance to any state for this purpose is under consideration.

[English]

Construction of All-Weather Road

2142. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government has planned to construct another two-lane all-weather road leading to Srinagar along the existing road as reported in *Indian Express* dated February 18, 2007;

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

(c) the details of the road tunnels that are required to be constructed;

(d) the estimated expenditure on this project;

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed; and

(f) the steps 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) to (c) Widening of existing two-lane road to four-lane configuration of Pathankot -Srinagar section of National Highway-1A is approved under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase II as a part of North-South Corridor, out of which length falling in the state of Jammu & Kashmir is about 437 km. Details of road tunnels to be constructed are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The estimated expenditure on this project is Rs. 8394 crore.

(e) Project is likely to be completed by December 2011 except for the construction of long tunnels which are likely to be completed by December 2013.

(f) Works have been awarded for a length of nearly 114 km. The Detailed Project Report for balance length is being completed and the process of award of works has also been started.

Statement

| S.No. | Chainage | | Length (in km) |
|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | From | To | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | 21 + 6 | 22 + 3 | 0.235 |
| 2. | 23 + 00 | 23 + 70 | 0.325 |
| 3. | 24 + 00 | 25 + 30 | 0.445 |
| 4. | 25 + 60 | 26 + 20 | 0.690 |
| 5. | 89 + 000 | 130 + 000 | 9.200 |
| 6. | 136 + 325 | 137 + 213 | 0.888 |
| 7. | 154 + 125 | 154 + 443 | 0.318 |
| 8. | 155 + 125 | 155 + 320 | 0.195 |
| 9. | 166 + 045 | 166 + 630 | 0.585 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| 10. | 166 + 055 | 166 + 665 | 0.610 |
| 11. | 167 + 075 | 167 + 945 | 0.870 |
| 12. | 171 + 130 | 171 + 515 | 0.385 |
| 13. | 193 + 700 | 204 + 00 | 8.47 |
| 14. | | | 0.68 |
| Total Length | | | 23.896 |

Coastal Health Programme in Gujarat

2143. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Gujarat for Coastal Health Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Union Government has not received any specific programme on health care in coastal areas. However, the NRHM envisages improving health delivery in all areas, including coastal areas.

Semi-Conductor Manufacturing Sector

2144. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced special incentive package for semi-conductor manufacturing sector;

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

(c) the extent to which manufacturing units of semi-conductor will be increased; and

(d) the estimated investment and employment likely to be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded approval to the Special Incentive Package Scheme to attract investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India. The incentive would be 20% of the capital expenditure if the units are set up in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ). For units set up outside SEZ, the incentive would be 25% of the capital expenditure plus exemption from countervailing duty (CVD). 'Fab units' with threshold Net Present Value (NPV) investment of Rs. 2500 crore would be covered by the Special Incentive Package Scheme. For other units in the ecosystem, there would be a threshold NPV investment of Rs.1000 crore. The details to implement the scheme are being finalized.

(c) and (d) The extent to which manufacturing units of semiconductor will be set up would depend upon the response of the investors to make such investments following the approval of this Scheme. The investment and employment which will be generated will depend upon the number of such units set up.

Indoor Stadium at Rajaram Nagar

2145. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indoor Stadium at Rajaram Nagar in Sangli district of Maharashtra is under construction with the help of financial assistance from the Union Government ;

(b) if so, the cost of the project;

(c) whether the amount of first installment of the grant has been released;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the second installment is delayed inspite of giving utilization certificate for the early release of the second installment; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) The Ministry had approved Central assistance of Rs. 58.23 lakhs for the construction of the Indoor Stadium at Rajaram Nagar in Sangli District of Maharashtra. Rs. 25.00 lakh towards the first instalment was released on 1.11.2004 . Based on the receipt of the utilization certificate, completion certificate, etc. from the State Government, the balance grant of Rs. 33.23 lakhs has been released on 5.2.2007. The project has been completed at a cost of Rs. 117.48 lakhs.

Family Welfare Centres

2146. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) the number of family welfare centres functioning in the country, particularly in rural areas, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal to open more family welfare centres especially for mother and child welfare from various State Governments particularly from Karnataka;

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

(d) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the maintenance of the family welfare centres during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the amount spent by each State during the same period;

(f) the total number of proposals pending with the Government under NFWP, State-wise; and

(g) the time by which all these pending proposals are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The number of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) functioning in the rural areas of the country for health & family welfare activities including

for mother and child welfare as on March, 2006, are 144986, 22671 and 3910 respectively.

The Sub-centres are established for the population of 5000 and 3000 in plain and tribal areas respectively. As the population density in the country is not uniform, it has resulted in inadequate availability of health services. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), it is proposed to revisit the population norms. NRHM proposes to set up Sub-centres and Community Health Centres as per 2001 population norm. Phase-wise setting up of these Centres is approved as per the needs reflected in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) of the States under NRHM.

(d) to (g) State-wise releases for maintenance of Sub-centres during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Under NRHM, the Sub-centres have been allocated Rs. 10,000/- per annum during 2004-05 (to Empowered Action Group States), 2005-06 and 2006-07 (based on SOE/UCs received) as an Untied Fund for their local health needs. The Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been released an amount of Rs. 25,000/- as an Untied Fund during 2006-07 and Rs. 50,000/- as an Annual Maintenance Grant for improvement and maintenance of physical infrastructure. The Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been released an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per CHC for upgradation of CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

During 2006-07, PIPs were received from all States/UTs under NRHM. Based on their needs reflected in the PIP, the States/UTs have been released funds for National Family Welfare Programme.

Statement

Releases under Sub-centre Schemes during the years, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Releases 2004-05 | Releases 2005-06 | Releases 2006-07 |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 9203.56 | 12148.00 | 2589.08 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 253.56 | 267.49 | 66.45 |
| 3. | Assam | 3553.44 | — | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 9003.00 | 5733.86 | 1665.31 |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 3324.88 | — | — |
| 6. | Goa | 150.16 | 84.00 | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | 6335.24 | 7056.00 | 3564.10 |
| 8. | Haryana | 2002.56 | 2094.01 | 1869.72 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1802.04 | 2008.00 | 1919.09 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1481.40 | 2940.34 | — |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 3886.24 | 912.00 | 3279.54 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 7092.16 | 5925.00 | 3989.88 |
| 13. | Kerala | 4436.48 | 3708.00 | 3744.18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 7080.08 | 4286.00 | 610.82 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 8469.84 | 9436.00 | — |
| 16. | Manipur | — | 314.05 | 142.88 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 381.80 | — | — |
| 18. | Mizoram | 320.16 | — | 236.46 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 280.40 | 532.00 | 165.69 |
| 20. | Orissa | 5162.52 | 4454.22 | 2939.42 |
| 21. | Punjab | 2482.72 | 2768.00 | 3550.92 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 8644.56 | 9628.00 | 9394.85 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 136.20 | 200.00 | 74.94 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 7560.24 | 8624.00 | 8508.44 |
| 25. | Tripura | 500.16 | 728.00 | 393.84 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 1327.40 | 740.00 | — |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 16223.80 | 18020.00 | 16870.93 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 7077.12 | 10048.00 | 7611.81 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | — | 254.75 | 267.94 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | — | — | — |
| 31. | Dadra Nagar Haveli | — | 12.31 | 15.21 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | — | 38.00 | 41.15 |
| 33. | Delhi | 59.00 | — | — |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | — | 23.75 | 29.50 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 84.00 | — | — |
| All India | | 118314.72 | 112983.78 | 73542.15 |

[Translation]

Vitamin 'A' Deficiency

2147. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died due to deficiency of Vitamin 'A' during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the demand and availability position of Vitamin 'A' doses and the number of children benefited by it during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there is a gap between the demand and supply of Vitamin 'A' in the country;

(d) if so, the measures taken to meet this gap and achievements made as a result thereof;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated for the States lagging behind in this field;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of the funds scheduled for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(h) the basis on which such allocation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Vitamin A deficiency is not a direct cause for death of children. Deficiency of Vitamin A can adversely affect growth and vision in children.

(b) The All India percentage of children covered in the age group of 12-35 months of Vitamin A dosage is 21. The State-wise, details of children covered as per NFHS-III data (2005-06) is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The State-wise details of children covered less than one year of age is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (f) Government has a strategy to supplement all children in the age group of six months to five years with Vitamin A at six monthly intervals. The objective is to decrease prevalence of Vitamin A deficiency from the current 0.7% to 0.3% among children under than five years of age.

2,84,729 kits are distributed throughout the country each year under the RCH Programme, each kit containing 6 bottles of 100 ml each. This allocation is on the basis of the average number of children under five years, under each facility, catering to approximately five thousand population. UNICEF assists the Government by supplying Vitamin A to the States, whenever need arises.

(g) and (h) Currently funds are being released to all the States for procurement of essential supplies, including Vitamin A, under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme, which was launched in the year 2005, as part of the National Rural Health Mission. State-wise

details of the releases made under RCH-II, for the last two years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Children age: 12-35 months who received a Vitamin A dose (%)—NFHS III 2005-06

| Sl. No. | States | Vit. 'A' NFHS-III (2005-06) |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

All India 21.0

I. Major States (Population > 20 million)

| | | |
|-----|----------------|------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 21.4 |
| 2. | Assam | 16.6 |
| 3. | Bihar | 29.4 |
| 4. | Chattisgarh | 12.7 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 17.1 |
| 6. | Haryana | 13.0 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 23.3 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 17.1 |
| 9. | Kerala | 38.2 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 16.1 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 32.0 |
| 12. | Orissa | 25.6 |
| 13. | Punjab | 17.0 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 13.2 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 37.2 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 7.3 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 41.2 |

II. Smaller States

| | | |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 17.4 |
| 2. | Delhi | 17.1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----|------------------|------|-----|-------------|------|
| 3. | Goa | 37.3 | 8. | Mizoram | 42.2 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 28.9 | 9. | Nagaland | 8.7 |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | 15.2 | 10. | Sikkim | 21.8 |
| 6. | Manipur | 15.4 | 11. | Tripura | 38.0 |
| 7. | Meghalaya | 19.9 | 12. | Uttaranchal | 15.6 |

Statement II*Prophylaxis against Blindness due to Vit. 'A' Deficiency—1st Dose (Below 1 Year)*

| Sl. No. | State/Union Territory/Agency | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | | 2005-06* | | |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | Need Assessed (in 000's) | Achvt. Below 1 year | % Achvt. | Need Assessed (in 000's) | Achvt. Below 1 year | % Achvt. | Need Assessed (in 000's) | Achvt. Below 1 year | % Achvt. | Need Assessed (in 000's) | Achvt. Below 1 year | % Achvt. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| I | Major States | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (Population > 20 million) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,560.9 | 1,518,369 | 97.3 | 1553.8 | 1,526,993 | 98.3 | 1539.2 | 1,501,616 | 97.6 | 1553.3 | 1,462,778 | 94.2 |
| 2. | Assam | 677.1 | 61,889 | 9.1 | 687.0 | 189,905 | 27.6 | 702.7 | 35,192 | 5.0 | 712.0 | NA | NA |
| 3. | Bihar | 2,446.7 | 1,018,749 | 41.6 | 2550.6 | 2,245,196 | 88.0 | 2626.4 | 3,292,698 | 125.4 | 2821.2 | 1,887,208 | 72.0 |
| 4. | Chattisgarh | 538.6 | 642,945 | 119.4 | 546.4 | 527,260 | 96.5 | 537.0 | 539,093 | 100.4 | 524.4 | 511,638 | 97.6 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 1,231.2 | 958,083 | 77.9 | 1247.7 | 1,085,255 | 87.8 | 1257.1 | 1,119,853 | 89.1 | 1284.5 | 1,148,484 | 90.9 |
| 6. | Haryana | 545.2 | 410,669 | 75.3 | 561.4 | 440,105 | 78.4 | 562.4 | 487,468 | 86.7 | 571.1 | 474,518 | 83.1 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 731.2 | 468,474 | 64.1 | 748.3 | 826,463 | 110.4 | 705.1 | 942,929 | 133.7 | 726.7 | 1,175,678 | 161.8 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 1,128.8 | 812,396 | 72.0 | 1132.5 | 836,233 | 79.1 | 1160.2 | 739,874 | 63.8 | 1167.4 | 572,951 | 48.1 |
| 9. | Kerala | 572.8 | 509,559 | 89.0 | 574.0 | 467,474 | 81.4 | 562.0 | 535,550 | 95.3 | 558.8 | 463,280 | 82.9 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 1,742.1 | 3,446,232 | 197.8 | 1805.1 | 2,715,439 | 150.4 | 1826.9 | 1,844,982 | 101.0 | 1841.5 | NA | NA |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 1970.9 | 1,887,546 | 95.8 | 2001.6 | 1,880,688 | 94.0 | 199.21 | 1,940,928 | 97.4 | 2003.7 | 1,823,895 | 96.0 |
| 12. | Orissa | 807.7 | 809,694 | 100.1 | 828.3 | 817,764 | 98.7 | 818.1 | 828,356 | 101.3 | 823.2 | 839,238 | 102.0 |
| 13. | Punjab | 500.8 | 468,748 | 93.6 | 512.7 | 442,181 | 86.2 | 513.4 | 489,056 | 95.3 | 508.9 | 484,853 | 95.1 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 1,711.8 | 1,433,682 | 83.8 | 1719.9 | 1,460,308 | 84.9 | 1745.9 | 1,546,085 | 88.6 | 1748.9 | 1,499,990 | 85.8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|----------|------------|-------|----------|------------|-------|----------|------------|-------|
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 1,149.2 | 4,457,701 | 337.9 | 1162.6 | 3,050,548 | 262.4 | 1167.7 | 5,592,188 | 478.9 | 1149.6 | 5,043,366 | 438.7 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 5,176.5 | 4,071,249 | 78.6 | 5301.3 | 3,818,133 | 72.0 | 5280.5 | 5,120,648 | 97.0 | 5299.3 | 5,030,508 | 94.9 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 1,605.7 | 1,388,490 | 86.5 | 1633.8 | 1,114,316 | 68.2 | 1636.8 | 1,444,566 | 88.3 | 1662.5 | 1,436,573 | 86.4 |
| II. Smaller States | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 25.2 | 13,611 | 54.0 | 25.8 | 8,304 | 32.2 | 24.5 | 8,551 | 34.9 | 22.6 | 13,328 | 58.9 |
| 2. | Delhi | 286.2 | 139,269 | 48.7 | 296.8 | 111,356 | 37.5 | 262.4 | 138,645 | 52.8 | 261.6 | 159,432 | 60.9 |
| 3. | Goa | 20.0 | 33,432 | 197.5 | 20.2 | 40,235 | 199.2 | 18.7 | 20,612 | 109.9 | 20.6 | 22,488 | 103.2 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 141.7 | 129,913 | 91.7 | 133.9 | 129,388 | 96.6 | 126.7 | 130,337 | 102.8 | 125.6 | 127,972 | 101.9 |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | 196.1 | 179,312 | 91.4 | 199.0 | 200,718 | 100.9 | 202.4 | 260,166 | 128.6 | 207.8 | 217,036 | 104.4 |
| 6. | Manipur | 45.0 | 32,869 | 73.0 | 45.5 | 34,428 | 75.7 | 44.6 | 31,085 | 63.7 | 42.1 | 30,551 | 725 |
| 7. | Meghalaya | 65.0 | 45,472 | 70.0 | 66.1 | 42,486 | 64.3 | 65.9 | 48,156 | 73.1 | 59.7 | 53,866 | 90.2 |
| 8. | Mizoram | 14.9 | 29,180 | 195.8 | 14.3 | 15,327 | 107.2 | 14.3 | 20,544 | 143.9 | 15.8 | 24,446 | 154.6 |
| 9. | Nagaland | 25.7 | 10,335 | 40.2 | 27.0 | 8,818 | 32.7 | 27.4 | 7,113 | 25.9 | 39.5 | 8,685 | 22.0 |
| 10. | Sikkim | 11.1 | 10,762 | 97.0 | 11.5 | 10,597 | 92.1 | 11.8 | 5,393 | 45.6 | 12.2 | 5,416 | 44.4 |
| 11. | Tripura | 53.3 | 82,014 | 153.9 | 52.5 | 67,891 | 129.3 | 51.2 | 10,786 | 21.1 | 48.8 | 70,568 | 144.6 |
| 12. | Uttaranchal | 160.5 | 170,599 | 106.3 | 170.3 | 146,859 | 86.2 | 155.0 | 229,749 | 148.2 | 148.7 | 203,441 | 136.8 |
| III. Union Territories | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 6.3 | 7,767 | 123.3 | 6.8 | 5,464 | 80.4 | 6.1 | 5,484 | 89.5 | 6.4 | 4,777 | 74.6 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 17.4 | 15,042 | 86.4 | 17.6 | 15,586 | 88.6 | 14.8 | 16,928 | 114.4 | 14.2 | 14,240 | 100.0 |
| 3. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 7.1 | 9,072 | 127.8 | 7.6 | 6,001 | 79.0 | 6.6 | 5,756 | 87.6 | 7.0 | 6,394 | 90.9 |
| 4. | Daman & Diu | 4.1 | 2,893 | 70.6 | 3.7 | 2,722 | 73.6 | 3.6 | 2,685 | 75.2 | 3.8 | 3,351 | 89.2 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | 1.0 | 1,173 | 117.3 | 1.1 | 1,192 | 108.4 | 1.3 | 546 | 43.0 | 1.2 | 727 | 59.4 |
| 6. | Pondicherry | 18.4 | 15,544 | 84.5 | 18.8 | 13,537 | 72.0 | 17.7 | 15,320 | 86.5 | 18.1 | 15,224 | 84.2 |
| IV. Other Agencies | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | M/o Defence | \$ | 15,516 | | \$ | 11,454 | | \$ | 15,172 | | \$ | 17,714 | |
| 2 | M/o Railways | \$ | 20,063 | | \$ | 16,423 | | \$ | 18,415 | | \$ | 21,059 | |
| All India | | 25,1967.2 | 25,334,359 | 100.5 | 25,685.5 | 24,403,047 | 95.0 | 25,687.4 | 28,992,530 | 112.9 | 25,793.9 | 24,976,653 | 107.5 |

Notes: 1. All-India percentage have been worked out after excluding need assessed of those States/UTs for which figures are not available.

Statement III*Releases under RCH-II Programme during FY 2005-06 & 2006-07*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT | RCH-II Flexipool 2005-06 | RCH Flexipool 2006-07 (Upto 28.02.07) | Total |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 5885.00 | 10957.00 | 16842.00 |
| 2. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 44.50 | 48.00 | 92.50 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 735.00 | 319.69 | 1054.69 |
| 4. | Assam | 6491.50 | 4826.00 | 11317.50 |
| 5. | Bihar | 2937.50 | 11314.00 | 14251.50 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 74.00 | 82.00 | 156.00 |
| 7. | Chattisgarh | 2746.00 | 4283.00 | 7029.00 |
| 8. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 34.50 | 48.16 | 82.66 |
| 9. | Daman & Diu | 23.00 | 59.19 | 82.19 |
| 10. | Delhi | 727.00 | 914.00 | 1641.00 |
| 11. | Goa | 105.50 | 45.51 | 151.01 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 3383.00 | 4935.00 | 8318.00 |
| 13. | Haryana | 1142.50 | 3013.00 | 4155.50 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 500.50 | 618.00 | 1118.50 |
| 15. | Jammu & Kashmir | 604.50 | 1052.96 | 1657.46 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 4060.00 | 184.1.00 | 5901.00 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 2880.00 | 5045.00 | 7925.00 |
| 18. | Kerala | 2143.50 | 1769.53 | 3913.03 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 11.50 | 58.00 | 69.50 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 6619.50 | 8213.00 | 14832.50 |
| 21. | Manipur | 743.00 | 432.00 | 1175.00 |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 450.00 | 612.00 | 1062.00 |
| 23. | Mizoram | 1182.00 | 0.00 | 1182.00 |
| 24. | Maharashtra | 5280.50 | 7874.54 | 13155.04 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25. | Nagaland | 661.00 | 319.00 | 980.00 |
| 26. | Orissa | 4050.00 | 5201.00 | 9251.00 |
| 27. | Punjab | 1742.00 | 2372.15 | 4114.15 |
| 28. | Pondicherry | 86.61 | 138.00 | 224.61 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 4000.50 | 6960.00 | 10960.50 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 100.00 | 218.00 | 318.00 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 6138.50 | 7103.00 | 13241.50 |
| 32. | Tripura | 600.00 | 769.00 | 1369.00 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 16972.50 | 9411.00 | 26383.50 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 746.00 | 1291.00 | 2037.00 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 5983.00 | 6146.70 | 12129.70 |
| Total | | 89884.11 | 108289.43 | 198173.54 |

Role of NGOs in Family Welfare Programme*[English]*

2148. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in health related programmes in various States including Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided by Central Government to each of these organizations during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether this amount has been fully utilized and if so, the complete details thereof;

(d) whether there are reports regarding misuse of this amount; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the organizations found guilty?

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

Violation of Bio-Medical Rules

2149. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government hospitals in the National Capital Territory (NCT) are selling their waste materials to junk-dealers without sterilization;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In so far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New

Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College & Smt. S.K. Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, while disposing of their waste material, strict adherence to the Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 is maintained and while infectious non-plastic waste is incinerated, wastes like plastic and glass-wares are sold only after proper sterilization as per these rules.

Central Training Facility Complex

2150. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is constructing Central Training Facility (CTF) complex at Greater Noida for the benefit of statistical personnel; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard and amount allocated and utilized till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Central Training Facility (CTF) called National Academy of Statistical Administration is being constructed at Greater Noida.

(b) The said project is under construction. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 3153.83 lakh (Non Recurring) had been allocated for the project, out of which Rs. 1682.27 lakh has been utilized till February 2007.

Sinking of Cargo Vessel Near Iraq

2151. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cargo vessel carrying some Indians sank near the coast of Iraq recently;

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

(c) the number of Indians rescued and missing in the incident;

(d) whether any assistance has been provided by the Government to the affected people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A cargo MSV (Mechanized Sailing Vessel) Jai Krishna Sagar flying Indian Flag and having 15 Indian national seafarers on board and sailing from Dubai to Iraq with cargo of 350 tons sank near the coast of Iraq on 27.12.2006 in the late evening reportedly due to strong winds and rough sea conditions.

(c) Out of a total crew of 15, two crew members were rescued by MT Gello, a Norwegian ship. Subsequently two dead bodies were recovered by US Naval ship in that region. The whereabouts of missing 11 crew members could not be ascertained and Search & Rescue operations have been abandoned.

(d) to (f) The Director General of Shipping with the help of Indian High Commission office at Bahrain provided all possible assistance to the owner of the vessel and people affected by this casualty. The two surviving crew members have arrived safely in India and the mortal remains of the two deceased seamen have been repatriated to India and handed over to the next of kin. The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai has already advised the owners to pay compensation to the affected families.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

2152. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study carried-out by the North Eastern Social Research Centre has revealed that 19 lakh persons were displaced or adversely affected due to acquisition of around 14,01,186 acres of land for development purpose and only 5% of the displaced or affected persons had been rehabilitated so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plan prepared to rehabilitate the displaced persons and the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, no such study has been funded by the Indian Council for Social Science Research or its Regional Centre. The Department of Land Resources also do not have specific information about the displaced or affected persons due to land acquisition.

However, the Department of Land Resources have formulated a National Policy on Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families-2003 (NPRR-2003), which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) and has been circulated to Ministries/Departments concerned and to State Governments for adoption. It lays down minimum provisions with respect to project-affected people, and is applicable to projects displacing 500 families or more *en masse* in plains areas or 250 families or more in hilly areas; Desert Development Programme (DDP) Blocks and areas mentioned in Schedule V or Schedule VI of the Constitution of India. The policy is in the form of broad guidelines for all concerned and offers minimum provisions, while the States or PSUs may offer better benefit packages.

Blocking of Unregistered Calls

2153. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether several lakhs of rupees has been imposed as fine on some private cellular operators on the charge of harassing mobile holders through unwanted calls as reported in the New Delhi edition of the 'Navbharat Times' dated January 16, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the cellular and other telecom companies for banning such calls;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for non-compliance of these guidelines by the telecom companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A complaint case was filed by Ms. Nivedita Sharma against M/s Bharti Televentures, ICICI Bank Limited and American Express Bank Limited alleging that she had received unwanted calls from the Banks and allegedly the source of the discloser of her mobile number and other information was the telecom company. In the said case, the State Commission vide their Order dated 26.12.2006, imposed penalty as follows:

- (i) Rs. 50 Lacs on M/s Bharti and Cellular operators Association of India.
- (ii) Rs. 25 Lacs on ICICI Bank and American Express Bank.

In addition, a compensation of Rs. 50,000/- was awarded to the complainant.

(c) to (e) Government has instructed all the Telecom Service providers to take strict measures to stop any possible unauthorized sale of their customer information by their employees.

[Translation]

Traditional System of Medicines

2154. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to authenticate the traditional system of medicines scientifically; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Traditional systems of medicine in the country exist in codified and oral forms. The codified traditional Indian medical systems are Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Yoga. Non-codified oral health knowledge is available in the form of local health practices and folk medicine. The codified medical knowledge is based on evidence of safe usage over centuries. A large body of work has been done regarding standardization and validation of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha formulations by AYUSH research Councils, Indian

Council of Medical Research and CSIR laboratories. Several post-graduate teaching institutions and private research institutions are also engaged in this work.

[English]

Verification Certificates for Passports

2155. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of authorized personnel to issue Verification Certificates regarding issuance of Passports has been extended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any study regarding issuance of passports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which its Report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. The persons authorized to issue verification certificate are:

- i. An Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary/Director/Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/Special Secretary/Secretary/Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India;
- ii. A Director/Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/Special Secretary/Chief Secretary in the State Government;
- iii. A Sub-Divisional Magistrate/First Class Judicial Magistrate/Additional JDM/District Magistrate in the area where the applicant resides;
- iv. A District Superintendent of Police, DIG/IG/DGP in the area where the applicant resides;
- v. A Major and above in the Army, Lt. Commander and above in the Navy and Sq. Leader and above in the Air Force;
- vi. The General Manager of a Public Sector Undertaking;

vii. All members of any All India Service or Central Service who are equivalent to or above the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India i.e. in the pay scale of Rupees 10,000-15,200 or above;

viii. Resident Commissioners/Additional Resident Commissioners of all State Governments based in Delhi;

ix. Concerned Tehsildars or Concerned SHOs for an applicant staying in the area under his/her jurisdiction; and

x. Chairmen of the Apex Business Organizations i.e. FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM in respect of owners, partners or directors of the companies that are members of the concerned Chamber.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) The Government have entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound work study on the passport issuance system, including its Information Technology aspects with a view to introducing significant improvements in the functioning of Passport Offices. The study is to be completed by April 2007.

Tummalapalle Mining and Milling Project

2156. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for acquiring land for the Tummalapalle Mining and Milling Project being set up by Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) at Cuddapah district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose/aim behind setting up the project including the total cost of the project;

(d) the number of persons likely to get direct employment including employment to Project Affected Persons (PAP); and

(e) the time by which the Project is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has conveyed its approval for acquisition of land for the Tummalapalle Mining & Milling Project being set up by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) in the Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh. About 1315 acres of land is proposed to be acquired.

(c) The purpose behind setting up the project is to meet the uranium fuel requirements of the nuclear power programme. The total estimated cost of the project as on December 2005 is Rs. 1029.57 crore.

(d) The project will provide direct employment to about 934 persons in various categories including employment to Project Affected Persons (PAPs).

(e) The mine is proposed to be commissioned within 30 months and the Mill in 36 months from the date of sanction i.e. zero date.

Expenditure to Improve the Health of Children

2157. SHRI IQBAL AHMED:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government spends less than 1% of the Gross Domestic Product on health and it spells doom for kids causing the death of two million children every year even before their first birthday;

(b) if so, whether more than 50,000 children sleep on pavements in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps and measures proposed to be taken by the Government for improvement in the health care of the children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Approximately 1.7 million children die annually before they complete the age of one year. As per Population Census—2001, 24,966 persons constitute houseless population in Delhi, which includes 1802 children in the age group of 0-6 years.

Public expenditure on health is about 0.9% of GDP. However, the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which includes different interventions for protecting the lives of children and promoting their health.

Issue of Fragrance Postage Stamps

2158. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently issued fragrance postage stamps in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue more such postage stamps in near future; and

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

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

(b) The first fragrant stamp on 'Sandalwood' was issued on 13th December, 2006 and the second one on 'Fragrance of Roses' (set of four stamps) was released on 7th February, 2007. The expenditure on printing these stamps, as roughly assessed by the India Security Press, Nashik, is about 15% more than the expenditure incurred in printing normal commemorative postage stamps.

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir. The next fragrant stamp is proposed to be issued on "Jasmine".

[Translation]

New University for NRIs

2159. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a university for the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangement of funds for the proposed university including investment from NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) A proposal to prepare a policy framework for establishment of a NRI/PIO University in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is being considered.

[English]

Road Connectivity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2160. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road connectivity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is well below the National average;

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

(c) the 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) to (c) This Ministry is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. As regards the NHs in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the length per 1000 sq km area and per lakh of population is 36.4 km and 84.3 km, respectively against all India average of 20.2 km and 6.5 km.

Racist Remark in TV Show

2161. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bollywood actress was allegedly subjected to racist remarks in the British TV reality show 'Big Brother';

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

(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the British Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No. According to some initial media reports alleged 'racist' remarks had been directed at Ms. Shilpa Shetty (Indian actress, who was participating in the reality show 'Celebrity Big Brother' on Channel 4, UK) by her co-contestants.

However, on January 18, 2007, Ms. Shilpa Shetty was herself quoted as telling the programme organisers "I don't feel there was any racial discrimination". Again in an interview on the Sky News on February 1, 2007, she was quoted as saying "I think it stemmed from jealousy, maybe insecurity, you know, but definitely wasn't contrived racism."

(c) and (e) Yes. On January 18, 2007, in view of the controversy as reported in the media, Ministry of External Affairs took up the matter with the British High Commission in New Delhi and asked the British Government to take action under its laws. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking in the House of Commons on January 17, 2007, said: "We should oppose racism in all its forms. I want Britain to be seen as a country of fairness and tolerance. Anything detracting from this I condemn".

Transport System for Greater Noida

2162. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another hub of IT industries is developing very fast in Greater Noida;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government in coordination with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide transport system for Greater Noida; and

(c) If so, the details of the present projects as well as future plans of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) This Ministry is not concerned with development of IT hubs in the country. No project for development of transport system for Greater Noida is under consideration of this Department.

Telecom Policy

2163. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the telecom policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made so far in this direction and the time by which the said policy is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As on date, New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP 1999) is the Telecom Policy of the Government. The policy covers spectrum management, Universal Service Obligation, role of Regulator, various types of telecom services, telecom equipment manufacture, Research and Development, Standardization, Disaster Management etc.

[Translation]

Defaulting Telecom Companies

2164. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action against those telecom companies which have not fulfilled

the condition of creating network after obtaining the licence as reported in the New Delhi edition of *Dainik Jagran* dated January 06, 2007; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Access Service Licensee Companies providing telecom services are required to fulfill roll-out obligations according to their respective licence agreements. For any delay in fulfillment of these obligations, there is provision for imposing Liquidated Damages.

The fulfillment of obligations by these licensees are reviewed on a regular basis and actions are taken as per the provisions of the licence agreement.

[English]

Issuance of Passports

2165. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entrusted the National Institute of Smart Governance, Hyderabad with the work of study of the process of passport issuance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of passport applications received and verified by the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) for issuance of passports during the last three years, year-wise, RPO-wise;

(d) the details of the number of employees working in these offices during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to augment the number of employees working in RPOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government have entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound work study on the passport issuance system, including its Information Technology aspects with a view to introducing significant improvements in the functioning of Passport Offices. The study is to be completed by April 2007.

(c) The details of the number of passport applications received and passports issued during the last three years,

year-wise, RPO-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The number of employees working in Passport Offices during the said period was 2176 including 391 casual workers.

(e) The Ministry of Finance approved 293 additional posts in various categories in Passport Offices in August 2006, on the basis of a study undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. This Ministry is in the process of filling up these posts.

Statement

Number of Passport Applications Received and Passports Issued during 2004-2006

| S.No. | Passport Office | Number of Passport Applications received | | | Number of Passports issued | | |
|-------|-----------------|--|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | Ahmedabad | 214443 | 219068 | 237044 | 235335 | 208198 | 242363 |
| 2 | Bangalore | 170826 | 190481 | 241202 | 167010 | 186602 | 271941 |
| 3 | Bareilly | 44680 | 51903 | 60404 | 41989 | 48129 | 57327 |
| 4 | Bhopal | 53519 | 60667 | 78132 | 43970 | 58287 | 71097 |
| 5 | Bhubaneswar | 26594 | 28861 | 38616 | 20987 | 27176 | 34813 |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 204326 | 223949 | 250131 | 184987 | 212086 | 244664 |
| 7 | Chennai | 230529 | 237561 | 291916 | 216367 | 212143 | 300503 |
| 8 | Cochin | 176339 | 185852 | 203212 | 177863 | 178824 | 205028 |
| 9 | Delhi | 207773 | 207497 | 242415 | 158258 | 233118 | 249174 |
| 10 | Ghaziabad | 49831 | 55157 | 70059 | 40280 | 51885 | 65957 |
| 11 | Guwahati | 18978 | 22983 | 27056 | 18055 | 21287 | 23711 |
| 12 | Hyderabad | 273128 | 307678 | 382121 | 284753 | 270703 | 403895 |
| 13 | Jaipur | 136424 | 117138 | 154353 | 106091 | 134747 | 132406 |
| 14 | Jalandhar | 168418 | 174175 | 201527 | 166425 | 164219 | 204765 |
| 15 | Jammu | 14250 | 12371 | 16795 | 11206 | 11928 | 13419 |
| 16 | Kolkata | 115006 | 137081 | 156539 | 114542 | 122917 | 152210 |
| 17 | Kozhikode | 238217 | 237367 | 236375 | 237355 | 244799 | 250350 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 18 | Lucknow | 161051 | 171833 | 228262 | 133238 | 152371 | 169023 |
| 19 | Mumbai | 228982 | 239863 | 261004 | 218355 | 223436 | 263770 |
| 20 | Nagpur | 26215 | 31735 | 41912 | 24515 | 28517 | 38401 |
| 21 | Panaji | 23515 | 24381 | 25660 | 23913 | 23914 | 25630 |
| 22 | Patna | 71366 | 75850 | 96990 | 53901 | 77770 | 75949 |
| 23 | Pune | 62426 | 76036 | 97609 | 60009 | 68044 | 168243 |
| 24 | Ranchi | 19525 | 22127 | 27359 | 15277 | 22815 | 24317 |
| 25 | Srinagar | 12020 | 8921 | 13757 | 10585 | 5512 | 11906 |
| 26 | Surat | 69798 | 71398 | 80000 | 61820 | 75449 | 78246 |
| 27 | Thane | 87686 | 98041 | 114812 | 79072 | 87635 | 115819 |
| 28 | Trichy | 222368 | 225403 | 279713 | 261803 | 220429 | 303684 |
| 29 | Trivandrum | 121765 | 122135 | 137150 | 119594 | 131833 | 141280 |
| 30 | Vishakhapatnam | 65832 | 71936 | 88241 | 65225 | 65657 | 80821 |
| 31 | Malappuram* | — | — | 42348 | — | — | 21056 |
| Total | | 3515830 | 3709448 | 4422714 | 3352780 | 3570730 | 4441768 |

*PO. Malappuram opened in August 2006.

Exploration work by Private Companies

[Translation]

2166. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to allow private sector into the strategic area of uranium exploration work and mining;

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

(c) whether blocks have been identified to offer private companies for exploration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

Need to Widen NH-24

2167. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) whether the work on widening up of NH-24, passing through Uttar Pradesh, has started;

(b) if so, the stretch upto which the said highway is likely to be widened;

(c) the funds earmarked as well as spent for the purpose during 2004-05 and 2006-07 respectively; and

(d) the time by which the remaining work of the widening of NH-24 in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Widening to 4-lane from Uttar Pradesh/ Delhi Border to Hapur has been completed. Widening of stretches from Hapur to Moradabad and Sitapur to Lucknow under National Highway Development (NHDP) projects are in progress and are targeted for completion by September 2007 and June 2009 respectively. The remaining stretch of Moradabad-Bareilly-Sitapur section of NH-24 is included for widening under NHDP Phase III B and Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) are in Progress. It is too early to indicate the completion date at this stage for this stretch. No separate package-wise fund was earmarked. Funds to the tune of Rs. 3.36 crore and Rs. 82.70 crores have been spent for widening of NH-24 during 2004-05 and upto February, 2007 during 2006-07 respectively.

[English]

Health Sector in Orissa

2168. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects under implementation in health sector with Department for International

Development (DFID) assistance in the country, particularly in Orissa;

(b) the amount of DFID assistance made available for those projects since inception, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount spent on those projects, Year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for the effective implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of the ongoing projects in Health Sector being implemented with Department for International Development (DFID) assistance is at given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The effective implementation of the listed projects are monitored, evaluated and jointly reviewed by DFID, Government of India and the State Governments in accordance with the provision laid down in the respective programme memorandum.

Statement

| S.No. | Name of the Project | National/State | Duration (Starting/ closing date) | Amount of Grant (Fig. in million) | Year-wise Disbursement Government of India Account) [Fig. in million/(Rs. Crore)] | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Total |
| National | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Final phase of Polio Eradication Programme | National | 2.1.2002/ 30.4.2006 | 98.00 | 19.59 (150.85) | 23.51 (186.30) | 15.49 (130.95) | 5.92 (45.90) | 1.37 (11.48) | 65.88 |
| 2. | National AIDS Control Programme (NACO) | National (Multi-State*) | 13.7.2004/ 31.3.2007 | 87.74 | — | — | 1.58 (13.24) | 9.30 (72.47) | 8.85 (76.21) | 19.73 (161.92) |
| 3. | Reproductive Child Health-II | National | 14.12.2006/ 31.3.2011 | 252.00 | — | — | — | — | — (disbursement yet to start) | 0.00 |
| State-Orissa | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Interim support to Department of H&F | Orissa | 29.11.2002/ 30.6.2006 | 1.18 | 0.00 | 0.20 (1.62) | 0.05 (0.39) | 0.00 | 0.99 (4.29) | |

*[Translation]***Salt Treaty**

2169. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has announced the schemes of the National Missile Defence (NMD) and the Target Missile Defence (TMD) in violation of the SALT treaty signed by various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an intense arms race has begun as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 13 December 2001, the United States gave official notice to the Russian Federation of its intention to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, signed at the end of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I) in 1972. The ABM Treaty terminated as of June 2002 and on December 16, 2002, the US President issued a directive announcing deployment of ballistic missile defence Capabilities from 2004 and eliminating the distinction between 'national' and 'theatre' missile defence. So far only space-based sensors are part of the US Ballistic Missile Defence System (BMDS).

(c) and (d) Deployment of weapons in outer space or of anti-satellite weapons may threaten the longstanding international consensus on peaceful uses of outer space. Government support efforts to strengthen the existing international legal regime on peaceful uses of outer space, including through the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in the Conference on Disarmament.

(e) Government will continue to be closely engaged with the multilateral effort towards keeping outer space free of weapons.

*[English]***Negligence by Doctors**

2170. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received reports/representations about negligence by doctors in Government Hospitals in Delhi resulting in death of many patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government against the doctors responsible for such deaths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As a routine, all cases of death of the patient during treatment in Central Government Hospital are enquired into the find out as to whether there was any negligence or shortcoming in the treatment given. So far, no case of negligence by Doctor as cause of death of the patient has come to the notice of the Government.

Animation Industry

2171. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether the animation industry is making fast progress in the country;

(b) if so, whether this industry has a lot of potential for exports; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give boost to the animation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies)

report in 2006 on Animation and Gaming industry in India—estimates the global market size (demand perspective) of industry will witness a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of eight percent and is expected to reach USD 75 billion by 2009. Based on this, the global animation market (from the developers' perspective) is expected to increase to USD 35 billion by 2009 from USD 25 billion in 2005. The size of the Indian animation market was estimated at USD 285 million in 2005. It is expected to witness a CAGR of 35 percent from 2005-2009 and increase to USD 950 million by 2009.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote Exports in the IT-ITES sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
2. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 12.5%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Information Technology (IT) Software is exempted from Customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%. Customs duty on MP3 players and MPEG4 players has been reduced to 5%.
3. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives, USB Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty. Excise duty on MP3 players and MPEG4 players has been reduced to 8%.
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
5. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits is available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
7. EOU/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
8. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under EOU/Software Technology Park (STP)/EHTP/SEZ schemes.
9. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

11. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

12. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

[Translation]

Sale of Coal at Subsidised Rate

2172. DR CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal is sold at subsidized rates to different categories of consumers in the country;

(b) if so, the rates at which coal is sold and the subsidy provided during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the basis on which the consumers are put in different categories by the Government;

(d) the details of consumers who are getting coal at subsidized rates, and

(e) the charges that are likely to be effected during the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal is not sold to different consumers by Coal India Limited (CIL) on 'subsidized rates as compared to the notified rates declared by CIL in the price notification issued for different grades/sizes of coal for different coalfields/coal companies.

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

(c) The consumers have been broadly categorised into two categories, namely, Core Sector and Non-Core Sector based on the role being played by the industries in the national economy and its relative infrastructural importance.

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

(e) During the year 2006-07 also, no proposal for sale of coal on subsidized rates below the notified price was considered.

[English]

Rising Measles Cases

2173. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether there is any rising trend of measles cases in India;

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

(c) whether the Government is having any scheme to meet the challenge of measles among the children;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this is likely to start functioning?

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

(b) As per the Central Bureau of Health Investigation (CBHI) data the number of cases reported during last five year is as under:—

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2002 | 40044 |
| 2003 | 46736 |
| 2004 | 55443 |
| 2005 | 53043 |
| 2006 | 56608 |

The rising trend of measles cases is due to low immunization coverage against Measles.

(c) to (e) The Government of India has taken following steps under the Strengthening of Immunization Programme to meet the challenge of measles among the children:

1. Achieving high routine measles vaccination coverage of all infants at 9-12 months of age and providing measles vaccine to the unvaccinated children over 1 year upto 5 years at the earliest contact.
2. Effective measles surveillance and outbreak investigations that provides information about number of cases and deaths by month.
3. Improving management of measles cases, including vitamin A supplementation and adequate treatment of cases.

Roads with Polymer and Rubber

2174. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

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

(a) whether certain roads have been laid down with polymer and rubber modified bitumen, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of these roads to the conventional bitumen roads including the arrangement for maintenance of such roads;

(d) whether the construction of such roads with polymer and bitumen will continue to be taken up;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the norms/guidelines issued by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Polymer and rubber modified bitumen is used in wearing course of pavement at selected locations on National

Highways. Construction activities on National Highways have now increased many fold and kilometre-wise details of use of modified bitumen in wearing course of the pavement are not compiled in the Ministry.

(c) There has been a mixed response about the performance of modified bitumen from no marked improvement to good vis-a-vis bitumen without modifier.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Specific use of polymer and rubber modified bitumen is decided on case to case basis.

(f) Indian Roads Congress (IRC) has published guidelines entitled "Guidelines on use of Polymer and Rubber Modified Bitumen in Road Construction IRC-SP:53-2002" and the same has been accepted by the Ministry for adoption.

BSNL Training Centres

2175. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL training centres in the country;

(b) whether the available infrastructure and manpower is effectively utilized against the target fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the BSNL proposes to convert one of the training centres into an engineering college for the benefit of its staff; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 42 training centres in BSNL.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) BSNL has achieved its target of training 15% employees as prescribed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Telecom and BSNL during 2005-06 and is likely to achieve the MoU target of training 17.5% employees for the year 2006-07 as well.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) BSNL is realigning its training focus as per the current market environment in the Telecom sector. As such with the extremely dynamic development in telecommunication area, BSNL is primarily involved in training of its own staff by attempting to impart multidimensional skill sets to them.

Abolition of MPLADS Scheme

2176. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether Moily Committee on Administrative Reforms has suggested to abolish the MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission on Ethics in Governance has observed in its Report that the MPLAD scheme seriously erodes the notion of separation of powers, as the legislator directly becomes the executive. The ARC has also stated that discretionary funds at the disposal of the legislature or the power to determine specific projects and schemes and select the beneficiaries or authorize expenditure shall constitute discharge of executive functions.

(c) The role of an M.P. is only recommendatory in nature within the parameters of MPLADS Guidelines and the implementation is done by the District Authorities. The Evaluation Report on this scheme conducted by the Planning Commission states that the impact of the scheme, as perceived at grass root level, is that the majority of the people are of the opinion that the scheme has created assets, met their needs and has improved their quality of life. Since its inception, the scheme has immensely benefited the local community by meeting their various developmental needs such as drinking water facility, education, electricity, irrigation, non-convention energy, community centres, roads, pathways, bridges etc.

There have been significant improvements in the physical as well as financial aspect of the scheme and Government is continuing with this Scheme.

National Reconstruction Corps Scheme

2177. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any National Reconstruction Corps Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the scheme;

(c) the criteria for selection of districts under the said scheme;

(d) the number of districts covered under the scheme so far, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the remaining districts are likely to be covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Reconstruction Corps (NRC) Scheme was implemented through the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on a pilot basis for a period of two years from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2003.

(b) The primary objective of the scheme was to provide an opportunity to the youth to participate in the process of nation building, working for and with the community, understanding the problems of real life and utilizing their skills and knowledge in solving those problems in a spirit of volunteerism. Under the Scheme, volunteers were enrolled on a monthly honorarium of Rs. 1000/- to implement identified projects.

(c) Relative backwardness was the main criteria for selection of the districts.

(d) The State-wise number of districts covered under the NRC scheme are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The scheme was not continued after 31.3.2003 and was replaced by the Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana w.e.f. 2005-06, which is being implemented in all 500 districts in the country where there is the presence of Nehru Yuva Kendras.

Statement

*State-wise numbers of districts covered
under the scheme of NRC*

| Sl.No. | Name of the States | Number of Districts |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 5 |
| 4. | Bihar | 9 |
| 5. | Chhatisgarh | 4 |
| 6. | Delhi | 2 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 3 |
| 9. | Haryana | 2 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 2 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 5 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 5 |
| 13. | Kerala | 3 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 13 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 6 |
| 16. | Manipur | 2 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 1 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 2 |
| 20. | Orissa | 10 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 6 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 2 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 7 |
| 25. | Tripura | 2 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 11 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 3 |

Post Office Savings Scheme

2178. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for Post Office Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted to achieve the targets;

(d) whether public investment in NSC and PPF has gone down this year as compared to the previous year;

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

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the schemes more attractive vis-a-vis the schemes launched by the Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Revised estimates of gross and net small savings collections during the year 2006-2007 are Rs. 1,80,000/- crore and 60,000/- crore respectively.

(c) Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small savings schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under these schemes. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investors' grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

(d) and (e) The comparative position of gross collections under Public Provident Fund and National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) during the Current and previous year are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

| Schemes | 2005- 06 (Upto November, 2005) | 2006-07 (Upto November, 2006) |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Public Provident Fund (PPF) | 11,735 | 12,866 |
| National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) (NSC) | 5,022 | 4,881 |

The trends in collections indicate inter-alia, investors' preference for various alternative avenues of investment available to them.

(f) The small savings schemes already enjoy a number of incentives like; zero risk, attractive returns, income tax concession, easy accessibility, liquidity, facility of direct credit of interest in the depositors' savings account, etc. Furthermore, steps to inculcate the habit of thrift and savings amongst the people and to promote the small savings schemes, including through print and electronic media, training programmes and organizing regional meetings of agencies involved in mobilizing deposits, are taken by the Central and State Governments from time to time.

Digital Connectivity Index

2179. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) the details of Digital Connectivity Index of India as compared to other Asian Broadband Economy;

(b) whether the Indian Telecom Revolution has so far not reached in rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to extend benefits of telecom technology in rural areas on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.01.2007, about 22 lakh Broadband connections have been provided in about 800 cities/towns. South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan

and Singapore have achieved household Broadband connectivity of 60%.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The steps taken by the Government to extend benefits of telecom technology in rural areas on priority basis inter-alia are as follows:

- With the passing of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 it will be possible to provide USO support for provision of mobile services and Broadband connectivity in rural areas. USO subsidy support scheme will be utilized for shared wireless infrastructure in rural areas with about 8,000 towers by 2007.
- Emphasis is being given to the technologies having potential to improve rural connectivity. A target has been set for 50 million rural connections by 2007.
- Focus has been laid on localization and development of local content to help bridge digital divide in development of tools and fonts in all major Indian languages by 2007.
- To facilitate speedy rural penetration, efforts are on to make available the mobile handsets at about Rs. 1000/-
- Target has been set for 9 million broadband connections in the country including rural areas by the year 2007.
- Proliferation of broadband connectivity is planned in rural areas through both wire line and wireless technologies.

[Translation]

Autonomy of AIIMS

2180. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Expert Committee on the functioning of AIIMS has submitted its Report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the findings and recommendations thereon;

(c) whether the Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, which recommendations have not been accepted by the Government and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to constitute a common council by combining AIIMS, PGI, Chandigarh and other such institutes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) The Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan has submitted its Report. The Committee has made a number of recommendations for overall development of AIIMS with reference to its aims and objectives and improvement in its functioning. The Report is under examination of the Government and a final decision on the recommendations is yet to be taken. At present there is no proposal to constitute a common council by combining AIIMS, PGI, Chandigarh and other such Institute.

Eradication of Bird Flu

2181. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the cases of bird flu have re-surfaced recently in some countries of the world and some part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the workers working in the poultry farm and the children are more prone to the disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to prevent the disease;

(e) whether laboratories are being set up in this regard in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) As per the World Health Organization of Animal Health (OIE), Bird Flu has been reported from 17 countries i.e. Afghanistan, China, Djibouti, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Vietnam during this year, till 12th March, 2007. However, India is free from Bird flu since 11th August, 2006.

Workers in poultry farms, markets and involved in culling activity and children who play with backyard poultry are under high risk group. Information, Education and Communication strategies are being implemented through radio and T.V. spots.

Government have preparedness plans, appropriate infrastructure and laboratory facilities to meet any bird flu outbreak.

Time Limit for Implementation of MPLADS

2182. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether time-limit has been fixed for the completion of various schemes recommended by the Members of Parliament under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of said schemes get delayed in some districts;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines for the speedy implementation of the said schemes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per Guidelines on MPLADS sanction letter/order issued by nodal District Authority to the implementing agency shall stipulate a time limit for completion of the works. The time limit for completion of the work should generally not exceed one year.

(c) to (g) Some delays in implementation of works have been reported. The reasons given for delay in implementing works include time taken for preparing estimates, ascertaining technical feasibility of each work, non-clarity in the recommended work, etc. Whenever issues arise, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, from time to time gives clarifications in

respect of the items to be sanctioned/implemented, in accordance with the Guidelines. Meetings with the State/UT/District officials are also held to expedite the implementation of the works.

Maningococcal Meningitis

2183. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the patients died recently of maningococcal meningitis, State-wise;

(b) whether any survey work has recently been conducted by the Government and by other agencies to find out the number of patients admitted in various hospitals of each State of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The State-wise number of deaths due to Meningitis during 2006 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has not carried out any national level survey to find out the number of patients admitted to various hospitals of each State in the country.

Statement

No. of reported cases and Deaths due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India Meningococcal Meningitis—2006

| Sl.No. | State/U.T. | Male | | Female | | Total | | Reference Period up to |
|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|------------------------|
| | | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh. | 405 | 6 | 423 | 5 | 828 | 11 | Nov., Except Aug., 06 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | NR |
| 3. | Assam | — | — | — | — | — | — | NR |
| 4. | Bihar | — | — | — | — | — | — | NR |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 87 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 90 | 3 | July, 06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|---------------------------|
| 6. | Goa | — | — | — | — | — | — | NR |
| 7. | Gujarat | 33 | 4 | 21 | 3 | 54 | 7 | Dec.,06 |
| 8. | Haryana | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | Sept.,06 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Nov., Except Oct.,06 |
| 10. | Jammu Div. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| | Kashmir Div. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Nov.,06 |
| 13. | Kerala | 17 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 23 | 2 | Nov.,06 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 34 | 2 | 31 | 1 | 65 | 3 | July.,06 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 18 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 33 | 8 | Mar. Except Jan.,06 |
| 16. | Manipur | 40 | 4 | 15 | 2 | 55 | 6 | Sept.,06 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 46 | 6 | 29 | 4 | 75 | 10 | Aug.,06 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 38 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 88 | 0 | Nov.,06 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | July.,06 |
| 20. | Orissa | 33 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 45 | 4 | Oct.,06 |
| 21. | Punjab | 16 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 25 | 5 | Nov.,06 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | Oct.,06 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | — | — | 8 | 0 | Nov.,06 |
| 25. | Tripura | 40 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 61 | 9 | Nov.,06 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 35 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 58 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 12 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 3 | Nov.,06 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 391 | 44 | 253 | 41 | 644 | 85 | Sept.,06 |
| 29. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | Sept.,06 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | — | — | — | — | — | — | NR |
| 31. | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dec.,06 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Apr.Except Jan. & Mar.,06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|-------------|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|---------|
| 33. | Delhi | 237 | 39 | 82 | 19 | 319 | 58 | Dec.,06 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | Nov.,06 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 35 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 70 | 1 | Oct.,06 |
| Total | | 1550 | 129 | 1037 | 88 | 2601 | 217 | |

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage

—Not Reported

NR-Not Received

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some States/UTs. have not reported gender-wise information separately.

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs. Directorate of Health Services.

National Highways in Backward and Rural Areas

2184. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways in the various States particularly in backward and rural areas where the work of widening, expansion and repairing has started during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the amount spent on the said work during the said period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds for completion of work;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Development like widening, strengthening etc. and maintenance and repair works on all the National Highways are taken up on the basis of condition, traffic, inter-se priority and availability of funds and not on the consideration of its backwardness and

passing through rural area or not. The Statewise names of all the National Highways are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Statewise details of number and amount of works sanctioned for the development of National Highways during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) The amount spent for development and maintenance of National Highways during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) The funds are provided according to the availability of funds. Therefore the allocation of more funds depends on additional allocation.

(e) Development and maintenance of the National Highway is a continuous process. The target date of completion of project is decided based on the type, amount, specifications used and location of the project. The completion date varies from project to project.

(f) Regular monitoring of financial and physical progress of works is carried out with a view to removing bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government for monitoring as well as removal of bottlenecks. In addition, the following steps are also being taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the implementation of National Highway Development Project:

(i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress

- reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.
- (ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving state related problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project.
 - (iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues which impede the progress of the work.
 - (iv) This Ministry has been authorized to issue notification for acquisition of land for National Highways without referring to the Ministry of Law.
 - (v) To expedite the construction of railway overbridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to coordinate with Ministry of Railways.
 - (vi) Punitive actions have been taken against non performing contractors.
 - (vii) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting financial assistance.

Statement I*Details regarding "National Highways in Backward and Rural Areas"**Statewise Length of National Highways in India*

| Sl.No. | NH No. | Route | Length (Km.) |
|-----------------------|--------|---|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | 4 | Karnataka Border-Palmaner-Chittoor-Naraharipeta—upto Tamil Nadu Border | 83 |
| 2. | 5 | From Orissa Border-Ichchapuram-Narasannapeta-Srikakulam-Bhimunipatnam-Vishakhapatnam-Prattipadu-Rajahmundry-Eluru- Vijaywada-Guntur-Ongal-Nellore-Gudur—upto Tamil Nadu Border | 1000 |
| 3. | 7 | From Maharashtra Border-Adilabad-Nirmal-Ramayampet-Hyderabad-Kumool-Gooty-Anantpur-Penukonda-Karnataka Border | 753 |
| 4. | 9 | From Karnataka Border-Zahirabad-Hyderabad-Sunipet-Vijaywada-Machilipatnam | 430 |
| 5. | 16 | Nizamabad-Ammur-Jagtial-Chinnur upto Maharashtra Border | 220 |
| 6. | 18 | Kumool-Nandyal-Cuddapah-Rayachoti-Chittoor- | 369 |
| 7. | 43 | From Orissa border-Ramabhadrapuram-Vizianagaram-Jn. with NH-5 near Natabalasa | 83 |
| 8. | 63 | From Karnataka Border-Guntakal-Gooty | 62 |
| 9. | 202 | Hyderabad-Warangal-Venkatapuram upto Chhattisgarh Border | 244 |
| 10. | 205 | Ananthapur-Kadiri-Madanapalle-Renigunta- upto T.N. Border | 360 |
| 11. | 214 | Kathipudi-Razole-Kakinada-Narasapur-Pamuru | 270 |
| 12. | 214A | The highway starting from the junction of NH-214 near Digamarru connecting Narasapur-Machilipatnam-Chattapalle-Avanigadda-Repalle Bapatla-Chirala and terminating at its junction with NH-5 near Ongole | 255 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|-----|---|------|
| 13. | 219 | Madnapalli-Punganuru-Palmaner-Kuppam- upto Tamil Nadu Border | 128 |
| 14. | 221 | The Highways starting from the junction of NH-9 near Vijayawada connecting Kondapalli-Mailavaram-Tiruvuru-Penuballi-Kottagudam-Palancha-Bhadrachalam -Nellipaka-Chinturu-Conta upto Chhattisgarh border | 155 |
| 15. | 222 | From Maharashtra border to junction with NH-7 near Nirmal | 60 |
| | | Sub Total | 4472 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | 52 | From Assam border-Pasighat-Dambuk-Roing-Paya-Tezu-Wakro-Namsai—upto Assam Border | 310 |
| 2. | 52A | From Assam border-Itanagar—upto Assam border | 42 |
| 3. | 153 | From Assam border-Myanmar border (Still Well road) | 40 |
| | | Sub Total | 392 |
| Assam | | | |
| 1. | 31 | From W.B. Border-Gouripur-North Salmara-Bijni-Charaliarsingaon Junction with NH No.37 | 5 |
| 2. | 31B | North Salmara-Abhayapuri—Junction with NH No. 37 near Jogighopa | .. |
| 3. | 31C | From W.B. Border—Kochugaon-Sidli Ju. With NH-31 near Bijni | 93 |
| 4. | 36 | Nagaon-Dabaka-Amlakhi-Nagaland Border | 167 |
| 5. | 37 | Junction with NH No 31B near Goalpara-Paikan-Guwahati-Dispur-Nowgong-Numaligarh-Jorhat-Jhanzi-Dibrugarh-Tinsukia-Makum-Saikhoghat | 680 |
| 6. | 37A | Kuvari Tal-Junction with NH.No,52 near Tezpur | 23 |
| 7. | 38 | Makum-Ledo-Likhapani | 54 |
| 8. | 39 | Numaligarh-Naojan-Bokajan-upto Nagaland Border | 115 |
| 9. | 44 | From Meghalaya Border-Badarpur-Karimgant-Patharkandi- upto Tripura Border | 111 |
| 10. | 51 | Paikan-upto Meghalaya Border | 22 |
| 11. | 52 | Baihata-Charali-Mangaldai-Dhekiajuli-Tezpur-Gohpur-Bander Dewa-North Lakhimpur-Dhemaji-Kulajan-Arunachal Border-Junction with NH No.37 near Saikhoaghat | 540 |
| 12. | 52A | Gohpur-A.P. Border-Bander Dewa | 15 |
| 13. | 52B | Kulajan-Dibrugarh | 31 |
| 14. | 53 | Junction with NH-44 near Badarpur-Silchar-Lakhimpur upto Manipur Border. | 100 |
| 15. | 54 | Dabaka-Lumding-Langting-Haplong- Silchar-Dwarband upto Mizoram Border | 335 |
| 16. | 61 | Jhanzi-Amguri-Nagaland border | 20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------|-----|--|------|
| 17. | 62 | Dudhnai-Damara- upto Meghalaya Border | 5 |
| 18. | 151 | Karimganj-Bangladesh Border | 14 |
| 19. | 152 | Patacharkuchi-Hajua-Bhutan Border | 40 |
| 20. | 153 | Ledo-Lekhapani-Arunachal Pradesh Border | 20 |
| 21. | 154 | Dhaleshwar (Badarpur) Bhairabhi-Mizoram Border | 110 |
| Sub Total | | | 2836 |
| Biher | | | |
| 1. | 2 | From U.P. Border-Mohania-Jahanabad-Sasaram-Dehri-Aurangabad-Madanpur-Dobhi-Barachati-Jharkhand Border | 202 |
| 2. | 2C | Dehri-Akbarpur-Jadunathpur-Bihar/UP Border | 105 |
| 3. | 19 | From U.P. Border-Manjhi-Chhapra-Sonpur-Hajipur-Patna | 120 |
| 4. | 28 | Barauchi-Bachiwara-Tajpur-Muzaffarpur-Mehsi-Chakia-Gopalganj- upto U.P. Border. | 259 |
| 5. | 28A | Junction with National Highway No.28 near Pipra Kothi-Sagauli-Raxaul-Indo/Nepal Border. | 68 |
| 6. | 28B | Chapwa-Bettiah-Lauriya-Bagaha-Chhitauni Rail-cum-Road Bridge upto U.P. Border | 121 |
| 7. | 30 | Junction with NH-2 near Mohania-Kochas-Dinara-Bikramganj-Piro-Ara-Danapur-Patna-Phatuha-Bakhtiyarpur | 230 |
| 8. | 30A | Phatuha-Chandi-Hamaui-Barh | 65 |
| 9. | 31 | From Jharkhand Border-Rajauli-Nawada-Bihar Sharif- Bakhtiyar-Barh-Mokama-Barauni-Begusarai-Balia-Khagaria-Bihpur- Kursela-Purnia-Baisi-W.B. Border-Kishanganj upto W.B. Border | 383 |
| 10. | 57 | Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Jhanjharpur-Narahia-Narpatganj-Forbesganj-Araria-Purnia | 310 |
| 11. | 57A | The highway starting from the junction of NH-57 near Forbesganj and terminating at Jogbani | 15 |
| 12. | 77 | Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa | 142 |
| 13. | 80 | Mokamah-Luckeesarai-Munger-Bhagalpur-Kahalgaon upto Jharkhand Border | 200 |
| 14. | 81 | Kora-Katihar upto W.B. Border | 45 |
| 15. | 82 | Gaya-Hisua-Rajgir-Bar Bigha-Mokama | 130 |
| 16. | 83 | Patna-Jahanabad-Bela-Gaya-Dobhi | 130 |
| 17. | 84 | Ara-Buxar | 60 |
| 18. | 85 | Chhapra-Ekma-Siwan-Gopalganj | 95 |
| 19. | 98 | Patna-Anwal-Daudnagar-Aurangabad-Amba upto Jharkhand border | 157 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------|-----|---|------|
| 20. | 99 | Dobhi-Hardawan- upto Jharkhand Border | 10 |
| 21. | 101 | Chhapra-Baniapur-Mohamadpur | 60 |
| 22. | 102 | Chhapra-Rewaghat-Muzaffarpur | 80 |
| 23. | 103 | Hajipur-Hazrat Jandaha-Mushnigharari | 55 |
| 24. | 104 | Chakia-Madhuban-Shivhar-Sitamarhi-Sursand-Jaynagar-Narahia | 160 |
| 25. | 105 | Darbhanga-Keotiranway-Aunsi-Jaynagar | 66 |
| 26. | 106 | Birpur-Pipra-Madhepura-Kishanganj-Bihpur | 130 |
| 27. | 107 | Maheshkund-Sonbarsa Raj-Simribakhtiarpur-Bariahi-Saharsa-Madhepura-Banmankhi-Purnia | 145 |
| 28. | 110 | The highway starting from its junction with NH-98 from Arwal connecting Jahanabad-Bandhuganj-Kako-Ekangarsarai and terminating at its junction with NH-31 Biharsharif | 89 |
| Sub Total | | | 3642 |
| Chandigarh | | | |
| 1. | 21 | Junction with NH-22 near Chandigarh-Ropar-Bilaspur-Mondi-Kulu-Manali | 24 |
| Sub Total | | | 24 |
| Chhattisgarh | | | |
| 1. | 6 | From Maharashtra Border-Bagnadi-Chichola-Rajnandgaon-Durg-Bhilai-Raipur-Arang-Pithora-Basna-Saraipali-upto Orissa Border | 314 |
| 2. | 12A | From M.P. Border-Chilpi-Kawardha-Pipariya-Bemetara-Simga. | 128 |
| 3. | 16 | From Maharashtra border-Bhopalpatnam-Bijapur-Bhairamgarh-Gidam-Jagdalpur | 210 |
| 4. | 43 | Raipur-Marod-Dhamtari-Charama-Kanker-Keskal-Parasgaon-Kondagaon-Jagdalpur-upto Orissa Border | 316 |
| 5. | 78 | From M.P. Border-Mahendragarh-Baikunthpur-Surajpur-Ambikapur-Kunkuri-Pathalgaon-Paikera-Jashpumagar-Rupsera-Jharkhand Border | 356 |
| 6. | 111 | Bilaspur-Ratanpur-Katghore-Kendai-Laxmanpur-Ambikapur | 200 |
| 7. | 200 | Raipur-Simga-Baitalpur-Bilaspur-Ramgarh-Champa-Sakti-Uravmiti-Raigarh upto Orissa Border | 300 |
| 8. | 202 | Bhopalpatnam-Bhadrakali-Kotturu- upto A.P. Border | 36 |
| 9. | 216 | Raigarh-Sarangarh-Saraipali | 80 |
| 10. | 217 | Raipur-Mahasamund-Suarmar-upto Orissa Border | 70 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|------|---|------|
| 11. | 211 | From A.P. Border Korta-Sukma-Kukanar-Darba-Sosanpal-Terminating junction with NH-16 near Jagadapur | 174 |
| | | Sub Total | 2184 |
| Delhi | | | |
| 1. | 1 | Outer Ring Road/Transport Nagar- Haryana Border | 22 |
| 2. | 2 | NH-2/Ring Road-Delhi-Haryana Border | 12 |
| 3. | 8 | Ring Road-Haryana Border | 13 |
| 4. | 10 | Outer Ring Road-Mundka-Haryana Border | 18 |
| 5. | 24 | Nizamuddin Road-UP Border. | 7 |
| | | Sub Total | 72 |
| Goa | | | |
| 1. | 4A | From Karnataka Border-Darbandora-Ponda-Bhoma-Banastari-Panaji | 71 |
| 2. | 17 | From Maharashtra Border-Pernem-Mapuca-Panaji-Cortalim-Verna-Margao-Cuncolim-Chauri (Chauri)-Polem upto Karnataka Boader | 139 |
| 3. | 17A | Cortalim(Kortali)-Sancoale-Chicalim-Murmugao | 19 |
| 4. | 17B | Ponda-Verna-Vascoda Gama | 40 |
| | | Sub Total | 269 |
| Gujarat | | | |
| 1. | NE-1 | Ahmadabad-Vadodara Expressway | 93 |
| 2. | 6 | Hajira-Surat-Bardoli-Vyara-Songadh- upto Maharashtra Border | 177 |
| 3. | 8 | From Rajasthan Border-Himatnagar-Ahmadabad-Nadiad-Vadodara-Karjan Bharuch-Ankleshwar Navsari-Valsad-Vapi-Maharashtra Border | 498 |
| 4. | 8A | Ahmadabad-Bagodra-Limbdi-Bamenbore-Morvi-Samakhiali-Kandla-Mandvi | 618 |
| 5. | 8B | Bamanbor-Rajkot-Gondal-Jetpur-Dhoraji-Kutiyana-Porbandar | 208 |
| 6. | 8C | Chiloda-Gandhinagar-Sarkhej | 46 |
| 7. | 8D | Jetpur-Junagadh-Maliya-Somnath | 127 |
| 8. | 8E | Dwarka-Porbandar-Somnath-Kodinagar-Mahuva-Talaja-Bhavnagar | 445 |
| 9. | 14 | From Rajasthan Border-Palanpur-Deesa-Sihori-Radhanpur | 140 |
| 10. | 15 | Samakhiali-Santalpur-Radhanpur-Bhaghar-Tharad upto Rajasthan Border | 270 |
| 11. | 59 | Ahmedabad-Kathua-Godhra-Dahod upto M.P. Border | 211 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------------|------|---|-------------|
| 12. | 113 | Dahod-Limdi-Zalod-Rajasthan Border. | 40 |
| | 228 | Ahmedabad-Dandi route (Dandi Heritage route) | 374 |
| | | Sob Total | 3245 |
| Haryana | | | |
| 1. | 1 | From Delhi border-Kundli-Murthal-Samalkha-Panipat-Kamal-Pipli-Shahbad-Ambala-upto Punjab border | 180 |
| 2. | 2 | From Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Palwal-Rundhi-Hodal-UP Border | 74 |
| 3. | 8 | From Delhi Border-Gurgaon-Dharuhera-Bawal-Rajasthan Border | 101 |
| 4. | 10 | From Delhi Border-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Maham-Hansi-Hissar-Agroha-Bodopal-Fatehabad-Sirsa-Odhan-Dabwali-Punjab border | 313 |
| 5. | 21A | Pinjaur-Karapur upto H.P. Border | 16 |
| 6. | 22 | Ambala-Panchkula-Chandi Mandir-Pinjaur-Kalka-H.P. Border | 30 |
| 7. | 64 | Dabwali-Punjab border | 0.5 |
| 8. | 65 | Ambala-Pehowa-Kaithal-Narwana-Barwala-Hisar-Siwani upto Rajasthan Border | 240 |
| 9. | 71 | From Punjab Border-Narwana-Jind-Julana-Rohtak-Digha-Jhajjar-Gurgaon-Rewari-Rajasthan Border. | 177 |
| 10. | 71A | Rohtak-Gohana-Israna-Panipat | 72 |
| 11. | 71B | Rewari-Dharuhera-Taoru-Sohna-Palwal | 69 |
| 12. | 72 | Ambala-Shahzadpur-Narayangarh-Kala Amb- upto H.P. Border | 45.5 |
| 13. | 73 | From UP Border- Yamunanagar-Mulana-Saha-Raipur-Panchkula | 108 |
| 14. | 73A* | Yamunanagar-Jagadhri-Mustafabad-Lodi-Darapur- upto H.P. Border | 42 |
| 15. | NE2 | Eastern Peripheral Expressway around in UP and Haryana (Under Construction) | 44 |
| | | Sub Total | 1512 |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | 1A | From Punjab Border - Damtal- upto Punjab Border. | 14 |
| 2. | 20 | Mandi-Jogindemagar-Bajjnath-Palampur-Bagwan-Nagrota-Kotla-Nurpur-upto Punjab Border | 210 |
| 3. | 21 | From Punjab Border-Swarghat-Bilaspur, Sunder Nagar-Mandi-Pandoh-Aut-Bajaura-Kullu-Ralsan-Manali | 232 |
| 4. | 21A | Swarghat-Kundlu-Nalagarh-upto Haryana Border | 49 |
| 5. | 22 | From Haryana Border-Parwano-Dharampur-Barog-Solan-Kandaghat-Shimla-Kufri-Theog-Narkanda-Kingal-Rampur-Wangtu-Puh-Nangya-Indo China Border near Shipkila | 398 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 6. | 70 | Mandi-Dharampur-Sarkaghat-Awadevi-Hamirpur-Naduan-Amb-Mubarakpur-Gagret- Punjab Border | 120 |
| 7. | 72 | From Haryana Border-Kala Amb Nahan-Kolar-Majra-Uttranchal Border | 50 |
| 8. | 73A* | From Haryana Border upto junction with NH 72 near Paontasahib | 20 |
| 9. | 88 | Shimla-Sallaghat-Bilaspur-Ghumerwain-Hamirpur-Naduan-Jawalamukhi-Kangra-Mataur | 115 |
| Sub Total | | | 1208 |
| Jammu-Kashmir | | | |
| 1. | 1A | From Punjab Border-Kathua-Samba-Jammu-Nagnota-Udhampur-Batot-Ramban-Khanabal-Awantipur-Pampore-Srinagar-Pattan-Baramula-Uri | 541 |
| 2. | 1B | Batote-Doda-Kistwar-Symthanpass-Khanabal | 274 |
| 3. | 1C | Domei-Katra | 8 |
| 4. | 1D | Srinagar-Kargil-Leh | 422 |
| Sub Total | | | 1245 |
| Jharkhand | | | |
| 1. | 2 | From Bihar Border-Chauparan-Barhi-Barakatha-Bagodar-Dumri-Topchanchi-Gobindpur-Nirsa upto West Bengal Border | 190 |
| 2. | 6 | From Orissa Border-Baharagora-upto W.B. Border | 22 |
| 3. | 23 | Chas-GolaRamgarh-Omanjhi-Ranchi-Bero-Sisai-Gumla-Palkot-Kolebira-Simdega-Thethaitanagar-Orissa Border | 250 |
| 4. | 31 | Jn. with NH-2 near Barhi-Kodarama-upto Bihar border | 44 |
| 5. | 32 | Junction with NH-2 near Govindpur-Dhanbad Chas-West Bengal Border-Chandil-Jamshedpur | 107 |
| 6. | 33 | Junction with NH-2 near Barhi-Hazaribag-Ramgarh-Ranchi-Bundu-Chandil-Mahulia-junction with NH-6 near Baharagora | 352 |
| 7. | 75 | From UP Border-Nagar untari-Garhwa-Daltenganj-Latehar-Chandwa-Kuru-Mandar-Ranchi | 447 |
| 8. | 78 | From Chhattisgarh Border-Silam-Gumla | 25 |
| 9. | 80 | From Bihar Border-Sahibganj-Talihari-Tinpahar-Rajmahal-Barharwa- upto West Bengal Border | 100 |

* The reply was subsequently corrected through correcting statement made in the House on 9.5.07 and was also placed in Library under LT No. 6411/07. Therefore, statement I has been corrected under:-

1. "Yamunanagar-Jagadhari-Mustafabad-Ledi-Darapur upto H.P. Border" may be read as "The highway starting from the junction of NH 73 near Yamuna Nagar in the State of Haryana and connecting Jagadhri Chowk (Junction with NH-73) via Chhachhrauli, Tejewala, Khizrabad, Khizrabad, Kalesar, Lal Dang up to Haryana/Himachal Pradesh Border".
2. Haryana Border upto junction with NH-72 near Paontasahib" may be read as "From Haryana/Himachal Pradesh Border and terminating at Bata Chowk (Junction with NH-72 near Paontasahib) in Himachal Pradesh".

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 10. | 98 | From Bihar Border-Hariharganj-Chhatarpur terminating near Rajhara at NH-75 | 50 |
| 11. | 99 | Chandwa-Balumath-Chatra-Hunterganj- upto Bihar Border | 100 |
| 12. | 100 | Chatra-Tutilawa-Hazaribagh-Meru-Daru — Kharika-Bagodar | 118 |
| | | Sub Total | 1805 |
| Karnataka | | | |
| 1. | 4 | From Maharashtra-Border-Sankeshwar-Belgaum-Dharwad-Hubli-Haveri-Davangere-Chitradurga-Sira-Tumkur-Nelamangala- Bangalore-Hoskote- Kolar- Mulbagal- Andhra Pradesh border | 658 |
| 2. | 4A | Belgaum-Khauapur-Gunji-Goa Border | 82 |
| 3. | 7 | From Andhra Pradesh Border-Chik Ballapur-Devahnalli-Bangalore-Chandapura-Attibele-Tamil Nadu Border | 125 |
| 4. | 9 | From Maharashtra Border-Rajeshwar-Homnabad-Mangalgi- Andhra Pradesh Border | 75 |
| 5. | 13 | From .Maharashtra Border-Horti-Bijapur-Hungund-Kushtagi-Hospet-Jagalur-Chitradurg-Holalkere-Bhadravati-Shimoga-Tirthahalli-Karkal-Mangalore | 648 |
| 6. | 17 | From Goa Border-Karwar-Ankola-Honavar-Bhatkal-Baindur-Kundapura-Udupi-Mangalore-Kerala Border | 280 |
| 7. | 48 | Bangalore-Nelamangala-Kunigal-Channarayapatna-Hassan-Alur-Sakleshpur-Uppinangadi-Mangalore | 328 |
| 8. | 63 | Ankola-Yellapur-Hubli-Gadag-Lakkundi-Bhanapur-Koppal-Munirabad-Torangallu-Kudatini-Bellary-Hagari-Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh border. | 370 |
| 9. | 67 | Gundlupet-Hangala-Bandipur-Karnataka/Tamil Nadu border | 50 |
| 10. | 206 | Tumkur-Nittur-Kibbanahalli-Tiptur-Arsikere-Banavar-Birur-Bhadravati-Shimoga-Anandapuram-Sagar-Telguppar-Gersoppa-Honavar | 363 |
| 11. | 207 | Hosur-Kodugadi-Devanhalli-Dod Ballapur-Gadigarpatya-Nelamangala | 135 |
| 12. | 209 | Karnataka/Tamil Nadu Border-Punjur-Chamrajnagar-Agra-Sattengala-Malavalli-Sathnur-Bangalore | 170 |
| 13. | 212 | Kerala/Karnataka Border-Maddur-Gundlupet-Begur-Mysore-Kollegal | 160 |
| 14. | 218 | Homnabad-Kinhi-Kamalpur-Gulbarga-Firozabad-Jevargi-Moratagi-Sindgi-Kannolli-Halagali-Bijapur | 399 |
| | | Sub Total | 3843 |
| Kerala | | | |
| 1. | 17 | Kerala/Karnataka Border-Manjeshwar-Kumbia-Kasaragod-Paniyal Mordrug-Charuvattur-Kokkanisseri-Talipparamba-Pappinisseri Valapattanam-Kannur(Cannon) Edakkad-Vadakara-Payyoli-Tikkodi-Quilandi-Elattur-Kozhikode(Calicut)-Ferokeh-Valancheri Ponnani-Manattala-Kodungalloor-Paravoor-Edappali. | 368 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 2. | 47 | Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border-Palakkad (Palghat) Kulaimannam-Alattur-Vadakkancheri-Pattikad-Trichur-Nellayi-Karukurti-Angamali-Chovvara-Aluva-Edappali-Ernakulam | 416 |
| 3. | 47A | Willingdon Island terminating at Chchin on NH-47 bypass | 6 |
| 4. | 49 | Kerala/Tamil Nadu border-Devikulam-Pallivagal-Kotamangalam-Cochin | 150 |
| 5. | 208 | Kollam-Kottarakara-Tenmalai upto Tamil Nadu Border | 70 |
| 6. | 212 | Kozhikode-Kalpatta-Sultan Battery- upto Karnataka Border | 90 |
| 7. | 213 | Palghat-Olavakod-Mundur-Mannarkkad-Alanallur-Melattur-Pandikkad-Manjeri-Kondotti-Ferokh | 130 |
| 8. | 220 | Kolam-Kottarakara-Adu-Kottayam-Kanjirapalli-Vendiperyar | 210 |
| Sub Total | | | 1440 |
| Madhya Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | 3 | Rajasthan/MP Border-Morena-Gwalior-Ghatigaon-Shivpuri-Luckwara Badarwas-Bhadaura-Guna-Binaganj-Penchi-Biaora-Karaswar-Sarangpur-Shajapur-Dewas-Indore-Mhow-Thikri-Julwania-Sendhwo-MP/Maharashtra Border | 712 |
| 2. | 7 | UP/MP Border-Mauganj-Mangawan-Rewa-Amarpatan-Munwara-Katni-Sihora-Jabalpur-Bargi-Hulki-Dhuma-Lakhnadon-Seoni-Gopalganj-Khawara | 504 |
| 3. | 12 | Jabalpur-Shahpura-Deori-Bareilly-Bari-Obaidullaganj-Bhopal-Duraha-Shampur-Narsinghgarh-Biaora-Raigarh-Khichipur-MP/Rajasthan Border | 486 |
| 4. | 12A | UP/MP Border-Orchha-Pithapur-Tikamgarh-Shahgarh-Hirapur-Batigarh-Damoh-Tendukheda-Jabalpur-Mandla-Motinala-MP/Chhattisgarh Border. | 482 |
| 5. | 25 | Shivpuri-Karera-MP/UP Border | 82 |
| 6. | 26 | UP/MP Border-Barodh-Bandra-Sagar-Gourjhama-Deori-Maharajpur-Kareli-Nirsimhapur-Lakhadon | 268 |
| 7. | 26A | The highway starting from its junction with NH-86 near Sagar-connecting Jeruwakhara-Churai and terminating at Bina | 75 |
| 8. | 27 | UP/MP Border-Sohagi-Katra-Mangawan | 50 |
| 9. | 59 | Gujarat/MP Border-Rama-Raigarh-Bhandheri-Dhar-Ghat-Bilod-Betma-Indore | 139 |
| 10. | 59A | Indore-Chapra-Kannod-Khatagaon-Nemawar-Handia-Harda-Timurni Muafi-Sodalpur-Bori-Chirapatla-Chicholi-Betul | 264 |
| 11. | 69 | Obaidullaganj-Barkhera-Hoshangabad-Itarni-Kesla-Chaulipura-Shahpur-Nimpani-Betul-Mulati-Tigaon-Pandhuma-Chicholi-MP/Maharashtra Border | 295 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 12. | 75 | UP/MP Border-Alipura-Nowgaon-Chhatarpur-Ganj-Panna-Baroura-Nagod-Satna-Madhogarh-Connecting on NH-7 near Rewa | 600 |
| 13. | 76 | Rajasthan/MP Border-Kota-Shivpuri | 60 |
| 14. | 78 | Katni-Umaria-Pali-Shahdol-Burhar-Anuppur-MP/Chhattisgarh | 178 |
| 15. | 86 | MP/UP Border-Malhara-Chhatarpur-Gulganj-Shahgarh-Rurawan-Dalpatpur-Banda-Sagar-Rahatgarh-Vidisa-Sanchi-Raisen-Bhopal | 379 |
| 16. | 92 | MP/UP Border-Phup Kolan-Bhind-Mahgawan-Gwalior | 96 |
| Sub Total | | | 4670 |
| Maharashtra | | | |
| 1. | 3 | MP/Maharashtra Border-Sangvi-Hadakhed-Dahibad-Amode-Nardana-Songir-Dhule-Awi-Malagaon-Saundane-Umbrane-Chandvad-Ojhar-Nasik-Padli-Gatpuri-Shahapur-Padghe-Bhiwandi-Thane-Mulund-Mumbai | 391 |
| 2. | 4 | Thane-Mumbra-Panvel-Chauk-Khalapur-Pune-Khed-Bhatgaon-Surul-Limb-Satara-Valase-Borgaon-Umbraj-Karad-Itakare-Wadgaon-Kolhapur-Kagal-Maharashtra/Karnataka Border | 371 |
| 3. | 4B | Urban-Chimer and connecting on NH-4 near Chauk | 20 |
| 4. | 4C | Km. 16.687 (NH-4B) to Kalamloi on NH-4 | 7 |
| 5. | 6 | Maharashtra/Gujarat Border-Visarwadi-Kondaibari-Sakri-Shevali-Ner-Kusumbe-Dhule-Phagne-Parola-Mahasva-Erandol-Varad-Jalgaon-Edalabad-Malkapur-Nandura-Khamgaon-Balapur-Akola-Badnera-Amravati-Nandgaon-Panjara-Nagpur-Bhandara-Lakhni-Sakoli-Duggipar-Deori-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border | 813 |
| 6. | 7 | Maharashtra/MP Border-Bandra-Mansar-Nagapur-Gumgaon-Sonegaon-Jamb-Hinganghat-Wadner-Pohna-Wadki-Kinhi-Andhar Kawada-Wajri-Bori-Maharashtra/Andhra Pradesh Border. | 232 |
| 7. | 8 | Maharashtra/Gujarat Border-Amgaon-Talasar-Karakhu-Mandvi-Thane-Boriyali-Malad-Andheri-Greater Mumbai. | 128 |
| 8. | 9 | Pune-Loni Kalbhor-Yevat-Bhigvan-Loni-Indapur-Tembhumi-Varawadi-Modnimb-Mohol-Solapur-Naldurg-Yenugur-Umarga-Maharashtra/Andhra Pradesh Border. | 336 |
| 9. | 13 | Solapur-Hattur-Nanandi-Maharashtra/Andhra Pradesh Border. | 43 |
| 10. | 16 | Andhra Pradesh/Maharashtra Border-Sirancha-Kopela-Pathagudam-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border | 30 |
| 11. | 17 | Pavel-Pen-Negothane-Kolad-Mangaon-Dasgaon-Mahad-Ambavli-Poladpur-Pratapgarh-Khed-Asurda-Ankhali-Udgi-Lanja-Vaked-Raipura-Wargaon-Talera-Nandgaon-Kankavli-Kasat-Cudal-Vengurla-Ajgaon-Maharashtra/Goa Border. | 482 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 12. | 50 | Nasik-Sinnar-Sangamner-Dolasne-Ghargaoon-Bote-Pimpalwandi-Narayangaon-Kalamb-danchar-Peth-Khed-Chakan-Pune | 192 |
| 13. | 69 | Nagpur-Koradi-Saoner-Maharashtra/MP Border | 55 |
| 14. | 204 | Ratnagiri-Tink-Pali-Sakharpa-Malkapur-Shahuwadi-Kolhapur | 126 |
| 15. | 211 | Solapur-Tuljapur-Bav-Badgaon-Osmanabad-Terkhed-Samarkundi-Baisepargaon-Pali-Beed-'acheagaon-Gevrai-Warigodri-Adul-Chetegaon-Aurangabad-Dauletabad-Khuldebad-Elora-Kannad-Bhamarvadi-Chaliesgaon Mehunbare-Vinchur-Borvithir-Dhule. | 400 |
| 16. | 222 | From the junction of NH-3 near Kalyan and connecting Ahmadnagar-Prabhani-Nanded upto Andhra Pradesh Border | 550 |
| Sub Total | | | 4176 |
| Manipur | | | |
| 1. | 39 | Manipur/Nagaland Border-Maosongsang-Maram-Karong-Kangpokpi-Imphal-Thoubai-Wangling-Palet-Sibong-Indo/Myanmar Border. | 211 |
| 2. | 53 | Manipur/Assam Border-Oinamlong-Nungba-Imphal | 220 |
| 3. | 150 | Manipur/Mizoram border-Parbung-Thanlon-Phaiphengmum-Churachandpur-Moirang-Bishnupur-Imphal-Humpum-Ukhrul-Kuiri-Manipur/Nagaland Border | 523 |
| 4. | 155 | Passam to Manipur/Nagaland border | 5 |
| Sub Total | | | 959 |
| Meghalaya | | | |
| 1. | 40 | Meghalaya/ Assam-Barni Hat-Nongpoh-Umsning-Barapani-Shillong-Meghalaya-Indo/Bangladesh border. | 216 |
| 2. | 44 | Nongstoin-Shillong-Meghalaya/Assam Border | 277 |
| 3. | 51 | Meghalaya/Assam-Bajengdoda-Tura-Kherapara-Burengapara | 127 |
| 4. | 62 | Damra-Dambu-Baghmara-Burengapara. | 190 |
| Sub Total | | | 810 |
| Mizoram | | | |
| 1. | 44A | Mizoram/Tripura Border-Tukkalh-Mamiti-Sairang-Aizawl | 165 |
| 2. | 54 | Mizoram/Assam Border-Chhimlung-Bilkhawthr-Kolasis-Bualpui-Mualvum-Aizawl-Zobawk-Pangzawl-Leite-Zobawk-Sairep-Saiha-Kaladan-Tuipang | 515 |
| 3. | 54A | Lunglei and connecting on NH-54 near Zowawk | 9 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 4. | 54B | Saiha- | 27 |
| 5. | 150 | Mizoram/Manipur Border-Thingsa-Ratn-Darlawn-Phaileng-Seling | 141 |
| 6. | 154 | Meghalaya/Assam Border-connecting on NH-54 near Bualpui | 70 |
| | | Sub Total | 927 |
| Nagaland | | | |
| 1. | 36 | Nagaland/Assam Border-Dimapur | 3 |
| 2. | 39 | Dimapur-Cichuguard-Kohima-Viswema | 110 |
| 3. | 61 | Kohima-Narhema Tsemmya-Wokhal-Mokokchung-Chantongia-Merangkong-Nagaland/Assam Border | 220 |
| 4. | 150 | Kohima-Chizami-Nagaland/Manipur Border | 36 |
| 5. | 155 | Mokokchung-Tuensang-Sampurre-Akhegwo-Meluri upto Manipur Border | 125 |
| | | Sub Total | 494 |
| Orissa | | | |
| 1. | 5 | Jharpokharia-Buramara-Kuliana-Baripada-Bentnoti-Baisinga-Balashwar-Bhadrak-Bhandarpokhari-Jagatpur-Cuttack-Bhubaneswar-Chhatrapur-Brahmpur-Golantra-Orissa/Andhra Pradesh Border | 488 |
| 2. | 5A | Dhanmandal-Patharajpur-Marshaghai-Paradwip Port | 77 |
| 3. | 6 | Orissa/Chhattisgarh Border-Lobarchatti-Bargarh-Attbina-Sambalpur-Deogarh-Barakot-Govindpur-Kuanr-Kendujhargarh-Jashipur-Manda-Bangriposhi and upto Orissa/ West Bengal Border | 462 |
| 4. | 23 | Orissa/Border-Birmitrapur-Raiboga-Panposh-Banki-Darjing-Banel-Pala Laharha-Khamar-Talcher-Jn. with NH-42 | 209 |
| 5. | 42 | Sambalpur-Mundher-Jujumura-Charmal-Redhakhol-Bamur-Angul-Dhenkanal-Chaudwar-Jn. with NH-5 | 261 |
| 6. | 43 | Dhanpunji-Kotapad-Nuagan-Bafiguna-Rondapolli-Jaypur-Koraput-Dumuriput-Simligurha-Pottangi-Orissa/Andhra Pradesh Border. | 152 |
| 7. | 60 | Orissa/West Bengal Border- Jaleswar-Amarda-Basta-Rupsa-Haldipada | 57 |
| 8. | 75 | Orissa/Jharkhand-Champua-Parsora. | 18 |
| 9. | 200 | Orissa/Chhattisgarh-Lakhanpur-Jharsuguda-Kuchinda-Bhojpur-Deogarh-Gogua-Bajrakot-Talcher-Kualo-Karnakhyanagar-Bhuban-Sukinda-Chandikhol. | 440 |
| 10. | 201 | Boriguma-Nabarangapur-Poppada Landi-Maidalpur-Ampani-Koksara-Moter-Junagarh-Bhawanipatna-Dadpur-Utkela-Kesinga-Kusrupara-Belgan-Saintala-Balangir-Lusinga-Jogisuruda-Dungripali-Barpali-Bargarh | 310 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 11. | 203 | Bhubaneswar-Dhaulti-Pipili-Puri-Balighai-Konark | 97 |
| 12. | 203A | The highway starting from its junction with NH-203 at Puri, connecting Bhamhagiri and terminating at Satpada | 49 |
| 13. | 215 | Rajamundra-Bimlagarh-Kora-Parsora-Palespanda-Dhenkikot-Ghatgan-Similia-Anadapur-amachandrapur and connecting on NH-5. | 348 |
| 14. | 217 | Orissa/Chhattisgarh-Kharhial-Nauparha-Taraborh-Komana-Khariar-Bongomunda-Tilagarh-Belgan-Ramapur-Baligurha-Mahasingha-Sirtiguda-Simanbadi-Pippalapanka-Sorada-Asika-'ukkundakhandi-Brahmapur-Varendrapur-Gopalpur. | 438 |
| 15. | 224 | Khordha-Begunia-Bolagarh-Nayagarh-Nuagan-Dashapalla-Purunakata-Bauda-Sonapur-Torabha-Balangir. | 298 |
| Sub Total | | | 3704 |
| Punjab | | | |
| 1. | 1 | Punjab/Haryana Border-Raipura-Khanna-Ludhiana-Lodhowal-Phillaur-Goraya-Phagwara-Jalandhar-SaraNussi-Cartarpur-Beas-Butari-Tangra-Amritsar-Atari-Punjab/Pak Border. | 254 |
| 2. | 1A | Jalandhra-Sanaura-Dasuya-Bhangala-Pathankot-Punjab/J&K Border | 108 |
| 3. | 10 | Punjab/Haryana Border-Mandi Debwali-Lambi-Abul Kharana-Maleut-Abohar-Nihalkhera-Fazilka-Indo/Pak Border. | 72 |
| 4. | 15 | Amritsar-Gohrwar Varpal-TaranTaran-Sirhali-Makhu-Zira-Faridkot-Kot-Lambwali-Bhatinda-Fakarsar-Maleut-Abohar-Bakayanwala-Punjab/Rajasthan Border. | 350 |
| 5. | 20 | Pathankot and upto H.P. Border | 10 |
| 6. | 21 | Punjab/Chandigarh Border-Kharar-Kurali-Rupnagar-Ghanauli-Nirmohgarh-Punjab/H.P. Border | 67 |
| 7. | 22 | Punjab/Haryana Border-Lairu-Basi upto Haryana Border | 31 |
| 8. | 64 | Punjab/Haryana Border-Banur-Raipura-Patiala-Sangnar-Dhanaula-Barnala-Tapa-Rampura Phul-Bathinda-Punjab/Rajasthan Border. | 255.5 |
| 9. | 70 | Jalandhar-Adampur-Nasrula-Hoshiarpur-Punjab/H.P. Border | 50 |
| 10. | 71 | Jalandhra-Nakodar-Mahatpur-Moga-Dala-Barnala-Dhanaula-Sangrur-Dirba-Dogal-Punjab/Haryana Border. | 130 |
| 11. | 72 | Punjab/Haryana Border and upto Punjab/Haryana Border. | 4.5 |
| 12. | 95 | Kharar-Marinda-Khamnon-Samrula-Ludhiana-Jagraon-Moga-Ferozpur-Husainiwala Cantt. | 225 |
| Sub Total | | | 1557 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| Pondicherry | | | |
| 1. | 45A | Villuppuram-Pondicherry-Chidambaram-Nagappattinam. | 43 |
| 2. | 66 | Pondicherry-Tindivanam-Krishnagiri | 10 |
| | | Sub Total | 53 |
| Rajasthan | | | |
| 1. | 3 | Rajasthan/UP Border-Majiyan-Rajasthan/MP Border | 32 |
| 2. | 8 | Rajasthan/UP Border-Ajarka-Behror-Kotputli-Pragpura-Shahpura-Manohapur-Chandwali-Dhand-Amer-Jaipur-Bagni-Mahlan-Dadu-Kishanganj-Ajmer-Kharwa-Bayawar-Bali-Bhim-Barar-Bagar-Dewair-Kelwa-Rajnagar-Nathdwara-Dalwara-Eklngji-Chirwa-Udaipur-Passad-Khairwara-Bechiwara-Ratanpur. | 688 |
| 3. | 11 | Rajasthan/UP Border-Luharu-Halena-Mahwa-Manpur-Bhankri-Dausa-Jatwara-Kanota-Jaipur-Chomu-Ringas-Palsana-Goria-Sikar-Lachhmanganj-Harsawa-Fatehpur-Rol-Ratangarh-Lachharsar-Sridungargarh-Benisar-Seruna-Benisar-Naurangdesar-Bikaner | 531 |
| 4. | 11A | Manoharpur-Partapgarh-Dausa-Lalsot and terminating at Kothum | 145 |
| 5. | 11B | The highway starting from its junction with NH-11 near Lalsot connecting Mandaori-Gangapur Kurgaon-Karauli-Sri Muthra-Barauli-Anjali-Bari-Dhaulpur | 180 |
| 6. | 12 | Rajasthan/MP Border-Ghatoli-Akiera-Ameta-Jhalawar-Khemai-Darrah-Mandara-Kota-Talera-Bimdi-Sathur-Hindoli-Umar-Devli-Mendwas-Tonk-Baroni-Newai-Chaksu-Sheodaspura-Sanganer-Jaipur. | 400 |
| 7. | 14 | Gujarat/Rajasthan Border-Mawal-Abu Road-Swarupgarh-Banas-Pindwara-Sirohi-Palri-Posaliya-Sanderav-Gondoj-Pali-Jadan-Khamal-sojat-Chandawal-Raipur-Bayawar. | 310 |
| 8. | 15 | Rajasthan/Punjab Border-Ganganagar-Mahiyanwali-Ganeshgarh-Suratgarh-Rajiyasar-Mokalsor-Lunkaransar-Jagdevwala-Bikaner-Gajner-Nokhra-Bap-Phalodi-Kakra-Khara-Lathi-Chandan-Jaisalmer-Devkot-Khorai-Gunga-Shiv-Bharka-Barmer-Dhogimanna-Kabuli-Chitalwana-Sanchor-Rajasthan/Gujarat Border. | 906 |
| 9. | 65 | Rajasthan/Punjab Border-Sadulpur-BudwaKhare-Ratannagar-Ramgarh-Kaymsar-Fatehpur-Mugluna-Salasar-Kasumbi-Ladnun-Nimbi Jodhan-Karnaota-Surpalia-Borwa-Deh-Nagaur-Bhakrod-Tankla-Khimser-Soila-Kherapa-Bawari-Daijar-Jodhpur. | 450 |
| 10. | 71B | From Haryana Border-Bhiwadi and upto Rajasthan/Haryana Border (near Taoru). | 5 |
| 11. | 76 | Pindwara-Wekria-Tarawaligarh-Gogunda-Iswal-Udaipur-Debari-Mavli-Sunwar-Kapasan-Chittaurgarh-Anwalhera-Kalunda-Ladpura-Menal-Kheri-Bijolia-Dabi-Kharipur-Kota-Bhonra-Anta-Baran-Kishanganj-Kelwara-Shahbad-Deori-Thana Kasba-Rajasthan/MP Border. | 480 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|-----|---|------|
| 12. | 79 | Ajmer-Nasirabad-Jharwasa-Bandenwara-Lambiya-Gangrar-Chittaurgarh-Nimbahera-Rajasthan/MP Border. | 220 |
| 13. | 79A | Kishangarh (NH 8) Srinagar-Nasirabad (NH 79) | 35 |
| 14. | 89 | Ajmer-Pushkar-Lampolai-Mertacity-Run-Mundwa-Indana-Nagaur-Singar-Alay-Bhagis-Nokha arwa-Deshnok-Udransar-Gangashah-Bikaner | 300 |
| 15. | 90 | Baran-Bamia-Bapaur-Sumar-Khanpur-Sarola-Taraj-near Ameta (NH 12) | 100 |
| 16. | 112 | Bar the highway starting from its junction with NH 14 near Bar connecting Bar-Jaitaran-Garnia-Bilara-Bhawi-Kaporda-Jodhpur-Kaliyapur-Sarwari-Pashpada-Baiotra-Tiwara-Banner. | 343 |
| 17. | 113 | The highway starting from the junction of NH 79 near Nimahera-Bari-Chhoti Sadri-Dhamotar-Pratapgarh-Sohagpura-Pipalkhunt-Khamera-Ghatol-Banswara-Kalingera-fhopatpura-Rajasthan/Gujarat Border. | 200 |
| 18. | 114 | Jodhpur-Agolai-Balesar-Shaitrawa-Dechhu-Baramandala-Lawan-Pokaran (NH-15) | 180 |
| 19. | 116 | Tonk-Kakor-Uniara-and upto Sawai Madhopur. | 80 |
| Sub Total | | | 5585 |
| Sikkim | | | |
| 1. | 31A | Gangtok-Singtam-Rangpo and upto Sikkim/Weat Bengal Border. | 62 |
| Sub Total | | | 62 |
| Tamil Nadu | | | |
| 1. | 4 | Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border-Tiruvallam-Ranippettai-Walajepet-Damal-Vedal-Poonamallee-Chennai. | 123 |
| 2. | 5 | Arapakkam-Gummidipundi-Kavarapettai-Chennai. | 45 |
| 3. | 7 | Tamil Nadu/Karnataka Border-Hosur-Krishnagiri-Daulatabad-Kaveripatnam-Karimangalam-Periyannahli-Dharmapuri-Adiyamankottai-Toppu-Salem-Kaqlangani-Namakkal-Paramati-Velayudampalayam-Kanur-Aravakkurichi Dindigul-Velludu-Ambaturai-Ammayanayakkanur-Vadippatti-Madurai Tirumangalam-Virudunagar-Tulukkappatti-Sattur-Idaiseval-Keyattar Gangaikondan-Sankamagar-Tachchanalur-Munradaippu-Pananguler Nanguneri-Panakkudi-Vattakottai-and upto Kanniyakumari. | 627 |
| 4. | 7A | Palayan Kottai-Vallanad-Vagaikulam-Tuticorin. | 51 |
| 5. | 45 | Chennai-Saidapet-Guindy-Tambaram-Guduvancheri-Kottankolathur-MaraimalaiNagar-Singsperumalkoil-Chengalpattu-Madurantakam-Sothupakkam-Melmaruvathur. Acharapakkam-Ongur-Tindivanam-Viluppuram-Arasur-Ulundurpettai-Asanur-Veppur-Eluttur-Toludur-Siruvachur-Padalur-Siruganur-Tiruchchirappalli-Kulattur-Manapperal-Kalpatichatram-Ayyalur-Vadamadurai-Dindigul. | 480 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| 6. | 45A | Villuppuram-Valavanur-Pondicherry-Cuddalore-CapperQuarry-Alappakkam-Puduchchatram-Chidambaram-Promptuar-Tarangambadi-Nagore-Nagappattinam. | 147 |
| 7. | 45B | Tiruchchirappalli- Viral imalai-Koviepatti-Thuvarankurichchi-Melur-Ottaikkadi-Madurai-Kariyapatti-Kalkurichchi-Aruppukkottai-Pandaigudi-Vembur-Ettaiyapuram-Kurukkuchabi-Pudur-Tuticorin. | 257 |
| 8. | 45C | The highway starting from its junction with NH 67 near Thanjavur-connecting Kumbakonam-Palavur-Andimadam-Vridhachalam-Mangalampettai-Ulundurpettai. | 159 |
| 9. | 46 | Krishnagiri-Natra-Pallikonda-Vellore-Ranipet. | 132 |
| 10. | 47 | Salem-magudanchavad-Sankagiri-Bhavani-Nasiyanur-Avanashi-Karumathampatti-Arasur-Nilampur-Coimbatore-Madukkarai-Walayer and upto Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border. | 224 |
| 11. | 47B | The highway starting from the junction of NH 47 near Nagencol-Aralvaym. | 45 |
| 12. | 49 | Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border-Bodinayakkanur-Teni-Andipattu-Usilampatti-Sakkanurani-Madurai-Tiruppuvanam-Tiruppachchetti-Partibanur-Paramakkudi-Ramanathapuram-Uchipuli-Wandapam-Pamban-Tangachchimadan and Rameswaram. | 290 |
| 13. | 66 | Krishnagiri-Jegadevipalayam-Uttangarai-Singarapattai-Chengam-Pachel-Tiruvannamalai-Gingee-Tindivanam-Kiliyanur-Pondicherry. | 234 |
| 14. | 67 | Nagappattinam-Sikkal-Kivelur-Thiruvannur-Koradachcheri-Nidamangalam-Thanjavur-Vallam-Sengippatti-Tuvagudi-Tiruverumbur-Tiruchchirappalli-Kulitalai-Mayanur-Karur-Paramathi-Tennilai-Kangayam-Pongalu-Palladam-Sulur-Irugar-Coimbatore-Thudiyalur-Karamadai-kettupalayam-Coonoor-Keti-udagamandaiam (Ooty) - Pykera -Naduvattam-Gudalur-Singara Teppakadu- and upto Tamil Nadu/Karnataka Border | 505 |
| 15. | 68 | Ulundurpettai-Tiyagai urgam-Kallakurichchi-Chinnasalem-Talaivasal-Attur-Peddanayakkanpalayam-Valapadi-Salem. | 134 |
| 16. | 205 | Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border-Tiruttani-Kanakamma Chatram-Ramanjeri-Tiruvallur-Avadi-Ambathur-Chennai . | 82 |
| 17. | 207 | Hosur-Bagatur and upto Tamil Nadu/Karnataka Border. | 20 |
| 18. | 208 | Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border-Puliyarai-Sengottai-Tenkasi-Idaikkal-Kadaiyanallur-Krishnapuram Chokkampatti-Puliyangudi-Sivagiri-Settur Rajapalaiyam-Srivilliputtur-Suppapuram-Cellupati-Thirumangalam | 125 |
| 19. | 209 | Dindigul-Reddiyarchatram-Puduchatram-Oddanchatram-Virupakshi-Ayakudi-Palani-'alaiyuthu-Udumalaipettai-Gomangalam-Pollachi-Kovilpallayam-Kinattukkadavu-Coimbatore-Annur-Punjaipuliampatti-Satyamangalam-Bannari-Dimbam-Hasanur and upto Tamil Nadu/Karnataka Border. | 286 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------------|-----|---|------|
| 20. | 210 | Trichy-Kirkiur-Pudukkottai-Tirumayam-Chettinad-Pallattur-Kottaiyur-Karaikkudi-Amaravati-evakottai-Dovipattinam-Ramanathapuram. | 160 |
| 21. | 219 | Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border-Varatanapalli-Krishnagiri. | 22 |
| 22. | 220 | Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border-Gudalur-Kamban-Uthamapalayam-Markayankottai-Teni. | 55 |
| 23. | 227 | Thiruchirapalli-Lalgudi-Chidambaram Road | 135 |
| 24. | 226 | Thanjavur-Pudukkottai-Sivaganga-Manamadurai | 144 |
| Sub Total | | | 4462 |
| Tripura | | | |
| 1. | 44 | Tripura/Assam Border-Ambasa-Chandrasadhubari-Barjala-Udaipur-Sebrum. | 335 |
| 2. | 44A | Tripura/Mizoram Border-Sakhan-Manu. | 65 |
| Sub Total | | | 400 |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | 2 | UP/Haryana Border-Kosi-Chhata-Mathura-Farah-Agra-Firozabad-Shikohabad-Sirsaganj-Jaswantnagar-Etawah-Sarai-Muradganj-Sikandra-Rasdhan-Bara-Sachendi-Kanpur-Woharaganj-Aung-Fatehpur-Haswa-Sat Narain Khaga-Palhana-Kaushambi-Allahabad-Saidabad-Hardia-Gopiganj-Kaushambi-Allahabad Saidabad-Handia-Gopiganj-Mirza Murad-Varanasi-Chandauli-Saiyad Raja. | 752 |
| 2. | 2A | Sikandra-Raipur-Bhognipur | 25 |
| 3. | 3 | Agra-UP/MP Border | 26 |
| 4. | 7 | Varanasi-Mirzapur-Lalganj-UP/MP Border | 128 |
| 5. | 11 | Agra-Kiraoli-UP/Rajasthan Border | 51 |
| 6. | 12A | WP/Border upto junction with NH 26 near Jhansi. | 7 |
| 7. | 19 | Ghazipur-Ballia-Rudrapur-Bakutha-UP/Bihar Border. | 120 |
| 8. | 24 | Delhi/UP Border-Ghaziabad-Rajapur-Bibauli-Pakbara-Moradabad-Mirgang-Bareilly-Banthra Uncholia-Neri-Mohli-Sitapur-Lucknow. | 431 |
| 9. | 24A | Badshi-Ka-Talab-Chenhat (NH 28) | 17 |
| 10. | 24B | Lucknow-Rai Bareilly-Allahabad Road | 185 |

* The reply was subsequently corrected through correcting statement made in the House on 9.5.07 and was also placed in Library under LT No. 6411/07. Therefore, statement-I has been corrected as under:-

"The highway starting from its junction with NH-67 near "Thanjavur-connecting Kumbakonam-Palavur-Andimadam-Vriddachalam-Manglampellia-Ulundurpellai may be read as "The Highway starting from its junction with NH-67 near Thonjavur connecting Kumbakkonam, Sethiathope, Neyveli Township, Vadaur, Panvuti and terminating at its junction with NH-45 near Vikravandi".

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| 11. | 25 | UP/MP Border-Jhansi-Baragaon-Ghirgaon-Amargarh-Moth-Pirauna-Orai-Usargaon-Kalpi-Bara-Kanpur-Unnao-Ajgain-Lucknow. | 270 |
| 12. | 25A | Km 19 (NH 25)-Bakshi-Ka-Talab | 31 |
| 13. | 26 | UP/MP Border-Karari-Jhansi-Babina-Talbahqt-Bansi-Lalitpur-Birdha-Gona-UP/MP Border. | 128 |
| 14. | 27 | Allahabad-Jasra-UP/MP Border. | 43 |
| 15. | 28 | Lucknow-Barabanki-Ramsanehighat-Faizabad-Haraiya-Basti-Khalilabad-Piprauli-Hata-Kasia-Fazilnagar-Pawanagar-Tamkiihi-UP/Bihar Border. | 311 |
| 16. | 28B | UP/Bihar Border-Nibua Raiganj-Padrauna-Kasia. | 29 |
| 17. | 28C | Barabanki-Ramnagar-Jarwal-Krisarganj-Fakharpur-Bahraich-Matera Bazar-Nanpara-Babaganj-Rupidiha-Nepalganj. | 140 |
| 18. | 29 | Sonauli-Kolhu-Pharenda-Rawatganj-Gorakhpur-Bhaurapur-Kauriram-Ohasi-Mardah-Ghazipur-Zamania-Chandauli-Varanasi. | 306 |
| 19. | 56 | Lucknow-Gosainganj-Amethi-Bhetwa-Haidargarh-Inhauna-Jagdishpur-Musafirkhana-Hasanpur-Sitapur-Singramau-Badlapur-Bakhsha-Junpur-Phulpur-Varanasi. | 285 |
| 20. | 56A | Chehat Km. 16 of NH-56. | 13 |
| 21. | 56B | Km. 16 on NH-56 to Km.19 of NH-25. | 19 |
| 22. | 58 | UP/Delhi Border-Noida-Muradnagar-ModiMuhiuddinpur-Meerut-Mawana-Bahsuma-Bijnor-Kirtpur-Najibabad and UP/Uttaranchal Border. | 165 |
| 23. | 72A | UP/Uttaranchal Border-Chhutmalpur-Biharigarh and UP/Uttaranchal Border. | 30 |
| 24. | 73 | UP/Haryana Border-Sarsawa-Pilkhani-Saharanpur. | 60 |
| 25. | 74 | UP/Uttaranchal Border-Najibabad-Nagina-Afzalgarh-Rehar and UP/Uttaranchal Border. | 147 |
| 26. | 75 | UP/MP Border-Dudhinagar-Wyndhamganj | 110 |
| 27. | 76 | UP/MP Border-Srinagar-Mahoba-Banda-Khuhand-Attarra-Badausa-Karwi-Raipura-Mau-Shankargarh-Bara-Jasra-Allahabad-Naini-Astabhuja Mirzapur. | 587 |
| 28. | 86 | Kanpur-Ghatampur-Sajet-Hamirpur-Sumerpur-Maudeha-Khanna-Kabrai-Mahoba-Srinager-UP/MP Border. | 180 |
| 29. | 87 | Rampur-Bilaspur-UP/Uttaranchal Border. | 32 |
| 30. | 91 | Ghaziabad-Dadri-Sikanderabad-Bulandshahr-Khurja-Amiya-Aligarh-Pilwa-Etah-Kurawali-Sultanganj-Bewar-Nabigaon-Chhibramau-Gurusahayganj Kannauj-Araul-Bilhaur-Kanpur. | 405 |
| 31. | 91A | The highway starting from its junction with NH-2 near Etawah connecting Bharthana-Bidhuna-Bela-Mundarwaganj and terminating at its junction with NH-91 near Kaunauj. | 126 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------|-----|---|------|
| 32. | 92 | UP/MP Border-Udi-Etawah-Chaubia-Kusmara-Bewar. | 75 |
| 33. | 93 | Agra-Khandauli-Sadabad-Hathras-Mandrak-Daud Khan-Aligarh-Danpur-Dibal-Babrala-Bahjoi Chandausi-Bilari-Moradabad. | 220 |
| 34. | 96 | Falzarabad-Bitharghat-Bikapur-Sultanpur-Bhada-Piparpur-Kohdaur-Bela-Soraon- Allahabad. | 160 |
| 35. | 97 | Guhazipur-Zamania-Said Raja. | 45 |
| 36. | 119 | The highway starting from its junction with NH-58 near Meerut connecting Mawana-Bahsuma-Sijnor-Kiratpur-Najibabad and upto UP/Uttaranchal border. | 125 |
| 37. | NE2 | Eastern Peripheral Expressway around in UP and Haryana (Under Construction) | 90 |
| Sub Total | | | 5874 |
| Uttarakhand | | | |
| 1. | 58 | Uttaranchal/UP Border-Manglaur-Roorkee-Haridwar-Motichur-Rishikesh-Shivpuri-Bhaint-Srinagar-Khankra-Rudraprayag-Nagrasu-Nandaprayag-Chamoli-Bhimtalla-Mayasur-Belakuchi Langsi-Helang-Joshimath-Vishnuprayag-Govindghat-Hanuman Chatti-Badarinath-Mana. | 373 |
| 2. | 72 | Uttaranchal/H.P. Border-Dhalipur-Sahaspur-Jhajra-Dehradun-Bullawala-Kansrao and connecting with NH-58 near Motichur. | 100 |
| 3. | 72A | Uttaranchal/UP border-Majra-Dehradun. | 15 |
| 4. | 73 | Roorkee-Bhagwanpur-Uttaranchal/UP Border. | 20 |
| 5. | 74 | Haridwar-Jaspur-Kashipur-Barakhera-Rudrapur-Kichha-Sitarganj and upto Uttaranchal/UP Border. | 153 |
| 6. | 87 | Uttaranchal/UP Border-Rudrapur-Pantnagar-Jitpur-Kathgodam-Nainital-Bhowali-Kwarab-Aimora-Majkhali-Ranikhet-Dwarahat-Mehalchauri-Adbadri and connecting with NH-58 (near Kamaprayag) | 284 |
| 7. | 94 | Rishikesh-Narendranagar-Ampata-Siralin-Dang-Chham-Shrikot-Dharasu-Wah-Kuthraur-Hanuman Chatti-Kharsali-Yamnatri. | 160 |
| 8. | 108 | Dharasu-Genwala-Uttarkashi-Maneri-Bhatwari-Rairthal-Sunagar-Purga-Harsil-Dharali-Bhaironghati-Gaunkund-Gangotri. | 127 |
| 9. | 109 | Rudraprayag-Tilwara-Agastmuni-Baramwari-Guptkashi-Sonprayag-Garunya-Kedamath. | 76 |
| 10. | 119 | Uttaranchal/UP Border-Kotdwara-Dugadda-Satpuli-Banghat-Mohar-Bubakhal-Pauri-Srinagar. | 135 |
| 11. | 121 | The highway starting from its junction with NH-74 near Kashipur-connecting-Ramnagar-Garjiya-Dhunkot-Bironkhal-Bhira-Thalisain-Bangkot-Parthani-Chipalghat-Simkhet-Chopnyonand terminating at NH 119 near Bubakhal. | 252 |
| 12. | 123 | The highway starting from its junctions with NH 72 connecting near Harbatpur-Vikasnagar-Kalsi-Lakhwar-Nainbagh-Kuwa-Naugaon near Barkotbend. | 95 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------------|-----|--|-------|
| 13. | 125 | *The highway starting from its junction with NH 74 near Sitarganj-Khatima-Tanakpur-Sukhittang-Chalthi-Champawat and Pithoragarh. | 201 |
| | | Sub Total | 1991 |
| West Bengal | | | |
| 1. | 2 | West Bengal/ Jharkhand border-Kulti-Asansol-Raniganj-Andal-Durgapur-Kakra-Galsi-Bardhaman-Memari-Pandua-Chandannagar-Shrirampur-Kolkata. | 235 |
| 2. | 2B | Burdwan-Bolpur Road (via Talit, Guskara and Bhedia) | 52 |
| 3. | 6 | West Bengal/Jharkhand Border-Kharagpur-Debra-Panskura-Bagnan-Kolkata. | 161 |
| 4. | 31 | Dalkola-Kanki-Panipara-Dhantoia-Islampur-Chopra-Baghdogra-Sivok-Dam Dim-Mainaguri-Goyerkata-Joteswar Hal-Falakata-Tufanganj and upto W.B./Assam Border. | 366 |
| 5. | 31A | Sirok to West Bengal/Sikkim Border. | 30 |
| 6. | 31C | Galgadia-Kaksalbari-Bagdogra-Matigera-Sivok.Dam Dim-Ramshai-Goverkata-Alipurduar Junction-Mahakalguri-Chakchoka and upto West Bengal/Assam Border. | 142 |
| 7. | 32 | West Bengal/Jharkhand Border-Gooninathdham-Puruliya-Kantadih-Urma-Balarampur-Bara Bhum and upto West Bengal/Jharkhand Border. | 72 |
| 8. | 34 | Dalkoha-Karandighi-Rampur-Raiganj-Durgapur-Itahar-Stalkuri-Gajot-Pandua-Suljangan-Dhalian-Sajinipara-Morgram-Baharampur-Sargachhi-Rejinagar Palasshi- Debagram-Bethuadahari-Dhubalia-Krishnanagar-Shantipur-Ranaghat-Chakdaha-Aro | 443 |
| 9. | 35 | Barasat-Habra-Gaighata-Chandpara-Bangaon-Indo/Bangladesh Border. | 61 |
| 10. | 41 | Junction with NH-6 near Panskura-Tamluk-Mahishadal-Haldia Port. | 51 |
| 11. | 55 | Matigara-Karsiyang-Darjeeling. | 77 |
| 12. | 60 | West Bengal/Orissa Border-Dantan-Nikursini-Belda-Kharagpur-Medinapur-Salbani-Chandra Kona Road-Garhbeta-Ramsagar-Onda-Bankura Gangajalghati-Mejia-Raniganj Tapasi-Chhora-Pandaveswar-Kastagram Dubrajpur-Chinpai-Siuri-Fatehpur-Rampur Hat-Morgram | 389 |
| 13. | 60A | Bankura-Chhatna-Jhantipahai-Hura-Landhurka-Puruliya. | 100 |
| 14. | 80 | Farakka to West Bengal/Bihar Border. | 10 |
| 15. | 81 | Pandua-Kumanganj-Samsi-Bhaluka Road-Kumedpur. | 55 |
| 16. | 117 | Kolkata-Alipur-Bishnupur-Kulpi-Tengrabichi-Kakdwip-Namkhana-Bokkhali. | 133 |
| | | Sub total | 2377 |
| Andaman & Nicobar | | | |
| 1. | 223 | The Andaman Trunk Road. | 300 |
| | | Sub Total | 300 |
| | | Total Length (in Km.) | 66590 |

Statement II*Details of works sanctioned for development of National Highway during the last 3 years*

| Sl.No. | Name of State | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | | No. of sanction | Amount (Rs. in Crores) | No. of sanction | Amount (Rs. in Crores) | No. of sanction | Amount (Rs. in Crores) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 53 | 98.65 | 56 | 109.39 | 28 | 162.56 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | 4.36 | 2 | 4.65 | 1 | 7.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 23 | 83.52 | 19 | 70.98 | 20 | 78.16 |
| 4. | Bihar | 15 | 39.01 | 17 | 58.1 | 37 | 144.19 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 2 | 3.2 | 1 | 0.62 | 1 | 0.59 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 46 | 79.08 | 28 | 34.94 | 26 | 60.34 |
| 7. | Delhi | 1 | 0.69 | 4 | 29.85 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8. | Goa | 3 | 5.11 | 6 | 9.49 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 18 | 83.26 | 39 | 87.62 | 29 | 89.30 |
| 10. | Haryana | 11 | 30.97 | 24 | 70.41 | 12 | 39.32 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 23 | 45.04 | 31 | 55.38 | 42 | 66.24 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1 | 1.96 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 10 | 19.94 | 17 | 56.88 | 14 | 20.59 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 57 | 105.51 | 103 | 184.41 | 58 | 111.85 |
| 15. | Kerala | 29 | 99.11 | 26 | 74.9 | 10 | 22.15 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 51 | 112.45 | 41 | 107.55 | 45 | 114.50 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 52 | 88.74 | 66 | 166.36 | 15 | 192.09 |
| 18. | Manipur | 9 | 28.94 | 6 | 3.8 | 11 | 6.93 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 19 | 35.65 | 12 | 27.99 | 4 | 23.60 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 6 | 21.63 | 6 | 20.22 | 1 | 6.85 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 8 | 20.87 | 4 | 7.98 | 3 | 22.06 |
| 22. | Orissa | 17 | 71.85 | 19 | 57.27 | 19 | 64.94 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 1 | 2.95 | 2 | 3.96 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 24. | Punjab | 47 | 93.9 | 19 | 59.11 | 31 | 95.87 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---------------|-----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| 25. | Rajasthan | 20 | 58.41 | 25 | 105.1 | 24 | 90.40 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 68 | 81.09 | 56 | 115.34 | 29 | 245.65 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 101 | 227.23 | 80 | 184.65 | 61 | 130.84 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 6 | 18.38 | 11 | 25.91 | 36 | 103.95 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 15 | 62.08 | 21 | 52.22 | 33 | 44.54 |

Statement III

*Details of Expenditure incurred on Development and Maintenance of
National Highways during the last three years*

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of State | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Development | Maintenance | Development | Maintenance | Development | Maintenance |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 110.12 | 35.39 | 89.86 | 25.81 | 69.65 | 39.09 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4.05 | 0.16 | 5.91 | 0.26 | 6.00 | 0.10 |
| 3. | Assam | 107.84 | 22.37 | 78.00 | 18.30 | 58.00 | 27.52 |
| 4. | Bihar | 60.02 | 36.52 | 52.64 | 36.61 | 66.21 | 44.46 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 1.72 | 0.31 | 1.00 | 0.72 | 0.89 | 0.12 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 42.39 | 17.43 | 34.89 | 19.75 | 49.08 | 20.12 |
| 7. | Delhi | 13.39 | 0.00 | 3.95 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.04 |
| 8. | Goa | 23.18 | 5.01 | 5.00 | 1.76 | 6.00 | 3.87 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 68.55 | 20.88 | 53.64 | 33.73 | 103.25 | 38.08 |
| 10. | Haryana | 53.66 | 11.66 | 37.87 | 6.42 | 57.42 | 14.12 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 27.78 | 10.77 | 40.48 | 14.66 | 39.00 | 18.19 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4.00 | 0.46 | 0.21 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 33.00 | 13.66 | 14.04 | 12.42 | 39.97 | 14.79 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 158.46 | 39.35 | 76.90 | 36.62 | 88.54 | 41.87 |
| 15. | Kerala | 96.65 | 23.66 | 58.38 | 30.23 | 65.99 | 53.07 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 79.47 | 68.80 | 82.86 | 54.21 | 77.92 | 53.51 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|---------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 17. | Maharashtra | 117.68 | 48.71 | 65.64 | 47.34 | 111.93 | 52.36 |
| 18. | Manipur | 15.16 | 7.33 | 13.78 | 5.09 | 20.00 | 8.98 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 35.92 | 9.20 | 28.26 | 11.70 | 24.18 | 8.50 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 31.00 | 5.44 | 24.91 | 4.32 | 15.75 | 5.28 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 11.48 | 1.97 | 16.00 | 2.14 | 11.25 | 3.85 |
| 22. | Orissa | 69.97 | 40.53 | 72.33 | 32.82 | 67.27 | 41.22 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 2.20 | 0.84 | 2.13 | 0.83 | 2.64 | 0.76 |
| 24. | Punjab | 50.99 | 18.80 | 50.72 | 16.48 | 62.50 | 19.30 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 44.23 | 25.81 | 46.45 | 42.74 | 84.60 | 53.91 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 83.00 | 31.11 | 65.31 | 34.56 | 81.80 | 49.94 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 103.71 | 55.19 | 186.42 | 52.10 | 199.00 | 50.01 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 18.88 | 2.62 | 26.48 | 10.20 | 40.42 | 15.87 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 69.79 | 27.07 | 71.90 | 22.94 | 55.75 | 28.05 |
| Total | | 1538.29 | 581.04 | 1305.96 | 574.80 | 1505.51 | 707.01 |

*[English]***Trauma Centres along National Highways**

2185. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to build trauma care centres along National Highways jointly with the Ministry of Surface Transport;

(b) if so, the details of the plan chalked out therefor;

(c) whether the Government has identified establishments that could be part of the large network on the Golden Quadrilateral route;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to provide trauma care facilities in the Hospitals along the National Highways. However, under an existing scheme, Government of India had been providing financial assistance upto Rs.1.50 crores to State Government Hospitals located on National Highways. So far, financial assistance has been provided to 107 State Government Hospitals for upgradation of trauma care facilities in their Hospitals. This is an ongoing scheme.

*[Translation]***Setting up of BTS in Border Areas**

2186. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private mobile phone companies have set up Base Terminal Station (BTS) close to the border areas by violating the licence policy which is likely to cause security threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of BTS set up by the various mobile phone companies at sensitive areas close to the border till date;

(d) the names and other details of those companies, who have set up BTS without taking prior permission; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Setting up of BTS within 10 Kms of International Border for provision of mobile service required specific permission from Department of Telecommunications (DOT). It was brought to the notice of DOT that some mobile service providers have setup their BTS within 10 Kms of International Border for provision of mobile service without specific permission. These cases are being examined as per the terms and conditions of the licence agreement that existed at the time of violation. While the matter is being examined, the conditions relating to provision of mobile services in areas falling within 10 Kms of International Border has been relaxed as per details given below:

- (i) There shall be a "No Service Zone" of 500 Meters width along the International border within Indian territory for wireless/mobile service, where the Licensee(s) are not permitted to provide wireless/mobile service. The Licensee shall use requisite technology to ensure that the signals become unusable within 500 Meters of International boundaries and there shall be no wireless/mobile service in the "No Service Zone".
- (ii) The Licensee shall create a "Buffer Zone" of 10 Kms width along the Line of Control (LOC), Line of Actual Control (LAC), Akhnoor and Pathankot areas in Jammu and Kashmir, as applicable, wherein they shall not deploy their Cell site(s)/ BTS(s)/RadioTransmitter(s).

[English]

Non-utilisation of Budget Allocation

2187. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has utilized only 20% of its budget allocation for the year 2006-07; and

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

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

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

Funds for Foodgrains Production

2188. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to earmark more funds in the ensuing budget to increase the production of Foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any incentive is being proposed for farmers in the Eleventh Five Year Plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any new schemes are being proposed for agriculture sector to achieve the desired increase in the production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the programmes aimed at increasing production of foodgrains. In the Union Budget 2007-08, the outlay for the Department's Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture has been increased from Rs.910 crores (BE) 2006-07 to Rs.1100 crores (BE) 2007-08. This scheme includes components like Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas, Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas. Outlay for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize has been increased from Rs.270 crores (BE) 2006-07 to Rs.300 crores (BE) 2007-08.

(c) to (f) Investment details for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12) are not yet firmed up.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Postal Service

2189. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernise the postal services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked for this purpose in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether due to inefficiency of the Speed Post Services by the Postal Department, private courier agencies are gaining day-by-day; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the postal services including Speed Post Service and to compete with the private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Postal Services are being continuously modernized through technology induction in the operative offices. In the Tenth Plan period, 8163 large Post Offices and 120 Mail Offices have been provided with computers. The Eleventh Plan (2007-12) proposals of the Department are yet to be finalized. However, Rs. 230 crore is earmarked for modernization of postal services in the first year of the Eleventh Plan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Speed Post Service is growing both in traffic and revenue terms. Further, complaints are declining. The traffic, revenue and the complaints figures for the last 3 years are as below:

| Year | Traffic (in Lakhs) | Revenue (in Rs. Crores) | Complaints(%) |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2003-04 | 826.00 | 298.35 | 0.17 |
| 2004-05 | 960.00 | 354.16 | 0.15 |
| 2005-06 | 1020.46 | 408.42 | 0.14 |

A market Survey conducted recently indicates that Speed Post enjoys a market share of 27.55% in the organized Express industry. However, the Department has been taking steps to increase the revenue through induction of new products, market development activities and adoption of customer-oriented strategies. As a part of further improving Speed Post Services, Speed Post rates has been made competitive under 'One India, One rate' scheme with effect from 21st August, 2006. Under this, Speed Post articles up to 50 gms. can be sent all over the country for Rs. 25. Traffic and revenue for Speed Post after implementation of One India, One Rate' scheme is given below:

| Month | Traffic (Rs. in lakhs) | Revenue (Rs. in Crores) |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| August, 2006 | 94.78 | 34.42 |
| January, 2007 | 119.26 | 40.88 |

[English]

Treatment of HIV/AIDS

2190. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether the 2nd line of treatment for HIV/ AIDS is too costly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trial of microbicide HIV drug in India has been halted; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the second line treatment for HIV/AIDS costs nearly Rs. 8,000 per patient per month as compared to first line treatment which costs Rs. 650 per patient per month.

(c) and (d) The Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC) decided to halt the trial after interim analysis, as it was revealed that the incidence of HIV in the women using Microbicide was higher as compared to control group.

Study on Inflammation of Cars

2191. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked vehicle technology experts to study the cases involving cars that went into flames; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) So far as this Ministry is concerned, no study has been entrusted to vehicle technology experts to look into the cases involving cars that went into flames.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecom Service in Rural Areas

2192. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of telecom service being provided by the private telecom companies in the rural areas of the country during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from the private telecom companies to extend their telecom services in the rural areas;

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

(d) whether the private telecom companies are providing satisfactory services in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per License condition of private telecom access providers, there is no obligation to provide service in rural areas. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is, however, providing subsidy to all service providers including service providers in private sector for provision of telecom services in rural areas as per details given below:

(i) USOF has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Reliance Infocom Ltd. (RIL) in September, 2004 for provision of 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs). As on 31st January, 2007 BSNL has provided 36,338 RCPs where as RIL has provided 15,531 RCPs. During the current financial year, RIL has provided 6,581 RCPs till January, 2007.

(ii) USOF has also entered into an agreement with BSNL, RIL and Tata Tele Services Limited (TTL) and Tata Tele Services Limited (Maharashtra) in March, 2005 for provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 1,267; 203; 172 and 43 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) respectively. A total of 17,12,530 RDELs have been provided so far. Out of this, the share of BSNL, RIL, TTL and TTL (MH) is 6,08,039; 4,64,276; 5,00,023 and 1,40,192 respectively as on 31-01-2007. During the current financial year, the total of 13,06,908 RDELs have been provided as on 31-01-2007 with a share of 2,64,804; 4,32,552; 4,73,057 and 1,36,495 for BSNL, RIL, TTL, and TTL(MH) respectively.

(b) and (c) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using fixed/ Mobile Terminal in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas

where there is no existing fixed/wireless mobile coverage. Tender document for this purpose has already been issued on 18.1.2007 and placed on the Department of Telecommunications website for inviting bids from the stakeholders. The bids have since been received and are in the process of evaluation.

(d) and (e) All the service providers have to ensure the Quality of Service (QoS) as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. TRAI publishes QoS details of various service providers on quarterly basis, these can be accessed on TRAI's Website (www.trai.gov.in).

[English]

Reforms in Sports Management

2193. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of the country in international sports events is dismal in comparison to many other countries despite spending considerable amount of money on its promotion;

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

(c) the steps taken to bring about change in parental and societal attitude towards sports as well as reforms in sports management and governance to make it result-oriented?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Performance of Indian sportspersons has shown some improvement in recent international sports events. India got the 4th position at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, 2006 and joint-fifth in the Doha Asian Games, 2006, while in the SAF Games, 2006 India got the 1st position. Details of medals won by India in major international events during the last decade are given in Annex. However, considerable scope remains for substantially improving India's performance at the international level.

(c) Multi-pronged efforts are being made to improve the performance level of Indian sportspersons. While the National Sports Federations (NSFs) are primarily responsible for the development of various sports disciplines and excellence therein, their efforts are being significantly supplemented by the Central Government through the Scheme for Financial Assistance to National Sports Federations for organizing national and international tournaments in India, participation of Indian teams in tournaments and events abroad, provision of coaching through Indian and foreign coaches, backed-up with requisite technical support, procurement of equipments etc., within Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for each discipline. Detailed discussions are also being held with individual Federations with a view to further streamlining these plans and making them more result oriented, and suitable modification in various norms under the scheme are also proposed. In addition, action is being taken under the various schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to establish state-of-the-art training infrastructure and facilities in different parts of the country and spotting and nurturing sports talent in their Centres spread across the country, including in areas with special potential for different identified sports disciplines. As a result of efforts of SAI, the number of trainees in their Centres has increased from less, than 10,000 at the beginning of the Xth Plan to around 14,000 (anticipated) by the end of the current year, and a target of increasing this to 50,000 during XIth Plan has been kept. The Ministry is also providing support to talented and elite sportspersons for further improving in their performance through its Schemes of Talent Search and Training and the National Sports Development Fund.

With a view to broad-basing sports and creating avenues to provide access for the vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas, to organized sports and games facilities, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and with a view to significantly expanding the catchment for spotting talent, the Ministry is also considering the launching of a Scheme titled "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" (PYKA) during XI Plan. Consultations with various stakeholders and Ministries etc., are underway for finalizing the Scheme. It is expected that, this would also result in the generation of greater sports consciousness and culture at different levels in the country.

Statement*Details of medals won by India in Major International events during the last decade*

| | Event | Medals Won |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| Asian Games | 1998 | 35 |
| | 2002 | 36 |
| | 2006 | 54 |
| Commonwealth Games | 1998 | 25 |
| | 2002 | Total 69 (43 after reducing 2 medals in Judo, 6 in Wrestling and 18 medals of Weightlifting) |
| | 2006 | 50 (Judo and Wrestling were not included as an event and Weightlifting had only one medal for each weight category thereby reducing the number of medals available. |
| Olympics | 1996 | 1 (Bronze) |
| | 2000 | 1 (Bronze) |
| | 2004 | 1 (Silver) |
| SAF Games | 1995 | 185 |
| | 1999 | 197 |
| | 2004 | 191 |
| | 2006 | 234 |

*[Translation]***Atomic Energy Technique**

2194. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain South Asian Countries have sought nuclear power technology from India as reported in the "Dainik Jagran" dated February 27, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries to which the nuclear power technology is likely to be exported;

(d) the total capacity of atomic plants proposed to be set up by these countries;

(e) whether these countries have been shown the defence equipments and designs of present atomic plants in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether India has obtained the permission from the international community to transfer such technology;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

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

Panchayati Raj Scheme Funds

2195. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds meant for Panchayati Raj schemes are being spent after converting the small schemes into big schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds meant for backward regions have not been spent;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any target have been fixed for spending funds in districts under this scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government to ensure utilisation of funds allocated for Panchayati Raj schemes?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During 2005-06 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was operating a number of relatively small schemes such as in Training of Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Scheme for Panchayat Raj Development and Research and Scheme for Information Technology. With a view to rationalizing these Schemes, it was decided that these schemes would be subsumed into an umbrella scheme called Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana. Now the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana is being operated with the components of Training and Capacity Building, Research Studies, Infrastructure Development and Information Technology.

(c) to (f) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme covers 250 districts in 27 States. The existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been merged into BRGF Programme. Each district is entitled to receive a minimum developmental grant of Rs.10 crore per annum under BRGF. 50% of the balance allocation under the programme will be allocated on the basis of the share of the population and area of the individual district in the total population and area of all backward districts. Each

State will, in addition, receive a capacity building fund calculated @ Rs. 1 crore per district. Districts earlier covered under RSVY will receive their total allocation of Rs.45 crore before they shift to BRGF. Under the programme, an amount of about Rs. 1603 crores has been released to the States (as on 12 March 2007).

(g) To ensure utilization of funds allocated to Panchayats under BRGF, a monitoring mechanism has been built into the guidelines. While releasing the next instalment, it is to be ensured that 60% of the funds have been utilized. If the opening balance exceeds 40% of the funds available during previous years, the amount in excess of this limit is to be deducted at the time of release of the second instalment. In addition, provision for social audit by Gram Sabhas or Ward Sabhas has been made. The State Government concerned will ensure close monitoring of the implementation of the scheme and provide periodic progress reports and audit reports to the Ministry. The State Government can also identify one or more independent organization for monitoring the implementation of schemes. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj may also carry out its own monitoring evaluation of the implementation of the scheme directly or through independent agencies appointed by it.

[English]

Chip Manufacturing Units

2196. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of chip manufacturing designing units alongwith the earnings made from chip designing each year during the last three years;

(b) the details in regard to production and export earnings;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take step to set up chip manufacturing units to increase country's share in the international hardware market and thereby create millions of jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2006, a total of 308 chip designing and embedded software units were registered with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). Their export earnings during the last three years are given below:

| (Rs. in crore) | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Year | Export Earnings |
| 2003-04 | 3,300 |
| 2004-05 | 5,700 |
| 2005-06 | 7,840 |

(c) and (d) The Government has accorded approval to the Special Incentive Package Scheme to attract investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India. The incentive would be 20% of the capital expenditure if the units are set up in the SEZ. For units set up outside SEZ, the incentive would be 25% of the capital expenditure plus exemption from countervailing duty (CVD). 'Fab units' with threshold Net Present Value (NPV) investment of Rs. 2500 crore would be covered by the Special Incentive Package Scheme. For other units in the eco-system, there would be a threshold NPV investment of Rs. 1000 crore. The details to implement the scheme are being finalized.

The extent to which manufacturing units of semiconductor will be set up would depend upon the response of the investors to make such investments following the approval of this Scheme. The investment and employment which will be generated will depend upon the number of such units set up.

Launch of 3G Mobile Services

2197. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will have more than 500 million mobile subscribers by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the major telecom providers have been carrying out trial of mobile services using the 3G or third generation spectrum in order to test equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which the new policy is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government envisages 500 million total telephone connections by 2010, out of which about 450 million are expected to be mobile subscribers.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) The guidelines for 3G spectrum would be announced after the relevant spectrum is vacated by the existing users.

Joint Anti-terror Mechanism

2198. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has set up a joint anti-terror mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for joint military operations with Pakistan against terrorism in Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. During the meeting of PM with President Musharraf in Havana on 16 September 2006, both sides decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations. The Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism met on 6-7 March 2007 in Islamabad. At this meeting, both sides agreed that specific information will be exchanged through the mechanism for helping investigations on either side related to terrorist acts and prevention of violence and terrorist acts in the two countries. It was also agreed that while the Anti-terrorism Mechanism would meet on a quarterly basis, any information which is required to be conveyed on priority basis would be immediately conveyed through the respective Heads of the Mechanism.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Violation of RTI Act

2199. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Government aided private schools such as Sanskriti School and certain Autonomous/Constitutional bodies are not properly implementing RTI Act and have not given information as reported in the "*Hindustan Times*" dated January 27, 2007;

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

(c) the number of such cases that came to the notice of the Government during the last 6 months, till date and the information sought by them under RTI Act; and

(d) the action taken by the Government under the RTI Act against each of them including Sanskriti School?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Two cases relating to the educational institutions viz. Association of Indian Universities and Sanskriti School have come to notice regarding alleged failure to supply information to the appellant/complainants. These organizations had contested their status as Public Authority under the RTI Act. The CIC has held that both the above organizations are Public Authorities covered by the RTI Act, 2005. Presently, the matter is *sub-judice* in the High Court of Delhi.

Featuring of TV Films/Spots made by NACO

2200. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to

(a) the total number of TV films/spots made by National Aids Central Organisation during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any film makers from N.E. Region is engaged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) NACO has made three TV spots, two spots during 2004 and one during 2006. One short documentary on Voluntary Blood Donation has also been made during 2004.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-China Boundary Dispute

2201. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of the talks to resolve Indo-China border dispute has recently been over;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of the disputed territory and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether during the recent visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Philippines, the special representatives of India and China were asked to carry out the task of identifying specific issues about the Indo-Chinese boundary dispute and to carry forward the talks thereon;

(e) if so, the progress made by them so far along with the course of action chalked out by them;

(f) the details of venue and agenda finalized for the next meeting for resolving the border dispute; and

(g) the time frame by which the dispute is likely to be resolved?

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

(b) The signing of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles on April 11, 2005 marked the completion of the first stage of negotiations

between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question.

(c) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 square kilometres in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 square kilometres of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector. In the Middle Sector, China illegally claims about 2000 square kilometres of Indian territory.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f) The ninth round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China was held in New Delhi from January 16 to 18, 2007. The two Special Representatives continued their discussions on a framework for the boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of India-China Boundary Question. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of talks between the Special Representatives at a mutually convenient time which will be decided through the diplomatic channel.

(g) Both sides are pursuing an early settlement of the boundary question as a strategic objective.

Revival of Maritime Sector

2202. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestions from CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) for evolving a new mechanism for reviving maritime sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Information received from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) indicates that some areas to be addressed for a healthy growth of the maritime sector in line with the growth in Indian economy have been identified in a

background note on Indian Maritime Landscape for the Indian Maritime Summit 2006 of the CII. These involve planning and investments by all stakeholders, including the Government and the public and private sector, for developing the requisite maritime infrastructure, improvements in current processes and the introduction of policy measures to create a conducive environment for players in the sector.

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for the maritime infrastructure in India to keep pace with the demands generated by a growing economy. The suggestions received from various sources including those received from the CII are taken into account while formulating the policies and plans for the growth of the sector. This is an on-going process.

Medical Assistance for the Poor

2203. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for assistance to the "Society for Medical Assistance for the Poor";

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

(c) the details of the financial help given from this fund so far during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government of Kerala had requested for matching grant to the tune of 27.5 lakhs as medical assistance to the poor for the year 2006-07 from the Government of India which has been sanctioned. Subsequently, Government of Kerala had allotted the amount to Society for Medical Assistance to the Poor (SMAP).

(c) The details of the financial help given from this fund so far during the last three years furnished below:

| Year | No. of persons given financial assistance | Amount given |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 2005 | 300 | Rs. 3,00,000/- |
| 2006 | 515 | Rs. 86,96,700/- |
| 2007 | 645 | Rs. 10,05,400/- |

Membership of Afghanistan into SAARC

2204. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghanistan has entered into South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has refused to agree free trade with SAARC;

(d) if so, the implementation of SAFTA among the SAARC countries has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and

(e) the efforts made by the member-countries to persuade Pakistan to enter into SAFTA?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Afghanistan will join as the eighth member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the 14th SAARC Summit in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007. According to the modalities finalised by the SAARC member countries, a Joint Declaration would be signed by the President of Afghanistan and the Heads of State/Government of the existing SAARC countries "in the beginning of the Summit", formalising Afghanistan's entry into SAARC.

(c) to (e) Pakistan has singled out India from the agreed SAFTA concessions, in spite of signing and ratifying the SAFTA Agreement. We regard this as a violation of the Agreement. We have raised our concerns regarding non-compliance of SAFTA by Pakistan in SAARC meetings. Other Member States of SAARC have also stressed that smooth implementation of SAFTA is imperative. We shall continue to pursue this matter in the relevant SAARC meetings.

Preferential Trade Agreement

2205. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group of India and Israel recommended for a Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations on this issue was held with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Israel;

(d) if so, the details of the discussion held;

(e) whether the issue long-term Visas to diamond traders of India has been raised during the talks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Israel thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The report of the India-Israel Joint Study Group adopted in November 2005 included agreement that both sides will promote negotiations for the establishment of a Preferential Trade Agreement which would be compatible with WTO rules for mutual and shared benefits. The draft of a Preferential Trade Agreement was handed over by the Indian side to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour of Israel in February 2006.

(c) and (d) During the visit of Hon'ble Mr. Eliyahu Yishai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade & Labour of Israel to India from December 2-8, 2006, both sides welcomed the initiation of discussions on the Preferential Trade Agreement.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Government of Israel has since informed that one-year business visas would be issued to diamond business persons of Indian origin in Israel.

Proposal for New Cancer Hospital

2206. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Gujarat for increasing the capacity of the Cancer Hospital at Ahmedabad and constructing a New Cancer Hospital Unit at Jamnagar in the State;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any proposal for constructing a New Cancer Hospital Unit at Jamnagar. However, Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad has been identified as one of the RCC for up-gradation as Centre of Excellence and under the scheme a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5.00 crore is being released to the RCC during the current financial year.

Bangladeshi Vessels Plying on Sea-route

2207. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Bangladeshi vessels plying the inland water transit and trade route between India and Bangladesh outnumber Indian vessels plying on the route;

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

(c) whether according to Indo-Bangladesh protocol on inland transit and trade, the share in movement of cargo is to be on 50:50 basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) At present, against 95 Bangladeshi vessels, 10 Indian vessels are under operation on Kolkata-Haldia-Narayanganj sector of inland water transit and trade route between India and Bangladesh. However, on Kolkata-Haldia-Pandu and Kolkata - Haldia - Karimganj routes, mostly Indian vessels are plying. Reasons for Bangladeshi vessels outnumbering Indian vessels on Kolkata-Haldia-Narayanganj sector are that the operation of Bangladeshi vessels is more economical in the tidal zone as they have lower cost of construction, less cost of manning and the bunker used by them is also cheaper.

Article 18 of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade provide for sharing of the carriage of inter-country trade and transit cargo on equal tonnage basis (i.e. 50:50). Cargo transportation on Protocol route has increased substantially in last three years, which is helping trade between the two countries. Since Bangladeshi vessels are cheaper, Indian vessels are not able to compete. However, the matter was taken up with Bangladesh side during the last Standing Committee (constituted under Article 26 of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade) held on 27th - 28th September, 2006 at New Delhi in which both sides agreed to work towards reducing the imbalance.

[Translation]

Sickle-Cell Disease

2208. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to include sickle-cell disease in the National Health Programme in order to eradicate it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) bodies working in the area of sickle cell disease (SCD) have been requesting for a National Programme for intervention and control of sickle cell disease to benefit the patients. Haemoglobinopathies have been a priority area of research and the Council has recently completed a multicentric study on Intervention programme for SCD patients amongst primarily tribal populations of 4 states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Tamilnadu and the intervention package has been conveyed to these State Governments for implementation. States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chattisgarh have already initiated certain activities in this regard. As the problem is localized and State Governments can tackle it, it is felt that there is no need to include this aspect in the National Health Programme.

*[English]***Ship Building Yards at Cuddalore**

2209. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to construct a Ship Building Yards at Cuddalore and other ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the time by which these Yards are likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) It has been decided that Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited will function as the nodal agencies for making a preliminary preparation towards setting up of two International size shipyards including inviting Expression of Interests for the west coast and east coast of India respectively. Ennore Port Limited has already invited 'Expression of Interest' (EOI), while Mumbai Port Trust is in the process of inviting Expressions of Interest from interested parties. Nine firms have responded to the EOI issued by Ennore Port Limited.

Besides, Tuticorin Port Trust has also sent a proposal for setting up of a shipyard at Tuticorin Port.

Scrap at Mumbai Port

2210. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scrap has been lying at Mumbai Port for quite some time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the period for which containers of the exporters are detained; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) 76 import containers containing scraps are lying in Mumbai Port as on 12.3.2007. Out of the above, 20 containers were found to have live cartridges and therefore they were detained for further examination and were provisionally cleared on 3.9.2005. Another 6 containers of scrap were found to have live ammunition shells and these were cleared on 31.1.2007 after adjudication. In both the instances, the importers have not come forward to clear the consignment. Remaining 50 containers are lying for custom clearance at Mumbai Port on account of action pending on part of importers such as filing bill of entry, payment of duty, presenting goods for examination, reply to the query from customs. In the cases where the importers do not clear the consignment within a reasonable time period, the goods are disposed off through public auction.

Role of CII in Promoting Healthcare

2211. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote healthcare in India, with an emphasis on rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the collaboration will include joint research, implementation of strategies and policy recommendations to the Indian Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a duration of 3 years. The broad objectives of the MoU are as follows:

(i) To provide a process for Emergency & Trauma Medical Services to the Delhi State Government;

(ii) To support a Pilot Project, namely, Rural Healthy Village Programme in Bihar. The main purpose

of this Pilot Project is to promote health care in Bihar focusing on the following areas:—

- To provide potable drinking water.
- Development of storm water and sewage disposal system.
- Development of an appropriate Garbage Disposal system.
- Prevention of Vector Borne diseases including Dengue & Malaria.
- Development of necessary public utilities like Public toilets etc.
- Increase health awareness by organizing lectures.
- Organize Free Health check-up Camps.
- Establish screening methods on non-communicable diseases and common cancer conditins for early detection and cure in collaboration with the existing Rural health initiatives.
- Improve the literacy rate, especially amongst the females.

(c) and (d) The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the commitment of CII and AAPI in the areas of research and development, sharing of information and assisting the Government by providing policy recommendations.

[Translation]

Auction of Coal Acreages

2212. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to auction coal acreages for captive mining and scrap the present system in which these are allocated to user industries like power and steel plants without any bidding process;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to make changes in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure undisrupted supply of coal to power plants and steel plants; and

(f) the time by which the new system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to make the system more transparent and objective in the context of increasing applicants and declining number of blocks available, a proposal to introduce a mechanism of competitive bidding for allocation of coal blocks by amending the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is under consideration of the Government.

(e) The Government has taken the following measures to ensure supply of coal to power and steel plants:

- (i) 97 mining projects have been undertaken for implementation by CIL during X Plan.
- (ii) improvement in equipment utilization;
- (iii) timely implementation of projects;
- (iv) all new mines are being planned with mechanization;
- (v) increasing productivity in both underground and opencast mines;
- (vi) 130 coal blocks have been allotted to various private/public sector companies;
- (vii) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

(f) Adoption of proposed competitive bidding process will require legislative amendments; it will not be possible to indicate a specific time frame.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Panchayats

2213. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has emphasised that atleast one-third of all the funds allocated to the Panchayats will be earmarked for programmes for the development of women and children;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reduction of Access Deficit Charge by TRAI

2214. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposes to reduce Access Deficit Charge (ADC);

(b) if so, the extent to which it will benefit consumers;

(c) whether the call rates of private companies are likely to be reduced as to result of such reduction;

(d) if so, whether there is any possibility for the BSNL rates to be increased once the ADC payment is abolished;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether many telecom companies have charged roaming (both international and domestic) deposits from customers;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether TRAI considers the reimbursement of these deposits back to consumers; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As a part of an Annual Review, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has come out with a Consultation Paper dated 31st January, 2007 which addresses review of ADC regime, the applicable amount of ADC for the year 2007-08 and mechanism for funding/collection of such ADC amount including ADC as Percentage of Revenue, per minute ADC on International Long Distance (ILD) calls and its various variants, admissibility of ADC for other service providers (other than BSNL) for their fixed wireline operations.

(b) to (e) According to TRAI, since no new decision after 23rd February, 2006 has been taken on ADC, no assessment regarding benefit to consumer can be made.

(f) to (i) As per the tariff framework in vogue, it is permissible for telecom operators to levy refundable security deposits from roaming subscribers.

Proposals for Four Laning of NH-9 in Andhra Pradesh

2215. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for four laning of NH-9 upto Zhgeerabad;

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

(c) the total cost involved in this project; and

(d) the time by which the work on this stretch is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Four laning of NH-9 on BOT basis from Sangareddy to Hyderabad city limits at an estimated cost of Rs. 144.00 crore is in progress and is likely to be completed by January, 2008. Bids for the preparation of feasibility study-cum-preliminary project report for four laning of NH-9 from Zaheerabad to Sangareddy have been received and are under evaluation. The total cost and the time for completion of four laning of this stretch will be known only after the completion of the said study and the award of work respectively.

[Translation]

Transit Facility to Afghanistan via Pakistan

2216. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has made any request to the Government of Pakistan to allow transit through its territory to Afghanistan for the execution of small social projects being undertaken with the help of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan has acceded to the request made by India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The issue of allowing transit facility to Indian goods and equipments through Pakistani territory to facilitate implementation of development projects in Afghanistan has been regularly taken up with Government of Pakistan. Pakistan permits transit to Afghanistan through Karachi port but not through the land route. In 2006 as an exception, Pakistan permitted the transit of mini-buses through its territory via Wagah border. Pakistan cites extraneous political reasons for not giving land transit facility to India.

[English]

Delay in Execution of Projects

2217. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of a large number of Centrally funded projects/schemes have been delayed leading to time and huge cost-overrun;

(b) if so, the details of such projects/schemes and reasons for delay;

(c) the revised estimated cost of these projects/schemes;

(d) the present status of these projects/schemes;

(e) whether Government is considering to formulate a Task Force for planning and monitoring the project

implementation for timely completion of these projects/schemes; and

(f) if so, the details of action initiated in this regard alongwith the target dates by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, monitors the implementation status of all the Central Sector Projects in 16 infrastructure sectors costing Rs.20 crore and above. Thei details of cost and time overrun in these projects are given in the enclosed Statements-I & II respectively. The reasons for time and cost overruns are mainly due to fund constraints, land problems, law and order, delay in supply of equipments, environmental clearance, geological surprises, delay in finalization of detailed engineering, etc.

The Revised Cost Estimates of these projects (latest approved cost) is of the order of Rs. 352011.32 crores;

As on 30.9.2006, 860 Central Sector Projects with anticipated cost of Rs. 3,84,686.30 crores were monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Of these, 307 projects were having time overrun to the extent of range 1-195 months with respect to their original schedule. 257 projects were having the cost overrun of 63.59% as compared to their original cost. The overall cost overrun of 860 projects was to the extent of 9.28% with respect to the latest sanctioned estimates. 84 projects have shown both time and cost overrun. During 2006-07, 41 projects have been completed upto 30.9.2006.

(e) There is no such proposal, at present.

(f) In view of (e) above, does not arise.

Statement I

Extent of Cost Overrun in Projects with Respect to Original Schedule

| Sl No. | Sector | Total Projects | | Cost Overrun % | Projects with cost overrun | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | No.of Projects | Original Cost (Rs. Crore) | | Anticipated Cost (Rs. Crore) | No.of Projects | Original Cost (Rs. Crore) | Anticipated Cost (Rs. Crore) | % increase |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Atomic Energy | 6 | 27738.32 | 29885.26 | 7.74 | 1 | 3447.06 | 6525.00 | 89.29 |
| 2. | Civil Aviation | 24 | 1239.00 | 1337.21 | 7.93 | 5 | 195.54 | 293.75 | 50.23 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------|-----|----------|-----------|--------|
| 3. | Coal | 104 | 18912.70 | 19156.53 | 1.29 | 14 | 567.56 | 894.19 | 57.55 |
| 4. | Fertilisers | 1 | 249.00 | 249.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | I&B | 1 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Mines | 1 | 4091.51 | 4091.51 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Steel | 27 | 11661.09 | 11730.86 | 0.60 | 2 | 419.36 | 489.13 | 16.64 |
| 8. | Petroleum | 40 | 50366.86 | 58085.47 | 15.32 | 18 | 27163.92 | 35856.61 | 32.00 |
| 9. | Power | 65 | 92809.86 | 102411.90 | 10.35 | 9 | 17169.16 | 26877.74 | 56.55 |
| 10. | Health & FW | 2 | 140.92 | 691.84 | 390.95 | 2 | 140.92 | 691.84 | 390.95 |
| 11. | Railways | 285 | 46083.03 | 70993.50 | 54.06 | 172 | 28652.34 | 53997.59 | 88.46 |
| 12. | Road Transport & Highways | 187 | 48726.91 | 49023.07 | 0.61 | 10 | 2200.80 | 2564.20 | 16.51 |
| 13. | Shipping & Ports | 37 | 5846.69 | 5947.61 | 1.73 | 10 | 280.13 | 411.80 | 47.00 |
| 14. | Telecommunication | 57 | 11419.14 | 10495.09 | -8.09 | 8 | 435.39 | 594.96 | 36.65 |
| 15. | Urban Development | 22 | 13711.65 | 19483.05 | 42.09 | 5 | 5006.07 | 10781.98 | 115.38 |
| 16. | Water Resources | 1 | 542.90 | 1069.40 | 96.96 | 1 | 542.90 | 1069.40 | 96.96 |
| Total | | 860 | 333574.58 | 384686.30 | 15.32 | 257 | 86221.15 | 141048.19 | 63.59 |

Statement II*Extent of Time Overrun in Projects with Respect to Original Schedule*

| Sl.No. | Sector | Total Projects | | | Cost Overrun % | Projects with cost overrun | | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | No. of Projects | Original Cost (Rs.Crore) | Anticipated Cost (Rs. Crore) | | No. of Projects | Original Cost (Rs. Crore) | Anticipated Cost (Rs.Crore) | Range of delay (Months) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Atomic Energy | 6 | 27738.32 | 29885.26 | 7.74 | 1 | 343.26 | 343.26 | 6 |
| 2. | Civil Aviation | 24 | 1239.00 | 1337.21 | 7.93 | 17 | 961.02 | 1059.16 | 1-32 |
| 3. | Coal | 104 | 18912.70 | 19156.53 | 1.29 | 37 | 1886.06 | 2069.26 | 4-156 |
| 4. | Fertilisers | 1 | 249.00 | 249.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | — |
| 5. | I & B | 1 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | — |
| 6. | Mines | 1 | 4091.51 | 4091.51 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | — |
| 7. | Steel | 27 | 11661.09 | 11730.86 | 0.60 | 10 | 1336.85 | 1405.43 | 4-12 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------|-----|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 8. | Petroleum | 40 | 50366.86 | 58085.47 | 15.32 | 24 | 32379.73 | 39677.93 | 1-45 |
| 9. | Power | 65 | 92809.86 | 102411.90 | 10.35 | 26 | 32869.04 | 42180.56 | 1-195 |
| 10. | Health & FW | 2 | 140.92 | 691.84 | 390.95 | 2 | 140.92 | 691.84 | 92-95 |
| 11. | Railways | 285 | 46083.03 | 70993.50 | 54.06 | 32 | 11041.90 | 20150.39 | 3-159 |
| 12. | Road Transport & Highways | 187 | 48726.91 | 49023.07 | 0.61 | 87 | 21199.55 | 21451.95 | 1-63 |
| 13. | Shipping & Ports | 37 | 5846.69 | 5947.61 | 1.73 | 21 | 1802.23 | 1898.64 | 3-96 |
| 14. | Telecommunication | 57 | 11419.14 | 10495.09 | -8.09 | 37 | 9634.58 | 8943.50 | 4-103 |
| 15. | Urban Development | 22 | 13711.65 | 19483.05 | 42.09 | 12 | 5187.03 | 10928.27 | 4-51 |
| 16. | Water Resources | 1 | 542.90 | 1069.40 | 96.98 | 1 | 542.90 | 1069.40 | 3 |
| Total | | 860 | 333574.58 | 384686.30 | 15.32 | 307 | 119345.07 | 151869.59 | |

Settlement of Cases of Land Oustees

2218. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has not settled the cases of land oustees so far;

(b) if so, whether the affected persons have not been given suitable compensation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to expedite the payment of compensation and suitable rehabilitation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The cases of land oustees in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) are being suitably settled as per Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy of Coal India Limited.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) and (b) above.

(d) Land oustees are being paid compensation for the land and other interests as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and Coal Bearing Areas

(Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957. Suitable rehabilitation and resettlement benefits are provided to them as per the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy of Coal India Limited in conjunction with that of Government of Orissa, before taking possession of their land and other interests.

(e) Acquisition of land is a continuous process and Rehabilitation and Resettlement is done in phases in accordance with the progress of mining activities. All R&R benefits are provided to land affected persons at the time of actual displacement. MCL has so far paid compensation amounting to Rs.199.7552 Crores and provided resettlement benefits to 3132 Project Affected Families.

Clinical Trial Reports

2219. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clinical trial reports are prepared by medical advisers of drug producers and the investigators put their signatures only;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the arrangements made by Drug Control Authority to monitor such allegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetic Rule, prescribes the role of Sponsor and Investigator as follows:

- **Responsibility of Sponsor**—The clinical trial Sponsor is responsible for implementing and maintaining quality assurance systems to ensure that the clinical trial is conducted and data generated, documented and reported in compliance with the protocol and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Guidelines, as well as with all applicable statutory provisions. Standard operating procedure should be documented to ensure compliance with GCP and applicable regulations.

Sponsors are required to submit a status report on the clinical trial to the Licensing Authority at the Prescribed periodicity.

- **Responsibilities of the Investigator(s)**—The Investigator(s) shall be responsible for the conduct of the trial according to the protocol and the GCP Guidelines and also for compliance as per the undertaking given in Appendix-VII of the Schedule-Y.

(c) In case of any report of non-compliance of Schedule Y of D&C Rules, & GCP Guidelines investigation by the competent authority is initiated. In case any irregularity is confirmed marketing authorization for relevant drugs can be withdrawn/ suspended.

Expenditure on Healthcare Facilities

2220. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the expenditure on healthcare facilities in India, both per capita and also as percentage to GDP, is lower than that of the developed countries;

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

(c) the various steps taken by the Government to improve the healthcare facilities in the country, especially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the World Health Report 2006, expenditure on health as percentage of GDP in respect of India and select developed countries (as of 2003) is as given below:

| S.No. | Country | Total Expenditure on Health as % of Gross Domestic Product | Per capita Expenditure on Health at Average Exchange Rate (US \$) |
|-------|---------|--|---|
| 1. | India | 4.8 | 27 |
| 2. | USA | 15.2 | 5711 |
| 3. | Germany | 11.1 | 3204 |
| 4. | France | 10.1 | 2981 |
| 5. | Canada | 9.9 | 2669 |
| 6. | UK | 8.0 | 2428 |

(c) Under the mandate of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, health care is one the main thrust areas with the proposal to increase the Government expenditure in health sector from the current level of 0.9% of GDP to 2-3 % of GDP. In this context National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched and became operational throughout the country from the financial year 2005-06, with special focus on 18 States. The mission *inter-alia* aims at providing accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially to poor and vulnerable section of the population, bridging the gap in rural health care services through creation of cadre of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), improving hospital care through strengthening of public health infrastructure, rationalization of manpower deployment, decentralization of programme to district level and effective utilization of resources. The mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders at national, state, district and sub-district levels.

*[Translation]***Comprehensive Economic Policy**

2221. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to formulate a comprehensive economic policy of the country;

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

(c) whether the present economic policy has disturbed the balanced development amongst various sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for balanced development of various sectors of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Faster economic growth and poverty reduction has been at the centre of planning. In a low-income country, such as India it is only through rapid economic growth that the production base of the economy can be expanded to sustain a higher standard of living for the people. But, growth is not an end in itself—it is a means to an end, which must be defined in terms of multi-dimensional economic and social objectives. According to the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12), as approved by the National Development Council, the 11th Plan must, therefore, not only set targets for the rate of growth of GDP, but also set monitorable targets for other dimensions of performance such as, in the area of poverty reduction, education, health, women and children issues, infrastructure and environment, reflecting the inclusiveness of this growth. The Approach Paper mentions about reducing the disparities across regions by ensuring access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all.

The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) has set the growth target for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period at 9% per year and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period.

India's economic fundamentals have improved enormously and we now have the capacity to make a

decisive impact on the quality of life of the mass of our people, especially on the poor and the marginalized.

(c) Based on the information available from the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of aggregate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices (at constant 1999-2000 prices) is estimated at 7.8 per cent per annum for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07), as against the overall GDP growth target of 8.1 percent per annum set for the Tenth Plan period. The growth rate of Agriculture Sector is likely to be 2.1% during the Tenth Plan as against the target of 4%. For Industry Sector the growth rate during the Tenth Plan is likely to be 8.7% against the target of 8.9%, while for the Services Sector the likely growth rate during the Tenth Plan is 9.3%, which equals the Plan target of 9.3% growth for the sector. The slower growth rate of agriculture sector *vis-a-vis* other sectors is partly on account of the adverse weather conditions in some years.

(d) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, as approved by the National Development Council, targets an annual growth rate of 9% of aggregate GDP, comprising of 4.1% for agriculture, 10.5% for industry and 9.9% for services sector. The Approach Paper mentions various strategic measures for accelerating the agricultural output. These include doubling the rate of growth of irrigated area; improving water management; rainwater harvesting and watershed development; reclaim degraded land and focus on soil quality; bridge the knowledge gap through effective extension; diversify into high value outputs with adequate measures to ensure food security; promote animal husbandry and fishery; easy access to credit; improve incentive structure and functioning of markets and refocus on land reform issues. The details of the sectoral policies in this regard are listed in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which has been placed in the Parliament library.

*[English]***Menace of Deafness**

2222. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

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

(a) the number of persons suffering from progressive and acute Deafness in the country, State-wise, rural, urban and children separately;

(b) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government;

(c) whether any pilot programme to the healthcare professional as prevention of Deafness has been launched;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India will be assisted in the project;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any media awareness programmes are being proposed to educate people so as to treat deafness before it becomes acute; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per WHO figures given in its report "Hearing & Ear Care in South East Asia Region", overall estimated prevalence of significant Auditory impairment, based on population based surveys in India is 6.3%. No state-wise/Rural/Urban figures are available. However, the prevalence of adult onset deafness is 7.6% and that of childhood onset deafness is 2.0%

(b) to (h) A pilot phase of the National Programme for prevention and control of Deafness has been launched in 25 districts of 10 states and 1 UT with the objective:

1. To prevent the avoidable hearing loss on account of disease or injury.
2. Early identification, diagnosis and treatment of ear problems responsible for hearing loss and deafness.
3. To medically rehabilitate persons of all age groups, suffering with deafness.
4. To strengthen the existing intersectoral linkages for continuity of the rehabilitation programme, for persons with deafness.
5. To develop institutional capacity for ear care services by providing support for equipment and material and training personnel.

The broad components of the programme include:

1. **Manpower Training & Development**—For prevention, early identification and management of hearing impaired and deafness cases, training would be provided from medical college level specialists to grass root level workers.
2. **Capacity Building**—for the district hospital, CHC and PHC in respect of ENT/Audiology infrastructure.
3. **Service Provision Including Rehabilitation**—management of hearing and speech impaired cases and rehabilitation at different levels of health care delivery system.
4. **Awareness Generation through IEC Activities**—for early identification of hearing impaired, especially children so that timely management of such cases is possible and to remove the stigma attached to deafness.

The training of manpower i.e. Doctors and health personnel in the selected districts and training of school/teachers would be carried out in collaboration with Rehabilitation Council of India.

Media awareness programme to educate the people regarding various causes of Deafness, its prevention and management is part of the pilot programme.

Prime Minister Visits to Foreign Countries

2223. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last six months;

(b) the details of agreements signed with these countries, country-wise;

(c) the details of the foreign dignitaries visited India during the said period;

(d) the details of issues discussed with each of these dignitaries and the bilateral agreements signed with them;

(e) whether the Government has set up a separate cell to monitor the progress made after signing of bilateral agreements with these countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the benefits which are likely to accrue due to signing of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Prime Minister visited seven countries (Brazil, Cuba, South Africa, United Kingdom, Finland, Japan and Philippines) during the last six months.

(b) Details of agreements signed during the above visits are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) During the same period, 17 foreign Heads of State/Government, 5 Vice-Presidents/Deputy President/Crown Prince, 9 Deputy Prime Ministers, and 31 Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries visited India. Details of issues discussed with them, bilateral agreements signed and the benefits likely to accrue from these are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) to (g) The bilateral agreements promote mutually beneficial cooperation in their respective fields with the country concerned and provide a framework for further intensification of our relations. The progress in implementation of these agreements is followed up and monitored by Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations of the Government of India.

Statement I

1. Prime Minister's visit to Brazil (September 10-14, 2006) - Documents signed in Brazil on the occasion of India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Summit

- (a) Trilateral Agreement concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport Related Matters.
- (b) Framework for Cooperation on the Information Society.

(c) Action Plan on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Trilateral Task Team on Biofuels.

(e) Memorandum of Understanding on Trilateral Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Fields.

2. Documents signed during the bilateral part of Prime Minister's visit to Brazil (September 10-14, 2006)

(a) Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

(b) Air Services Agreement.

(c) Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards & ABNT.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Human settlements.

(e) Memorandum of Understanding on Plant Health Protection.

(f) Memorandum of Understanding on Conduct of Weeks of Indian Culture in Brazil & Weeks of Brazilian Culture in India.

(g) Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Earth Movers Limited and CCCE, a Brazilian company, for manufacture of railway wagons.

(h) Memorandum of Understanding between ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Petrobras of Brazil.

(i) Work Plan for Cooperation in Agricultural Research.

3. Prime Minister's visit to Cuba (September 14-18, 2006) - Documents adopted at XIV NAM Summit

(a) Final Document.

(b) Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture.

(c) Document on the Methodology of the Non Aligned Movement.

(d) Plan of Action for Non Aligned Movement.

(e) Statement on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Issue.

(f) Declaration on Palestine.

4. Documents signed during the visit of Prime Minister to South Africa (September 30-October 3, 2006)

(a) Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Education.

(b) Memorandum of Understanding between Spoomet and Ministry of Railways of India.

5. Documents signed/issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan (October 13-16, 2006)

(a) Joint Statement: Towards India Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

(b) Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard.

(c) Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation Programme between Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, and the Japan Science & Technology Agency.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in Science & Technology between Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and RIKEN, Japan.

(e) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Cultural for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Japan Foundation.

(f) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan for Establishment of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor".

(g) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan and Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India for the establishment of the Japan-India Policy Dialogue, at the Ministerial level.

(h) Joint Statement on the promotion of India-Japan tourism exchanges,

(i) Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of a Joint Task Force (JTF) to develop an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan.

(j) Cooperation Agreement between the Government of India and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(k) Memorandum of Understanding on the development of Indian Institute of Information Technology for Design and Manufacturing (IITDM) with Japanese assistance at Jabalpur.

6. Prime Minister's visit to Philippines for the India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits (January 13-15, 2007)—Documents signed at Cebu

(a) Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security.

Statement II

Afghanistan

1. H.E. President Karzai visited India from November 15-19, 2006 to inaugurate the 2nd Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan. The two sides had useful discussions on various aspects of bilateral relations, including progress achieved in the various bilateral assistance projects. Issues relating to regional security and cooperation, increased violence and terrorism in Afghanistan and the ways to reduce and combat terrorism also came up for discussion.

African Union

2. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the Africa Union paid an official visit to India from 19-21 December 2006. During the visit, he called on the President and EAM. During his meeting with EAM & MOS (AS), Prof. Konare conveyed the desire of the AU to expand Africa's relations with India and proposed an AU-India Summit. The need for a high level political dialogue with a Group of 12 African heads of State/Government was discussed and to realize this objective it was felt that a Working Group be set up to draw up an Agenda and ensure follow up action. EAM conveyed India's desire to cooperate further with the AU and assist it in realizing its vision of Africa unitedly building Africa. The two sides also discussed historical

and cultural ties between India and Africa, the importance of democratic values, and implementation of the Pan Africa e-network.

Armenia

3. A Parliamentary delegation from Armenia, led by H.E. Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the Armenian National Assembly, visited India from December 13-17, 2006. The delegation held meetings with the Vice-President, Speaker (Lok Sabha), the External Affairs Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs to discuss bilateral relations and parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

Belarus

4. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Mr. Sergei Martynov visited India on February 22-23, 2007. He met the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for External Affairs to discuss further strengthening of India-Belarus relations and forthcoming visit of the President of Belarus to India.

Belgium

5. H.E. Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium visited India from November 2-7, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following agreements were signed during the visit:
 - (a) Agreement on Social Security
 - (b) Agreement on Cooperation in S&T

Bhutan

6. Crown Prince of Bhutan visited India from November 26-30, 2006 on a private, visit.
7. Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuck, and Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to participate in the 'Conference on Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment' (Satyagraha Conference) held in Delhi from January 29-30, 2007.

8. His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, paid an official visit to India from February 7-12, 2007. His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan accompanied His Majesty the King. During the visit, both sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Government of India reaffirmed its full support to Bhutan during its period of transition to a democratic constitutional monarchy, including for the forthcoming elections. India reiterated its commitment to provide all possible assistance within its resources to the Royal Government of Bhutan in its socio-economic development programme, including the on-going Ninth Five Year Plan and the forthcoming Tenth Five Year Plan. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was signed on February 08, 2007 in New Delhi.

Botswana

9. President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Festus G. Mogae, paid a State visit to India from December 7-13, 2006. The two countries discussed cooperation in health and education sectors, setting up of a science and technology institute in Botswana, mining including exploration for diamonds in Botswana, rural development and international & regional issues. PM offered Botswana a line of credit of US\$ 20m and grant assistance of \$ 11m. Botswana President committed support to India on India-SACU PTA, India - SADC Forum and Permanent Membership in the UN Security Council. The following Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit:
 - (a) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.
 - (b) General Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation.
 - (c) Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2007-2010.
 - (d) Country Agreement with the Government of Botswana for Pan-African e-Network.

Brunei Darussalam

10. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade-II of Brunei Darussalam visited

India from October 10 - 13, 2006. During his visit, the Brunei Minister had meetings with Defence Minister, MOS for Communication and Information Technology and MOS for External Affairs (EA). Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Burundi

11. The 2nd Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Madame Marine Barampama paid an official visit to India from October 6-11, 2006. She attended the COMESA-India Ministerial level Talks held in New Delhi and participated in the India-Africa Partnership Conclave organized by CII at New Delhi from October 9 to 11, 2006. She also had meeting with the MOS for Agriculture, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and discussed bilateral cooperation in the agriculture area.

China

12. The President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Hu Jintao visited India from November 20-23, 2006. During the visit, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations, including the boundary question, and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to a 10-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level and to further substantiate their strategic and cooperative partnership. Following Agreements/Documents were signed during the visit:

- (a) Protocol on the Establishment of Consulates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata
- (b) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
- (c) Agreement on the Issue of Property of the Consulate General of India in Shanghai
- (d) Agreement on Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding on Inspection of Export Cargo (Iron Ore)
- (f) Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Rice from India to China

- (g) Memorandum of Understanding between Forward Markets Commission of India and China Securities Regulatory Commission regarding Commodity Futures Regulatory Cooperation

- (h) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China

- (i) Agreement on Forestry Cooperation

- (j) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

- (k) Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education

- (l) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

- (m) Agreement on Preventing Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property

13. Mr. Li Zahoxing, Foreign Minister of China visited India from February 13-14, 2007. The visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the understandings reached during the visit of the Chinese President to India. He also attended the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia.

Comesa

14. A delegation from the Common Market for the Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) led by Hon. Mitali Kabanda Protais, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of COMESA, visited New Delhi from October 4-11, 2006 for the India-COMESA Ministerial Meeting. Among others, the delegation also included Hon. Madan Dulloo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation of Mauritius. The Vice-President of Burundi, Mrs. Marina Barampama who was in New Delhi on a bilateral visit, also joined the COMESA Meet.

15. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Rashtrapatiiji who outlined his vision for increased India-Africa trade and investment cooperation. Delegation level talks were held with MOS for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma on October 6, 2006. At the end of official talks, a joint communique was signed, wherein it was agreed to intensify efforts for the development of infrastructure in COMESA countries; advance Institutional Capacity Building; explore the possibility of Government of India's participation in the PTA Bank and the African Trade Insurance Agency; cooperate in production of agro-inputs, etc.

Congo

16. Mr. Rodophe Adada, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Congo visited India from October 24-29, 2006. In his meeting with EAM, issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation and mutual interest, and international affairs were discussed. EAM offered to extend cooperation to the Republic of Congo in capacity building, specialised training and consider providing assistance in Agriculture, Railways and Technical Areas.

Egypt

17. The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Aboul Gheit visited India from December 15-16, 2006 to co-Chair the 5th Session of India-Egypt Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi. He had detailed talks with EAM on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The 5th session of the India-Egypt Joint Commission, co-chaired by EAM and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, was held on December 16. The Joint Commission discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in economic, commercial, science and technology, agriculture, IT, and cultural fields. Following Agreements/Documents were signed during the visit:
- (a) The Partnership Agreement; the Executive Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.
 - (b) The Executive Programme of Science and Technological Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.

- (c) The Work Plan under the Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture for the years 2007-2008.

- (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Air Services.

European Union

18. Dr (Ms) Benita Ferrero Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy visited India from February 16-20, 2007. India-EU, regional and global issues were discussed.

Fiji

19. A 12-member Investment and Trade Delegation from Fiji led by Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for External Affairs & Trade visited India from 20-29 November, 2006. During stay in Delhi from November 20-22, 2006, the Fijian Minister called on EAM, Commerce and Industry Minister, Tourism and Culture Minister and MOS for External Affairs (EA). Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.
20. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji paid an official visit to India from March 3-6, 2007. During the visit, he had meetings with Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Culture. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Finland

21. H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland visited Delhi from January 20-24, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. She was accompanied by Minister of Trade & Industry Mauri Pekkarinen and a business delegation. The Finnish President met with Rashtrapatiiji, PM, and Chairperson, UPA. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

France

22. Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, Foreign Minister of France visited India from November 30-

December 1, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Hungary

23. The Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Kinga Góncz visited India from November 2-6, 2006. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed.

Iceland

24. H.E. Dr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland, visited India from January 20-25, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. He had meetings with President, PM, Chairperson, UPA, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Panchayati Raj Shri Mani Shanker Iyer, and Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Praful Patel. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

Indonesia

25. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of Indonesia, visited India from January 28-31, 2007 for participation in the Satyagraha Conference. During his visit, the Indonesian Vice-President called on the Prime Minister and Vice-President. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Iran

26. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited India on 16-17 November 2006. Bilateral and regional issues were discussed. On the IPI Gas Pipeline project, India reaffirmed its commitment while noting that regular official level talks were taking place to resolve all outstanding issues. The importance of Iran to India as a transit point for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia was mentioned. India stated that IAEA should play the central role in resolving issues related to Iran's nuclear programme. The situation in Afghanistan and Iraq was also discussed.

Italy

27. H.E. Dr Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy, accompanied by Minister for International Trade and European Affairs, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for Family Policies visited India from February 10-15, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following documents were signed during the visit:

- (a) Memorandum of Understanding on setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism & Trans-National Crime
- (b) Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation
- (c) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09.

28. Mr. Francesco Rutelli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Welfare and Cultural Activities visited India from January 27-31, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Jordan

29. H.M. King Abdullah-II Bin Al Hussein and H.M. Queen Rania Al-Abdullah accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammed, Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Khazaale, Minister of Information & Communication Technology Bassem Roussan and other senior officials including a business delegation visited India from November 30-December 2, 2006. During the visit, the King held discussions with President and Prime Minister on the bilateral relations and the regional situation. Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi, External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukerjee and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Shri Lal Krishna Advani also called on the King. Following Agreements/ Documents were signed:

- (a) Cooperation in Agriculture
- (b) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection
- (c) Cooperation in Tourism; and
- (d) Culture Exchange Programme.

30. As a result of bilateral talks, M/s IFFCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. (JPMC) on January 31, 2007 to set up a state-of-art phosphoric acid plant with a capacity of 1500 MT P2O5 per day. IFFCO and its associates will hold 52% equity and JPMC and its associates will hold the remaining 48% in the joint venture.

Luxembourg

31. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration visited India from February 19-23, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Malaysia

32. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia visited India on February 15-16, 2007 in connection with the 4th India-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 16, 2007. During the visit, the Malaysian Foreign Minister called on the Prime Minister and had meeting with EAM. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Maldives

33. H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives, accompanied by his Foreign Minister, visited India from January 27-February 1, 2007 to lead the Maldivian delegation to participate in the Satyagraha Conference.
34. Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Foreign Minister of Maldives, paid an official visit to India from October 23-28, 2006. He called on Prime Minister and also met Raksha Mantri. The discussions focused on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Mauritius

35. H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to attend the Satyagraha Conference held in New Delhi.
36. Mr. Madan Dulloo, Foreign Minister of Mauritius visited India to participate in the Pravasi

Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations held in New Delhi from January 7-9, 2007. He chaired the Africa Session at the PBD.

Myanmar

37. General Thura Shwe Mann, Chief of Joint Staff of the Union of Myanmar, visited India. He met with Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi, Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and had an audience with the President. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Namibia

38. Dr. Marco Hausiku, Namibian Foreign Minister paid an official visit to India from October 26-30, 2006. During the visit, the Indian and Namibian sides discussed international, regional issues and bilateral cooperation in areas like education, agriculture, trade, mines and energy, technical training and defence including training for the Namibian diplomats on WTO issues. The visiting Minister also met Shri Sis Ram Ola, Minister of Mines and discussed possible cooperation in mining, including survey and exploration of mineral resources in Namibia and training of its personnel.

Nepal

39. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Government of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli paid an official visit to India from November 5-8, 2006. During the visit, Mr. OH held talks with External Affairs Minister and also called on the Prime Minister besides holding other meetings. The visit provided an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, and other issues of mutual interest.

Netherlands

40. Dr Bernard Bot, Foreign Minister of Netherlands, visited India from November 5-6, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Norway

41. The Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon and Princess Mette-Marit visited India on six days

official visit from October 29-November 4, 2006. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Ministers of Petroleum & Energy, Trade & Industry, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and businessmen. The Crown Prince called on Rashtrapatiiji and met the EAM. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed.

42. The Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Jonas Gahr Store paid an official visit to India from December 14-15, 2006 in connection with the Second Session of the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Norway. Apart from bilateral meeting with EAM, the visiting Foreign Minister also had meetings with Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology and Minister of Environment and Forests where bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. During the JCM, the following were signed:
 - (a) An Arrangement between the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts;
 - (b) A Terms of Reference (TOR) for establishing the Indo-Norwegian Joint Working Group on Environment.

Pakistan

43. The Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri visited India on February 20-22, 2007 leading the Pakistani delegation to attend the 5th India-Pak Joint Commission meeting held on February 21. EAM and FM of Pakistan reviewed progress of 8 Technical Level Working Groups formed during the 4th Joint Commission meeting held in Islamabad in October 2005. Eight Working Groups cover areas such as environment, Science & Technology, Tourism, Agriculture, Health, IT & Communication, Education and Information. An agreement on "Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons" was signed between the two countries on 21 February 2007 in the presence of EAM and FM of Pakistan.

Portugal

44. H.E. Mr. Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal, accompanied by Minister of Culture, Minister for Economy and Innovation, MOS for Foreign Affairs, and MOS for Science & Technology & Higher Education visited India from January 11-17, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following agreements/documents were signed during the visit:
 - (a) Extradition Treaty.
 - (b) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09.
 - (c) Education Exchange Programme 2007-09.

Qatar

45. Mr. Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiah, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar visited India during November 23-25, 2006 along with a 12-member strong delegation. The visiting dignitary called on the Prime Minister, EAM and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas with whom he held discussions on bilateral cooperation especially in the oil and gas sectors.

Romania

46. H.E. Mr. Traian Basescu, President of Romania, paid a State Visit to India from October 22-24, 2006. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy and Commerce, and Minister of Telecommunications and IT. During his visit, he had meetings with President, Prime Minister, Vice-President and Chairperson of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. The following bilateral agreements/understandings were signed:
 - (a) Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between India and Romania for the year 2007-09.
 - (b) Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Romania.
 - (c) Agreement between Small Scale Industries of India and Romania, and
 - (d) MOU between Foreign Service Institute of India and Romanian Diplomatic Institute.

Russia

47. H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from January 25-26, 2007 for the annual Summit meeting. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Alexander Zhukov, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Ivanov and Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov apart from other senior functionaries. During the visit, President Putin met the President, Prime Minister and Chairperson of the UPA. Both sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. During the visit, following documents were signed between the two governments:
- (a) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India;
 - (b) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09;
 - (c) Protocol on holding "Year of Russia in India" in the year 2008 and "Year of India in Russia" in the Year 2009;
 - (d) Memorandum of Intent on development of cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at the Kudankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in the Republic of India;
 - (e) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes;
 - (f) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum;
 - (g) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project 'YOUTHSAT'; and
 - (h) Protocol on exchange of information between the two customs on the movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation,
 - (i) A Joint Statement by President Putin and the Prime Minister on the peaceful uses of atomic energy was also issued.

48. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Zhukov visited India from December 7-10, 2006. He co-chaired the 12th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation on 8th December in Delhi. The two sides discussed ways of enhancing bilateral trade and investment, economic cooperation in areas such as energy, metallurgy, commercialization of new and innovative technologies and links between the financial sectors. A Protocol on the deliberations of the IRIGC was signed at the end of the meeting.

49. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr Sergei Lavrov visited India on February 14, 2007 for the India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting. The three countries discussed trilateral cooperation, current global situation and recent developments on regional and international issues of mutual concern. A Joint Communique was issued at the end of the meeting.

50. The Russian Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov visited India from 23-26 January 2007. He co-chaired the Sixth Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission for Military Technical Cooperation (IGC-MTC) and joined the delegation of President Putin to India. During the visit, agreements on licensed production of RD-33 aero engines in India, Protocol of Intent on joint design, development and production of multi-role transport aircraft and Protocol on the Sixth Meeting of IGC-MTC were signed between the two sides.

Singapore

51. The Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Prof. S. Jayakumar, visited India from January 6-8, 2007. He was the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas 2007 celebrations. During his stay, Prof. Jayakumar called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

52. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore visited India from January 16-23, 2007. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Human resource Development, Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

53. Dr. Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Singapore visited India from September 24 - October 5, 2006. During his visit, he held discussions with Minister of Culture and Tourism and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Dr. Sadasivan also visited Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and had meetings with the Chief Ministers of the three States. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Slovenia

54. H.E. Mr. Janez Dmrovsek, President of Slovenia, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference. He had meetings with PM, UPA Chairperson, and EAM, wherein he discussed matters of mutual interest.

South Africa

55. Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa paid a visit to India from September 10-13, 2006. During her visit the South African Deputy President met President, Vice-President, and discussed issues of mutual interest mainly relating to skills development, capacity building and training of South Africans in the areas of education, ICT, management, vocational training and local governance.

Sweden

56. The Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ms. Maud Olofsson, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference. She had meetings with Chairperson, UPA, EAM and Urban Development Minister. She also visited Chennai to receive the Swedish East India ship "Gotheborg" which embarked on two-year voyage repeating epic journeys first made over 250 years ago.

Sri Lanka

57. H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka, visited India on November 25-29, 2006. Sri Lankan Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Wickremanayake visited India on January 28-30, 2007. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama visited India on January 30-31, 2007. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Tanzania

58. Dr. Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania paid a working visit to India from 19th - 26th November, 2006. During the visit of the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, discussions focused on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation mechanisms, such as the early convening of the Bilateral Joint Commission and the Joint Trade Committee. It was agreed to enhance cooperation in agriculture, SMEs, ICT, education and training, mining, science and technology, etc.

Thailand

59. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand is paying official visit to India from March 5-9, 2007. During the New Delhi part of the visit on March 6, 2007, the Princess called on the Vice-President and had a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

UK

60. Ms. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of UK visited India from November 1-9, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Duke of York visited India from October 20-November 4, 2006. She met representatives of FICCI and CII and discussed matters of economic cooperation.

Uganda

61. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Sam Kutesa paid an official visit to India from October 29-November 2, 2006.

During the visit, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in areas like human resource development, energy, Pan-African e-network, technical training and transport. Mr. Kutesa sought GOI assistance for a hydro-power project of 200-300 MW for which Government of Uganda has signed an MoU with BHEL. He also sought assistance for training of young Ugandans in the fields of IT and entrepreneurship. The visiting Minister invited Prime Minister and EAM to visit Uganda for the next CHOGM Summit to be held in Kampala in November 2007.

Vietnam

62. Mr. Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam visited India from February 25 to March 1, 2007 in connection with the 13th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 27, 2007. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Para-Medical Courses

2224. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of paramedical courses in Karnataka recognised by the Indian Medical Council;
- (b) the criteria for giving recognition to such courses; and
- (c) the details of the courses pending for recognition in the State alongwith their status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Para-medical Courses are not within the purview of the Medical Council of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil.

FDI in Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Sector

2225. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has allowed or proposes to allow some Foreign Telecom Companies to enter into telecom services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the target set by these Foreign Telecom Companies to start telecom services across the country;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has allowed FDI in telecom equipment manufacturing sector;

(f) if so, the total FDI in telecom manufacturing sector as on date;

(g) whether the Government proposes to set up Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council in the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The FDI in telecom sector is governed by Press Note No. 5 of 2005 series amended from time to time.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As per the extant policy, 100% FDI is permitted in telecom equipment manufacturing sector. Total FDI inflow in telecom sector from August 1991 upto January 2007 is about Rs. 11,818 crore including Rs. 1619 crore in manufacturing and consultancy sector.

(g) to (i) Government has decided to permit Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Association of India (TEMA) to form an Export Promotion forum (EPF) under the Societies Registration Act. Subsequently, on achieving required eligibility, TEMA EPF can be considered for upgradation to an Export Promotion Council.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Maintenance of Road Over-bridges

2226. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated additional financial assistance for construction and maintenance of bridges and road over-bridges on National Highways in the States, especially in backward and rural areas during the last three years, till date;

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

(c) the details of the projects approved for execution; and

(d) the State-wise and year-wise details of the expenditure incurred on the construction and maintenance of bridges and road over-bridges on National Highways

in the country during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Department of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. The development and maintenance works on National Highways including bridges are taken up on the basis of the condition, traffic, *inter-se* priority and availability of fund. The allocation of fund is done State-wise and not work-wise and area-wise. The State-wise expenditure for development and maintenance of National Highways during last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of State | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Development | Maintenance | Development | Maintenance | Development | Maintenance |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 110.12 | 35.39 | 89.86 | 25.81 | 69.65 | 39.09 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4.05 | 0.16 | 5.91 | 0.26 | 6.00 | 0.10 |
| 3. | Assam | 107.84 | 22.37 | 78.00 | 18.30 | 58.00 | 27.52 |
| 4. | Bihar | 60.02 | 36.52 | 52.64 | 36.61 | 66.21 | 44.46 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 1.72 | 0.31 | 1.00 | 0.72 | 0.89 | 0.12 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 42.39 | 17.43 | 34.89 | 19.75 | 49.08 | 20.12 |
| 7. | Delhi | 13.39 | 0.00 | 3.95 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.04 |
| 8. | Goa | 23.18 | 5.01 | 5.00 | 1.76 | 6.00 | 3.87 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 68.55 | 20.88 | 53.64 | 33.73 | 103.25 | 38.08 |
| 10. | Haryana | 53.66 | 11.66 | 37.87 | 6.42 | 57.42 | 14.12 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 27.78 | 10.77 | 40.48 | 14.66 | 39.00 | 18.19 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4.00 | 0.46 | 0.21 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 33.00 | 13.66 | 14.04 | 12.42 | 39.97 | 14.79 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 158.46 | 39.35 | 76.90 | 36.62 | 88.54 | 41.87 |
| 15. | Kerala | 96.65 | 23.66 | 58.38 | 30.23 | 65.99 | 53.07 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 79.47 | 68.80 | 82.86 | 54.21 | 77.92 | 53.51 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 17. | Maharashtra | 117.68 | 48.71 | 65.64 | 47.34 | 111.93 | 52.36 |
| 18. | Manipur | 15.16 | 7.33 | 13.78 | 5.09 | 20.00 | 8.98 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 35.92 | 9.20 | 28.26 | 11.70 | 24.18 | 8.50 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 31.00 | 5.44 | 24.91 | 4.32 | 15.75 | 5.28 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 11.48 | 1.97 | 16.00 | 2.14 | 11.25 | 3.85 |
| 22. | Orissa | 69.97 | 40.53 | 72.33 | 32.82 | 67.27 | 41.22 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 2.20 | 0.84 | 2.13 | 0.83 | 2.64 | 0.76 |
| 24. | Punjab | 50.99 | 18.80 | 50.72 | 16.48 | 62.50 | 19.30 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 44.23 | 25.81 | 46.45 | 42.74 | 84.60 | 53.91 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 83.00 | 31.11 | 65.31 | 34.56 | 81.80 | 49.94 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 103.71 | 55.19 | 186.42 | 52.10 | 199.00 | 50.01 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 18.88 | 2.62 | 26.48 | 10.20 | 40.42 | 15.87 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 69.79 | 27.07 | 71.90 | 22.94 | 55.75 | 28.05 |

*[English]***Indo-Pak Joint Anti-terror Group**

2227. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of India and Pakistan joint anti-terror group was held in Islamabad recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. The India-Pakistan Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism met in Islamabad on 6-7 March 2007. The two sides discussed the parameters of the Anti-terrorism Mechanism and agreed that specific information would be exchanged through the mechanism for helping investigations on either side related to terrorist acts and prevention of violence and terrorist acts in the two countries. It was also agreed that while the Anti-terrorism Mechanism would meet on a quarterly

basis, any information which is required to be conveyed on priority basis would be immediately conveyed through the respective Heads of the Mechanism.

*[Translation]***Accidents in Coal Mines**

2228. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the accidents that took place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years company-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of the incidents wherein the Court of Inquiry has been constituted during the said period; and

(c) the number of officers found guilty as a result thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The details of accidents that occurred during the last three years (2004, 2005 & 2006) in the coal mines of subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are given as under:

| Company | No. of Fatal Accidents | | | No. of Serious Accidents | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Eastern Coalfields Ltd. | 16 | 15 | 8 | 183 | 114 | 92 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. | 11 | 12 | 11 | 70 | 61 | 45 |
| Central Coalfields Ltd. | 10 | 8 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 14 |
| Northern Coalfields Ltd. | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 17 | 15 |
| Western Coalfields Ltd. | 13 | 11 | 13 | 63 | 44 | 56 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. | 7 | 14 | 7 | 97 | 87 | 66 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. | 4 | 9 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 10 |
| North Eastern Coalfields | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Total CIL | 66 | 73 | 49 | 459 | 354 | 299 |
| SCCL | 11 | 12 | 16 | 161 | 787 | 618 |

(b) and (c) During the last three years, the Courts of Inquiry under the provisions of Mines Act, 1952 have been constituted by the Government in the following two coal mine accidents:

| Sl.N | Date of accident | Mine, Area & Company | No. of fatalities |
|------|------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | 14-06-2005 | Central Saunda, Barka Sayal Area, Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) | 14 |
| 2 | 06-09-2006 | Nagda mine of Bhatdih Colliery Western Jharia Area, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) | 50 |

In case of Central Saunda mine accident, the Court of Enquiry has held following five officials of Central Coalfields Ltd. responsible for the disaster:

1. Shri Md. Tasleem, General Manager
2. Shri Umesh Sharma, Agent
3. Shri MK Martand, Manager
4. Shri AL Rajak, Safety Officer
5. Shri IDP Singh, Asstt. Manager

Necessary action will be taken by Directorate-General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad under Ministry of Labour & Employment against the above mentioned officials as per the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952.

In case of Bhatdih colliery accident, action against the officers found guilty will be taken after the Court of Enquiry submits its report.

[English]

Utilisation of Budget

2229. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated to the department;
- (b) whether all the funds have been utilized fully;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The allocation and utilization of funds to the

Department of Space during the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in Crores)

| | Budget Estimates (BE) | Revised Estimates (RE) | Actual Expenditure | Utilisation w.r.t. RE |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2003-04 | 2368.89 | 2275.70 | 2268.81 | 99.70% |
| 2004-05 | 2732.01 | 2540.78 | 2534.34 | 99.75% |
| 2005-06 | 3148.42 | 2675.52 | 2667.60 | 99.70% |

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Problem of Call Congestion

2230. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is a problem of call congestion on inter-connection of mobile service providers in some regions of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the telecommunication system is the most affected by this problem;

(c) whether any State-wise assessment has been made with regard to the percentage of call congestion;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is monitoring/proposes to monitor the problem of congestion on monthly basis, State-wise; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring the Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion between service providers through monthly reports received from service

providers on the license service area/circle-wise basis. As per Network/POI congestion report for the months of October-December, 2006, the states which are more affected due to POI congestion, are Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, North East, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (East), Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

During the period October-December, 2006, the overall performance has improved except in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala and Tamilnadu circles where the number of POIs having congestion has increased. The report also shows that congestion exists between various operators' network.

[English]

Implementation of SAI Schemes

2231. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by Sports Authority of India for spotting and nurturing of sports talent and promotion of sports in the country;

(b) the quantum of funds incurred on sports promotion during the last three years, sports-wise/year-wise; and

(c) the details of the achievements made in international sports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of schemes

implemented by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for spotting and-nurturing of sports talent and promotion of sports in the country are as under:

National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC): The main objective of the scheme is to scout talent among school children in the age group of 8-14 years and nurture them by imparting scientific training in SAI - adopted schools and 'akharas' to achieve excellence at national and international levels. SAI also provides coaches and special infrastructure facilities to these schools and akharas along with annual grant for purchase of sports equipments.

Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC) : The objective of the scheme is to scout talent in the age group of 8-14 years in collaboration with the Army and impart to them scientific training in their Centres to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The scheme, *inter alia*, also provides job opportunities in the Indian army.

Special Area Games (SAG): The objective of the scheme is to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country and from regions such in sports talent, in terms of genetic and geographical characteristics/advantages for excellence in particular sports disciplines. The main objective of the scheme is to train talented and meritorious sports persons in the age group of 14-21 years. Under the Scheme, the State Governments are required to provide land free of cost to SAI, while the development of the infrastructure is done by SAI.

SAI Training Centres (STC): Under this scheme, talented youth in the age group of 14-21 years are selected after assessment based on performance at national/state level competitions and through a battery of tests. The selected trainees are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis. The scheme is directly implemented by SAI. However, the state Government is required to provide the land and necessary sports infrastructure and other allied facilities like hostel building, etc. to the SAI.

Centres of Excellence (COX): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sports persons who are medal hopes for the country in international competitions. The scheme of Centre of Excellence envisages identification of talent in the country

who has shown promising performance in the national competitions for further training at the Regional Centres of SAI for nearly 200 days in a year. They are provided with state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and scientific backup along with specialized training.

In all these schemes there is provision for payment of stipend and medical/insurance expenses, kit and competition exposure.

(b) Details of expenditure incurred on sports promotion under Plan during the last three years are as under:—

| | | (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 262.04 | |
| 2005-06 | 265.16 | |
| 2006-07 | 279.06 | (Expenditure upto 31st January, 2007) |

(c) The number of medals won by Indian Sportspersons in major international competitions during the last three years is as under:—

| | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Athens Olympics 2004 | — | 01 | — | 01 |
| Melbourne Commonwealth Games 2006 | 22 | 17 | 11 | 50 |
| Doha Asian Games 2006 | 10 | 18 | 26 | 54 |

[Translation]

Reduction in Roaming Charges

2232. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the roaming charges on mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to reduce the monthly rental as well;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to bring a zero-rental scheme for the benefit of the middle class-users;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (g) The roaming charges levied by different operators have to be within the ceiling tariff prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI after consultation with all the stakeholders and in-depth analysis has prescribed the following revised roaming tariff which has come into effect from 15.02.2007:

- Rs. 1.40 per minute for outgoing local calls
- Rs. 2.40 per minute for outgoing National Long Distance calls
- Rs. 1.75 per minute for incoming calls

The other salient features prescribed while regional/national roaming are:

- No rental permitted in any form;
- No surcharge is leviable for any of the roaming services;
- No separate PSTN charges on roaming calls;
- Receiving SMS is free.

The revised tariffs are lower to the extent of 22% to 56% compared with the then prevailing market rates. This is in addition to the saving for the customers on account of abolition of rentals.

[English]

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Iran

2233. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
DR K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Iran recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement was signed on the occasion;

(d) whether the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project was also discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. External Affairs Minister visited Iran on 6-7 February 2007.

(b) Discussions were held on bilateral and regional issues. India emphasised the importance it attached to relations with Iran. The importance of Iran to India as a transit point to access Afghanistan and Central Asia was mentioned. On Iran's nuclear issue, India stated that the UN Security Council Resolution-1737 underscored the need for more active and transparent cooperation with the IAEA for resolution of outstanding issues. India emphasised that all possible efforts should be made to address the issue by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiations with all sides showing flexibility and restraint. Discussions were also held on the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project, details of which are covered in parts (d) and (e) below.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) India referred to the last trilateral meeting of Secretaries held in Tehran in January 2007, where it had reaffirmed its commitment to the project and had welcomed the agreement on the price of gas between Iran and Pakistan. India was considering the formula to which additional burden would result on account of transportation tariff and transit fee through Pakistan territory.

High Incidence of TB in Children

2234. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether children at a tender age are being affected by fatal disease like TB in the various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such children, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for prevention of TB in children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, from the programme report for the year 2006, 6% of the total TB cases registered are in the pediatric age group (0-14 yrs. age group).

The state-wise details about pediatric cases (0-14 yrs.) registered under the Programme during year 2006 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Various steps taken under the Programme for prevention of TB in children are as under:

- TB in children is a reflection of the prevalence of sputum smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis and the extent of transmission of TB infection in the community. Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented from 1997 in the country in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. By March 2006, the entire country had been covered under the revised strategy. Diagnosis and treatment of infectious pulmonary TB under RNTCP prevents the transmission of infection.
- All children < 6 years of age who are household contacts of smear positive TB cases are screened for TB and after excluding active tuberculosis are offered chemoprophylaxis using Isoniazid (INH) 5mg/kg body weight.

BCG vaccination is available under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country which prevents severe form of TB in children.

Statement

State-wise details about pediatric cases registered under the Programme during the year 2006

| State | No(%) of pediatric cases (0-14 years) out of all New cases | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| 1 | 2 | |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 135 | 17% |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2539 | 3% |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 56 | 3% |
| Assam | 888 | 3% |
| Bihar | 2174 | 4% |
| Chandigarh | 225 | 12% |
| Chhattisgarh | 1309 | 5% |
| Dadara and Nagar Haveli | 15 | 5% |
| Daman and Diu | 1 | 0% |
| Delhi | 5223 | 14% |
| Goa | 161 | 10% |
| Gujarat | 2690 | 5% |
| Haryana | 1395 | 5% |
| Himachal Pradesh | 229 | 2% |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 219 | 2% |
| Jharkhand | 1175 | 4% |
| Karnataka | 3078 | 6% |
| Kerala | 1930 | 9% |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0% |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2298 | 4% |
| Maharashtra | 6825 | 6% |
| Manipur | 276 | 8% |
| Meghalaya | 246 | 9% |
| Mizoram | 82 | 5% |

| 1 | 2 | |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Nagaland | 189 | 9% |
| Orissa | 1486 | 4% |
| Pondicherry | 21 | 2% |
| Punjab | 1680 | 6% |
| Rajasthan | 4142 | 5% |
| Sikkim | 183 | 16% |
| Tamil Nadu | 8255 | 11% |
| Tripura | 21 | 1% |
| Uttar Pradesh | 10118 | 5% |
| Uttaranchal | 523 | 6% |
| West Bengal | 4910 | 5% |
| Grand Total | 64697 | 6% |

Report on Growth of Indian Economy

2235. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation recently released a report on the growth of Indian economy and agriculture since 2000 and its impact on the common people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the findings of the report thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No, Sir. The Central Statistical Organisation has not released any report on the Growth of Indian Economy and Agriculture since 2000 and its impact on the common people. However, the Central Statistical Organisation released Press Notes on "Quick Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation, 2005-06" on 31st January, 2007 and the "Advance Estimates of National Income, 2006-07" on 7th February, 2007. These Press Notes contain growth rate of the economy by different sectors for the years 2000-01 to 2006-07, but no analysis of its impact on the common people.

(b) According to these Press Notes, the growth rates for the entire economy, agriculture sector and the per capita income from 2000-01 are as follows:

| Year | Annual Growth rate at constant (1999-00) prices (per cent) | | |
|---------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Total Economy | Agriculture Sector | Per Capita Income |
| 2000-01 | 4.4 | -0.2 | 1.9 |
| 2001-02 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 3.9 |
| 2002-03 | 3.8 | -7.2 | 1.9 |
| 2003-04 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 7.0 |
| 2004-05 | 7.5 | 0.0 | 5.7 |
| 2005-06 | 9.0 | 6.0 | 7.4 |
| 2006-07 | 9.2 | 2.7 | 7.9 |

(c) These Press Notes are of a factual nature and do not contain any findings.

Restructuring of North-Eastern Council

2236. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure the North-Eastern Council (NEC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, every effort is being made to rejuvenate it.

UNSC Sanctions on Iran

2237. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has put any sanctions on Iran to curb its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has shown its displeasure against the sanctions imposed on Iran for its peaceful nuclear programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the relations of both the countries are likely to be affected as a result of such sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1737 under Article 41 of Chapter-VII of the UN Charter on 23 December 2006.

(b) The resolution obliges member States to prevent the supply, sale or transfer of all items which could contribute to Iran's enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water related activities, or to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems. Provision of any technical assistance or training, financial assistance, investment, brokering or other services, and the transfer of financial resources or services, related to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture or use of these items is banned as is their procurement from Iran. Member States are to prevent proliferation-sensitive specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals, and also exercise vigilance regarding the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals engaged in or providing support for Iran's proliferation sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems. An Annex to the resolution lists persons and entities involved in these activities. The resolution also requires States to freeze immediately the funds, other financial assets and

economic resources owned or controlled by the persons and entities designated in the Annex, as well as additional persons or entities designated by the UNSC or by the Sanctions Committee set up by the Resolution.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise as the implementation of the resolution is mandatory for all member States.

(e) Question does not arise as there is no nuclear and missile related trade between India and Iran.

Baglihar Hydro-Power Project

2238. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neutral expert appointed by World Bank has cleared the Baglihar Hydro-Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank on the Baglihar hydro-electric project gave his expert determination on 12.2.2007. The determination upheld India's design flood value of 16,500 cumec against Pakistan's calculations of 14,900 cumec; upheld India's design of gated spillways; provided for freeboard of 3 metres as against 4.5 metres designed by India and 0.84 m calculated by Pakistan; provided for a maximum pondage of 32.56 million cubic metres (MCM) as against 37.5 MCM calculated by India and 6.22 MCM calculated by Pakistan; fixed the intake level 3 metres higher than as designed by India; and provided for India to resort to drawing down of reservoir for its maintenance and sustainability during monsoon season each year. This will enable sediment management and ensure the sustainability of the project.

(c) In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, the decision of the Neutral Expert on all matters within his competence shall be final and binding upon the parties and upon any Court of Arbitration established under the relevant provisions of the Treaty.

Distance Education through Insat-3A Satellite

2239. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a MoU with the Union Government to launch education service through Ku-transponder and INSAT-3A Satellite to provide distance education to isolated schools, colleges, polytechnics, etc., in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to increase its coverage to other institutions and requested for allowing distribution of educational signals of APNET through commercial cable operators;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has granted permission to distribute Ku-Band signals of Mana TV of APNET through commercial cable operators; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 2,000 receive only terminals and a studio to generate programmes for the network have been put-up by Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under examination by the Union Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Sri Lankan Refugees in India

2240. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming increase of refugees entering the country from Sri Lanka during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of refugees who have arrived at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether Indian Government proposes to take up this matter with the Sri Lankan Government to ensure there is no further increase in refugees migrating India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There have been renewed hostilities between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE since the beginning of 2006, which have resulted in an increase in Sri Lankan Tamil refugees entering India. From January 12, 2006 till February 28, 2007, a total of 17,924 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have arrived in India.

(c) and (d) While conveying our concern on this issue to the Government of Sri Lanka, we have stressed the need for a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic problem acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka and for conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees to their homes.

New Medical Colleges in Gujarat

2241. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Gujarat for the setting up of new medical, dental, physiotherapy and nursing colleges in the State;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The number of proposals received from State Government of Gujarat for setting up of new medical, dental, physiotherapy and nursing colleges is as under:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| (i) Medical | Nil |
| (ii) Dental | 04 |
| (iii) Nursing | 11 |

As per schedule prescribed in Dental Council of India Regulations, 2006, the Council will send its recommendations to the Central Government by 15th June and the Government of India will issue Letter of Permission by 15th July. According to Nursing Council, inspection will be conducted only after complete documents are received and thereafter the proposals will be cleared. There is no Central Council for physiotherapy under the Central Government and as such it does not give any permission for setting up physiotherapy college in the States.

Pillars on Indo-Bangladesh Border

2242. SHRI ABDUL MANNAN HOSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many pillars at Indo-Bangladesh Border in the District of Murshidabad and Nadia in West Bengal have been demolished due to Ganga-Padma Land Erosion (Bhangan);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct new pillars at those places;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the said purpose; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of new pillars is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Out of a total of 268 pillar positions covering Bagge Sheet No. 1-18 in the Murshidabad sector of Indo-Bangladesh border, 57 pillars have been found missing/demolished due to Ganga-Padma erosion in the last field season.

(c) to (e) Yes. In the 157th and 158th Boundary Conference between India and Bangladesh for West Bengal sector held at Dhaka in August 2006 and at Kolkata in November 2006, it was decided that the missing/demolished boundary pillars in Bagge Sheet No. 1-16 numbering 52 would be constructed under the responsibility of India, for which an amount of Rs. 5,85,688.00 has been allocated to the Government of West Bengal. Rest of the missing pillars in Bagge Sheet No. 17-18 numbering 5 would be constructed under

the responsibility of Bangladesh. The construction work of missing/demolished pillars in this sector is likely to be completed by May 2007.

Dilapidated Condition of Mangaldoi Bhutiachang Road

2243. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangaldoi Bhutiachang (MB Road) which goes upto the border of Bhutan is in a dilapidated condition;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for construction and repair of the Road;

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(e) 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) and (b) Mangaldoi Bhutiachang (MB Road) is a State road and the Ministry is not directly responsible for its repairs. The Government of Assam has informed that, except 2.5 km out of total 61.5 km length of this road, the entire road is in dilapidated condition as proper maintenance could not be undertaken by the State Government due to paucity of funds. The Government of Assam has also informed that construction of 8 RCC bridges is under progress against an estimated amounting to Rs. 684.70 lakhs approved under Non Lapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR) during 2004 and an amount of Rs. 150 lakhs has been sanctioned for improvement of the road under State Annual Plan and 12th Finance Commission has awarded an amount of Rs. 30 lakhs during 2006-07 for repairs of this road.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Assam has informed that they are under process of submission to Government of India a proposal amounting to Rs. 44.89 crore for improvement of the road under Non Lapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR).

(e) Does not arise.

Shortage of Staff In Indian Embassies In Gulf

2244. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of staff in the Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries;

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

(c) whether a large number of complaints from the NRIs are pending in the Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries for want of sufficient staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of a study undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance, a proposal for creation of 287 posts in a number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad is under consideration of Ministry of Finance. This includes 87 posts in the Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf.

(c) to (e) There are some instances of delay in addressing the complaints of NRIs in the Gulf countries. However, the Missions/Posts in the Gulf are doing their best to address their complaints despite the shortage of staff. In fact, Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf have introduced, with effect from April 2006, provision of free legal aid for two hours twice a week to Indian workers for resolving their labour related problems. Indian Missions in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have also set up, as a welfare measure, Indian Citizen Welfare Funds for providing financial assistance to Indians in distress, medical assistance to needy Indians, air tickets for repatriation of stranded Indians to India, temporary accommodation for stranded housemaids and transportation of mortal remains of deceased Indians.

Waiting List of Mobile/Landline Telephone Service

2245. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants in the waiting list of mobile phone/land line telephone service of BSNL/MTNL in the country as on January 1, 2007, State-wise;

(b) the time by which the Government proposes to provide connections to the applicants; and

(c) the reasons for delay in granting new connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, total number of applicants in the waiting list of fixed line telephone and mobile phones of BSNL on 1st January 2007 are 9.28 lakhs and 0.57 lakhs respectively. Circle-wise details are given in the statement. MTNL is providing mobile and landlines connections on demand. However, in MTNL Mumbai, 1712 landline connections are technically non-feasible which are being provided progressively.

(b) (i) Waiting list for BSNL's mobile telephones as on 01.01.2007 was in four circles namely Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, North East-I and North East-II. Out of these, waiting list in Maharashtra has been cleared as on date. The waiting list in Chhattisgarh and North East-II is scheduled to be cleared by March, 2007 and North East-I circle by June 2007.

(ii) Most of applicants in the waiting list of fixed line telephone as on 1st January 2007 are planned to be provided telephone connections by March 2008 progressively for which following steps are being taken:

- BSNL has restored laying of U/G cable upto 5 Km. of telephone exchanges against the norm of 2.5 Kms for providing telephone on landline.
- BSNL is deploying WLL network in rural area to meet the demand of telephone connections beyond 5 Kms of exchange i.e. scattered and far flung rural areas and where telephone connection is not possible on landline.

(c) Telephone connections are provided within norms of 7 days in technically feasible areas. However, delay in provision of new connection in some areas is due to following reasons:

- (i) Technically non-feasible areas
- (ii) Poor Infrastructure i.e. electric power, road and, transport, etc. in rural areas.

Statement*Circle-wise waiting list of fixed and mobile telephones of BSNL as on 01-01-2007*

| Sl.No. | Circle | Fixed telephones | Mobile Telephones | | |
|------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | Pre-paid | Post-paid | Total |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | 736 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 26025 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 12357 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Bihar | 80774 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 981 | 6445 | 0 | 6445 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 24734 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Haryana | 33156 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 29737 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 45476 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 4897 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 59059 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Kerala | 215658 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 5287 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 82750 | 32146 | 0 | 32146 |
| 15. | North East-I | 2749 | 5073 | 2968 | 8041 |
| 16. | North East-II | 4178 | 6692 | 3781 | 10473 |
| 17. | Orissa | 16558 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Punjab | 6641 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 78929 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 11649 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Uttaranchal | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (E) | 47351 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (W) | 23594 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 109317 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25. | Calcutta | 829 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Chennai | 4987 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BSNL Total | | 928609 | 50356 | 6749 | 57105 |

Dredging the Channels of Gujarat Port

2246. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned to dredge the channels of Gujarat ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the funds allocated for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued to Gujarat as a result of implementation of Maritime policy?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The responsibility for the development (including dredging, etc.) of the Major Ports vests with the Central Government. State Governments have overall jurisdiction over Non-Major Ports and are responsible for their development. Kandla Port which is the only major port in the State of Gujarat, has undertaken dredging of its navigational channel to increase the draft to 12.5 meters with an investment of approximately Rs. 35 crores by 2007-08. The Port plans to dredge its navigational channel to increase the draft to 14 meters subsequently.

(e) The broad aim of the Maritime Policy is to facilitate holistic development of the maritime sector through creation of requisite infrastructure. The investment flow for the purpose will facilitate economic growth and create additional employment opportunities including in the State of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Relaxation of Visa Rules by Pak

2247. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has announced the relaxation of Visa restrictions for Indian tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to open separate tourist section in Passport Offices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to encourage the tourists to visit religious places located in Pakistan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No. However, a new Visa agreement is being discussed with Pakistan.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Visits of pilgrims between India and Pakistan are covered under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974. This provides for three Hindu pilgrimages (total 800 pilgrims) and four Sikh pilgrimages (total 7500 pilgrims) from India to Pakistan and five Muslim pilgrimages (total 1350 pilgrims) from Pakistan to India. Both Governments facilitate the transportation, security, accommodation for stay of the pilgrims during their visits under the above Protocol. Government have proposed to Pakistan government liberalisation of the bilateral visa regime to include Pilgrim Visas to each other's nationals desiring to visit religious shrines. During the Secretary (Culture)-level talks held in Islamabad on July 26-27, 2005 both countries agreed to expand the Bilateral Protocol on Visit to the Religious Shrines, 1974 to increase the number of shrines and the number of pilgrims. India has proposed an expanded list of shrines in both countries for inclusion in the Bilateral Protocol.

[English]

Conference on Security Policy

2248. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian Delegation participated in the Conference on Security Policy held in Munich recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein;

(c) whether the issue of terrorist attacks in India was discussed in this Conference; and

(d) if so, the details and the views of participating countries?

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

(b) The theme of the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy was "Global Crisis-Global Responsibilities". The specific issues discussed were:

- (i) Peace and Security in the Greater Middle East;
- (ii) Shared Responsibility for Global Challenges;
- (iii) Russia's Role in World Politics;
- (iv) 50th Anniversary of the EU: A Regional Model for Peace, Security and Welfare?;
- (v) NATO in the Age of Global Challenges;
- (vi) The Transatlantic Relationship in the 21st Century; and
- (vii) International Terrorism and Asymmetric Warfare.

(c) and (d) There was no discussion on terrorist attacks country-wise, including India. However, National Security Adviser, Shri M.K. Narayanan, spoke in the Session on "International Terrorism and Asymmetric Warfare" on the topic of 'Financing of Terrorism'. He dwelt on the issue of terrorism in India, including financing of terrorist acts, in the context of international terrorism, and the role of India in the global fight against this scourge. Other speakers voiced concern regarding acts of terrorism in various parts of the world and the ways to counter them, including the need for enhancing international cooperation.

Corruption in Immigration Offices

2249. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding corruption in the immigration Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check corrupt practices in the Immigration Offices?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Complaints are thoroughly investigated and action initiated against the officials found guilty. In seven cases, CBI investigations are still going on, six cases are at prosecution stage and in five cases, Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the accused officials.

(d) In order to bring in greater accountability and responsibility in field-level posts, Government has recently upgraded the posts of Protectors of Emigrants. Further, in order to render the emigration process more transparent, accountable and user-friendly, the POE offices are being computerized. Various measures to streamline the emigration process to make it simple and transparent, including amendment to the Emigration Act 1983, increasing the number of countries for which emigration clearance is not required from 53 to 173, exempting persons with educational qualification of 10th class and above from the requirement of ECR clearance and periodic vigilance audit, have been initiated.

External Affairs Minister's Visit to Sri Lanka

2250. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister had visited Sri Lanka recently to hold talks on the progress of the peace process in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the talks are likely to be useful in strengthening the peace process in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Minister of External Affairs visited Sri Lanka on January 9-10, 2007 to extend an invitation from our Prime Minister to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse for the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi in April 2007. During meetings with the Sri Lankan leadership, bilateral relations, the peace process in Sri Lanka and SAARC issues were discussed.

(b) and (c) Both sides reiterated the high priority that they attach to expansion of bilateral cooperation in all spheres. While reaffirming India's commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, Government of India have emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka that the only solution to the ethnic problem is a negotiated, political settlement that is acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka and stressed the need to make all possible efforts to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward.

Complaints Received by NHAI Regarding NHDP

2251. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) regarding bad condition

of roads under NHDP;

(b) the steps taken by NHAI for redressal of these complaints; and

(c) the time by which the existing National Highways in the State particularly in Gujarat are likely to be resurfaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received regarding National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which have been immediately attended to and the roads have been maintained in traffic worthy conditions.

(c) Details of National Highways in the State of Gujarat alongwith the status and dates of completion is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Details of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Other Projects in Gujarat

Status As on Feb. 28, 2007

| Contracts Stretch | | NH | Length (in km.) | Present status/ Likely Completion Date |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| On Golden Quadrilateral | | | | |
| 1. | Ratanpur - Himatnagar (UG-III) km 388 - km 443 | 8 | 54.60 | Completed |
| 2. | Himatnagar - Chiloda (Near Ahmedabad) (UG-IV) km 443 - km 495 | 8 | 52.00 | Completed |
| 3. | Ahmedabad bypass km 495-km 510 (Upto start of Ahamadabad Vadodara Expressway) | 8 | 15.00 | Completed |
| 4. | Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase-I km 0.0 - km 43.4 | 8 | 43.40 | Completed |
| 5. | Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp.Way Phase-II km 43.3 (Nadiad-Dakor SH) - km 93.302 | NE1 | 50.00 | Completed |
| 6. | Vadodara - Surat (Including Narmada Bridge & Excluding Tapi bridge) | 8 | 152.00 | Completed |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| 7. | Surat (Chalthan)-Atul km 263.4 - km 343 | 8 | 79.60 | Completed |
| 8. | Atul - Kajali km 343-km 381.6 | 8 | 38.60 | Completed |
| On East-West Corridor. | | | | |
| 1. | Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur (EW/1) km 340 - km 350 | 14 | 10.00 | Completed |
| 2. | Palanpur - Dessa (EW-11/GJ) Km. 350.00 to Km. 372.70 | 14 | 22.70 | Completed |
| 3. | Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI) Km 372.60 to Km 458.0 | 14 | 85.40 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| 4. | Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V) Km 138.80 to Km 245.00 | 15 | 106.20 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| 5. | Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV) km.245.0 to km.281.3 and km 308.00 to km | 15, 8A | 90.30 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| 6. | Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III) Km 254.00 to km 182.60 | 8A | 71.40 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| 7. | Bamnaborr-Rajkot km 216-km 185 | 8B | 31.00 | Completed |
| 8. | Rajkot Bypass & Gondal Jetpur (Package-VII) km 117.00 to km 143.00 & km 175.00 to km | 8B | 36.00 | In progress Mar-2008 |
| 9. | Rajkot-Ribda km 175 - km 160 | 8B | 15.00 | Completed |
| 10. | Ribd to Gondal section (EW-10/GJ) km 160-km 143 | 8B | 17.00 | Completed |
| 11. | Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II) km. 117 to km 52.50 | 8B | 64.50 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| 12. | Bhiladi to Porbandar (Package-I) km 52.50 to km. 2.00 | 8B | 50.50 | In progress Nov-2007 |
| On Port Connectivity | | | | |
| 1. | Gandhidham - Samakhiali Package I km 306 - km 324 (Port Connectivity to Kandala Port) | 8A | 18.00 | Completed |
| 2. | Gandhidham-Samakhiali Package II km 324 - km 346 (Port Connectivity to Kandala Port) | 8A | 22.00 | Completed |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------------|---|----|--------|------------------------|
| 3. | Gandhidham-Samakhiali Package III km 346-km 362.16 (Port Connectivity to Kandala Port) | 8A | 16.16 | Completed |
| On NHDP Phase IIIA | | | | |
| 1. | Surat Hazira Port | 6 | 29.00 | To be awarded |
| 2. | Kandla - Mundra Port | 8A | 73.00 | To be awarded |
| On NHDP Phase IIIB | | | | |
| 1. | Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat | 6 | 84.00 | To be awarded |
| 2. | Gujrat/MP Border-Ahmedabad | 59 | 210.00 | To be awarded |
| 3. | Jetpur-Somnath | 8D | 127.00 | To be awarded |
| On NHDP Phase V | | | | |
| 1. | Vadodara to Bharuch Package BOT-1 6 lanning (Km 108.7 to km 192) | 8 | 83.30 | Awarded July, 2009 |
| 2. | Bharuch to Surat Package BOT- II 6 lanning | 8 | 65.00 | Awarded July, 2009 |
| On East-West Corridor | | | | |
| 1. | Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan -42 km & Gujarat-34 km) km 264 to km 340 (Rajasthan 42 km & Gujarat | 14 | 34.00 | Awarded March, 2009 |

Mahila Representatives in Panchayats

2252. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mahila representatives (Members) serving in Panchayats as Member, Sarpanch, and Pradhans in the country and State-wise;

(b) the number of Mahila Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes representing as Members, Sarpanch, and Pradhans in the country, State-wise and age-wise in each category;

(c) whether there has been any enhancement in the rights and duties in the Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The information is enclosed as statement.

(b) This information is not maintained.

(c) and (d) The Constitution provides that it is the legislatures of the State that endow the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with powers and authority. In accordance with the same, States have devolved powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats in varying measure. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is continually interacting with the State governments to ascertain the devolution of rights and duties to the PRIs. Full details are provided in the three volumes of the Ministry's report entitled "The State of the Panchayats — A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal, 2006" laid on the Table of the House on 23 November, 2006.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Women Heads | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Gram Panchayat Sarpanches | Panchayat Samiti Adhyakshas | Zilla Parishad Chairman |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| States: | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 7266 | 366 | 7 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 645 | 44 | 6 |
| 3. | Assam | . | . | . |
| 4. | Bihar | 3784 | 237 | 18 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 3282 | 51 | 6 |
| 6. | Goa | Election is due | | |
| 7. | Gujarat | . | . | . |
| 8. | Haryana | 2112 | 62 | 8 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1109 | 29 | 4 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | . | . | . |
| 11. | Jharkhand | Election is due | | |
| 12. | Karnataka | . | . | . |
| 13. | Kerala | 356 | 54 | 5 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 7864 | 123 | 21 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 9296 | 117 | 11 |
| 16. | Manipur | 54 | . | 2 |
| 17. | Orissa | . | . | . |
| 18. | Punjab | 2871 | 52 | 6 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | . | . | . |
| 20. | Sikkim | 33 | 0 | 1 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 4313 | 140 | 10 |
| 22. | Tripura | 216 | 8 | 2 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | . | . | . |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|-----|---|
| 24. | Uttaranchal | 2445 | 34 | 6 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 995 | 102 | 6 |
| Union Territories | | | | |
| 26. | Andman and Nicobar Islands | 24 | 3 | 0 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Dadara and Nagar Haveli | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 29. | Daman and Diu | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Pondicherry | * | * | * |

Note: * Information unavailable at present.

[Translation]

Deployment of Armed Forces for UN Operations

2253. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of armed forces deployed in different countries on the invitation of United Nations alongwith the period of their deployment;

(b) the process adopted and the international rules/treaties followed in this regard;

(c) the maximum tenure of deployment of such armed personnel in foreign countries under the banner of U.N.;

(d) whether all expenses incurred on the posting of such forces are borne by the U.N. itself; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India has been contributing armed forces personnel to UN Peacekeeping Missions since 1950. Currently, 9132 Indian armed forces personnel are deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Lebanon, Golan Heights and Ivory Coast.

(b) A UN Peacekeeping Mission is established after the UN Security Council adopts a Resolution authorising it. The UN deploys troops after a Status of Forces

Agreement (SOFA) is signed between the UN and the country concerned. Indian armed forces personnel are deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions after the Government accepts the request made by the UN.

(c) The maximum tenure of deployment of such armed forces personnel is normally one year.

(d) and (e) Yes. All expenses incurred on the posting of such forces are borne by the United Nations, including transportation for induction and repatriation, overseas allowance, cost of contingent-owned equipment, personal clothing, medical, food and lodging.

Japan's Proposal on NPT

2254. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has proposed NPT regime for India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japanese Government has officially endorsed the Indo-US nuclear treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Japan is a party to the NPT and continues to support the binary NPT view

distinguishing between nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States. India's views on the NPT are known to Japan.

(c) and (d) The Joint Statement issued during Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006 states "The two leaders share the view that nuclear energy can play an important role as a safe, sustainable and non-polluting source of energy in meeting the rising global demands for energy, and that international civil nuclear energy should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. The two sides will continue to discuss the international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India."

PSLV-C7

2255. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has launched PSLV-C7 from Sriharikota in the recent past;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the extent to which various agencies are likely to be benefited by PSLV-C7?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) PSLV-C7 was launched on January 10, 2007 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This was the tenth flight of PSLV and in this mission, it launched four satellites - India's CARTOSAT-2 and Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1), Indonesia's LAPAN-TUBSAT and Argentina's PEHUENSAT-1. All the satellites were placed precisely in the specified 635 km high polar orbit.

(c) With the successful launch of PSLV-C7, India could place its remote sensing satellite CARTOSAT-2 in polar orbit that will be used for detailed mapping of the country and other cartographic applications at cadastral level, urban and rural infrastructure development and management, as well as applications in Land Information

System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS). Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1) has demonstrated the technology of orbiting a space capsule for performing experiments in microgravity conditions of space and, after the completion of the experiments, to de-orbit and recover the capsule.

LAPAN-TUBSAT is used by Indonesian Space Agency for earth observation demonstration and to prove the satellite control systems.

PEHUENSAT is used by Argentina to perform amateur radio experiments.

[English]

Proposal Regarding National Sea Route from Karnataka

2256. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for establishment of a National Sea Route and associated maritime infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for establishment of a National Sea route and associated maritime infrastructure projects has been received.

[Translation]

Indo-Italian Task Force

2257. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Italy have decided to set up a joint task force to combat international terrorism and crime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India and Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15th February 2007 at New Delhi for setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The Working Group shall meet once a year, alternately in India and Italy. The first meeting will take place within six months from the date of the signing of the MoU and define the objectives and scope of the Working Group. The Ministry of External Affairs will be the nodal agency on the Indian side responsible for implementation of the MoU.

[English]

Four-Laning of NH-17 and NH-47

2258. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has proposed four-laning of NH-17 and NH-47 naming it "Spice and Heritage Highway";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total length of the NH-47 and NH-17 and the length out of which converted into four lanes;

(d) the estimated cost of the projects;

(e) whether the land has been acquired for the purpose;

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

(g) whether the work has been undertaken on BOT basis;

(h) the target date fixed for completion of these projects; and

(i) the plan of the Government to complete the projects by the stipulated target date?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total length of NH-17 and NH-47 in the state of Kerala is 421 km and 417 km respectively. Out of the above, a length of 52 km of NH 47 has already been converted into four lane.

(d) Tentative estimated cost of the projects for four laning of NH 17 and NH 47 is Rs. 8019.00 crore.

(e) and (f) The land acquisition is in progress.

(g) Four laning of NH 17 is proposed to be taken up on BOT basis and that of NH 47, partly on BOT basis and partly under EPC contracts.

(h) and (i) The works on NH-47 are effected to be completed by 2010. As regards NH-17, these projects are included under NHDP III B, which will be taken up after the due approval of the Government.

[Translation]

Loans for NHAI

2259. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the amount of loans borrowed so far by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) alongwith the interest rate charged thereon during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the income earned through toll tax and other taxes by NHAI during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the arrangements made by the Government for efficient and proper use of the loans borrowed and earned; and

(d) the progress achieved as a result thereof against the targeted schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of amount borrowed so far directly by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Surat-Manor Tollway Project and against issues of Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds under section 54 EC of Income Tax (IT) Act and interest rate charged thereon in the past years are given as enclosed Statement.

(b) The net amount of user fee (toll) collected by

NHAI during the last 3 years is as under:-

| Year | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Amount (Rs. in crore) | 359.45 | 460.50 | 798.08 |

(c) and (d) The funds received by NHAI from Government and also funds from borrowings are utilized on the projects being implemented by NHAI and also for making payment of annuity/interest and repayment of borrowings.

Statement

Details of amount borrowed by NHAI

| Year | Loan from ADB in million US \$ | | Borrowings against 54 EC Bonds | |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Principle + Interest + Commitment charge | Rate of Interest (%) | Amount (Rs. in crore) | Rate of Interest (%) |
| 1999-00 | 0.00 | NHAI had entered into | — | — |
| 2000-01 | 8.81 | separate agreements for Pool | 656.62 | Already repaid by NHAI |
| 2001-02 | 13 | base and London Inter Bank | 804.44 | |
| 2002-03 | 37.05 | Offer Rate (LIBOR) base. The | 5592.94 | |
| 2003-04 | 42.25 | interest and commitment | — | |
| 2004-05 | 26.98 | charges of both the parts of the | 0.00 | 5.6% (average) |
| 2005-06 | 21.66 | loan is payable along with | 1289.00 | |
| 2006-07 | 0.00 | principal amount. Currently, | 1500.00 | |
| | | ADB is charging interest | | 5.5% |
| | | @ 5.91% on pool based loan and | | |
| | | 5.40% on LIBOR based loan. | | |
| | | In addition to this, NHAI has | | |
| | | to bear the exchange | | |
| | | fluctuation risk as the loan has | | |
| | | been taken in dollar and is to | | |
| | | be repaid in dollar. | | |

[English]

Empowering Women in Panchayati Raj

2260. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to strengthen the country's women Panchayat Heads;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to empower Panchayat Heads especially women?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing a scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana. One of the components of this scheme is 'Training and Capacity Building' under which

funds are provided to State Governments for training of elected representatives including women representatives and officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The training is imparted to the elected representatives by the State Governments through the State Institutes of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and Extension Training Centres. Funds for the aforesaid scheme are provided by Central Government and State Governments to train the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the ratio of 75:25.

A study by Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal of the JNU is proposed on "Survey of Elected Women Representatives to the Panchayats".

Further, the Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan—a movement to strengthen the elected women of the PRIs—has been initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the aegis of the "Chalo Gaon Ki Ore" rubric of the National Commission for Women. A core group comprising selected EWRs, activists, academics etc. is nominated by the State Government/Government of India to draft and facilitate a draft women's charter for the EWRs of the state stating thereon their particular issues. Subsequently, all women Zila Pramukhs, all women Pradhans and selected women Sarpanchs from each district of the state, as well as Core Group members and some eminent personalities are invited to a said two day conference of panchayat women. A women's charter comprising all the major points distilled from the discussions with the women representatives of the PRIs is then finalized.

The Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan has been conceptualized to initiate awareness about the gender issues in governance and to facilitate Elected Women Representatives in performing their mandate to the best of their abilities. Most EWRs see themselves as isolated and unorganized, functioning without the support of a structure and have spoken of the need to form into groups or associations so as to be part of a forum that addresses their special needs in a largely male-dominated social and political milieu. So far, conferences of elected women representatives, activists, NGOs, eminent personalities have been held as under:—

1. Udaipur (Rajasthan) - 23rd & 24th April, 2006.
2. Patiala (Punjab) - 17th & 18th July, 2006.
3. Bangalore (Karnataka) 5th September, 2006

4. Dehradun (Uttaranchal) on 24th September, 2006

5. Imphal (Manipur) - 4th & 5th October, 2006

6. Panaji (Goa) - 19th October, 2006.

Besides the State-level Conferences, a one-day divisional-level conference was also held on 29th November 2006 at Jaipur in Rajasthan. In the State of Sikkim, the conference will be held on 20th and 21st April 2007 at Gangtok and in the State of Assam on 23rd April, 2007. Such conferences are planned for other states as well.

Road Proposal for Himachal Pradesh

2261. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments particularly from Government of Himachal Pradesh for development of roads from Central Road Fund;

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

(c) the names of road development projects which have been sanctioned by the Government;

(d) the total amount sanctioned for each of these projects; and

(e) the time by which these projects are expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Proposals received from various State Government/Union Territories for sanction under Central Road Fund during current year for development of roads including Himachal Pradesh are given at enclosed Statement-I. The details of on-going projects and amounts sanctioned are given at the enclosed Statement-II. The names of projects in Himachal Pradesh sanctioned under Central Road Fund with date and amount sanctioned are given as enclosed Statement-III.

(e) The development of State roads under Central Road Fund Scheme is a continuous process and,

therefore, no specific time frame can be given. However, the guidelines provide that completion period of individual

project is not to exceed 24 months including period of tendering.

Statement I

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UTs | 2000-01 | | 2001-02 | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 58 | 255.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 211.77 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 182.59 | 134 | 281.17 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.43 | 1 | 5.15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | 1.61 | 5 | 22.065 | 11 | 25.067 | 4 | 15.46 | 4 | 16.22 | 0 | 00 | 15 | 74.28 |
| 4. | Assam | 22 | 29.85 | 2 | 4.05 | 15 | 33.77 | 10 | 14.56 | 12 | 40.57 | 9 | 14.33 | 5 | 18.41 |
| 5. | Bihar | 29 | 52.00 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 82.50 | 5 | 20.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 261 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 00 | 00 | 04 | 693.48 | 02 | 4.61 | 02 | 01.99 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 | 3.75 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 31 | 140.03 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 68.15 | 5 | 13.90 | 2 | 33.56 | 7 | 49.02 | 13 | 50.71 |
| 8. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10.41 | 3 | 8.95 | 33 | 52.37 | 1 | 1.61 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 55.41 |
| 9. | Goa | 3 | 6.99 | 1 | 0.84 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10.59 |
| 10. | Gujarat | 67 | 42.89 | 159 | 90.41 | 116 | 82.66 | 95 | 96.51 | 15 | 23.26 | 117 | 179.84 | 27 | 55.69 |
| 11. | Haryana | 03 | 05.19 | 33 | 68.00 | 06 | 57.44 | 07 | 42.31 | 08 | 49.40 | 11 | 101.05 | 02 | 32.69 |
| 12. | Himachal Pradesh | 00 | 00 | 08 | 22.43 | 06 | 9.88 | 15 | 29.66 | 02 | 4.80 | 04 | 20.77 | 04 | 10.79 |
| 13. | Jammu and Kashmir | 12 | 33.18 | 17 | 52.00 | 03 | 4.60 | 16 | 38.00 | 29 | 142.79 | 11 | 94.90 | 08 | 118.57 |
| 14. | Jharkhand | 5 | 26.75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 22.23 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 52.00 | 5 | 56.106 |
| 15. | Karnataka | 33 | 48.05 | 103 | 76.19 | 62 | 39.85 | 129 | 94.36 | 241 | 145.98 | 140 | 110.20 | 246 | 239.10 |
| 16. | Kerala | 0 | 0 | 3 | 21.90 | 2 | 16.18 | 8 | 45.15 | 3 | 10.21 | 13 | 72.57 | 4 | 28.51 |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh | 29 | 141.67 | 114 | 589.45 | 15 | 45.87 | 131 | 283.85 | 46 | 155.07 | 53 | 230.61 | 58 | 333.00 |
| 18. | Maharashtra | 57 | 217.00 | 110 | 181.96 | 36 | 70.52 | 59 | 130.17 | 47 | 125.58 | 106 | 295.93 | 243 | 843.82 |
| 19. | Manipur | 3 | 3.96 | 2 | 5.91 | 2 | 4.11 | 1 | 4.00 | 1 | 3.47 | 1 | 2.96 | 12 | 45.08 |
| 20. | Meghalaya | 6 | 7.70 | 2 | 4.39 | 5 | 9.32 | 3 | 7.87 | 1 | 4.80 | 2 | 8.59 | 0 | 00 |
| 21. | Mizoram | 1 | 3.02 | 2 | 10.00 | 2 | 7.66 | 1 | 0.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 34.17 |
| 22. | Nagaland | 3 | 4.72 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.45 | 4 | 9.66 | 2 | 8.14 | 1 | 3.60 | 0 | 00 |
| 23. | Orissa | 0 | 0 | 101 | 96.90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 57.76 | 10 | 27.14 | 21 | 112.82 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|-----|---------------|-----|--------|-----|---------|----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|----|--------|
| 24. | Pondicherry | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4.70 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.27 | 1 | 2.57 | 1 | 2.88 | 1 | 15.00 |
| 25. | Punjab | 14 | 32.99 | 66 | 119.75 | 19 | 57.49 | 35 | 86.07 | 09 | 31.83 | 13 | 65.15 | 07 | 51.84 |
| 26. | Rajasthan | 37 | 53.53 | 74 | 109.305 | 83 | 115.16 | 84 | 134.70 | 112 | 127.65 | 135 | 189.94 | 91 | 175.03 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 8 | 1.91 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3.65 | 1 | 1.11 | 3 | 4.24 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2.69 |
| 28. | Tamil Nadu | 255 | 155.50 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 70.43 | 113 | 82.00 | 107 | 140.62 | 19 | 36.36 | 39 | 66.10 |
| 29. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3.54 | 2 | 3.56 | 2 | 6.12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 19.15 |
| 30. | Uttarakhand | 11 | 10.92 | 11 | 17.93 | 2 | 6.55 | 26 | 47.27 | 1 | 6.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 11.69 | 1.9 | 156.14 | 10 | 28.98 | 15 | 118.41 | 23 | 234.81 | 20 | 202.34 | 20 | 207.66 |
| 32. | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 10 | 35.81 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 35.84 | 9 | 137.81 | 3 | 83.16 |

Statement II

*Status of works under Central Road Fund (CRF)
as on 31.01.2007*

| Sl.No. | Name of State /UTs. | No. of ongoing CRF works No. | Approved cost Amount (Rs. in crore) |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 111 | 294.82 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 2 | 7.58 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 20 | 86.47 |
| 4. | Assam | 8 | 24.44 |
| 5. | Bihar | 21 | 101.00 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 2 | 1.99 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 20 | 101.39 |
| 8. | Delhi | 36 | 43.67 |
| 9. | Goa | 1 | 2.59 |
| 10. | Gujarat | 95 | 166.03 |
| 11. | Haryana | 10 | 93.35 |
| 12. | Himachal Pradesh | 15 | 45.73 |
| 13. | Jammu and Kashmir | 22 | 148.22 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|----------------|-----|--------|
| 14. | Jharkhand | 11 | 100.94 |
| 15. | Karnataka | 242 | 206.94 |
| 16. | Kerala | 24 | 137.50 |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh | 85 | 357.68 |
| 18. | Maharashtra | 192 | 668.67 |
| 19. | Manipur | 9 | 24.60 |
| 20. | Meghalaya | 9 | 11.26 |
| 21. | Mizoram | 1 | 3.13 |
| 22. | Nagaland | 8 | 22.30 |
| 23. | Orissa | 33 | 127.60 |
| 24. | Pondicherry | 2 | 5.44 |
| 25. | Punjab | 12 | 86.25 |
| 26. | Rajasthan | 112 | 181.10 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 7 | 7.50 |
| 28. | Tamil Nadu | 74 | 141.73 |
| 29. | Tripura | 5 | 11.70 |
| 30. | Uttarakhand | 27 | 53.03 |
| 31. | Uttar Pradesh | 50 | 544.11 |
| 32. | West Bengal | 11 | 163.25 |

Statement III

| (Rs. in lakhs) | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Sl.No. | Name of work | Amount Sanctioned | Date of Sanction |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2001-02 | | | |
| 1. | Strengthening of road crust of MDR Chotta Shimla km. 145/10-147/65 & 149/25-155/69 in Distt of Shimla | 162.31 | 21-5-01 |
| 2. | Strengthening of road crust of Mehatpur-Una-Mubarakpur-Talwara road km 5/60 to 18/00 | 374.67 | 21-5-01 |
| 3. | Strengthening of road crust from km 49/00 to 83/00 of Pathankot-Banikhet-Chamba road | 603.69 | 21-5-01 |
| 4. | Strengthening of road crust of Mubarakpur-Ranktal-Kangra road km 85/70 to 103/00 | 287.17 | 21-5-01 |
| 5. | Extension of existing CD works & widening to two lanes standards in km 45/00 to 69/00 Una-Aghar-Mandi road | 328.68 | 21-5-01 |
| 6. | Assistance to IRC Council meeting | 5.00 | 21-5-01 |
| 7. | Improvement of Geometrics by widening of existing road to two lane, i.e. widening of culverts from Km.8/0 to 28/0 of Una-Aghar- Mandi Road. | 160.50 | 21-5-01 |
| Total | | 1922.02 | |
| 2002-2003 | | | |
| 8. | Strengthening of Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Dharamshala road in km 71/4 to 84/75 i.e. portion Mubarakpur to Bharwin | 206.67 | 25-7-2002 |
| 9. | Construction of 85 m single span double lane PSC bridge over river Giri at Satun on Lal Dhan Paonta Rajban Rohuru road in Sirmour | 302.1 | 25-7-2002 |
| 10. | Construction of 154 m span double lane prestressed concrete girder bridge over Neogal Khad on Paraur-Lehla-Chachian-Lugribhatti-Bandla-Palampur road at km 1/315 [RDs from] | 242.9 | 25-7-2002 |
| 11. | construction of Indrpur bridge on Indrpur Tappa road | 129 | 19/12/2002 |
| Total | | 880.67 | |
| 2003-04 | | | |
| 12. | Strengthening/Improvement of riding quality of Chotta Shimla-Kasumpti-Panthaghat road km. 0/0 to 2/370 | 58.03 | 23-4-2003 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------|---|---------|------------|
| 13. | Improvement in riding quality in Kala Amb nerwa via Suketi Park-Rainjet road in km 0 to 61 | 381.47 | 23-4-2003 |
| 14. | Improvement/Upgradation of Thana Kalan Mandli Bhakhra Nangal road km 0/0 to 28/675 | 150.3 | 23-4-2003 |
| 15. | Construction of 74 M PSC girder bridge in Gamber khadon Malaun Kusri Road | 190 | 23-4-2003 |
| 16. | Construction of 30 M Span RCC Bridge over Dagroh Khad on Dharmapur Subathu Road | 66 | 23-4-2003 |
| 17. | Strengthening/Improvement of riding quality of M.R.R. via Lakkar Bazar km. 149/645 to 154/045 | 127.29 | 25-4-2003 |
| 18. | Construction of 135.04 M Span (6 spans of 22 M each) RCC T-beam bridge over Kunah Khad on Rangus Rail Jalari via Fatehpur road at km 5/0. | 104.26 | 25-4-2003 |
| 19. | Strengthening of Nangal Mubarikpur Talwara road km. 38/800 to 50/200 in HP | 193.13 | 25-4-2003 |
| 20. | Strengthening of road crust on Dharamshala, Kangra and Mubarikpur Hoshiarpur, H.P. Boundry road (Portion Mataur to Dharamshala to Mcleodganj km 153/0 to 168/250 i/c Holma road km 0/0 to 2/040 | 371 | 25-4-2003 |
| 21. | Construction of Jawalamukhi Dehra Nehran Pukhar Kaloha road km 0/0 to 27/160 (SH: Improvement and strengthening of existing road crust km 0/0 to 11/0 Section - Jawalamukhi to Dehra) | 528.67 | 1-5-2004 |
| 22. | Construction of TKH bypass road from km. 0/0 to 7/0, i.e., Realignment between km.. 5/0 to 8/0 in Theog-Kothai-Hathkoti road. | 403.14 | 1-5-2004 |
| Total | | 2573.29 | |
| 2004-2005 | | | |
| 23. | Improvement and Upgradation of Theog Kotkhai Hatkoti road from km. 8/00 to 13/255 (SH: Improvement/Upgradation from km.8/0 to 13/255 | 207.46 | 9-09-2004 |
| 24. | Improvement and Upgradation of Theog Kotkhai Hatkoti road from km. 34/0 to 39/0 | 288.32 | 9-09-2004 |
| 25. | Improvement & Strengthening of Holta Rajpur Kallu The Hatti Road Km 0/0 to 4/33 | 95.9 | 09-09-2004 |
| Total | | 591.68 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|--|----------------|------------|
| 2005-06 | | | |
| 26. | Balance work, i.e. metalling and tarring of Kangra Bypass road from km 0 to 4.487 | 234.6 | 16-09-2005 |
| 27. | Barthi-Bagathan-Rajgarh-Chandal Road from km 61 to 95 | 244.99 | 16-09-2005 |
| 28. | Improvement and upgradation of Theog-Kothai-Hotkoti road from km 68 to 72.8 | 227.29 | 16-09-2005 |
| 29. | Improvement and strg of Mataur-Gagal Road in km 145.3 to 153 | 308.9 | 16-09-2005 |
| 30. | Upgradation and improvement of Kandroul/Bamta Road from km 0 to 6.66 | 250.91 | 16-09-2005 |
| 31. | Improvement/strengthening of Dharamsala/Yoldadh Road from km 0 to 7.35 and 8.83 to 15.18 | 551.95 | 16-09-2005 |
| 32. | Stg and improvement of Mubarakpu-Ranital-Kangra road | 532.09 | 16-09-2005 |
| 33. | Improvement of Theog/Hatkoti Road. | 220.83 | 16-09-2005 |
| | Total | 2570.75 | |
| 2006-07 | | | |
| 34. | Widening and streng. of Dharampur-Subathu Road in KM. 0/0 to 13/240 | 327.65 | 22-09-2006 |
| 35. | Realignment of Shimla-Mandi road in Km. 19/820 to 20/745 | 97.30 | 22-09-2006 |
| | Total | 424.95 | |
| | Grand Total | 8963.38 | |

Nyaya Panchayats

2262. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long-pending Bill for Nyaya Panchayats or Village-level dispute settlement mechanism is ready for legislation;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) the recommendations made by Baxi Committee on Nyaya Panchayats;

(d) whether the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during in the current Budget Session; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) No, Sir. A committee chaired by the eminent Jurist Prof. Upendra Baxi, ex-Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, has submitted a draft bill on Nyaya Panchayats, in order to provide a sound alternative forum of dispute resolution through mediation, conciliation and compromise at the grass root level which can be institutionalized with community involvement. The

preliminary draft bill of the committee is under process of consultation with Central Ministries and State Governments.

**Ratio between Landline and
Mobile Phone Users**

2263. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country as on 31st December, 2006;

(b) whether there was a negative growth in the number of landline subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the ratio between number of landline and mobile phones with the total population in each State of the country at present;

(f) whether the mobile users have increased nearly four times as compared to the land-line users;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the BSNL/MTNL to increase land line connections in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (h) Information is collected and laid on the Table of the House.

International Sea Port at Vizhinjam

2264. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of a proposal for the construction of International Sea Port at Vizhinjam in Kerala;

(b) the central assistance granted for the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) According to information available, the Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal seeking Government Assistance in the form of Viability Gap Funding for the Development of Deep Water International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vizhinjam in June, 2006. The proposal was considered in the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance. Department of Economic Affairs returned the proposal to the Government of Kerala in September, 2006 for resubmission as the proposal did not meet the mandatory conditions of the scheme. Under the Indian Ports Act 1908, State Governments have overall jurisdiction over Non-Major ports and are responsible for their development. Vizhinjam Port, being a Non-Major port in the State of Kerala, it is for the Government of Kerala to process the proposal further.

Six-Laning of NH-4 between Pune-Bangalore

2265. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert National Highway No. 4 from Pune to Bangalore into six lane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the acquisition of land for this project has been initiated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cost of the project and the expected time period by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The Government has approved undertaking six laning of 6500 km of National Highways comprising 5700 km of Golden Quadrilateral and 800 km of other sections having traffic more than 25000 PCU by December 2012 through Public Private

Partnership (PPP) on Build, Operate and Transfer (EOT) basis following Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase V. National Highways No. 4 from Pune to Bangalore being a part of Golden Quadrilateral is covered under the approval. Action on land acquisition and cost estimation is yet to be initiated.

Renewal of Treaties with Bhutan and Nepal

2266. SHRI MILIND DEORA:
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to renew the Treaties with Bhutan and Nepal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the salient features of the proposed treaties and the previous treaties; and

(d) the details of the agenda undertaken for mutual cooperation with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have updated the Treaty relating to the promotion of, and fostering the relations of friendship and neighbourliness signed on August 8, 1949 with Bhutan. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty signed on February 8, 2007 reflects our mutual desire to enhance our relationship to an even higher level of cooperation and goodwill to meet the aspirations of our two peoples for a better life.

During the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. G.P. Koirala to India in August, 2000, the Governments of India and Nepal had agreed to undertake a review of all issues pertaining to the 1950 Treaty. This was reiterated in the Joint Press Statements issued by the two Governments in 2002 and 2004 with a view to further strengthening of bilateral relations.

(c) The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty reiterates that there shall be perpetual peace and friendship between India and Bhutan. It removes provisions which have become obsolete over time. It

includes fresh provisions for consolidating and expanding economic cooperation for mutual and long-term benefit, and cooperation in the fields of culture, education, health, sports, and science and technology. It does not envisage a change in the treatment of nationals of both countries, or in the free trade regime that we have. The Treaty commits both countries to cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests, and not allow the use of their territories for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

(d) Government have a wide-ranging agenda of mutually beneficial cooperation with both countries. We have, over the years, worked closely with Bhutan and Nepal to ensure that our natural linkages are translated into meaningful trade, economic, commercial and cultural ties. Initiatives are underway to improve connectivity and strengthen infrastructure on our borders with these countries. Government of India also have development cooperation programmes with Bhutan and Nepal to assist them in their socio-economic development keeping in view the specific priorities of each of the two countries.

Revenue Generation by BSNL

2267. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plans offered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to the subscribers; and

(b) the revenue generated during the last two years in different plans for home users?

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

Space Exploration

2269. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has any plans for space exploration in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details of the plans; and

(c) the time by which such exploration would be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has planned the launch of the first mission to moon, Chandrayaan-1, with the main objective of physical and chemical mapping of the entire surface of the moon. ASTROSAT is another satellite planned for multi-wavelengths study of a variety of celestial phenomena.

(c) Chandrayaan-1 is scheduled for launch in the first quarter of 2008 and ASTROSAT is planned for launch during 2008-09.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility to Gram Panchayats

2270. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide telephone facility to all Gram Panchayats of the country;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone facility till date, State-wise; and

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facility during the year 2007-08, State-wise?

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

[English]

Amendment of Maritime Shipping Act

2271. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy by amending the existing Maritime Shipping Act to encourage the entry of foreign cruises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cruise passenger landings at Indian ports each year during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost cruise passenger tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A cruise shipping policy to promote tourism is on the anvil. However, the policy does not involve amendment of the existing Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(c) The majority of cruise passengers arrive at Mumbai, Cochin and Goa. The cruise passengers landings at these three ports during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were 24,908, 21,824 and 50,705 respectively.

(d) Steps to boost cruise passenger tourism in the country along with measures to be taken are the following:—

(i) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(ii) Upto 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

(iii) Phased programme will be evolved for development of facilities at ports for cruise shipping.

(iv) Systems and procedure are being streamlined to facilitate seamless travel by the tourists.

(v) Cruise operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has been permitted to operate cruise from Goa to Lakshadweep via Cochin. Similarly Cruise operator M/s. Star Cruises has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.

[Translation]

Work Progress of NH-6

2272. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the slow progress of work on National Highway No.6 and the stretch between Surat and Maner;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of works which have been completed;
- (d) the total length of the NH No.6 in kilometres;

(e) whether any assessment has been made about the cost over-runs due to delay in construction of these projects; and

(f) the time by which the said 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 (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Conference of Editors

2273. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of editors from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nations has recently been convened;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The Conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Media Development Foundation, Chennai and was held in New Delhi on 9-10 February 2007. It was attended by 26 editors from SAARC countries, besides senior Indian editors. The Conference was organized as part of a build-up to the SAARC Summit and intended to bring together and promote people-to-people contacts and media cooperation among SAARC nations.

[Translation]

West Asia Peace Process

2274. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Palestine has urged the Government of India to play a vital role in the West Asia Peace Process;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) No. However, India has always supported the establishment of a sovereign, independent, viable State of Palestine, within well-defined and recognised borders, living side by side at peace with the State of Israel, through a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict and in keeping with relevant UN resolution.

[English]

Bad Condition of Sakleshpur-Mangalore NH

2275. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sakleshpur-Mangalore highway in Karnataka is in dilapidated condition causing delays and blockade in the movement of vehicle on the ghat section;

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

(c) whether the condition of the highway has been deteriorated due to heavy traffic of iron-ore-laden vehicles from Bellary heading for Mangalore port;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has any proposal to provide port connectivity from Golden Quadrilateral routes; and

(f) the steps being taken on upgrade the riding quality and condition of the said highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A length of about 40 km of NH 48 in Shiradi Ghat area was damaged extensively during last monsoons. The repair works have already been taken up by the State Government. Further, the improvement works amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore have

been sanctioned in the above stretch and the works are under the process of award/implementation.

(c) and (d) Extensive damages have occurred due to plying of overloaded vehicles, heavy rainfall and existence of sharp curves.

(e) NHAI is implementing the port connectivity project from Golden Quadrilateral at 5 locations.

(f) There are several sanctioned improvement works on this National Highway. After the implementation of these works, the condition of this National Highway will be improved further.

Satellites Launched by ISRO

2276. SHRI K. C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of satellites launched by ISRO so far, successful and failed;

(b) whether the ISRO has recently launched new series of PSLV recently;

(c) if so, the salient features and the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof;

(d) whether it is also proposed to launch more such satellites in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India proposes to enter global market for images and data; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) India has launched 46 satellites so far (up to March 9, 2007). Out of these, 3 satellites have failed in orbit and 5 satellites could not be orbited (Launch Failure). Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) ISRO has recently launched PSLV-C7 on January 10, 2007 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This was the tenth flight of PSLV and in this mission, it launched four satellites—India's CARTOSAT-2 and Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE - 1), Indonesia's LAPAN-TUBSAT and Argentina's PEHUENSAT-1. All the satellites were placed precisely in the specified 635 km high polar orbit. CARTOSAT-2 will benefit in detailed mapping of the country and other cartographic applications at cadastral level, urban and rural infrastructure development and management, as well as applications in Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS). Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1) has demonstrated the critical technology of recovering a satellite from orbit which will be used in designing future advanced launch vehicle systems.

(d) and (e) It is planned to launch Oceansat-2 satellite for Ocean and coastal studies, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT), Resourcesat-2 for natural resource survey applications and SRE-2 in the next two years.

(f) and (g) India is already marketing the IRS imagery/data through a network of international ground stations under commercial agreement with M/s Antrix.

Statement

Indian Space Mission (Upto 9th March 2007)

| Sl.No | Name | Date of Launch | Missions | Launch Vehicle | Successful/Failed |
|-------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | ARYABHATA | 19.04.1975 | Scientific & Experimental | INTER COSMOS, USSR | Successful |
| 2. | BHASKARA-1 | 07.06.1979 | Experimental Earth Observation | INTER COSMOS, USSR | Successful |
| 3. | RTP | 10.08.1979 | Experimental | SLV-3 INDIA | Sub-orbital flight |
| 4. | RS-1 | 18.07.1980 | Scientific & Technical | SLV-3 INDIA | Successful |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 5. | RS-D1 | 31.05.1981 | Scientific & Technical | SLV-3 INDIA | Successful |
| 6. | APPLE | 19.06.1981 | Experimental Communication | ARIANE, FRANCE | Successful |
| 7. | BIASKARA-2 | 20.11.1981 | Experimental Earth Observation | INTER COSMOS, USSR | Successful |
| 8. | INSAT-1A | 10.04.1982 | Communication & Meteorology | US, DELTA, USA | Prematurely aborted |
| 9. | RS-D2 | 17.04.1983 | Scientific & Technical | SLV-3 INDIA | Successful |
| 10. | INSAT-1B | 30.06.1983 | Communication & Meteorology | SPACE SHUTTLE, USA | Successful |
| 11. | SROSS-1 | 24.03.1987 | Scientific & Technical | ASLV, INDIA | Launch Failure |
| 12. | IRS-1 A | 17.03.1988 | Remote Sensing Satellite | VOSTOK, USSR | Successful |
| 13. | SROSS-2 | 13.07.1988 | Scientific & Technical | ASLV, INDIA | Launch Failure |
| 14. | INSAT-1C | 22.07.1988 | Communication & Meteorology | ARIANE, FRANCE | Successful |
| 15. | INSAT-1D | 12.06.1990 | Communication & Meteorology | US, DELTA, USA | Prematurely aborted |
| 16. | IRS-1B | 29.08.1991 | Remote Sensing Satellite | VOSTOK, USSR | Successful |
| 17. | SROSS-C | 20.05.1992 | Scientific & Technical | ASLV, INDIA | Successful |
| 18. | INSAT-2A | 10.07.1992 | Communication & Meteorology | ARIANE, FRANCE | Successful |
| 19. | INSAT-2B | 23.07.1993 | Communication & Meteorology | ARIANE, FRANCE | Successful |
| 20. | IRS-1E | 20.09.1993 | Remote Sensing-Test Satellite | PSLV, INDIA | Launch Failure |
| 21. | SROSS-C2 | 04.05.1994 | Scientific & Technical | ASLV, INDIA | Successful |
| 22. | IRS-P2 | 15.10.1994 | Remote Sensing-Test Satellite | PSLV, INDIA | Successful |
| 23. | INSAT-2C | 07.12.1995 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 24. | IRS-1C | 28.12.1995 | Remote Sensing Satellite | MOLNIYA, RUSSIA | Successful |
| 25. | IRS-P3 | 21.03.1996 | Remote Sensing Satellite | PSLV, INDIA | Successful |
| 26. | INSAT-2D | 04.06.1997 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Prematurely aborted |
| 27. | IRS-1D | 29.09.1997 | Remote Sensing Satellite | PSLV-C1, INDIA | Successful |
| 28. | INSAT-2DT | Procured in Orbit from ARABSAT in January 1998 | | | Successful |
| 29. | INSAT-2E | 03.04.1999 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 30. | OCEANSAT | 26.05.1999 | Ocean & Coastal Studies | PSLV-C2, INDIA | Successful |
| 31. | INSAT-3B | 22.03.2000 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 32. | GSAT-1 | 18.04.2001 | Communication Satellite | GSLV-D1, INDIA | Successful |
| 33. | TES | 22.10.2001 | Technology Sat. Remote Sensing | PSLV-C3, INDIA | Successful |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 34. | INSAT-3C | 24.01.2002 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 35. | KALPANA-1 | 12.09.2002 | Meteorology Satellite | PSLV-C4, INDIA | Successful |
| 36. | INSAT-3A | 10.04.2003 | Communication & Meteorology | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 37. | GSAT-2 | 08.05.2003 | Communication Satellite | GSLV-D2, INDIA | Successful |
| 38. | INSAT-3E | 28.09.2003 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 39. | RESOURCESAT-1 | 17.10.2003 | Remote Sensing Satellite | PSLV-C5, INDIA | Successful |
| 40. | EDUSAT | 20.09.2004 | Satellite for Education | GSLV-F01, INDIA | Successful |
| 41. | CARTOSAT-1 | 05.05.2005 | Satellite for Cartography | PSLV-C5, INDIA | Successful |
| 42. | HAMSAT | 05.05.2005 | Satellite for Amateur Radio | PSLV-C5, INDIA | Successful |
| 43. | INSAT-4A | 22.12.2005 | Communication Satellite | ARIANE, EUROPE | Successful |
| 44. | INSAT-4C | 10.07.2006 | Communication Satellite | GSLV-F2, INDIA | Launch Failure |
| 45. | CARTOSAT-2 | 10.01.2007 | Remote Sensing Satellite | PSLV-C7, INDIA | Successful |
| 46. | SRE-1 | 10.01.2007 | Technology Satellite | PSLV C7, INDIA | Successful |

Navratna Status of SCI

2277. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has been granted Navratna Status;

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

(c) whether denial of Navratna Status to this company has put the company into hardships; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to give Navratna Status to Shipping Corporation of India?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Many areas of deficiency have been noticed in corporate governance of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) which need to be removed in the interest of efficiency and transparency. SCI is taking corrective measures to ensure that its internal governance system achieves a level of efficiency and transparency that a company should desirably achieve before Navratna status is bestowed on it. The progress of SCI towards these reforms is being monitored regularly.

[Translation]

Nuclear Risk Reduction Pact

2278. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently signed any nuclear risk reduction pact with Pakistan;

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

(c) whether any such pact was signed in the past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. An Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons was signed on February 21, 2007 in New Delhi.

(b) The Agreement commits India and Pakistan to maintain and improve as necessary existing national measures to guard against accidents related to nuclear weapons under its control. The two parties have agreed to notify each other immediately in the event of any accident related to nuclear weapons, under their respective jurisdiction or control, which could create the risk of a radioactive fallout with adverse consequences for both sides or create the risk of an outbreak of nuclear war between the two countries. In the event of such an accident, each party is also obliged to act in a manner as to reduce the possibility of its actions being misinterpreted by the other.

The objective of the Agreement is to enhance mutual security by reducing the risk from accidents related to nuclear weapons.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting-up of Regulatory Commission for Coal Sector

2279. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up of a Regulatory Commission for coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Ministry of Coal is currently in the process of commissioning a study for introduction of the institution of coal regulator. Details will be worked out after the receipt of the report of the study.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5945/2007)

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5946/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5947/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5948/2007)

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5949/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Suresh Pachouri, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5950/2007)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): 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 Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5951/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5952/2007)

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5953/2007)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 9, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Sir, I will do it.

MR. SPEAKER: There should have been a notice or an intimation to do it. Anyway, I will allow you.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sorry; I apologize.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be taken very ritually.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am doing it because he has to be in the Rajya Sabha simultaneously.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, permitted, but not as a precedent.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): On behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.466(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2006, under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R.663(E) dated the 25th October, 2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5954/2007)

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5955/2007)

- (5) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No. 12 of 2007)—(Regulatory Audit)—(Telecommunications Sector)—Transaction of Audit Observations, for the year ended the March, 2006, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5956/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
- (i) S.O.1998(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Sonapat section) in the State of Haryana.
 - (ii) S.O.2051(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 14 (Deesa Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.
 - (iii) S.O.2052(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 14 (Palanpur — Swaroopganj Section) in the State of Gujarat.
 - (iv) S.O.2091(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2006 regarding fixing the Rate of fee for services in relation to the use of bridge across river Mahi on National Highway 8 in the State of Gujarat together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O.2099(E) (in Hindi version only) dated the 15th December, 2006.
 - (v) S.O.142(E) and S.O.143(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 on different states (Vadodara-Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
 - (vi) S.O.85(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22 (Zirakpur Parwanoo Section, including Pinjore-Kalka-Parwanoo bypass) in the State of Haryana.
 - (vii) S.O.86(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22 (Zirakpur Parwanoo Section) in the State of Punjab.
 - (viii) S.O.98(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (ix) S.O.195(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (x) S.O.99(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (xi) S.O.2004(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Mulabagal-Kolar-Bangalore section) in the State of Karnataka.
 - (xii) S.O.2006(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/

four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 48 (Nelamangala-Hassan section) in the State of Karnataka.

- (xiii) S.O.2045(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Hosur section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xiv) S.O.2056(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xv) S.O.1730(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Vadape-Gonde section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xvi) S.O.1692(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 6 (Nagpur-Dhule section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xvii) S.O.1552(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Tamil Nadu/ Kerala Border to Thrissur section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xviii) S.O.1791(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 47 (Mannuthy-Aluva section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xix) S.O.1747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2006 regarding

acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 47 (Mannuthy-Aluva section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.

- (xx) S.O.1750(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Tamil Nadu/ Kerala Border to Thrissur section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xxi) S.O.1799(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Tamil Nadu/ Kerala Border to Thrissur section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xxii) S.O.2038(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Tamil Nadu/ Kerala Border to Thrissur section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xxiii) S.O.2166(E) and S.O.2167(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of different stretches of National Highway No. 47 (Mannuthy-Aluva section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xxiv) S.O.2076(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 47 (Mannuthy-Aluva section), including construction of by-passes in the State of Kerala.
- (xxv) S.O.2046(E) to S.O.2048(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land on different stretches for building (widening/ four-laning etc.) for maintenance,

- management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section), in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O.2117(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Mulatagal-Kolar-Bangalore Rural) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxvii) S.O.2133(E) and S.O.2134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxviii) S.O.196(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxix) S.O. 186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Indore-Khalghat section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxx) S.O. 193(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Indore-Khalghat section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxxi) S.O. 2079(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 (Nalbari-Bijni section) in the State of Assam.
- (xxxi) S.O. 48(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 52 (Nalbari-Bijni section) in the State of Assam.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 169(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 244(E) dated the 25th February, 2004.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 170(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxxv) S.O. 96(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August, 2005.
- (xxxvi) S.O.2122(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction), of Gwalior by-pass joining at National Highway No.3 (Agra-Gwalior section) and National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxxvii) S.O.18(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxxviii) S.O.73(E) and S.O.74(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land on different stretches for building (widening/ four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi-Lakhanadon section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xxxix) S.O.107(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of existing National Highway including construction of by-passes in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(xi) S.O.93(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2007 declaring Highway mentioned therein to be National Highway.

- (2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (xi to xxv) of (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5957/2007)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:—

(i) S.O.94(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2007 entrusting the Belghoria expressway to the National Highway Authority of India.

(ii) S.O.95(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2007 reducing the period of divestment and directs that the National Highways Authority of India shall take control of the stretch (Kishangarh-Ajmer section) of National Highway No. 8 and in exercise of the powers and perform functions in respect thereof.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5958/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—5959/2007)

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated

the 9th March, 2007 from the Hon'ble President:—

"I have received the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 23 February, 2007."

12.04 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

Re: Business transacted during previous week

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 100 Starred Questions admitted, only 15 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 999 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. During the period, as many as eight matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour and before the adjournment of the House for the day. Also, 41 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was resumed during the week and the motion was adopted after a debate lasting 12 hours and 43 minutes.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House had a combined discussion for about 2 hours and 44 minutes on the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' disapproving the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Ordinance, 2007 and the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007 before the Statutory Resolution was negatived and the Bill was passed.

12 hours and 49 minutes were spent on the General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2007-08, the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 and Resolution regarding approval of recommendations in Fifth Report of Railway Convention Committee (2004) before passing the same along with the related Appropriation Bills.

The House sat late and worked extra for as many as 8 hours and 39 minutes to transact essential items of business. I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. members for their co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12. Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

Is it your seat?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been promoted! I compliment you!

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I never sat in other's seat.

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-sixth Report

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir I wish to speak in regard to Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for sometime. You know this much at least.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been heavy hailstorm in the entire north India for the last three days. Earlier the crops were ruined particularly in most parts of the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh owing to drought. The drought also ruined the

crops in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The crops were destroyed due to floods in the remaining two third area of Madhya Pradesh. There was frost only two months back. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Due to which the entire crops of farmers were destroyed and now the entire north India is facing heavy hailstorm. According to meteorologists, the incidents of such hailstorm take place in centuries just once or twice. It has battered the farmers. The Government of India has no special package for the last hailstorm nor any special relief to compensate the damage from floods. The State Government provided compensation to the affected farmers from its own resources. The damage caused to the life and livestock this time has broken the backbone of the farmers. Through you, I demand from the Government of India to send a study team immediately to take stock of the situation and provide special package in addition to the compensation should be provided so that the farmers are able to sustain their livelihood and become self reliant.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahavir Bhagora, Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan, Prof. Raza Singh Rawat, Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, Prof. Chander Kumar, Shri Virendra Kumar, Shri Krishna Murari Moghe, Shrimati Karuna Shukla, Shri Vijay Krishna, Shrimati Preneet Kaur, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajanala, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra—all are associating with this very important issue, very ably put by Shri Tripathi. All of you are associating with it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been heavy rainfall and hailstorm in Rajasthan which has ruined the farmers... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I called him first. Because of its importance, I have called it first. I am sure the Government will look into it and take appropriate steps.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that you do not want to carry on with the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those who want to associate with it, please send their names in writing.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Sir, I may be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsaji, I will call you. I cannot call everybody at the same time. Please have a little patience.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please send me a slip.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There has been heavy destruction due to hailstorm in Rajasthan ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to lay it on the table.

[English]

You can lay it on the Table.

[Translation]

*SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been heavy loss to wheat and gram crops. Owing to heavy hailstorm and torrential rains in the eastern, western and central area of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan area adjacent to Madhya Pradesh. The farmers are on the verge of ruin. The farmer is very sad with the heavy loss.

*The speech was laid on the table.

I demand from the Central Government to send a study team immediately and to make arrangements to provide compensation to the farmers and others who are a party to the loss and the State Governments as well. I wish to associate myself with Chandra Mani Tripathi who has raised this issue.

*DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, division no. 176 would like to associate myself on the issue raised by hon'ble member Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi.

Crops in my Parliamentary constituency Alwar have been damaged due to hailstorms.

The Central Government should immediately assess the losses suffered by the farmers and give them compensation.

*DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the Central Government should immediately provide assistance to the farmers affected due to hailstorm.

Hailstorm has damaged the crops badly in Madhya Pradesh. Taking note of the seriousness of the problem, the Central Government should take all the steps to provide relief.

*SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, incessant rains in Bharatpur-Dhaulpur-Dausa-Daroli area of Rajasthan have destroyed the crops to a large extent. Through you, the Government of India is requested to seek a report from the State Government and to give directions to waive off the loans of farmers of Rajasthan.

*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, un-seasonal rain and hailstorm have resulted in heavy loss to crops in Rajasthan. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to announce a special package for them without any delay. Crops of mustard, gram seed, barely, Isbgol, wheat etc. have suffered heavy losses due to unseasonal incessant rains, thunder storm and hailstorm for the last several days in thousands of villages of 17 districts of Rajasthan i.e. Alwar, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur, Nagaur, Dausa, Swai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Seekar, Bikaner, Ajmer, Hanumangarh, Karauli, Jalaur, Dhaulpur, Pali and Sirohi. In many districts crops have been ruined

*The speech was laid on the Table

[Shri Girdharilal Bhargawa]

completely. Property and livestock have also suffered losses.

The State Government is taking steps to provide assistance to the farmers with its limited sources; however, the extent of the loss is so much that the Central Government should extend its assistance without any further delay.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to immediately announce a package of Rs. 500 crore as hailstorm relief package/disaster relief package to bail out the farmers from this crisis.

*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hailstorm has hit various States during the last three days due to which crops have been destroyed completely. Till now 50 people have died including 16 in Madhya Pradesh alone. The States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat have been affected due to it.

In 31 districts of Madhya Pradesh, the crops on 2 lakh hectares of land have already been destroyed. 500 villages of my Parliamentary Constituency Satna Katni are in the grip of incessant hailstorm since the day before yesterday. I request the Central Government to send a study team there. A special package should be given to the affected farmers alongwith waiving of their loans.

*SHRI KISHEN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to heavy rains and hailstorm, the entire North India particularly Haryana has suffered heavy losses. Crops have been destroyed and all the 20 districts of the State have suffered losses. Vegetables, mustard and wheat crops etc. have been ruined. Farmers should be provided with a compensation to the tune of Rs. 15/20 thousand per acre. A special financial package should be given to Haryana to restrain the farmers from committing suicide.

*SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hailstorm has hit the Gwalior-Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh. The farmers have suffered heavy losses due to unseasonal rain and hailstorm. I would like that the centre should send a survey team to assess the situation of the affected area and provide a relief package to the farmers.

*The speech was laid on the Table

*SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that I have given notice on the said subject in the morning. In that regard, I would like to inform that first the crops of cumin seed, labgoi and mustard were destroyed due to rains and squall, later the remaining crops were destroyed due to rains and hailstorm.

I request the Central Government that not only compensation but a financial package should be given to the farmers so that they could sustain their life.

*SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a severe hailstorm has hit a large part of Madhya Pradesh last day including Assembly segments of Panagar, Sihora, Bahoriband, Mudwara (Katni) of my Parliamentary constituency Jabalpur and many other villages. Standing crops have been destroyed. Farmer has been ruined and needs immediate relief. I request the Central Government to announce a lump sum amount for the farmers to get relief from the hailstorm.

As per your directions, please allow me to associate myself with hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi on this issue.

[English]

*SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Hon'ble Sir, tremendous damage to the crops in Punjab and other parts of the country have been caused due to hailstorm. It is a matter of great concern that thousands of acres of crop have been completely destroyed and farmers of Punjab together with other parts of the country shall have no other means of survival this season due to this.

We the following Members of Parliament draw the attention of the Government of India to provide adequate compensation to the farmers so that at least relief adequate relief could reach them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except those hon. Members who have been called, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)**

*The speech was laid on the Table

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, Please associate my name also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You Please send your name, I have said.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of matters to be raised. All though this matter was lower down in the list, because of its importance I called him first. I have not interrupted him. He has had his say. I have taken the names of all other hon. Members who want to associate with him and I have further made a comment saying that I am sure the Government will look into it. Therefore, those who want to associate with it, please give their names in writing. Everything will be recorded. I deeply appreciate that the Members have taken up this important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to give chance to the Members from every side. Thank you for your kind cooperation, Rasa Singh ji.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious controversy raised in the country with regard to Mashelkar Report.

Sir, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, former Director General of CSIR was appointed Chairperson of the Technical Expert Group on Patent Laws on 5.04.2005. He submitted his Report to the Government which has raised many serious controversies. Firstly, it has come out that in the said Report a portion of it has been copied from a Paper prepared by Saammand Basheer, an Associate of Oxford Intellectual Property research Centre, U.K. It is an act of plagiarism and cheating.

Secondly, he has given up the interest of our country in the interest of multinational corporations. The things like MNCs, interest, suggested by Navartis India Limited have been incorporated in his report.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, he is taking a high moral ground but his recommendation is against the interest of the country. He created embarrassment for the Government in the WIPO meeting in Casa Blanca. I think he went beyond the terms of references.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. You just refer to it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I would like to demand from the Government that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should go into it and submit a report to have a re-look at the Patents Act. This demand has come from many quarters in the last few years. Therefore, this report should be rejected and it should be re-looked by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, you are a senior and responsible Member. Please see that there is no tension. You just mention that thing. I have allowed you because of the sentiments of the people.

12.11 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY THE MEMBERS

Re: Reported objectionable remarks made by the Convener of Maharashtra Nav Nirman Morcha against the people hailing from a particular State of the country

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a disciplined Member I will not say anything objectionable. I would just like to allow your attention towards an urgent issue of national importance which concerns our national integrity. Our civilization and culture has been based on ideology of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam". I would like to submit that Constitution of India provides for a person the right to make a living in a dignified manner in any part of the country. Despite that, such a remark has been made. People from Bihar have played significant role in the prosperity of Maharashtra. Mumbai city is shining because of the hard work, and skill of Biharis. As there is unemployment in Bihar, therefore, people from there move to other cities for livelihood. In the past few days, the nav nirman sena in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*... * spreaded chauvinism. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not take any names. He is not a Member of this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: All right, I will mention the name of the organization only. The name of the member may be removed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The statement delivered by the President of Maharashtra's Nav Nirman Sena is full of provocative remarks inciting chauvinism, harming national unity and integrity and affecting fraternity. He has used abusive language to insult Bihari people. It is really unfortunate and shameful. It has hurt the feelings of crores of nationalists whichever State they might belong to. That is why I want to make this request through you that the President of Maharashtra Nav Nirman Sena should withdraw such statement immediately. ... (Interruptions) He should apologize to the country. He should avoid such statements, otherwise I demand from the Central government to arrest him under the internal security law; a case should be filed against him. ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will call you. Mr. Athawale, you will speak if I call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not even one word is being recorded. I will not permit this type of indiscipline.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important matter in the sense that India is one country. We are proud of being Indians first and then we belong to different States.

*Not recorded.

I am sure nobody will encourage such sort of parochialism.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav will associate with this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Some hon. Members feel that by shouting at the top of their voices they can force me to do certain things. I may ask them to give up such ideas. Shri Ramdas Athawale, would you sit down? I will take action against you. I am trying to give every side an opportunity on important issues. First, I had called the hon. Member who wanted to mention about the natural disaster that took place; then I called your name to mention about the matter. I have given you opportunity. But if you only shout, do you think that there will be proper response? Do it in a dignified manner.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal, your leader has already made a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will start the process of expulsion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me an

*Not recorded.

opportunity to speak on a very important matter. Generally, it is seen that the poor people from Bihar go to different parts of the country to earn their livelihood. These people have to face insult and are subjected to indignity not only in Maharashtra but also in other States of the country. They are losing their lives also. This is a second or third such incident in Maharashtra. The regional leaders of the State have insulted the people of Bihar. Besides this, the youth of Bihar go to different parts of the country to get jobs and students visit other States to take different competitive examinations. They not only face insult but are also assaulted. I fail to understand what wrong the people of Bihar have committed that they are insulted while they extend service to other people. They work in their fields. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody here has done it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): They labour hard to produce food grains and feed the people. The president of Maharashtra Nav Nirman Sena.....* Whatever he has spoken against the people of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* he should be arrested, action should be taken from here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please delete the name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will ask you to withdraw from the House. I would not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

**Expurged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Not a word should be recorded. Some hon. Members here are out to destabilize the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a shameful act. By this way you are not serving the cause of Bihar. I gave you opportunity, but you misused that opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Enough is enough. I have to take action now. It is becoming a doubly shameful conduct.

Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we sincerely appreciate the concerns expressed by the hon. Members here... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot discuss anything in this House in an undignified manner.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This country is one. Nowhere, in any part of the country, the UPA Government encourages anything of such a nature. It concerns the unity of the country. However, since concerns have been expressed by the hon. Members of a particular State, I will faithfully convey the feelings of the Members to the respective State Government this evening. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this incident should be condemned... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would have done it if there was proper attitude on the part of the hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I said that. But you are not eager to listen to what the Chair says.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It might have happened anywhere in India, including the State that the hon. Member has mentioned, I would convey the feelings of the Hon. Members to the concerned State Government.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the oil companies have issued an advice or direction to the LPG distributors throughout the country that the next cylinder may be given to the consumers only after 21 days but in reality, consumers are able to get the refill cylinder only after 40 to 50 days and more often, the cylinders are diverted to commercial purposes like hotels, marriage halls, etc. The consumers are permitted to register the names with dealers only after a month from the date when the cylinder was supplied and they have to wait 10 to 20 days further to get it refilled. The public is suffering a lot to get the domestic gas cylinders on time.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to regulate the supply of domestic gas cylinders to the consumers within three weeks and nowadays, it is not a luxury but a necessity.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what can be done here.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I would like to raise a vital issue so far as Indians living abroad are concerned.

It was reported yesterday that there was a bomb blast in the US camp in Kuwait in which an Indian, particularly a Keralite, was killed and several others were injured. It is a very serious matter which the Government of India should take note of. We all know that thousands of workers are employed in the Middle-East particularly in the Gulf countries as well as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Dubai. Lakhs of Indians are working there and their security is the primary concern of our nation. The Ministry of External Affairs should contact the particular embassies and make sure that the workers are secure in those places. It is a very serious matter because the blast had occurred in a US camp where these people were employed as contract workers. It may not be because of their fault. We do not know whether it was a terrorist attack because it happened in a US camp. It is possible

that it may be a terrorist attack. In that case, the Government should inquire into the matter. The poor families of the victims who have lost everything in the blast should be compensated and the US Government must be contacted. Necessary prompt action should be taken by the Ministry of External Affairs. I would request the Government of India to take very serious note about the lives of the citizens of India working abroad particularly in the Middle-East countries.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that there is a plant of Balco in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. The ash that comes out of the 540 MW electric plant should be accumulated properly at one place but the same is not being done properly. The people of Belgari village, Rupbahri village and other surrounding villages are compelled to drink the ash-laced water. Even their food gets laced with ash whenever the wind blows, consequently they are falling victim to different diseases. It is a crisis in their lives, if they leave their villages, they will lose their crops and occupation*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your behaviour is wonderful! An hon. Member is raising an important issue and you are holding a meeting here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the villagers are in the grip of a crisis as to how they should lead their lives. Attention of the plant's officers has been drawn towards this problem time and again but the officers of the plant are not constructing any dam to accumulate the ash. I request you to take action against them because wherever they establish electric plants; they create problems for the people of nearby villages instead of providing them facilities. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay heed to this problem and get the arrangement done by the plant management to construct a dam to accumulate the ash and provide relief to the villagers. I thank you for giving me time.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. It is understood that the railway authorities have issued eviction order to the telephone booth owners

at the railway stations. About 40,000 booths are run by physically challenged persons. The eviction is done with the intention of providing facilities to multi-national companies to run their own booths in the railway platforms. The approach of the railway authorities is highly unjustified. Hence, the Ministry of Railways should withdraw this decision of evicting these physically challenged persons. Their right to run these booths should be protected.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate with what Shrimati Satheedevi stated now.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak on the miserable condition of the Damri road which is being constructed under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana. The contractors are awarded the contracts and they fill the five years guarantee form. For these roads became defective where potholes and pits surface, 15 percent amount is deposited within one or two years, but majority of roads in Bilaspur district and certain roads in the rest of Chhattisgarh have become dilapidated within about one or two years. Instead of transporting and using the stone chips provided for the purpose, stone chips are being taken from the local quarry, consequently weak roads are being constructed which become defective within one year and are not fit for traffic movement or for pedestrian. Contract of such contractors should be terminated.

Sir, I will request the Central Government that stone chips, boulders and stones should be mined and transported from the quarry and strong roads should be constructed. At least thirty among the earlier proposed roads and at least fifty roads in Chhattisgarh should be constructed to connect the places where population is less than one thousand. As per the policy, population of two thousand is mandatory for the construction of roads. The State government sent proposal to construct road at the places where the population is below one thousand, but the Central Government has rejected the proposal. I would like to draw the attention of the Central government towards the fact that the projects regarding those roads which fall under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and regarding which State government is following rules

and procedures are not getting funds in time. The contract of approved roads has not been awarded so they are not being constructed. So, I shall once again request the Central government that it should pay attention towards these roads like in other states. The Government should see to it that quarrying is done properly and dilapidated roads are repaired. The proposals of the State Government should be passed and tenders should be issued regarding the proposals which have been passed. The contract of the contractors who do not construct roads, should be terminated so that good roads could be constructed and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which has been implemented earlier must be continued. *...(Interruptions)* More and more roads should be sanctioned.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was agreed in the Leaders Meeting that only five matters of urgent public importance would be allowed to raise at this time. You all endorsed that decision. I have already allowed eighteen matters. Other matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

12.29 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item no. 13, Matters Under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(I) Need to take initiatives for installation of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology for generation of electricity

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Indian Power sector is witnessing major changes. Growth of Power Sector in India since its Independence has been noteworthy. However, the demand for power has outstripped the availability. Substantial peak and shortages prevail in the country.

India, according to the International Energy Agency, is home to 35% of the world's population living without access to electricity.

Recognizing that electricity is one of the key drivers for rapid economic growth and poverty alleviation, the

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri N.S.V. Chitthan]

Nation has set itself the target of providing access to all households in next five years. As per Census 2001, about 44% of the households do not have access to electricity. Hence meeting the target of providing universal access is a daunting task requiring significant addition to generation capacity and expansion of the transmission and distribution network. Besides, alternative sources of energy is also called for to meet the alarming situation.

Two German scientists, Dr Gerhard Knies and Dr. Franz Tribe, calculate that covering just 0.5 per cent of the world's hot deserts with a technology called concentrated solar power (CSP) would provide the world's entire electricity needs, and desalinated water to desert regions as a valuable byproduct, as well as air conditioning for nearby cities.

This would allow a 70 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from electricity producing sources over the period.

There are different forms of CSP but all share in common the use of mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays on a pipe or vessel containing some sort of gas or liquid that heats up to around 400C (752 F) and is used to power conventional steam turbines.

I request the Union Government to take concerted effort to use this technology with a view to make availability of electricity to the common man in the country.

[English]

(II) Need to shift the Headquarters of ONGC from Dehradun to Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, through Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards extravagance of ONGC. At present, most of the fields of ONGC are in Assam and Gujarat and large quantity of oil is being extracted from these fields only. Out of the total oil production more than 20 percent oil production is being done in Gujarat. I have raised a question in the meeting in this regard as to why the Headquarters of ONGC has been set up in Dehradun. In reply, the officers of ONGC said that residential quarters have been constructed there for officers and staff of ONGC and an investment of Rs. 150 crore has been made in office construction. What type of investment this

is, how much revenue they get from that, the actual job of the ONGC is the extraction of oil and gas.

I, therefore, request the Government that the headquarters of ONGC should be set up in Gujarat where oil and gas are being found in larger quantities so that expenses could be curtailed.

(III) Need to take steps to provide adequate medical facilities in the newly built Hospital meant for Beedi workers in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, the construction of Hospital meant for Beedi workers to be set up by Labour Department in my Parliamentary constituency Sagar, Madhya Pradesh has been completed. The hospital has been set up at a cost of around Rs. 6.00 crore. Only one dispensary has been started after repeated requests whereas around 100 patients can be provided medical facilities at a time as the hospital has an operation theatre, a delivery room and 30 beds. The building has this much capacity. So far as number of Beedi workers is concerned, Sagar district is the first district in the country, poor beedi workers of which have to go to other places for treatment.

I, therefore, request the Government that a hospital meant for beedi workers in Sagar may soon be started by properly inaugurating it and appointing doctors, specialists and sufficient health personnel in the only beedi workers' hospital of Madhya Pradesh.

(iv) Need to reconstruct the N.H. 8 between Vadodara and Surat in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Length of Vadodara-Surat Section of NH No. 8 is 156 K.Ms. As this section is a part of NHDP, NHAI is responsible for maintenance and repair of this section. Looking at the density of traffic on this section, NHAI has undertaken this section to make it into six-lane.

During heavy rain in last monsoon, the road was badly damaged. Looking at the situation, the State Government has undertaken to reconstruct this road. NHAI has done patchwork after monsoon of 2006-07 but the road surface is uneven and speed of vehicles has reduced. Earlier, distance of 150 K.Ms, between Vadodara

and Surat was covered in 3 hours which has increased now to 5 hours due to bad condition of road.

NHAI has awarded the work of six laning to BOT operator. Financial clause is achieved and State Support Agreement also signed. The work is supposed to be started now. Time limit for completion of the work is 30 months hence it will be completed by year 2010. Also work of six laning has been started.

State Government has received a lot of requests to improve riding of surface of this road at different levels. Being affected by the condition of road, Panoli Industrial Association has also filed writ petition in Gujarat High Court wherein State Government is also a respondent.

If construction is not undertaken immediately, the road condition will aggravate further and will cause a lot of inconvenience.

So, I urge upon the Government to complete the work as early as possible.

- (v) **Need to pay obeisance to the works done by Vir Savarkar and Madan Lal Dhingra to mark the 150th year of War of Independence in 1857**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Sir, 150 years of the War of Indian Independence of 1857 are going to be completed this year. It has been learnt from the reliable sources that a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Various programmes will be organized by this committee throughout the year. My submission is that the first book of War of Independence of 1857 by Vir Savarkar was also published in the year 1907, and 100 years of the publication of that book are also being completed. In the memory of it, the Government should distribute the copies of that work to all the hon. Members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Governors and Chief Ministers of all the States, and eminent personalities by organizing centenary celebration, so that a feeling of oneness may be inculcated in the heart of every Indian. This is an historical fact that it was freedom fighter Vir Savarkar who first rejected the humiliating words 'Mutiny Bund' and named the struggle as War of Independence.

On 8 July, 1910, this great revolutionary made a historical jump into the sea at Marceus Port which is a

matter of pride for every Indian. 8 July, 2010 is the centenary year of that jump. A ceremony should be organized to mark this historical event and on that day, a statue of Vir Savarkar may be installed at Marceus Port in France. With that, the statue of great soul Madan Lal Dhingra may also be installed at India House in England so that Indian residing abroad and tourists may get inspiration to respect and inculcate the feeling of patriotism for their country. In past also, the statues of eminent persons of our country have been installed in many countries of the world. I, therefore, urge the Government that efforts should be started now so that this great job can be completed by 2010.

- (vi) **Need to set up Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment region at Dahej, Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): The Government of India is in the process of an exercise to select areas to be developed as Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR). The region Dahej in South Gujarat has been proposed by the State Government wherein GIDC has already located land around 250 sq kms for the proposed PCPIR. The region of Dahej already has a presence of large chemical and petrochemical companies. The Government of Gujarat is developing a chemical SEZ there with GIDC as a promoter along with ONGC. The region has sufficient infrastructure including adequate water supply.

The State government officials participated in the meetings of Task force and conveyed strength of this strategic location. The team of officials also participated in the meeting held in Virginia, USA on 7.6.2006 in this regard.

Sir, when Dahej in Gujarat has been selected as one of the most important sites, I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up PCPIR at Dahej, Gujarat positively by the end of 2007.

- (vii) **Need to set up new units for power generation in Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country**

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the supply of power is not sufficient to meet the demand in the country. Power is synonym to power of the nation. The

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

constantly increasing demand of power is indicative of progress and development, while its shortage is an obstruction in way of the development.

A time bound establishment of all the sources of power generation available in the country, use of state of the art technology and taking all the measures to achieve the targets are important for nation's progress.

I, therefore, urge the Government that the top priority should be accorded to the future programmes of establishing sources of power generation in the country and sustaining all the units of power generation in the States, and special measures including financial provisions may also be made for that. All projects of power generation in the States including Madhya Pradesh may be promoted and provided assistance.

(viii) Need to Include Alappuzha district in Kerala under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is extended to further 330 district of various states and an allocation of 12,000 crores is made for the proper implementation of the programme in the General Budget for the year 2007-08. The scheme envisages securing the livelihood of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household.

Alappuzha district of Kerala state has a high rate of livelihood crisis and higher incidences of poverty. Bulk of the district fall in the coastal area and has highest density of population in the state. Alappuzha district is one which is badly affected by agrarian crisis. The decline in the per capita income of the workers and the marginal self employment in agriculture, coir, and fisheries have resulted in accentuation of poverty as the bulk of poor are employed in these sectors. Therefore, Alappuzha district also may be included and declared in the NREGS for the year 2007-08 which will be a great help to the thousands of rural unemployed in the district.

(ix) Need to extend the existing railway line from Agartala to Sabroom in North East, with a view to promote trade and commerce with South Asian Countries

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): The Indian Railways is a symbol of National integration. Despite the

priority attached to the development of the North-Eastern region by UPA Government, no plans have been announced to improve the Railway network in the North-East. There has been a long standing demand of the people of Tripura for extension of Railway line beyond Agartala upto Sabroom. This project is extremely important not only for the State but also for the entire North-East Region. It would facilitate connection of the North-East region with Chittagong Port of Bangladesh with a distance of only 15 k.m. With this link in position, Tripura can also be Gateway for Trade and Commerce to a host of South Asian countries. North-East Region including Tripura has been confronting with the anti-national insurgency problem for the last three decades. It is admitted fact that backwardness and under-development is one of the root causes of this insurgency problem. Speedy development of modern system of connectivity can bring a sea change in this region. I would, therefore, urge upon Government of India to immediately take up the extension of the Railway line up to Sabroom for implementing it as a component of the ongoing National Project 'Kumarghat-Agartala Railway line' under the 'Look East Policy' of the Government.

(x) Need to give revised pay scale to Assistant Superintendent, Head Clerk, Assistants and Accounts Assistants in Kendriya Vidyalayas

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Assistant Superintendent designation had been notified in 2001 after merging the posts of Head Clerks, Assistants and Accounts Assistants of Kendriya Vidyalayas, but they are not yet being given equal pay.

So, it is my request to the Government that all these Assistant Superintendents should be given equal pay for equal work.

(xi) Need to put up an electric fence around Dudhwa National Park and adjoining villages to ward off animals damaging agricultural crops in Kheri, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Tiger Project is being run in the Dudhwa National Park under my parliamentary constituency of Kheri in Uttar Pradesh.

Across the 130 villages situated on the periphery of the National Park. Crops are damaged as a result of grazing by the wild animals. As such, it has resulted in great resentment among the villagers. Due to these reasons a number of tigers have reported been killed. The Government is urged to erect a mild shock ejecting electric fencing on the peripheries of the village to protect crops from grazing by animals of park and to formulate special schemes for the development of these villages.

(xii) Need to expedite the construction of National Highway in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, work has not yet been started on the 892 kilometer long roads under the N.H. Scheme sanctioned for Bihar under the first and second phase. Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth phases of work in this regard is on progress in the entire country but in case of Bihar which is the most backward State of the country, injustice is being meted out to the people. Many other States are being affected due to the lack of work on the N.H. in Bihar because the N.H. links other States via Bihar. The condition of the N.H. and other roads is very poor in the entire state. As such, people have to face a lot of problems as the roads are the only way of transportation over there.

Through this House, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Road Transport in this regard to urge him to expedite the work on the N.H. in Bihar. Inter alia, he may kindly take appropriate steps for the roads in Bihar sanctioned for completion under the third, fourth, fifth and sixth phases.

(xiii) Need to expedite the construction on Hazaribagh-Koderma, Hazaribagh-Ranchi and Koderma-Giridih railway sections in Jharkhand

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Sir, Hazaribagh district of the Jharkhand State is the headquarter of the North Chhota Nagpur Commissionery. There are hundreds of coal mines, thermal power stations, colliery of Tata in this commissionery. Millions of workers work here. Unfortunately, even after 60 years of independence, Hazaribagh has not been linked with a railway line. The Ministry of Railways sanctioned to link Hazaribagh with a railway line way back in 1995 and the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the railway line in 1998 by which the work to link Koderma to Hazaribagh, Hazaribagh to Ranchi and Koderma to Giridih by railway line was

commenced. The work had been started seven years back but still only 10 per cent work has been completed. Railway line construction was to be completed by 2007 but the speed at which the work is going on, Hazaribagh will not have a railway line link even by 2015.

I met the hon'ble Minister of Railways a number of times in this regard and remained in touch with the Chairman of the Railway Board, with the Member-engineering and the General Manager. There is hardly any session of the 14th Lok Sabha in which I might not have raised this question but no attention has been paid to this till date.

Once again, I demand that the Government should expedite the work and get this project completed soon.

(xiv) Need to construct a bridge over river Gandak connecting Pakhnaha (Bihar) with Pipraghat (Uttar Pradesh), thereby promoting tourism in the region

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, historical places of Bihar such as Lauriya Baudha stoop, Nandargarh, Chankayagarh etc. should be linked with Kushinagar of Uttar Pradesh through a Buddhist circuit. The distance between the two States will be much reduced if a road bridge over the Gandak river is constructed between Pakhnaha of Bihar and Pipraghat of Uttar Pradesh and travelling from Vaishali to Kushinagar via Kesariya, Areraj lauriya will become very comfortable from the view point of the significance of Buddhist tourism spots. With the construction of this bridge, basic amenities could be provided in the Dhanaha Assembly seat of Bihar where even electricity has not been supplied till date. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development had assured to get this bridge constructed during his Champaran visit. The Department of Rural Development of the Government of Bihar has sent a proposal to the hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard but it is a matters of regret that no satisfactory action has been taken on it. The construction of this bridge is necessary in the interest of the people.

[English]

(xv) Need to fill-up the backlog posts reserved for SCs/STs in Assam

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Government of India has been announcing various policies

[Shri Sarbanand Sonowal]

and programmes for the overall upliftment of ST/SC communities since Independence, but, these communities are still backward. In many areas, Government agencies are not taking up the issues of ST/SC seriously. As a result, benefit ought to be given to these communities through the different schemes, is not being extended to these communities. The most important evidence is the non-fulfillment of backlog posts. In most parts of the country, both Central as well as State agencies are not filling up the backlog posts for ST/SC. Only in the State of Assam, it is learnt that more than 55 thousand posts are still lying vacant as backlog for ST/SC. This kind of indifference of government towards the SCs/STs classes create confusion.

So, to encourage the growth of true spirit of democracy and social justice, the concerned Ministry of the Government of India should immediately take a firm view on it and pass on the urgent necessary instructions to the Government of Assam and the different agencies of Central Government working in Assam to immediately fulfil the backlog post for ST/SC communities without any further delay.

12.29 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET, 2007-08—GENERAL
DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
ON ACCOUNT—(GENERAL)—2007-08
AND
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (GENERAL)—2006-07**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the important business of the day, that is further discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Lakshman Singh to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a positive thing that the hon'ble Minister of Finance have increased allocation for the National Highway Development Programme which is in operation, but there are some contradictions in it. I would like to read out an article with your permission, published in the Pioneer on the 14 November, 2006.

[English]

With two power-packed bodies, like the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways as well as the National Highway Development Authority at loggerheads with the Planning Commission officials, the work of more than 3,000 kms. of highway, which constitutes the second phase of NHDP has been stalled since January, 2005."

Further, it says:

"Further, what is inexplicable, much less pardonable, is holding hostage a project as vital as the NHDP on the grounds of failure to satisfy individual egos."

Please take note of the last two words, "individual egos".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the N.H.D.P. programme will not be operated due to the ego of any Minister. I respect Shri T.R. Bala, but it is not right if roads be constructed only where he desires and he is left to carry on in an arbitrary manner. They are in power due to supporting the Congress, but it is not right if they are let to interfere with governance and stall the Parliament. Under the National Highway Development Programme the four lane express highways are being converted into six lanes but on the NH 3 where there are many pot holes, no work is being carried out. I invite Balaji to come with me and travel from Guna to Indore to count the number of potholes in the entire stretch. I would like to request him that work for four lanining be got immediately commenced because it is the oldest and an important national highway.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken 15 minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I will finish my speech within five minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of power sector is concerned, the Government has shown deep concern for the same, which is a good thing. We had our last session in December in which the hon. Power

Minister while replying to a question had stated that during the 11th five-year plan 46,400 megawatts will be added to the current capacity of power. Out of it 17,100 will be hydro, 46,100 thermal and 3,800 megawatts will be from nuclear generation. India has signed a treaty with America regarding nuclear power generation. Nuclear energy is a clean energy. Lesser pollution is caused while generating it. When you have signed a treaty with America then its generation should be increased. When you are going to add a total of 46,400-megawatts capacity in energy then why only 3,200 megawatts in nuclear energy, it should be more? When you have signed a treaty with America, then its generation should be increased. Where will they dispose off nuclear waste and how, no one knows about it. It is very important and there needs to be transparency in it. Even till today we are unaware as to where exactly they are going to dispose off this nuclear waste?

Sir, an Oxfam report has come on health. This report had come in the year 2006 and by that time this Government had completed 2-2½ years. They have increased budget for health department, have shown concern, have initiated various programmes. This is a good thing. However, review of such programmes is faulty and, hence, it is mentioned in Oxfam report that:

[English]

An Oxfam report *Serve the Essentials* released today, —in October, 2006—highlighting lack of access to education, health, water and sanitation called on all South Asian Governments to step up their financial and political commitments to provide these essential services. It says:

"Without strong Government participation, there will be no development of essential services," said Ben Philips, Oxfam's acting regional director.

Oxfam listed positive developments in the countries and said they presented an example to be followed by others. The report singled out Sri Lanka as an example of a developing country that has achieved universal free schooling, drastically reduced infant mortality rates and boosted life expectancy to levels comparable to developed countries...

Where are we lacking.

Other problems in India were identified as 70 per cent of the population lacking access to toilets, 170 million

people with no clean drinking water and a primary school, dropout rate of 38 per cent, according to Oxfam and UN figures."

These need to be tackled.

[Translation]

Sir, hon. Minister has sanctioned huge funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but as a result of it, the quality of education is not satisfactory. According to one survey 38% children who went to school for 4 years are unable to read a short paragraph. They are finding it difficult to read. Out of these 38 percent 25 percent children are such who are unable to divide three figure digits by a single digit. This is a very deplorable situation. It needs to be looked into.

Sir, the hon. Minister has shown concern about climatic change, it's a good thing but I would like to ask whether we are going to sign the Kyoto protocol? If we sign the Kyoto treaty, then we can increase generation of non-conventional energy, because countries signing this treaty will be able to transfer cheap technology of energy generation among themselves, which will increase our generation of non-conventional energy and will help to solve the electricity problem. We still have a huge gap between the supply and demand of energy in our country.

In the end, I would like to say that regarding projects they always tell the states that the Government are unable to complete projects due to deficiency of funds, and are unable to provide funds due to shortage of funds. But they have waived off Rs. 57,862 crore of big industrial houses if they faced shortage of funds then why did they waived off Rs. 57,862 crore. What was the need of waiving such a huge amount? This is 1.9 percent of our GDP. On the one hand we say that our GDP should increase and on the other hand in one stroke they are waiving off huge sums to big industrialist houses. This is not a good thing. In this regard, leaders of the left parties have written a letter to the Prime Minister. People's Democratic newspaper published letters of Shri A.B. Vardhan and Shri Karat, in which they expressed concern by writing to the Prime Minister. I request you to look into all these aspects and be practical in running the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support as well as oppose this budget and hope that the hon. Finance Minister will give

due consideration to suggestions made by various hon. Members.

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2007-08.

The last three years have witnessed tremendous growth in the Indian economy. The progress in the Indian economy is substantiated by present growth figures in manufacturing at 11.3 per cent and services sector at 11.2 per cent.

The dream of India riding piggy back on a booming economy to become a reckoning world power can only be true with boosting education, healthcare, agriculture and youth affairs.

The Finance Minister has done well to consider the growth target for the 10th Plan at 8 per cent in his efforts to place India on the fast track to economic development. I speak in the context of social development. Benefits to the common man in a modern day economy can be conceptualized by the saying, "The greater good of the greater number". I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister was very conscious of this famous line while planning the present Budget. By forcing open new avenues in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture and youth affairs, the hon. Finance Minister has put the already pulsating economy through even greater dimensions.

The hon. Finance Minister needs to examine the factors that will necessarily generate employment for women. The allocation for 30 per cent women-specific schemes is Rs. 22,382 crore. I consider this amount a meager contribution to women's development.

Sir, the number of girls and young women joining the sex trade, dancing bar girls and other immoral trades is fast increasing. This is a serious deviation from Indian social and cultural values. This is an area of concern and really this is what I am concerned about. I suggest that the hon. Finance Minister set up a separate fund to provide alternate employment for such women so that they can lead better and moral lives.

The increase of allocation for school education by 35 per cent and its wise distribution over various heads

related to school education is a welcome step on the footpath to development. The scope provided by including primary school going children in the Mid-Day Meals Scheme is enormous by any standard. I also commend the steps taken to provide mid-day meals to upper primary school going children in 3,427 educationally backward blocks.

The creation of a corpus fund of Rs. 750 crore to cover a bold and far-reaching scheme, to award one lakh scholarships for higher secondary school students will give relief from the financial burden borne by parents of illustrious children.

Sir, may I suggest that the Finance Minister consider allocation of funds to target meaningful education to rehabilitated child labourers. As you know, banning child labour was an important issue for our hon. Prime Minister.

12.40 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Sir, if education means wakefulness, then healthcare means well being and a modern economy must include both. The concern in the UPA Government for health and well being of the people is reflected by measures adopted under various schemes of National Rural Health Mission, National AIDS Control Programme, ICDS and health insurance.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned coal in his Budget Speech. The hon. Finance Minister has not mentioned any specific benefit accruing from the allotment of coal blocks. Although, the reserves of 8,581 million tonnes of coal and 755 million tonnes of lignite have been allotted, no mention has been made of specific time periods or of volumes in supply. If optimum production is not considered in a specific time period then it will amount to hoarding of stocks of coal and lignite.

Regarding end users of coal and lignite, let me mention that in the year 2005, there were reports that 590 companies who were supplied coal were bogus end users. The contention that 'specified end use will be enlarged' may only serve to enlarge the list of bogus end users with coal linkages.

Sir, I may make a special mention of the bold and humanitarian efforts of the hon. Finance Minister to reach

out to pregnant women, lactating mothers and infants in rural areas. They are so much in need of nutrition and proper care. I have worked among such people in Chhattisgarh and I am very much aware of their pitiable conditions. I thank the hon. Finance Minister for increasing the allocation for ICDS from Rs. 4,087 crore to Rs. 4,761 crore this year.

Sir, to sum up this Budget, let me state that it has strengthened the backbone of the economy. The farmers and the youth are the backbone of our country. The UPA Government has provided them with much needed support, with considerable allocation for development in areas like enhanced production of pulses, increase in rain fed areas, insurance and subsidies. I must mention that the schemes for the youth will bring much needed hope and a brighter future. Those young men and women can thank the UPA Government for being sensitive to their needs.

With this, I support this Budget.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the General Budget 2007-08.

I thank our beloved Leader, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, hon. Dr. Kalingar and Tamil Nadu's Jupiter, our Talapathi M.K. Stalin, Minister of Rural Development and Local Administration, Tamil Nadu.

Sir, to develop country's economy, people's literacy should improve. Having this in mind, our hon. Finance Minister has allotted more funds for education. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme has been increased to Rs.23,142 crore, that is, by 35 per cent. The Mid-day Meal Scheme has been extended to upper primary class in 3,427 educationally backward blocks. There are two lakh new teachers to open five lakh new classrooms. These are very welcome steps taken by the Government.

Sir, the announcement of scholarship of Rs.6,000 for one lakh students who continue their education from Ninth to Twelfth standard is a revolutionary step. It prevents the dropout of students in the villages. Our country's higher education percentage is below ten per cent. Therefore, I hope that this announcement will increase the literacy percentage and higher education percentage of our country.

Sir, I thank the hon. Finance Minister for allocating Rs.50 crore to Coimbatore Agriculture University. The hon. Finance Minister has increased the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 200 districts to 330 districts and also one lakh jobs for the physically challenged to be supported by the Government. The Government will also reimburse the contribution to ESI and EPF for the first three years. These are all very welcome measures taken by the Government.

Sir, tourism is growing in India and the Government of India has enhanced the allocation amount for tourism development. In my Tiruchandur constituency, Kanyakumari, which is in the southern tip of India and where we see the three seas converging, the famous Vivekananda Rock and the 133 feet Tiruvaluvar statues are present.

This tourist centre needs further improvement and I request to allocate liberal fund for the development of Kanyakumari.

Sir, a very special birds Sanctuary is in Kundan Kulam. Birds from many countries are coming to this place for breeding. This bird Sanctuary also needs our Government's funding for the development. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will allocate suitable funds for the development of Kundan Kulam and Kanyakumari.

I would like to draw the kind attention of our Finance Minister to the income tax structure. In this Budget, the income tax limit is raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1,10,000, which needs kind consideration. This may be increased to Rs. 1,45,000, and for women also it may be raised to Rs. 1,95,000 like for senior citizens.

Sir, our beloved leader, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar is giving colour TVs to all the families who are below poverty line so that they can improve their general knowledge. Similarly, the Central Government can give computers to students who are in ninth standard so that the younger generation of India will have people with very good knowledge of computer.

With these words, I support this General Budget 2007-08 on behalf of DMK, and I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

budget of 2007-08. Hon. Finance Minister has portrayed a rosy picture of India's economy by juggling figures in such a way, which reveal that India has become most developed and economically sound country. He has shown no concern for the ordinary man in the budget. A look at the figures indicates that budget has provision for only a few people. The hon. Finance Minister has stated that in three years GDP growth has increased from 7.5% to 9.2 percent. Average growth rate has reached 8.6 percent. Manufacturing growth has increased from 8.7 percent to 11.3 percent. Service sector has also seen growth from 9.6% to 11.2 percent, per capita income has registered 7.4 percent increase, average saving rate has also increased in a year with the rate of 32.4 percent and investment rate has increased by 38.8 percent. He has shown increase in all these sectors. It is really regrettable to note that it is the agriculture sector where average growth estimate is only 2.3 percent. It's target was fixed at 4 percent though only 2.3 percent was achieved. He has shown development in all sectors, but there is a downfall in agriculture sector. What does it mean? Provisions for what kind of people were made in the previous budget and what is being done this time round? Last year, when the budget was presented, he earned a lot of praise. He stated that it was the budget of farmer's interest. The hon. Minister is present in the House. He should make it clear as to by what means it was a favourable budget for farmers, when agricultural growth rate is only 2.3 percent? In all sectors this rate has increased, but decrease of this rate in agriculture sector indicates that the gap between rich and poor has widened. The gulf between villages and cities is widening. There is a difference between the income of people in cities and farmers in villages. This budget is clearly indicating this tendency. Every year this House discusses the problems of farmers' suicides by farmers and inflation. Though the Government gives assurances of working for farmers and villages but only verbal assurances are given, practically nothing is being done for farmers. Basically farmers have few basic requirements water, electricity, manure, seed, pesticides and profitable price for their production. If these are sorted out, then farmers of this country can live prosperously and cases of suicides will come to an end. But in this budget no due consideration has been given to these four subjects. There is water problem. A project was made for linking rivers during Atalji's Government. His Excellency, the President had also stated in a press conference or through a letter that the project of interlinking of rivers is very important for

farmers of this country and for economic conditions of this country because this can settle the problem of floods and drought.

But this Government have put this project into the cold storage. The power crisis is continuously looming over the entire country. No attention has been paid in this budget towards solving the problem of electricity being faced by the farmers and the country as a whole. Spurious fertilizers and pesticides are being sold in the open market. No remedial measures are being taken in that direction. The farmer is being taken for a ride. As far fixation of price of the farmer's produce is concerned, the farmers have never got remunerative prices till date. The Minimum Support Price is fixed just to save the farmers from starvation death but care has been taken that they may not become prosperous. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that the farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce. Fifty percent members of the Agriculture Price Commission, which decides the prices given to farmers, should be representatives of the farming community; then only the farmers can get justice. The rich people living in air-conditioned bungalows, who do not have any knowledge of agriculture, decide the fate of the farmers. 59 years have elapsed since the country got independence, but till today no solution to the problem of pricing the produce of farmers has been evolved. I would like to draw your attention towards it.

A new concept of SEZ has emerged. Lakhs of acres of fertile land of farmers is being acquired in the entire country. SEZ can be set up on barren lands as well. If this trend continues, no cultivable land would be left in the near future. The farmers are not being paid adequate compensation in lieu of acquisition of land. Interests of landless farmers and labourers are not being taken into consideration. No provision has been made for providing jobs to those people, though jobs should have been given to people whose land was acquired. Government makes tall claims about subsidy provided on fertilizers. Since the country has become independent, thousands of crores of rupees in the form of subsidy on fertilizers has been given to the farmers. But in the name of farmers, subsidy is being actually given to the industry. The organization named FICC, which fixes the rates of fertilizers, directly gives subsidy to the factories. The fertilizers manufacturers increase their percentage of production to get more subsidy. It is done on papers only for availing more subsidy. But the farmers are not getting any benefit.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that subsidy on fertilizers should be directly given to farmers. Why fertilizer manufacturers are getting its benefit? If subsidy is given to them, they will earn more profit.

As far as land acquisition is concerned, the land of farmers is being acquired in the entire country either for construction of roads or for other purposes. In my constituency, 2200 acres of land is being acquired in the name of setting up of Rajiv Gandhi Institute. In lieu of this, a meager compensation of Rs. 15 to 16 lakh is being given to the farmers, though the market rate of neighbouring land is around Rs. one to two crore because this area is adjacent to Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): A compensation of Rs. 22 lakh is being given over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Let it be Rs. 22 lakh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Haryana Government has given maximum compensation in the country. When NDA Government was in power, a compensation of only Rs. 2 lakh was given...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Where the compensation of Rs. 22-23 lakh is being given, the market rate there is Rs. 2 crore per acre. The farmers are being exploited. Fraud is being played with the gulleble farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* Our party has never been in power there. Their Government has been in power over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jai Prakash ji, you may sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: If compensation of Rs. 22 lakh is given for the land having a market value of Rs. 2 crore, it is extremely meager. I would like to request that if the land of farmers is acquired due to any reason, the farmers should get actual market rate of that land. The farmers should not be exploited.

Secondly, the livestock is the main source of farmers income. In the year 1952, there were 452 cattle on every one thousand people, whereas in the year 1992 there are only 232 cattle on every one thousand people. Now,

their number would have been declining further. The source of income from livestock is also diminishing therefore, their economic condition is deteriorating. Otherwise also, the farmer is a debt-ridden lot. The hon'ble Minister said that more loans would be given to the farmers. I would like to state that the condition of farmers cannot be improved by giving loans to them. Unless he gets remunerative support price, his situation will continue to deteriorate despite sanctioning of loans. This is not a permanent solution to the problem of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* Last year, no natural calamity hit the nation; despite that the growth rate of agriculture has decreased. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, conclude your speech please, because many hon'ble Members of your party are yet to speak.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: I have taken only five minutes so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A list of 20 members is with me, therefore, please conclude your speech.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: I will conclude after making two-four points. There is large section of backward communities in the country, which are called rural artisans. It includes carpenters, blacksmiths, 'Jheemars', weavers, goldsmiths etc. Today, they have become jobless. The setting up of big industries have rendered these small artisans jobless. Till today the Government have neither enacted a legislation nor formulated a policy for the upliftment of backward castes. There is a large section of backward classes. The Government should also pay attention in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to talk about freedom fighters. The families of freedom fighters in the country can be counted on fingers. There are a few such people who are alive as on date. I would like to say that their children should be treated as their heirs and their pension should be continued because they are the national heritage. Their families should be declared as 'National Families'. This is my demand ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Maximum pension is being given in Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: He may praise himself when his turn comes. In the end, I would like to

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

speak about Anganwadi workers. The issue of Anganwadi workers in the country is taking a serious turn. Lakhs of women Anganwadi workers are working on daily wage basis. They are not paid any salary; they do not get any fixed wages. There is no guarantee of their service. They put their best efforts in the work. They work more than a Government servant does. Today, they are staging an agitation. I would like to say that Anganwadi workers should be treated as permanent employees and their grades should be fixed. The entire country is crazy about cricket, whereas the players of hockey and football, which are natural games in villages, are feeling neglected. I demand that attention should also be paid to them.

*SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, I support the budget for the year 2007-08 since it focuses mainly on agriculture since the former Prime Minister of India, Late Chaudhary Charan Singh used to say it often that if you want the country to prosper, then you should strengthen the farmers and labourers toiling in the fields and the country would strengthen on its own. However, despite the expenditure incurred by the Government to the tune of Rupees thousands of crores on agricultural research, the farmers have not been provided with improved variety of seeds which could produce so much yield so as to render agriculture a profitable occupation. For example, the per hectare yield of rice and paddy in the country is only 2.9 metric tonne in comparison to the yield of rice and paddy in Egypt and United States of America which is 9.8 and 7.83 metric tonne respectively.

The per hectare yield of wheat in the country is 2.71 metric tonne in comparison to 7.58 metric tonne per hectare in France and 7.77 metric tonne in the U.S.A. However, there has been a constant decline in production of wheat since the year 2001-02. The relative figures of cotton produced in the country are 4.64 metric tonne per hectare in India and 11.1 metric tonne per hectare in China where as the production of cotton is 10.96 and 7.6 metric tonnes per hectare in Brazil and Pakistan respectively.

The production of oilseeds in India, Germany and United States of America is 0.86, 4.07 and 2.61 metric tonnes per hectare respectively. There has been 15.7% decline in production of oil seeds in the country. So, why there has not been an increase in our production in comparison to other countries despite expenditure of

thousands of crore of rupees incurred by our research scientists on research as shown by the figures in our Economic Survey Review? So, we should pay more and more attention to increase our production.

More facilities should be provided to the farmers producing pulses, oilseed and coarse grains so that their production could be increased and pulses and edible oil do not have to be imported.

17% increase has been registered in the production of sugarcane in the country and the producers have not been provided any kind of assistance by the Government. This production could be 100% if our research scientist put in more efforts in their research in the production of sugarcane. The sugarcane producers should get remunerative prices for their production so that there should be no decline in production in future.

An additional generation of 24 lakh hectare irrigation capacity alongwith generation of 9 lakh hectare irrigation capacity under the accelerated irrigation scheme has been envisaged in this budget. It is a commendable scheme to strength the farmers. There is a need to monitor as to what extent these schemes are being implemented without any delay in terms of percentage. The fields which cannot be irrigated through the canals should be equipped with electric tubewells on Government expense and through grants. The electricity should be provided to the farmers as per their need, otherwise it would never be a profitable profession for one who is irrigating his land at the cost of Rs. 34 per litre of diesel to save his crops. The provision of Rs. 22,453 crore subsidy on fertilizers directly to the farmers is a commendable step.

Rupees 500 crore have been earmarked for Kharif and Rabi crops under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Sugarcane producing farmers should also be covered under this scheme. The interest rate on loan given to the farmers should be lowered from 7% to 4%.

If we ponder seriously over the above mentioned facts and the day we are able to make agriculture a profitable occupation. We will definitely be able to increase our Domestic Agriculture Production.

There is urgent need to monitor the budgetary allocation for education and Education for all campaign. We have constructed buildings for primary and middle schools. However, teachers have not been appointed in

*The Speech was laid on the Table

proportion to the strength of the students as a result of which major portion of the expenditure on education goes waste. Appointment of teachers is also imperative alongwith the construction of school buildings.

I support the scholarship scheme of Rs. 750 crores to grant scholarship to one lakh children of 9th, 10th 11th and 12th standard at the rate of Rs. Six thousand per annum on the basis of their merit in competitions for poor girl children which would motivate the poor class children for education.

Rs. 12000 crore have been allocated for 330 districts under National Employment Guarantee Scheme. Whereas only Rs. 2800 crore have been provided under the Sampurna Gramin Yojana for rest of the districts of the country which is not feasible. This amount should be doubled.

The Government should provide for a special package for educated youths of the country in view of the increasing unemployment in the country so that the educated unemployed youths are not driven towards crime.

A budget of Rs. 54,330 has been provided for grants for the year 2007-08. That grant should be provided directly to the poor families instead of providing them through kerosene, wheat, rice etc. Otherwise the grant is swallowed by corruption and the money which should come in circulation gets stuck up in the form of black money.

This way the targetted beneficiaries of the grant would directly get the benefits leading to prosperity of the nation. With these words I again extend my support to the budget hoping that the above mentioned facts shall be kept in view.

13.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA (Khunti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on General Budget-2007-2008.

Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister and support the budget presented by him. Hon. Finance Minister has tried to provide relief to the common man keeping in mind their interest. He has increased the allocation in all the sectors such as pilot programme of

Bharat Nirman, agriculture investment, infrastructure, industry, service sector, finance, defence expenditure, public interest etc. during the 11th plan in the budget 2007-2008. Now, we can do more work. I appreciate hon. Finance Minister for what he has given to education sector and would like to say that the hon. Minister has given due importance to education in this budget. Since no developmental work is possible without education, no matter, thousand of rupees are allocated, lakhs of rupees are released, if people are not educated, they cannot make progress, it has been said in the scriptures also that:

Vidya dadati vinayam, Vinayam daati patratam.
 Patratwad dhanamapnoti, Dhanah dharamah, tatah sukhham.

Sir, this is true that our hon. Finance Minister has a dream of a nation where everybody is happy and for this he has made allocations for all classes at all levels in education sector. You will see that he has proposed an allocation of Rs. 32,350 crore for education sector and a provision of Rs. 10,671 crore for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Hon. Finance Minister has made provisions at every level for everybody under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. First of all, he has made the provision of schools for the children of age group of 2-3 years in each village where a teacher and an assistant teacher literate them, teach them singing, they teach them one or the other thing. These schools function very much like Kindergarten schools. This programme is going on in our villages. These teachers provide health information to the women. In this sector, our hon. Finance Minister has promised to appoint 20,000 teachers this year under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This is a remarkable achievement in the field of employment. With that, he has set a target to appoint 2 lakh teachers and construction of 5 lakh class rooms. Provisions have been made to provide mid-day meal to primary school children and Rs. 3,427 crore for the children of educationally backward people. An allocation of Rs. 7,324 crore has been made for the children of junior classes. An arrangement has been made to provide three teachers to each school at primary level on the condition that out of 3, one would be science teacher. The selection of teachers are done by Gram Sabha, but I think that the requirement of science teachers is more to higher education than to primary education. I, therefore, request the Human Resource Development Ministry to pay more attention towards it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now because 50 more hon. Members have to speak, so please mind the time factor.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA KERKETTA: I will conclude within two minutes. Provision for the people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes have already been made in the budget, hon. Finance Minister has made provision for minority classes also. Three categories of scholarship have been marked for the students of minorities. A provision of Rs. 72 crore, Rs.90 crore and Rs. 4860 crore has been made for students of Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Post-Graduation respectively. Not only this, amount has been allocated for other various programmes also.

13.06 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

I would like to say that when hon. Finance Minister made this, provision for the welfare of minorities in his budget, my colleagues in opposition were shocked. They got agitated by this and blamed that the UPA Government and Congress always follow the policy of Muslim appeasement and try to divide the country into two segments. I would like to say that this is not a step towards Muslim appeasement nor it is a step towards dividing the country. You may see the pitiable condition of people of minorities in the States like Bihar and Jharkhand. They are not able to send their children to schools due to poverty and as a result, their children work in garages or run small vegetable shops in vegetable markets. So, this allegation, of appeasement is not true. Hon. Finance Minister has chalked out this programme to bring them forward on the ground of equality to all.

I would also like to say something about women. Provision has also been made for their welfare. Gender Budget cell have been set up in about 50 ministries and a provision of Rs. 22,382 crore has been made for 30% women of the society. Besides, an exemption in income tax has been given for income up to Rs. 1,50,000 has to the working women which is an important provision made by the hon. Finance Minister.

My colleagues in the opposition say that this budget is not for commonman. But if you see, the Rajiv Gandhi Power Project or Rajiv Gandhi Clean Drinking Water Scheme etc. are for common men only. If we co-operate a bit, we can connect every house in our villages with electricity.

I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that the pace of this scheme is very slow in Jharkhand, it therefore, needs to be expedited. The amount allocated for Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme to be implemented in Ranchi and Pashchimi Singhbhum, has not been released. We are concerned about it, so the amount may be released soon.

No person from any village will have to walk more than half a kilometre for clean water under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme. This is a remarkable achievement, but nobody discusses it. The rural people are unaware, as they have no information about it. So, it is our duty and that of officers as well that they should disseminate this among them.

My colleague in opposition has commented upon Rashtriya Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana that this has not being implemented properly. But I would like to say that there is nothing like that. A separate department was set up in Jharkhand for this scheme with the arrival of the UPA Government. A secretary has also been appointed for this purpose. In addition to that, 55,000 persons are being appointed so that the scheme may be implemented properly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few more things. The amount allocated under Indira Awas Yojana is not sufficient. Under Ambedkar Scheme for urban development, an amount of Rs. 50,000 is allocated while in villages, Rs. 25,000 are allocated. This amount may be increased so that people may build their own houses. With these words, I conclude and I thank the hon. Finance Minister very much for the budget, which is for our welfare.

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I will have to make an announcement that there are about 50 speakers, hon. Members, who have given their names to speak. If you take so much time, many of these speakers may not get time. Those hon. Members who are prepared to give their written speeches, they can be laid on the Table of the House so that much time can be saved. I expect the cooperation of all. Members who are here. The maximum time that can be allotted to every Member who is speaking will be five minutes. I will be very strict, and the hon. Member concerned can speak only for five minutes. In this particular event, as a special case, she was given

such time, but for others, I cannot give such time. Please cooperate with the Chair. Let us make an earnest effort to see that the discussion is concluded at the appropriate time so that the Demands for Grants and also the Minister's reply can be taken up.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you should allow only those Members who keep sitting in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Members have given their names. I fully agree with you on this. If I take only the Members who are present in the House, I think I can finish the business within an hour. There is a list of 50 speakers before me, and 22 of them are from the Congress. None of them is present, and that is the position. Now, I would request Dr. Sebastian Paul to take only five minutes for his speech.

*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has prepared the budget for the year 2007-08 in such a manner that people may appreciate it at first glance but if we look at it seriously, several serious questions would arise. I would not like to go into the details of figures presented in the budget because honourable Finance Minister has tried to present an alluring picture in it. He has announced various schemes. In the previous financial year also similar type of schemes were announced and common man is aware of their actual position. Newspapers have carried their comments in regard to this budget and no one has termed this budget as the budget for common man. This budget is neither very attracting nor very disappointing. Today, India has got atomic power and it has stronger position in the world. Though we have achieved huge economic progress but still a lot has to be done. The point is whether we are able to fulfil our responsibility of overall development of common man while moving ahead towards becoming a self — reliant nation. This Still remains a question. Our country could lead the world only when common man will be happy, there will be mutual happiness and friendship and then "Vashudev Kutumbhum" will be meaningful.

The hon'ble Finance Minister has presented the budget of 2007-08 and he has mentioned the efforts made for development . He has mentioned inflation and annual economic growth but it is necessary to look at it from common man's point of view also. Whether they are

*The speech was laid on the Table.

successful in overall development of common man and in achieving the target of our schemes? A lot of work is to be done in the field of education, health and agriculture. Keeping this in mind the budget allocation for education, agriculture and health has been increased in comparison to the last year, which was necessary. Rural Development and defence have also been taken up.

But today inflation is the area of great concern which is badly affecting common man. It has not been dealt with the seriousness it deserves. We will have to think about the reasons responsible for inflation. Today the income of common man has not increased in proportion to the increase in inflation. The prices of consumer goods has increased. The income has not increased according to the expenditure. The main reason of imbalance is this. The gap between the standard of living of poor and rich has widened. We have not been able to bring down the percentage of people living below poverty line. The effect of capital has increased. Small taxpayers have been disappointed by paltry increase of Rs. 10,000/- in the ceiling. The increase in the limit of service tax has increased the burden on the common man in the different manner.

However, for the development of rural area, the budget allocation for already implemented 'Bharat Nirman' programme has been increased to 31.6 percent. You have increased 34 percent budget allocation for education and 21.9 percent for health. Honourable Minister is so happy with the performance of the Government on economic front that he has forgotten the pace of economy. The concern regarding the common man is limited to talks only, nothing much has been done for him in this budget.

He has presented a rosy picture of economy and claimed that gross domestic product will increase upto 8.1 percent and inflation will be under control. The customs duty ceiling for industrial products has been decreased which will affect domestic product and create problem in competition. The National Rural Employment Scheme has been discussed widely in the budget and schemes like National Rural Health Mission and Urban Renewal has been announced. Budget allocation for 'Sarvshiksha Abhiyan' has been increased. The provision for the appointment of additional teachers has been made but it is too short from present demand. The allocation for Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Scheme has been increased but it is also too short to fulfill the drinking water necessity of villages and rural public. Though

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

honourable Finance Minister has given significant importance and priority to education and health in the context of 'Bharat Nirman', but no action plan has been presented in consonance to this.

It is correct that under the National Social Assistance Programme for old man (65 years and above of age) the amount of assistance has been increased from rupees 75 to rupees 200 per month. The old people will definitely get a little relief with this, but this amount should have been increased to a minimum of Rs. 500.

For the agricultural sector, the allocation has been increased but what is the situation today? A large part of agricultural land remains unirrigated. Though schemes for water augmentation has been mentioned but the allocated amount is very little. After industrial expansion this is the most important sector as more than 62-70 percent of people earn their livelihood from agriculture even today. The farmer is not getting sufficient power, he is not getting remunerative prices for his crops. Farmer is committing suicide due to continuous losses in agriculture or agriculture being non-profitable. From this point of view the backward, but, agricultural states should be given more attention; the main states are Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. One more aspect is that opportunities of employment are decreasing in the villages. The villagers are migrating to cities. The population of cities is increasing. These people don't have residential accommodation there. There are no jobs and work as a result of which the life in cities is becoming disorderly. The number of slums is increasing and the future citizens of India... the children are leading a very bad life. In cities and towns they live near dirty drains and the problem of environmental pollution is increasing. Due to non-availability of work unsocial tendencies like thefts, dacoities, kidnapping etc., are taking place. These children do not get education and health care is also not available to them. Government assistance does not reach these areas. The concept of 'Bharat Nirman' is very high but a lot has to be done.

From the point of view of unemployment and to alleviate it the steps to be taken and the budgetary allocations are quite inadequate. It won't be possible to find a solution to the problem of unemployment with these things. In rural areas there are very few opportunities of employment. In the health sector also budgetary allocation is very less, especially for the promotion of Indian Systems

of Medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy, Central budget allocation is almost negligible.

Speaking about the health programmes as per World Health Organisation's, objective of eradication of leprosy and polio are emphasized but they are yet to be fully eradicated. Therefore more amount and efforts will be required in this sector. In the agricultural sector, in the present global and competitive situation a lot of changes and improvements are required. For safeguarding the interests of farmers, budgetary allocation is almost negligible. Production is not sufficient in regard to consumption. Today, the ratio of demand and generation of electricity is far from goal. It is less than 12 percent. The exploitation of non conventional energy sources is not properly done and more amount is not being spent in this field.

Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna is a good scheme but proportionately required allocation has not been made. There is a need to enhance allocation under PMGSY for providing road connectivity in rural areas. Even today there are many such states where there are no roads for miles together, from this point of view the situation in villages is not good so far. During the rainy season or otherwise the villagers face the same problem.

Industrial sector has reacted with disappointment. The industrial sector had hoped that excise duty on cars will be reduced in phases. They also hoped for a relief on sales-tax. Similarly we were waiting for withdrawal of FBT and abolition of cess. Even the corporate sector is not very happy with the budget.

As I said earlier, middle class is unhappy about the small increase in the exemption limit of income tax. People were hoping that hon. Finance Minister will increase the limit of income tax for promoting savings, so that the common man could be encouraged for saving.

Though consideration has been paid towards maintaining domestic supply in taking a step to decrease import tax of edible oil and crude oil, but this will have adverse effect on domestic oil industry.

There is a need to pay special attention towards Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern states. Keeping this in view, Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern states should be provided with appropriate funds, so that the people of these states get the feeling that centre has

done justice with them. The members of the said states always complain about neglecting the interests of these states.

Though indications of foreign trade are good, but China, Japan and Korea are also posing tough competition. Amongst these China is biggest competitor. We have to mainly compete against China. Hence we need to speed up equal investment like East Asia and China.

Though few special provisions have been made for Schedule Castes and Tribes, still there is need to pay more attention towards the same and accordingly budgetary allocation for their welfare should be increased.

There is need to give more attention to Regional Rural Banks and Schedule Banks for ensuring rural development. The previous government had started various welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, Swajaldhara Yojana, Rural Electrification scheme, Jal Swardhan Yojana and crop insurance scheme, Kisan Credit Card for developing infrastructure and for ensuring the development of farmers and rural people, but the need of the hour is to increase allocation for the said schemes. There is need to provide village to village road connectivity, alongwith providing a facilities of clean drinking water, education, employment opportunities and health services.

Though the Government have taken ample care in regard to ensuring buoyancy in revenues, it has not paid similar attention to foreign trade. Hence export promotion schemes should be launched, so that our export may increase. Export sector like diamond jewellery, and textile etc. has enormous opportunities. There is need for resurrection of old or sick industries. NDA Government had made attempts to resurrect them, they should be continued.

Though industrial towns are developing, but there is need for promoting rural industry mainly khadi and handicraft. This will provide more and more employment opportunities in rural areas. Food processing industry will also improve condition of farmers and villages. Due consideration has not been given to them. Few selected cities have benefited from Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Scheme, its coverage should be increased and certain specific cities should be included in this.

Big industrial units of cities whether these are textile mills, sugar mills; cement factories or small middle level

industries, all are continuously suffering losses. We lag far behind in global competition. The markets are getting more and more globalised. We are lagging behind in modernization. Many industrial sectors are still far from adopting new techniques. Farmers are suffering, rural people are suffering, cities are in miserable conditions. Why are farmers committing suicides? This question needs to be given some thought. Labourer die away due to hunger. Providing 100 days employment has been announced under Rojgar Guarantee Yojana, but it needs to be turned into reality. Farmers should be provided with facilities of water, electricity, education, medical and house and youth needs to be provided employment. The number of skyscrapers are increasing but poor's hut does not have a roof. Then how is Bharat Nirman possible?

Hence, it is imperative that these element of 'Swadeshi' should be imbibed in schemes and stress should be laid to achieve this objective. Then only the vision of Gandhi and Deen Dayal of a self-reliant India will be realized.

The difference becomes clearly visible once we look at the opulence and pomp and show of the cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Surat, Ahmedabad and then take a look at the picture of rest of India.

In the end, I would like to narrate my viewpoint in brief. Madhya Pradesh is predominantly an agriculture-based State. Minerals are also available here in plenty. Unlike other states a special package can be given to this state, since majority of its population is tribal, hence the state can be brought on the track of progress by giving special packages for industrial expansion and agriculture promotion on the lines of similar package provided to other states. Though more funds have been allocated for Urban Water Supply, however, central assistance is sought to be provided for development in other areas too, so that Madhya Pradesh can also give important contribution in national development.

An assessment of whole budget is required to be made from this point of view; otherwise our vision of development will remain unfulfilled.

[English]

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, I welcome the Budget 2007-08, which is described as a Budget for

[Dr. Sebastian Paul]

the aam admi. The Budget presented by the Finance Minister reflects the glow of unprecedented economic growth. However, I have to caution the Minister that a necessary precondition to make the growth more inclusive and sustainable is to pay greater attention to agriculture and rural infrastructure. Though there is a visible focus on the farm sector, it is not a complete recipe for agricultural renewal. Apart from the remarkable performance of the Railways, other crucial areas like power, roads, ports and airports remain major constraints. It is true that there is more allocation for agriculture. Many of the issues that have constrained agriculture have been addressed. But what we needed, as pointed out by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, is a movement like the one that triggered the Green Revolution of the 1960s. The poor performance of agriculture in the last three years and the growth rates of less than three per cent on the average over the last six years have left rural *per capita* incomes virtually stagnant. The allocations made for agriculture—related programmes pale before what is needed to make up for years of neglect. The farm sector, which provides livelihood for 115 million families, is also the most important area where progress is necessary to make growth more inclusive and sustainable. It is heartening to note that the Finance Minister remembers Jawaharlal Nehru's famous statement made in 1947: "Everything else can wait but not agriculture." With the hope that the Minister will always bear that in mind, I support this Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for setting an example. Others should follow suit.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, I thank you for providing me the opportunity to take part in discussion on general budget. Sir, the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister lack due consideration to the interests of villages, poor and farmers. If we compare the previous budget with this budget, then there is hardly any difference between the two. The people of this country are still facing the consequences of previous budget. Hon. Minister feels that increase in the rate of economic growth will solve all the problems. But the Planning Commission is of the view that it is important to raise the economic status of village and poors to put an end to their miseries. Unless we improve their economic condition the economic situation of the country cannot be improved. Our economy depends mainly on agriculture. Economically the farmer of this country is getting weaker day-by-day. Even after so many years of independence are the farmers getting remunerative prices for their produce. Unless the farmers gets remunerative price for his produce, farmers of this country will be forced to commit suicides.

Today the situation is such that the factory owners are arbitrarily pricing their products while taking into account all aspects of cost involved and likely profit selling it in the market. On the other hand farmers looks towards the government for making an increase of Rs. 10-15 on support price and the government claims that this year

they have increased ten-five-four rupees. Will farmer be able to survive with this amount? The farmer of this country will not become self-reliant until we pay remunerative price to farmers. I would like to urge upon hon. Minister that a lot of things are being said in the budget, but there is a need to look into as to how remunerative prices can be paid to farmer. Hon. Minister should mention this in his reply as to how he can ensure paying remunerative prices to the farmer whether he is a coconut-growing farmer or having any other cultivation.

Today, the situation has reached such a passe that food grains are being imported. I would specially like to mention in this discussion that there is a need to increase duty on import. Farmers, who wish to export, should be encouraged.

Sir, farmers should get benefits of agriculture insurance. Today the benefits of the agriculture insurance, to which the farmers are entitled, are not being extended to them. They will be given the compensation of average agriculture insurance for five years. There has been famine for six years in a Tehsil of my Parliamentary Constituency. Not a single grain has grown there and you are giving them compensation for five years but they have received nominal compensation.

There is a need for making water available to the farmers in the budget. There is no mention of allocation of fund in the budget for the most important interlinking of rivers project. As long as the farmers do not get sufficient water, electricity, urea at lesser price and remunerative prices for their crops, we will not be able to check suicides by farmers.

I want to speak especially about forward trading. Prices have risen due to forward trading. The hon. Minister has excluded rice and wheat from forward trading, I am thankful to him for this. Only one quintal cumminseed is there but there is trading of one lac sacks, this trading benefits neither farmers nor traders nor common people. The middle men and speculators are earning crores of rupees through forward trading and consequently, both farmers and traders are being driven to the verge of committing suicide. That is why I particularly request to put this forward trading to an end.

Sir, particular area is set up as special economic zone and most of the industrial units are shifted there. One economic zone is set up and if that benefits one lac people but it also leads to the closure of several small scale industries throughout the country rendering millions of people in the country be in the grip of a crisis. There should be a policy for this.

The former Finance Minister, hon. Jaswant Singh had implemented Marugochar Scheme in my constituency. The scheme has been completed but the government of India has not sanctioned the due amount of Rs. 40-50 crores to Rajasthan so far. People of the villages of the state are facing difficulties as funds earmarked for Marugochar Scheme have not been provided.

Apart from this I want to speak on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. The work done under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is praiseworthy. But the tasks assigned to the teachers under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan have turned them into contractors, they are engaged for the whole day in those works and do not pay heed to the education of children. They work like contractors under the mid day meal scheme. They are also assigned the census work and as a result of that the foundation of education system is weakening gradually. I will request the hon. Minister especially to pay heed to this problem.

Sir, I want to speak about the workers of Aanganbari. There workers work in the remote villages but they are getting nothing in reward.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place it on the Table of the House. Now, Shrimati Rani.

Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: The Hon'ble Minister must think over it. I am thankful to you that you have given me opportunity to speak on this matter.

[English]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, I would like to bring the notice of this House sad plight of the Agriculturist of our country particularly in the State of Karnataka. Most of the people are depending upon the Agriculture. Due to various reasons the farmers are facing lot of problems for their survival. Since 1998 being frustrated, the farmers are left with no alternative but to commit suicide. Lakhs of poor agriculture farmers have committed suicide. It is our duty to put an end to this situation. The Government had already designed some policies which are not sufficient. Mere providing flood reliefs, drought reliefs on regular basis will not solve the alarming situation. In this regard I have to suggest few

steps which needs to be taken care to protect the interests of the farmers.

1. We have work out to form a Farming Team comprising (1) suppliers of seed/plants & material farmers, buyers and Insurance Body. Apart from this, we have to be prepared to face the diversified weather conditions, where we can grow different crops all over the year in different areas without disturbing each other.
2. First of all we have to ensure that the Seed/plants of good quality is provided to the farmers. Presently the seeds/plants suppliers are eager to make profit and are supplying sub-standard seeds/plants.
3. There is no marketing strategy and each and every one is exploiting the farmers. To put an end to this trend, The Government has to ensure the marketing should be regulated only through government agencies and fix up the best price prevailing in the international market and stop the private sectors.
4. There is lack of proper irrigation to the farmers due to continuous droughts.

In this regard I have to state that the Government has to take immediate step for linking the Rivers throughout the country so that water can be provided for the agriculturists in time without any break. This will also give transportation link in transporting the commodities through water which will also curtail the exorbitant expenditure. This will also be a long term measure for sustaining the core sector from investing huge investments for transportation etc.

5. The Government should ensure the uninterrupted supply of Electricity to the Agriculturists at minimum rate so as to enable them to afford the expenditure.
6. It is also very important that the Agriculturists should be provided with the Insurance in order to overcome the loss which they might suffer due to failure of the crop. The present system should be made more liberal in assessing the situation keeping in mind the quantum and the nature of loss suffered by the poor agriculturists.

[Shn Mallikarjuniah]

Keeping in view of the serious nature, I urge upon the government to chalk out a comprehensive programme to save the agriculture sector from the present crisis.

1. Formulate a Team Farming: Comprising Seed/ Plant material Suppliers, Farmers and Insurance Body.
2. Identify from the Buyers the requirement of the products and quantity and the best price.
3. The Plant/Seed Suppliers should identify the areas where it can grow exclusively according to the standard & quality requirement of the buyers/farmers. They should also ensure that the seeds/ plants supplied by them are of good quality irrespective of the class of farmers.
4. After identifying the above, it has to see the disaster situation in coordination with the Insurance Company so that the farmer should not suffer.
5. The Government should ensure that the products should be marketed through the Government agencies on best available market price which has to be fixed by the Government in consultation with the Farmers, Buyers etc.
6. The Government should ensure that in case of any loss suffered by the farmers due to defect in plant/seed material or crop failure, the insurance company should compensate the same.

I am sure that if the team farming is made effective and if back ups are given to the farmers irrespective of small, marginal or large farmers, they will come forward together without any hesitation. It will not only result in growing the Farming Sector but will stabilize the quality standard to penetrate the export demands to international market to earn public exchequer. I may also like to point out that the Government cannot do everything. But the common man should be encouraged to come upto the welfare of the society and the country as a whole.

I would like to invite the attention of this house to the fact that in Tumkur, NAFED is purchasing the copra from the farmers. It has become a general practice that at the time of purchasing the copra, the NAFED is issuing the receipt and payment will be released only after few days i.e. within a month's time. As such the farmers who

are fully depending on the income from the copra is facing lot of inconvenience in getting the payment from NAFED. Thus great injustice are being meted out to the farmers.

In view of the above, I request the Government to look into this matter also and issue necessary instructions for the immediate payments to the farmers at the time of collecting the copra from the farmers on the spot itself.

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a great privilege for me to participate in the discussion on the General Budget and to support it wholeheartedly.

This Government under the able and effective leadership of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and with the guidance of UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has achieved many milestones and this Budget is one in that direction, which will take India into a bright future. I appreciate our hon. Finance Minister, Thiru Chidambaram for that.

I also appreciate with gratitude the efforts of the Government in achieving many milestones such as Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, ICDS Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, etc. These initiatives have seen tremendous improvement in the standard of living of the people and I wish that they continued further in the right direction so that poor people benefit from all these measures.

Sir, in the case of Bharat Nirman and other flagship programmes, the Budget says that an additional irrigation potential of 24 lakh hectares will be created. Till December 2006, the Government has provided drinking water facilities to 55,000 houses, constructed 12,000 kms of rural road and has constructed 7,83,000 rural houses and nine lakh houses are under construction. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, about 20,000 villages are covered. This Government has so far provided telephones to 15,000 villages. For achieving all this, this Government deserves kudos from all over the country.

I would like to say a few words about the employment situation. In the case of NREGS, it is extended from 200 districts to 330 districts. Accordingly, sufficient money has been allocated for the same. In the case of rural employment, Rs.2,800 crore has been allocated under SGRY. To promote self employment through self-help groups, allocation to SGSY is increased.

I would like to mention about the needs of Science also. Even though the Finance Minister has allocated Rs.50 crore for the Agriculture University, Coimbatore, the scientific research can only enhance India's competitive future. From the year 2001, allocation for scientific research is declining. The Department of Science and Technology was allocated Rs.200 crore during the year 2005-06 but in the revised Budget it was cancelled by the Finance Ministry. Sir, Rs.180 crore, which was allocated for the year 2006-07 was also not given. In the current Budget it is promised to allocate Rs.150 crore. I feel that this amount is not sufficient to revamp Science education in the country, especially the science departments and colleges.

Hon. Finance Minister has also mentioned about the Government's commitment to empower the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students as well as women and children. This is a step in right direction. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Minister has substantially increased the allocation to Rs.3,200 crore and for the Scheduled Tribe students studying in M.Phil and Ph.D. courses, the Government supports the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Programme and the allocation is increased to Rs.88 crore.

For minority communities, the Government is implementing scholarship programmes and is allotting Rs.72 crore for pre-matric scholarships, Rs.9 crore for post-matric scholarships and about Rs.50 crore for graduate and post-graduate level scholarships. All these measures will improve the lot of minority as well as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and we are very much thankful to the hon. Finance Minister for this.

I feel that the hon. Finance Minister has dealt with the inflationary tendencies in his Budget. I would say that this is the dire necessity and the Government should ensure that the poor people all over the country are not adversely affected because of this skyrocketing cost of prices. I would request the Government to take immediate measures to keep a check on this.

With these words, I once again support the General Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerrannaidu, you are my good friend. Please stick to the time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. We have

three eminent economists at the helm of affairs in our country; our hon. Prime Minister, our beloved Finance Minister and the Planning Commission Chairman, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Unfortunately, the policies of these three eminent economists are in no way helpful to our *aam aadmi*. The common man is missing in this Budget.

We are very happy with our growth rate of 9.2 per cent. If you see, there has been a tremendous increase in corporate tax, customs tax, income tax and Foreign Direct Investment. The Government is earning money. Ultimately it should percolate down to the poorest of poor, then only the people will be happy.

The social justice and equitable distribution have not happened in this Budget. The poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer. The poor and the farmers are not getting benefited due to his growth. So, the depressed section of the people is not getting benefited out of this Budget. I would submit that even after 60 years of our Independence, the equitable distribution has not happened. This policy should be evaluated in favour of the common man.

The price rise is the alarming issue in our country. Neither the farmer nor the consumer is happy. The farmer is not getting the remunerative prices and even the consumers are not getting the products at the affordable prices. This is the problem in our country. What is the reason behind it? I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason behind it. Everywhere there is a problem. If you go to the village, the common man would ask the public representatives why are you not taking enough steps to reduce the prices. This problem is there in the States as well as at the Centre. That is why, my request to the hon. Prime Minister would be that he should apply his mind to control the prices of essential commodities.

As regards agriculture, we have targeted an agricultural growth rate of four per cent. But in this year, we have achieved only 2.7 per cent. This is not sufficient. The agriculture share in the GDP has declined to 18.5 per cent. Even the public investment has reduced to 1.9 per cent. If you go to the year 1990, the public investment was 2.2 per cent. With these allotments how can you achieve a growth rate of four per cent in agriculture? The Minister has to answer that. Without sufficient allocation, it would be a difficult task to achieve four per cent growth.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

As regards insurance scheme, there is a loan insurance scheme. Those who have taken loan, only they will get the insurance cover. The Government of India is continuing with the same policy in the coming kharif and rabi seasons also. There is a demand from various State Governments and even from the public as also the farming community that it should be implemented revenue-village-wise. Otherwise, it is of no use to the farming community. The hon. Finance Minister had announced on the floor of the House that it will be applied at the Gram Panchayat level which is a unit. But at present they are taking Tehsil as a unit and the Mandal as a unit. That is why, if a farmer loses his crop due to flood or drought, he may not get the insurance cover.

As regards National Rural Employment Programme, what is the commitment of the UPA Government? They said that it will be implemented throughout the nation. But in the last year's Budget, it has been implemented in 200 districts. In this year, it has been extended to 130 districts more. Out of 600 districts, you have included 330 districts and 270 districts have been left uncovered. So, the UPA Government has failed to implement its promise of implementing the National Rural Employment Programme throughout the country. The Scheme needs a review as the poor people are not getting employment. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, 43 lakh job cards were said to have been issued but less than 50 per cent have been provided employment. This scheme was launched by the hon. Prime Minister in Anantapur District. But there are reports that there is a total misuse of this scheme. When the social audit was taking place in that district, the Ruling Party prevented the local workers from going there. They were locked in the schools. He was a Congress Party worker. It came in the newspapers. I have got many reports with me. So many articles appeared in the newspapers alleging that the Scheme is being misused. It needs a thorough check.

One individual had drawn a sum of Rs. 70,000/- from the post office fraudulently in connivance with local postal officials. The Congress workers have been accused of usurping public money. All these reports are there in the newspapers. These allegations have been proved. The social audit people were locked up in a room. This is the State of affairs in the State. Therefore, the Union Government should re-think on how the system could be strengthened.

Sir, in regard to announcement of special packages I would like to submit that last year as well as this year, the Finance Minister has announced special packages to be provided to various States. I am not against that. Special packages have been announced for the KVK areas in the State of Orissa, special packages have also been announced for States like Jammu and Kashmir, for Andhra Pradesh and for various other parts also. In Andhra Pradesh there are quite a few backward areas. The Anantapur district in the Rayelaseema region of Andhra Pradesh is one such backward district. It gets the second lowest rainfall in the country after Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The State Government as well as the Member of Parliament from that region have represented to the Government for providing a special package for this district of Anantapur. But unfortunately, the Finance Minister has not announced any special package for this region.

Sir, in regard to identifying certain universities for providing special grants I would like to submit that during the presentation of the Budget last year and also this year certain universities have been identified for according special grants. The N G Ranga Agriculture University is one of the very famous universities in our State. There has been a demand from the people of the State that before the Budget is passed, one university from the State of Andhra Pradesh should be identified for giving special grants. This is one request I would like to make to the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, we witnessed a very untoward incident in the House on the introduction of the Maritime University Bill the other day. The State of Andhra Pradesh has a coastline of more than a thousand kilometre. The Government of India presently has decided to establish one maritime university in Chennai and open regional centres at Visakhapatnam, Kolkata and Mumbai. My submission is that instead of going in for opening of regional centres, the Government may consider sanctioning one university each for the States of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh I would like to demand that as and when the Maritime University Bill will be passed in this House, the State of Andhra Pradesh should also be thought about and the Government should sanction one such university for the State.

Sir, the Government has proposed to increase the tax from Rs. 7 to Rs. 11. There are about 70 lakh *bidi*

workers in the country and out of that, 8 lakh are from the State of Andhra Pradesh. These workers are already facing a problem in the State because of a logo showing bone and skull on the packet of the *bidis* that are being sold in the market. So, these people are already suffering. On behalf of the *bidi* workers, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and presently the leader of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Chandrababu Naidu has written a letter to the hon. Finance Minister to remove the tax that has been levied on *bidis*. The Government should remove this levy imposed on *bidis*.

As regards withdrawal of exemption of excise duty on non-power handmade laundry soaps, the end users of the soaps are very poor. Since Independence, there has not been any levy of tax on handmade laundry soaps. It was attempted in 1954 and in 1994 Budget but it has not been levied. The people have represented the case to me. The hon. Finance Minister may kindly consider this point.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Where is the tax on soaps this year?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It was there last year and not this year.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is excise exemption upto Rs. 1.5 crore. Last year, it was Rs. 1 crore and we have increased it to an exemption of Rs. 1.5 crore. How can handmade units produce anything more than Rs. 1.5 crore?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Since Independence, they are producing them for more than Rs. 1.5 crore and they have been exempted. Please see the condition of the end users.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Yerrannaidu is my dear friend. Now please tell me any laundry soap unit producing for more than Rs. 1.5 crore and I will look into that case. Please tell me a particular case. .../(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I will confine myself to handmade units.

My next point is regarding exemption from central excise duty in the water supply scheme. The Minister has given exemption for pipes with a diameter of 20 centimetres. Only if we provide more money to the water

supply scheme, the scheme will be properly implemented. The Minister has given exemption only upto 20 centimetres. The pipelines in households and in residential quarters are below ten centimetres. We have to think about this aspect. It may be even 10 to 15 centimetres also. If you give it to the State Governments under ARWS, they can look after the excise duty part of it. In the drinking water scheme, the pipes used from the source to the tank should be exempted from duty. Previously, it was exempted. The Minister has now given some cushion and I am requesting on this point on behalf of the State Governments and the entire country. You may levy it upto 10 centimetres.

Regarding taxation of ironore, the cost per metric tonne is Rs. 300. The hon. Minister has levied excise duty on ironore at Rs. 300 per metric tonne. My hon. friend, Shri Satpathy from Orissa has already mentioned it. Even in Goa, the same is the position. There are a lot of people who are employed in this area.

When there are environmental hazards and when you have such an industry, then there will be no problem. This will generate employment and we will earn foreign exchange also. For some time, we have to remove the levy of tax on ironore. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will consider all these points and respond to these aspects at the time of his reply to the discussion.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): At the very outset, I appreciate the Finance Minister for considering the problems which we face in the plantation sector and accordingly announcing a Special Purpose Tea Fund and the assurance to enhance similar schemes to other produces like coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut. I also welcome the package for modernization of coir industry. But I am unhappy that agricultural growth has come down. For many years, the agricultural sector has been facing distress. In this Budget too, the allocation for agriculture is insufficient to meet the aspirations of the people. The demand for easy credit at lower rate of interest has not been met with. The suggestion to provide agricultural loans to farmers at the interest rate of 4 per cent by Swaminathan Commission should have to be accepted and implemented. But it is rather unfortunate that in the Budget, there is not even a mention of the name of Dr. Swaminathan.

My next submission is that the Government should extend the National Insurance to all the crops including

[Shrimati C.S. Sujatha]

perennial crops. It should also be ensured that the farmer gets remunerative price for their produce.

It is a welcome measure that almost all the districts where agrarian crisis is acute are included for the implementation of NREGA scheme. In Kerala, five districts are badly hit by this crisis. Even though four districts have been included in the Scheme, the district of Alappuzha has been left out. Alappuzha is the rice bowl of Kerala and it is necessary to include this district too in the Scheme. Please permit agricultural operations in the paddy fields of small and marginal farmers also under the NREGP. Please include labour-intensive housing for the poor under the NREGP, subject to the conditions that the excess material component is met by the State and local self Governments.

About 14 lakh women are engaged in seven lakh Anganwadi Centres spread across the country. The Anganwadi workers are doing commendable service to the society, particularly to the rural poor. Their area of service include pre-school education, supplementary nutrition, health and referral services, pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under six. But it is rather unfortunate that these poor women are forced to work for a pittance. The honorarium provided to an Anganwadi worker is Rs. 1,000 and a helper is Rs. 500. The Anganwadis should be transformed into childcare-cum-creche making it a full time service, integrating various other Government schemes into it. The remuneration has to be substantially increased keeping in view the increasing cost of living. The number of Anganwadi Centres should be raised to cover the ratio of one Centre for thousand people. This may please be taken note of.

The decision to increase the number of scholarships to one lakh and also the decision to construct five lakh new class rooms is worth appreciating. But this is still not enough to tide over the present problems in the education sector. The drop out rate of school children, particularly of the girl students, is at an alarming high. It is basically due to the shortage of infrastructure facilities in the rural areas. Parents are reluctant to send the girls to far-flung areas for their schooling. Every village should have high school facilities. Many schools do not have even toilets. All these issues have to be addressed. For that, the present allocation is quite insufficient. The Common Minimum Programme suggests six per cent allocation for education and three per cent allocation for health care. But this has not yet materialized.

My last point is regarding inflation and price rise. The increasing inflation rate and the escalation of the prices of essential commodities are serious issues. But there is no concrete suggestion given in the Budget to arrest price rise and inflation. Immediate corrective measures have to be taken in this regard by strengthening the PDS and by effective procurement of food grains. Import of food grains would help neither the country nor the agriculture sector.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq—not present.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, though a lot of mention has been made about the common people in this budget but in actual terms this budget is not meant for common people but a certain people class as and as elitest in nature. Prices of food items have been raised for common people but the prices of the food for animals have gone down in the budget. The import duty for this commodity has been decreased from thirty percent to twenty percent. Even the imported diamonds will cost less because three percent custom duty will be levied which was five percent earlier. The hon'ble Minister's statement that he does not possess any magic wand to contain price rise reflects political compulsions. In fact he is in a position to take decisions. He should take stringent steps to check price rise, leaving aside the politics of vote-bank. Matters related to farmers and agriculture have been discussed here. I want to say through you that he quoted the line of Saint Tiruvalloowar, we respect him, but the hon. Minister should realise that when it is terribly cold and we sit inside our houses in the warmth of our quilts with heaters on, the farmers are up irrigating their fields at that time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the scorching heat of March-April we sit in our houses equipped with AC facilities, the farmers are busy harvesting their crops and they do not relax until they have brought their crops to their houses. But as soon as they reach home with crops the money lender comes at their door for recovery of his loan and the banker reaches there to take back their tractors. Farmers are in debt at their birth itself and they die in debt and leave their children in debt. So, a long term policy for agriculture sector is essential. The Government

should consider seriously about increasing the support price of farmer's produce. The country will prosper only when the condition of agriculture improves. Those who do not possess land in the villages, will have to be given opportunity for employment. The economy of our country cannot be strengthened until they are given opportunity of employment.

Sir, many of my colleagues mentioned that sudden rain and hailstorm in the month of March have ruined the farmers. In such a situation, the Government should consider giving them special financial assistance. The Government should deliberate on waiving off loans upto 25 or 50 thousands rupees of the farmers to break the vicious circle of debt so that farmers may become prosperous.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister had mentioned about amendments in the pension Act in the Economic Survey, but the budget does not contain anything like this. He has talked of giving assistance in creation of employment to only one lac disabled persons of the country, but it is not clear as to how he will give them employment. Whether all physically handicaped people of the country can derive benefit if only one lac such people are offered employment? He should think over it generously.

Sir, the Government has fixed very low minimum wages. Even now 74 percent of the people in the rural area are poor, but no allocation has been made in the budget for them. Even regardig the insurance policy which has been announced for the common man, the Government is expecting 50 percent contribution from the state Governments. I request the Central Government to sponsor this scheme to entirely from its own funds.

Sir, the employees of the country have been very disappointed by this budget. They were expecting like in exemption limit for income tax upto one and half lac but the provision of one lac and ten thousand has been made. Under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Guarantee Yojana, so much is under the descretion of banks' managers. If an unemployed youth gets only sixty thousand rupees in place of one lac, one can well imagin as to how he can set up an enterprise. Unemployment is a big challenge in our country, but no provision has been made in the budget to eliminate it.

Sir, unorganized labours include agriculture workers, workers in the bidi industry, brick baking units and worker

engaged in incense stick industry. Among them majority are working in bidi industries. Bidi industries the dominant industry in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, I hail from Madhya Pradesh. I want to make it clear that the bidi industry does not require electricity, water or subsidy from the government. Now the Government has decided to impose excise duty from Rs. 7 to Rs. 11 on bidi, consequently the bidi industry is in peril. Now the people engaged in bidi industry are compelled to think as to how to survive? This industry is mostly set up at places where people find it difficult to reach even on foot. The women and old people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes earn their bread from this industry. Just now, my colleague, Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu mentioned the pictures published in the gazette of July 5. It is on account of this that the question of survival has come before the Beedi manufacturers. Today, they are thinking as to what should they do to earn their livelihood. They are facing this problem. The Government have exempted excise duty for those producing 20 lakh in beedi. The big manufacturers are taking advantage of this exemption and the Government are not receiving the revenue that should have been received by the Government. Thus there is loss of revenue to the Government. Such manufacturers are suffering loss. Alongwith that the Beedi workers are getting deprived of benefits of provident Fund and employee state Insurance Corporation that they should get.

Sir, there is apprehension of back door entry of inflation and price rise. Addition of education cess in service tax will aggravate the problems being faced by the common people. The Minister of Finance has got a milch cow in the form of service tax which is being exploited to the hilt. The same thing has been done in the Budget for 2007-2008. The Government are considering the service tax not as a milch cow but as a full fledged dairy. It is mentioned on the page number 25 of the Economic survey. The ambit of the service tax being started since 1994-95 has been gradually expanded. It has been the most sought after and lucrative source of revenue generation for the Government. In 1994-95 this tax was imposed on three services. In 1996-97 the number of services increased to 6 and in 2006-07 it became 99. Earlier it was eight percent then it became ten percent and later on it rose to 12 percent. In 2005-06 Rs. 23 crore were realized under this head. As per one estimate Rs. 34 thousand crore has been realized in 2006-07. That means in one year there is an increase of

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

fifty percent. Nobody had expected that Minister of Finance would easily spare such area of potential growth.

The lack of strong will to eradicate poverty unemployment and corruption was clearly perceptible in the Budget.

This Budget is anti-farmers, anti-labourers, anti-employee and anti-common man. No section of society will be benefited by this Budget.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for 2007-08.

Sir, in our college days we used to read that Indian farmers are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. We are celebrating 60 years of our Independence. Even after 60 years, the farmers remain in the same position. They are still borrowing and they are not self-sufficient even today.

I welcome the Budget. The hon. Finance Minister has given more money for agriculture. How far is it going to augment our agricultural production? I think it is shameful on the part of the country to import wheat and pulses. We have recently imported wheat and pulses. This must be stopped. We must see that whatever money we allocate to agriculture is properly utilized and we must become self-sufficient in the production of all agricultural produces.

We are short of oil and so the hon. Minister has reduced the duty on oil. This is a welcome step.

Then, the hon. Minister has allocated Rs. 35,000 crore more for agricultural loans. How long will it go on? I would like to have a reply from the hon. Minister as to how many farmers have taken loans till now from commercial and cooperative banks and of which how many of them are borrowing for more than 10 years. We must fix a limit for the borrowing of a particular farmer. Every year the borrowing amount has to come down and after 10 years he should not borrow. That means, we must make him self-sufficient at least within 10 years. So, measures should be taken to see that farmers do not go on borrowing till their death. This must be done. This year, the Government is bringing another 50 lakh

farmers under loans that are offered by cooperative banks. This is good. But as I mentioned, the Minister must come out with statistics as to how many farmers have borrowed and how many of them have borrowed for more than 10 years.

14.00 hrs.

How much is being given for extension of loans? Sometimes what happens is that a loanee borrows a sum of Rs. 10,000, next year, he borrows a sum of Rs. 15,000, because he is not able to repay that sum of Rs. 10,000, from somebody and pays the loan and get an enhancement of loan. This is not proper. We have to look into all those things.

As far as irrigation is concerned, I am sorry to say that the funds that allotted to irrigation are very less. Irrigation must be given top priority. Interlinking of rivers must be thought of. Rivers must be nationalized. There shall be a National Water Policy or else as you know Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are fighting with each other on the Cauvery Water Issue. So it has to be done on a priority basis. The country cannot be divided on these issues. It is important to see that the National Water Policy is adopted as early as possible.

As far as restoring the water bodies is concerned, I welcome this step, but where is the rain. When only rain comes, then the water bodies will be serving the purpose, otherwise if there is no rain, they will not serve any purpose. So, all these things like recharging water etc. can be there only when we get water.

I would like to make an appeal to the Government to see that the farmers with five acres or ten acres of land should do one acre of plantation in their crops or that plantation must be made compulsory. If they do not grow trees, they will not be attracting rains and we are going to face droughts. Every year, in one State or the other, we are facing droughts. In the last rainy season, out of 175 talukas, 130 talukas in Karnataka did not receive rain and they are suffering for want of even drinking water. This is the position. So, more funds must be given to irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have a lengthy speech. You may place it on the Table. You may get tired if you read all those things.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I have one-two points more. Education is very important. The hon. Minister has given more importance to education and I welcome it as he has given more stress on Mid-day Meal Scheme and upper primary schools. I also welcome the budgetary allocation to Scheduled Castes and Minorities. They have given more funds for them, but what happened in the case of backward classes. When they have given a sum of Rs.7,500 crore for the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and STs when thousands of crores have been given for empowerment of minorities, what has gone wrong in the case of backward classes as only a sum of Rs.91 crore, a pittance, has been given. Why are they annoying the backward classes? The hon. Minister must be kind enough to give more funds for the development of backward classes.

The Government is for every section of the students. They must give more funds to the development of backward classes. In the higher education, especially in professional education like IIT, IIM, medical colleges, engineering colleges, whatever is spent must be collected back from the students. The students should pay the cost of education. This should be done because no other country in the world is giving free education for the pittance of fees. So, that has to be collected so that it could be invested for the primary and upper primary education and middle school education also.

With these words, I welcome the Budget and support this Budget.

14.05 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I do not know where to begin, how to begin and where to hit. But, I am deeply anguished. I can very well say I am deeply anguished. I cannot imagine that this could have been the Budget of a Government which enjoys the support of the Left. This is an unilateral Budget. This is not the by-product of a consensus between the Left and the UPA. I am sorry to say all our suggestions have been bypassed. We had suggested a large budget; we had pleaded for larger allocation for agriculture to tide over the crisis. We had suggested for setting up of an effective infrastructure to promote employment, ameliorate hunger and poverty and also to ensure growth with equity.

Our hope has been belied. We had suggested widening of the tax base. We had suggested increase of tax, GDP ratio substantially to tax the rich and to find money to feed the poor. We had suggested mobilization of the domestic resources with much more strength. We had earnestly desired that the tax potential of the country may be exploited fully.

We wanted the Government to break with the past and make a new beginning. Unfortunately all our hopes have been belied. I am constrained to say this is not a poor man's budget. Billionaire syndrome seeks to affect the making of the Budget. I repeat, billionaire syndrome seeks to haunt the Budget. The slogan of inclusive growth is a concoction totally. The concept of social security has been made a caricature. The hon. Members of the Congress Party may kindly listen to the friendly warning, friendly criticism. The question is, this Budget will produce more billionaires; the gap between the rich and the poor will be widened. Not only that, the corporates are turning transnational. The Minister is applauding but he had little tears to shed for those who have not been benefited by the process of economic growth that the Government is trying to do in this country. What is the background? The hon. Minister must know the background of the Budget.

The background of the Budget is abnormal price rise, crisis in agriculture, suicides of the peasants, declining employment opportunity, worsening living condition of poor including the women and children, employment guarantee scheme not taking off well. There is an all-out violation of the labour laws in the country and there is a decline in the real wage. This is one aspect.

Let the hon. Minister and Government think of the other glitter, other shine. I begin speaking of the gloom; let us speak of the shine, drastic rise in the profit of the corporates. India has become one of the riches countries in the world with 30 per cent of the people below the poverty line. There is a frenzy to buy foreign companies. The Government applauds. There is a craze for buying private aircrafts. I do not know whether Shri Maran has his own aircraft or should have his own aircraft in future.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Why is he taking my name?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Out of my love for you!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Member from your Party speaks, he can reply to him on your behalf also.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, there is a craze for purchase of private aircraft, luxurious private aircraft. We wish to have an airlift if anybody can arrange it for us.

Sir, I am giving the figure. Nearly two billion American dollars are being spent for lavish marriage parties in a year in India. This is another India by contrast the green Indian reality and by contrast the glitterati, which has led the Finance Minister to say that India is on the high road of economic development in the country. Sir, in such a situation, what the Left Parties have wanted from the Government to do. We wanted a higher tax GDP ratio. It is only 11.4 per cent, only one per cent increase from the last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever he has said about Shri Dayanidhi Maran may be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see that. If there is any objectionable remark, then I will expunge it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I said that Shri Maran should have an aircraft. Is it unparliamentary? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I am a Minister. I am representing here as a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I apologize. Ministers should not have a private aircraft. I agree, Sir. Ministers should not have private aircraft. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see it later on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Left people are envious of everybody. So, do not worry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Something wrong has to be found by the right person! Somewhere some wrong must be found out.

Anyway, in a situation like this, we wanted to improve the tax GDP, and it is only 11.4 per cent, one of the lowest in the world. The tax system is regressive. The rate of tax is almost the same for the rich, super rich, middle class and affluent middle class. What is the additional revenue that the Government is mobilizing by having one more per cent of tax GDP ratio? They are only mobilizing Rs.67,901 crore as their additional revenue. That is what the papers say.

Sir, please compare this money with the amount that the Tata Company had spent to purchase a foreign company in the United Kingdom. That was Rs. 50,000 crore. The Government is mobilizing Rs. 57,901 crore through additional taxation in this Budget and the Tata Company has been able to generate Rs. 50,000 crore for purchase of a foreign company. This is the India we are building! This is the country we are building! It is free for all, no more tax on that. The banks are not advancing loans to the farmers but to the Tata Company to purchase a foreign company, which will not contribute to the wellbeing of the Indian people.

Since profits are increasing so dramatically, tax on profit—will the hon. Minister take note of it to convey to his senior Minister—since tax are so dramatically increasing, only the withdrawal of concessions would have been able to mobilize Rs. 1,50,000 crore. The hon. Members of this Government, the hon. Members of the Opposition, and the hon. Ministers may kindly note that if the concessions were removed, then they would have been able to mobilize Rs. 1,50,000 crore to take care of agriculture, employment generation and inflation. The Government has no political will to touch the billionaires. I envy the billionaires of the country, if there is any billionaire in this House. There is no political will. We have 36 billionaires, maybe one from Punjab, I do not know. Their total accumulated wealth of these 36 billionaires is more than Rs. 6,00,000 crore and the Union Budget of the Government is Rs. 6,80,521 crore. This is the parallel economy. Billionaires do have the same volume of wealth as the Government of India can mobilize for an annual Budget. Sir, this is the Indian economy we are building. Whether it is a matter of shame or a matter of joy, it is for the Government and for the hon. Ministers to kindly ponder over it.

Everybody knows that agriculture is in crisis. What the Government has done in this Budget? It is the shameful story. Agricultural production is unstable, going up and down. What is the reason? Sir, 50 per cent of the agricultural land is not irrigated. How much of money we need to have irrigation for a large part of the unirrigated land? We need Rs. 50,000 crore. This is the estimate of the leading economists of the country. How much we are spending? We are spending, for irrigation, only Rs. 11,000 crore, which is a peanut when we need Rs. 50,000 crore. When agriculture is in crisis, when the country has lost its food security, when we have to import from outside by spending foreign exchange, when peasants are being paid less and the foreign exporters are being paid more, at that point of time we need Rs. 50,000 crore for the improvement of agriculture. We have been allotted only Rs. 11,000 crore.

What is the ambition of hon. Mr. Chidambaram? His ambition is that 2.4 million hectares can be reached. I question his figure. I am saying only with Rs. 11,000 crore, he can irrigate not more than 60 per cent of the targeted area. What is the bank advance? Agriculture is suffering from lack of credit. What is the bank advance? The hon. Minister says that Rs. 2,25,000 crore will be advanced to the farmers by the banks. What is the interest rate? It is shameful. Your own Swaminathan Committee has suggested four per cent simple interest, and shamefully and cynically, the Government has agreed for seven per cent compound interest. This is the synthetic tears the Government is shedding for the farmers who are committing suicide in the country. It is artificial.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: It is good.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I appreciate the appreciation of Mr. Maran.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): You are also synthetic.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, if a person speaks from heart, the heartless people will say it is not from the heart! What can I do?

Sir, the Government has now decided to have a Committee on Rural Indebtedness. It is salt on the wound. The Government needs to know what rural indebtedness is. When I was a student, when I was in the MA class, I know that I had been writing on the answer sheet the

report of a Committee set up on rural indebtedness. How many years back?

The Government today after all that has happened, requires a Committee on Rural Indebtedness. Is it graceful on the part of the Government? Or, is it shameful on the part of the Government? It is for the country to know, and not for me to say on that.

There is no reference to remunerative price of the agricultural produce. People are committing suicide because they do not get the price in different parts of the country. There is no reference to remunerative price on agricultural produce. The Government purchased wheat. What was the price? It was Rs. 560. What was the price in which the Government imported? It was Rs. 1,000 per quintal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please give me a little more time. I will finish as quickly as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have taken so far 15 minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My time is a little more than that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: With your gracious indulgence; I will get a little more time. I know that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, then other Members of your Party will not participate in the discussion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Nobody will participate. You give me time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Comprehensive social security finds no place in the Budget. All the former socialists in the Congress Party and all those who have been doing trade unions should realize this.

Comprehensive social security does not find a place in the Budget. Pauperization of the farmers continues unabated. Suicides go on even after the hon. Prime Minister has visited the places. We have a great Prime

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

Minister with a large heart. Even then, the presence of the hon. Prime Minister cannot inspire confidence among the peasants. What better tragedy can be there than this? Even the hon. Prime Minister cannot inspire confidence. The farmers are committing suicide. In whom the peasants should have confidence?

The point is why it is so. It is because pauperization of the farmer is continuing. Sir, repeated occurrence of agricultural crises will make the hon. Prime Minister realize that his dream of four per cent increase in agricultural production was a daydream. Mr. Chidambaram does not see that the dream of his own Prime Minister is fulfilled. That is the Government we are here to support.

On the other hand, I will give you two instances to show how shamefully the Government is ignoring the problem of poverty in rural areas. I will give two examples. Take the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Madam Sonia Gandhi is deeply connected with the National Advisory Council. That Council suggested that there should be Rs. 100 crore per district for the implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is her Committee. Two hundred districts were involved. What was the allocation in the last Budget? The last Budget had allocated Rs. 11,300 crore. Even the suggestions of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi were stirred out. Hon. Finance Minister is too powerful in the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Is he too powerful to continue? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is for the Government to understand—too powerful to continue or a heavy load to carry on. That is for the Government to consider. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The responsibility lies on you also.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I will come to it. I will comment on it. Do not worry.

Let me give you the figures. Two hundred districts at Rs. 100 crore each, needed Rs. 20,000 crore. Only a sum of Rs. 11,300 crore was allotted. Now, additionally the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has been fighting bitterly in the Cabinet. We have some information about the Cabinet because of the Right to Information Act. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

fought bitterly that there should be 200 more districts. But again I am saying the hon. Minister of Finance is more powerful. Therefore, not 200 but 130 districts were added. What is the addition in the allotment? Tears will not fall off my eye because they have dried. He has allocated only Rs.12,000 crore. He has allocated only Rs. 12,000 crore for additional 130 districts. An addition of Rs. 700 crore has been allotted. This is the synthetic tear I have been speaking of.

Another test of the Government's commitment towards inclusive growth is this. What a high-sounding phrase my dear friends? They say inclusive growth. All English-speaking people are there in the politics. Therefore, they have their own vocabularies. What does 'inclusive' mean? It means that the growth should benefit all. That is the inclusive Budget. Is it not, Sir? I ask the representative of the Finance Minister. How inclusive is your Budget? Let me give another example. How inclusive is it?

Take the ICDS scheme. *...(Interruptions)* Let us speak less of the Left and less of the Right and let us speak of the country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have very little time. Please let him speak. Do not disturb the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You have been doing 'Left-Right' and you are doing 'Left-Right'.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You have been doing Left-Right. The country has been doing Left-Right. It is a question of advancement. Let us not do Left and Right. *...(Interruptions)*

Take the ICDS—Integrated Child Development Scheme. What does it mean? It means that the children and eligible mothers are to be taken care of. What does the latest survey say? The latest survey says that 48 per cent of Indian children are underweight. This is the same

for eight years shamefully. In one year we have twelve additional billionaires.

In eight years, the figure of under-weight children has not changed. What a shame it is! While 46 per cent of Indian children are under-weight, ICDS Scheme is virtually the same as last year. What is the allocation? Last year, it was Rs. 5,000 crore and this year also, the allocation is Rs. 5,000 crore. We have, again, another instance of the synthetic commitment of the Government towards the poor, impoverished and marginalised masses of the country.

Let me give you few little more examples of inclusive growth. The total expenditure on social sector as a percentage of GDP has declined. Can you imagine in a country where 30 per cent of people live below the poverty line that spending on social sector as a percentage of GDP has declined? Let me give you the figures. In the last year's revised estimate, it was 6.23 per cent of GDP and this year it is 6.04 per cent of the current GDP. So, the spending on social sector has declined. What does it tantamount to? Billionaires have increased and there is no additional tax, but the spending on social sector has declined in this country.

There is a fall in spending on education and health as percentage of GDP. In education, the decline is from 2.88 per cent to 2.87 per cent and in health, the decline is from 1.41 per cent to 1.39 per cent. This is another example of Government's commitment towards the spread and universalisation of education.

Now, I come to unemployment. In the year 1983, as a proportion of the labour force, 2.88 per cent were unemployed. Today, it is 3.08 per cent. Jobless growth is there. Once again, the Government must admit that it has failed to bring about a change in the joblessness.

Every fourth Indian is living below the poverty line. I am using the Government's figure which is 26 crore. It is an under-statement because the calorie intake cannot be the basis for determining hunger of a person. In order to live, a person must need not only dal and roti but also water, sanitation, education, health and everything. Every fourth Indian is living below the poverty line even after 60 years of our attaining freedom. We have 36 billionaires and we are having every fourth Indian living below the poverty line.

Despite economic growth, 56 per cent of women are anaemic, including Punjab and West Bengal and 79 per cent of children below three years are anaemic. It is more shocking than it can shock the bureaucrats of this country!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have taken more than the time allotted to your party.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please give me little more time. I am coming to an end.

In the analysis of Human Development Index, India was ranked 124th. Under the great patronage of the commitment of the Government towards the impoverished, India has relegated to 126th position. There is a further fall. Unfortunately, in this country, there is no monitoring of the impact of the planning in the country. There are only statistics which can be always questioned.

There is price rise. It is because of the speculative nature of the economy. In order to induce hot foreign money, Government is really inducing the stock market. The whole country, the whole economy has become speculative. There is speculation in land and speculation in food grain. There may be speculation in the human life also. I do not know.

It is because of the speculation that the prices have abnormally increased. I question the efficacy of the Government's economic philosophy. Monetary steps will not help to bring down the prices; what about hoarding, what about catching the black marketeers, and what about implementation of the Essential Goods and Commodities Act.

Sir, let me conclude with a small sentence. The glare of hotel business, the shining of the shopping mall, the glamorous, high rise buildings, the artificial jacked up foreign exchange, the artificial jacked up stock market and incessant inflow of hot money cannot cover up the gloom of the underprivileged and underdeveloped in the backyard of the economy.

Our support to the Budget is a negative support. It is a negative support and the hon. Finance Minister may kindly take note of it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I request Shri Shankhlal Majhi to speak, I want to inform the House

that I have a very long list of speakers with me. I have a list of more than 55 speakers who want to speak. I would request the hon. Members to be very brief and try to give only suggestions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the number of speakers was only 50 two hours ago!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One more request is that those hon. Members who want to give their written speeches, they can lay it on the Table of the House and it will form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak on this Budget. The Budget is the mirror of the policies of the Government. The Budget should reflect as to what has been done by the Government for the deprived section of society and what relief has been provided to them. But no such thing is there in the Budget. I am very sorry to submit that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has not given any thing special to the deprived section of society in this Budget containing magic figures. If any thing is given, it is back breaking price rise. It is the outcome of the Budget that crores of people of the country have stopped consuming pulse. The GDA growth of the country is 9.2 percent, infrastructure growth rate is 9.3 percent and the growth rate of the service sector is 11.2 percent. The saving rate has exceeded 32.5 percent, investment has increased by 35.8 percent, inflation has increased by 21.3 percent, foreign exchange reserve has touched 180 billions but what is the condition of the common man? There is not any substantial difference between the previous Budget and the current Budget. The current price rise of the country is the outcome of the previous year's Budget. It has been mentioned in the National Sample Survey report that 5 percent population of the country i.e. 5-6 crore people are deprived of two square meals. Thus, if more than 7 crore people do not get two square meals and only 224.58 lakh families or nearly two and half crore people have been covered till now under the central schemes which it means that only 38 percent people have been covered under Antyodaya scheme and rest 62 percent families are even today deprived of two square meals. Achieving GDP growth alone will not serve the purpose. The ground reality belies the facts shown in the Budget as poor people in rural areas have no accommodation or drinking water facilities.

I would like to submit that nothing is being done for them. The urgent need of the hour is to provide drinking water to them.

The Government had fixed the target to provide drinking water to all the households, however, till now water has been provided to only 55512 households against the target of providing 73110 taps. Similarly only 783000 houses have been built against the target of 15 lakh houses. 914000 houses have been shown to be built only in the official records. 19758 villages have been covered for electrification under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, however, even today lakhs of villages of the country are deprived of electricity. Against the target of 20000 villages only 15054 villages have been provided with telephone facility. Even if telephone and TV are provided in the villages, the poverty in rural area can not be alleviated. Even today 71 percent of the farmers of the country depend on agriculture. During the NDA Government the investment in agriculture has declined. The result of that is that the farmers of the country are falling prey to starvation. I would like to submit that though certain concession have been given in the Budget as the hon'ble Minister of Finance was stating about the concessions given in matter of taxes but as far the provision made for the farmers and agriculture is concerned, it deserves attention. Even today 71 percent population of this country depend on agriculture but very little has been done for them. Only one and half crore people have been covered under common man insurance scheme. 37 crore people of this country are agricultural labourers. What provision has been made for the workers in unorganized sector? Will it serve the purpose by making arrangement for only one and half crore people? How long will such thing continue? The Budget of the hon'ble Minister of Finance is completely anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-labourer. It is also an anti-development budget. I do not feel that the growth in GDP or rise in sensex will ensure the development of the country. Unless the development of common man is ensured, the country will not develop. The hon'ble Minister of Finance was submitting that the tax on food for dogs and cats has been reduced from 30 percent to 10 percent. At that time the facial expression of the Minister was showing sympathy towards those people of the country who keep dog and cats as pets. Though their number is almost negligible but they enjoy such facilities. However, he does not have sympathy for poor, farmers, and destitute. I am very sorry to note such things.

At the end I would like conclude by reciting a sher that is—

Jashn-e-Jamhur me jalta hai garibo ka khun'
 Aur mujko is Bajam-e-chirag par hansai ati hai".

*SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Sir, while presenting the budget on 28 February, 2007 in the House, the hon'ble Minister of Finance had started his budget speech with a mention that the United Progressive Alliance Government has completed its half tenure in November, 2006. I congratulate the United Progressive Alliance Government for this. Being a member of the alliance partner of the ruling party, I support the General Budget 2007-08 presented by the hon'ble Minister. The hon'ble Minister of Finance had said in his budget speech that there were many positive and negative aspects in this budget. But after analyzing the entire budget, I found only negative points in the budget. While remaining in the limits of discipline so far as supporting or criticizing this budget is concerned, I would present in brief the views of myself and the people of my constituency in the interest of the common man.

I would like to thank the Government for making comprehensive provisions for some items in this budget such as Rs. 24,603 crores for 'Bharat Niman', Rs. 15,291 crores for the health sector and Rs. 32,352 for education sector. A provision of Rs. 10,571 crores has been made for the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', owing to which schools are being opened in every village. Inclusion of students studying in upper primary schools of the 3427 backward blocks under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme by making a provision of Rs. 7324 crores is commendable.

The decision of granting means-cum-merit scholarship of Rs. 6000 per annum to students from class IX to class XII who qualify a national level examination after passing class VIII is a very welcome step. In nut-shell the hon'ble Minister has tried to present a budget in favour of the common man. But there are some aspects which cannot be ignored. A provision of Rs. 12000 crores (including for the NER) has been made under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and it has been extended upto 330 districts. But I am sorry to say that no district of Bihar has been included under it.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

I thank you for introducing the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. However, the National Employment Guarantee Scheme is not being implemented anywhere in Bihar. Even the list of the BPL families is not being properly prepared. BPL cards for the poor are not being made. The poor cannot get the benefit of the Employment Guarantee Scheme without the BPL card. Funds are released by the Government under the schemes, but it does not monitor to ensure that these funds reach the poor. A provision of Rs. 2800 crores has been made for the National Rural Employment Scheme, but Bihar figures nowhere in it.

The infrastructure sector has been deemed to be the thrust area for growth and a sign of a bright future in the budget 2007-08. Much pleasure has been expressed for an increase of 8.7 percent to 9 percent in this sector during the three years (i.e. from 2004 to 2007) and for a growth of 9.6 percent, 9.8 percent and 11.2 percent registered respectively during the last three years in the service sector.

The concessions in the budget have been provided keeping in view the entire corporate sector. Point no. 94 under the heading Capital Markets in the budget speech of the hon'ble Minister of Finance is not in favour of the common man. The common man wants food, clothing and shelter. The Government may formulate as many schemes as it want, but till the prices are controlled, having a house will remain a distant dream for the common man because he will remain struggling to get even a square meal. A large rocket launched from earth can be controlled from the Rodsi centre at Sriharikota to call it back, but the Government are unable to check the skyrocketing prices of daily utility items.

Average annual growth rate of the agricultural sector in the first five years of the new millennium, which began in the year 2001-2002 is 3 percent. But it declined to 2.7 percent in the year 2006-07, which is a matter of great concern.

Sir, the entire world is aware of the fact that India is predominantly an agriculture-based country. Various kinds of crops are grown in the different states of the country, but unfortunately that agriculture sector is witnessing many ups and downs. The country which had been supplying food to other countries, is importing wheat, rice-edible oils, vegetable oils etc. from abroad. One should think for a while, as to why such a thing is happening. Whether

[Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu Yadav]

India is lacking funds and technique? Both these things are available. It is due to lack of investment in the agricultural sector, imbalanced use of fertilizers, slow adaptation of improved seeds, low-scale promotion of agriculture-related work, low-rates of produce at the time of arrival of crop etc. it is surprising that effort has been made to satisfy capital investors with several types of economic assistance and concessions by bringing the produces of biscuit, various food items, edible oils, fruit juice, jam, cigar and cigarette, 'pan masala', sugar etc. under the category of small, medium and heavy industries who use agro-products like wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, tobacco, sugarcane etc. as raw material. But agriculture, which is the basis of the said industries, is not given the status of industry and is being deprived of all kinds of economic assistance and concessions, which is not only an irony but a gross injustice against the farmers.

While speaking on farm credit under point no. 45 during his budget speech, the hon'ble Minister of Finance mentioned that 53.57 lakh farmers would be brought under the ambit of institutional credit and that Rs. 225 thousand crores are to be provided under the head of farm credit.

All members present in the House must be aware of the incidents of suicides being committed by the farmers in some of the states due to their inability to repay debt because of the recurring damage to the crops and owing to the fact that they do not have any hope to get any kind of economic aid and concessions from the Government and as a result do not find any way out to come out of the debt trap. In these circumstances, instead of formulating a scheme to relieve the farmers from the burden of debt encouraging the remaining farmers, who are as yet out of the debt trap, to take loan cannot be considered as beneficial for the progress of the country. The hon'ble Minister of Finance would have understood that the innocent farmers may get satisfied after coming to know about the announcement of subsidy on chemical fertilizers as farmers are not aware that the subsidy being provided on chemical fertilizers would benefit only the industrialists.

Sir, now, I would like to say something in regard to the condition of women and infants in the country. We are seeing lakhs of people getting included in the millionaires club. But they should be ashamed of the fact that 5 percent women and infants in rural areas of the country are getting afflicted with an anaemia every year due to lack of nutritious food.

Although the limit for income tax has been raised for senior citizens in the budget but it lacks any provision concerning their health, no provision for setting up even a single hospital or health centre for them has been envisaged in the budget. In this regard, I understand that the hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad ji has done a right thing by making a provision to give priority to the senior citizens and to women above the age of 45 years in reservation of lower berths. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways for showing respect towards the senior citizens and the women above the age of 45 years.

In the end, I would again like to congratulate the hon'ble Prime Minister, UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Union Cabinet Ministers and to the Ministers of States, Members of 14th Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and to the allies of the UPA Government for completing half of their term.

(English)

*SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): In total, the Budget 2007-2008 presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is highly disappointing. Especially in the context of inflationary crisis affecting the country's economy presently. It seems, the opportunities for additional resource mobilization has been missed. By taxing the rich whose income shares have increased, this object could have been achieved. However, against the interests of working class and the State Government, he has put the expenditure increases under a tight leash. The budget failed to address the problems of unemployment and inflation.

The ban on futures trading in Wheat and rice is a welcome measure. However, pulses should also be added to this list. The Budget has failed to do away with the ad valorem duty structure on petroleum products so as to bring down the fuel prices.

The proposed outlays on food subsidy is just 6.2% when inflation of 6-7% is taken into account. Extension of the public distribution and enhancement of food subsidy is need of the hour. The Budget failed to do so.

On employment front, the total expenditure on rural employment is budgeted to rise by just 3.5%. Likewise,

*The speech was laid on the Table.

the expenditure on flagship schemes namely NREGS, SGRY and SGSY is just 7% which amount to stagnation in real terms. There is a proposal to cover more number of districts under NREGS from 200 to 330. However, the outlay increase is just 700 crore, from 11300 crore to 12000 crore this year. It is not proportionate and realistic.

It is being claimed that the focus of this Budget is agriculture. It is not justified in terms of allocations. As a proportion of GDP, there is hardly any outlay increase to Agriculture sector of the country. It is stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the Government will act on the Radhakrishnan Committee which is examining all aspects of agricultural indebtedness. The Government should act on such recommendations on war-footing basis so as to save the farmers from coming suicides due to debts.

The budget has not delivered on agriculture. It shows no seeds for revival of agriculture.

But, there is really an outlay increase. It is towards education. It has risen by a creditable 33%. Also the higher education outlay is budgeted to rise by 29%. I hope, it would benefit and ensure reservations of seats for backward classes. However, there is cut in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan Programme of the Government. There is a meager increase of Rs.674 Crore towards ICDS. It is highly inadequate to meet the goal of providing an Anganwadi Centre in every settlement. It is goog that the Mid-Day Meal scheme being extended to Upper Primary "Classes in 3,427 educationally backward blocks.

It is a welcome measure that parents may get tax benefits on higher education loan raised by them for their children. However, the Government should also ensure that repayment commitment is not become a sole burden of the parents, as the loans may be issued to the parents in their name for claiming tax benefits. This may lead to students not-committal to the loans raised for their education by their parents. Ultimately, the parents at their old age may be suffering with debts. Further, it is stated that these tax benefits may not be claimed on loans being given by the employers. It should not be so. The employer may give a loan at a very low rate of interest than the so called Banks/Financial institutions. So, this should be modified.

In the Health front, the allocation for the National Rural Health Mission is still less than Rs. 10,000 Crore. It is sad that the entire provision for social security for

labour class has just increased by only Rs. 1 crore and there is nothing for the Working Class in this Budget.

There is the exemption limit for small service providers from Rs.4 lakh to Rs.8 Lakh Two lakh assesses will go out of tax net causing a revenue loss of Rs.800 crore. There is no answer in the Budget how far the new services added into the service tax net will mobilize the lost revenue.

To bring the unorganized landless households under a safety net by providing insurance, a scheme namely 'Aam Admi Bima Vojna' being launched. The Government should ensure that such a kind of scheme implemented by the private insurance players also.

Government is planning to support creation of about 100,000 jobs every year for physically challenged. However, there is no any clear-cut schemes/plans indicated through.

The problem regarding home loans availed and being availed by the huge force of working and the middle class people in the country has not been addressed. As there was a reduced rates of interests on home loans, many a people dare to fulfill their dream to own a home of their own. However, the rates are almost doubled now. It affects very much the budget of common man. The government should try to keep in control the ever-increasing home loan rates. At least to the segment of people who raised a loan of Rs.10 lakh. The Government may compensate the banks/financial institutes through viable subsidies to save this segment of people.

I. In the Power Sector, the Budget fails to light up it. The scenario is the power sector is reeling under an average shortage of over 8% and peak power deficit of 13%. The mega status benefits to be extended to smaller power plants of 250MW and 500 MW. The reduction of levies on coking coal will be beneficial for the Steel sector only. The same benefits should be extended to coal used by the thermal power plants.

This year also no significant steps were taken to accelerate power development programmes and no clear roadmap for power sector is visible in the budgetary proposals.

The additional countervailing duty of 4% on both crude and refined edible oils has been done away with

[Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal]

and the duty on sunflower oils is slated to down. It is good. However, the Government should ensure the results in lower prices should reach the end customers.

There should be a greater allocation for the Eleventh Plan in the Gross Budgetary Support. However, the Government does not do this.

To relieve the tax payers, an across the board increase of Rs.10,000 in exemption limits for all categories is the only tax relief. This should be enhanced. The already burdened common man and working class should be relieved in real terms. For the women assesseees the threshold limit stands increased to Rs. 145,000 and for senior citizens to Rs.195,000. It is good that women and senior citizens are being benefited.

I am not against women assesseees getting benefits. However, the Government should not forget the families, which are single income family with only one man is the breadwinner of that family. It must be believed that in most of the women assesseees families, there must be double income. A few percentage of women assesseees may be single earners. So, the Government should view and ensure that the tax exemptions mainly benefit the single income families and not on the gender basis.

In all respects, the agriculture, education, health, employment generation, Public Distribution or the rural development, the resources provided in the plan outlay allocation are not sufficient. Therefore, the Government should mobilize resources for enhanced plan outlays by taxing the affluent sections of the country. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will effect the suggestions given by me by incorporating the same into the Budget 2007-2008 and with this word I support this Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): This is a Budget that has not given us much scope for cherishing any bright hopes. We fail to notice any concrete steps or directives in the Budget to promote the agricultural sector, or check the price rise and escalation. Nor are there any specific steps to generate more employment opportunities.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam laid on the Table.

It is not enough to grant loans for farmers. You have to ensure that they get remunerative prices for their produce. If they do not get it, they will go in search of other lucrative ventures. Though it was declared that new policies will be formulated for enhancing the cultivation of coconut, coffee, rubber, cashew and spices; no fund has been earmarked in the Budget towards this objective.

Kerala will be worst affected by the new policy of reducing the import duty on edible oils. If palm oil starts flowing to our market, it will break the very backbone of coconut farmers in Kerala. Government should readily make available the relief funds for farmers to prevent the incidents of suicides. The funds that are meant to improve seed quality, enhance irrigation system and imparting training to farmers should be increased. The amount for crop insurance too should be increased. Only a visionary planning and implementation of another green revolution can save the Indian agricultural sector. The public distribution system on the lines of what exist in Kerala, should be made functional all over the country to check price rise. There are no new projects to create employment opportunities. Though, the funds earmarked for various projects have been increased, it is doubtful whether they can be successfully carried out. Welfare funds and pension facilities should be allocated for the weaker sections of society all over the country following the example of Kerala. Similarly, pension for agricultural labourers, old age pension, and pension for widows and physically handicapped should be allocated. Unemployment allowance too must be given nationwide.

The decision to give one-lakh merit scholarships to students on all India basis is a praiseworthy step. But not even half percentage of our needy students can be covered by one lakh scholarships. It should be increased to 10 lakh. The age limit set to demarcate senior citizens should be reduced. The senior citizens and the physically handicapped should be given lot many special concessions. The income tax exemption limit should be increased.

Though, no additional tax burden has been introduced in the Budget and some amount has been earmarked for social welfare and agricultural grants, we all doubt whether the objectives will be fulfilled. Therefore, please deliver what you have promised.

[English]

*SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir,

1. Price rise
2. Farmers Suicide
3. Unemployment

We expected from the budget the remedial measures for these three problems. But unfortunately nothing has been mentioned in the budget in this respect.

Hon'ble UPA chairperson admitted that the price rise is very high and they lost in the elections in some states like Punjab and Uttarakhand for these reason alone. Even then no consideration for reducing the price of essential commodities, in the budget. The proposal for stopping the forward trading in case of rice and wheat is good and appreciated. But I say that this measure can be applied to all essential commodities.

In this budget, there is no proposal to meet the crucial problem of unemployment in the country. It is day by day increasing. Nothing has been mentioned in the budget about the employment generating projects. Employments generate programme is proposed, but sufficient provision is not made in the budget. Our agriculture Sector is facing a very bad situation all over the country. In various states many farmers committed suicide. For the protection of agriculture sector no proper proposal is made in the budget.

It is proposed in the budget, to give more loans to the farmers. The farmers committed suicide only for the reason that they could not re-pay the loan and interest, already obtained. Now, if we give them more loans, they put in trouble more.

We have to find out some other measures to save the farmers. Take steps to get good price for their commodities and declare support price also to protect the farmers.

The recommendation of the Swaminathan commission also may be taken into account. The commission proposed to reduce the interest rate for agriculture loans. A fund may be raised to fix up the price of commodities. Re-organise the Import-Export duty system so as to help the farmers.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Now in this budget the import tax for sun flower oil is reduced. What is the result the price of coconut in the market is reduced. Then the coconut farmers are put in trouble. The main crop, in Kerala is coconut.

We welcome the programme proposed to Tea and Cardamom estates improvement and the agriculture package. And also we thank to the minister for the help to reform the coir industry.

With these words, I stop.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (Ludhiana): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to participate in the debate on the General Budget 2007-2008. This time, the people of India had high hopes from the Finance Minister. The General Budget of the last two years had left the people disappointed. The people hoped that the General Budget this year will live up to the expectations of all sections of society. However, they were in for a rude shock. The General Budget, 2007-2008, dealt a severe blow to the hopes and aspirations of farmers, industrialists, unemployed youths and common man of the country. The Budget was presented with much fanfare in the House. However, no section of society has benefited from this Budget.

Sir, the farmers are in a miserable condition. Time and again, members cutting across party lines, have expressed their concern in this august House regarding the plight of the farmers. More and more farmers are committing suicide. Agriculture productivity is declining. Farmers are neck-deep in debts. However, the Finance Minister has turned a deaf ear to the genuine demands of the farmers. No funds have been earmarked in the Budget to bail out the farmers. The credit limit of the farmers have been increased. However, the farmers are already groaning under the weight of debts. Increase in the credit limit will not serve their purpose. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. They are resorting to distress-sale of food-grains. They are in no position to pay off their debts.

For six months, the farmers toil and moil in the fields and by the dint of their sweat and blood, they provide us with food-grains. Many a time, standing crops are

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhilon]

destroyed due to incessant unseasonal rains and other natural calamities. For instance, a few days ago, the standing wheat crop of farmers in Punjab was destroyed due to hail-storms, and incessant rains. When the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their crops, they are forced to take loans.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, until we link the price of the crops of farmers to the price-index, we cannot save the farmers. A mere increase in the credit-limit of the farmers will not bail them out. Adequate funds should be earmarked for the farmers. Timely compensation should be given to farmers whose standing crops have been destroyed in natural calamities.

No funds have been allotted in this Budget for farmers whose crops have been damaged in the natural calamities. Standing crops of a large number of farmers in Punjab have been badly damaged due to the incessant unseasonal rains and hail-storms that lashed Punjab a few days ago. The Central Government should provide a special package to the farmers of Punjab and they should be adequately compensated.

Sir, the industrial scenario of Punjab is also gloomy. Other neighbouring states have been given special packages to revive their industries. I am not jealous. In fact, I am happy for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir — the states that have been granted special packages. However, Punjab, too, falls in this region. We share our borders with Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. A tax-exemption for industrialists for the next ten years has been announced in both the states. As a result, there has been a flight of industries from Punjab to these two states. Industrialists from Punjab have migrated to Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir and to Himachal Pradesh. 25,000 industrial units have been relocated in the neighbouring states. As a result, lakhs of people in Punjab have become unemployed. The unemployed youths have taken to drugs and intoxicants.

Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister has made a mention of Employment Guarantee Scheme in his Budget speech. How can he ensure employment unless new employment opportunities are generated? Sir a special economic package should be granted to Punjab on the lines of the package given to Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Otherwise, the Employment Guarantee Scheme will generate only unemployment in Punjab.

Sir, I am happy that funds have been earmarked in the Budget for augmenting domestic airlines and for upgrading airports. However, step-motherly treatment has been meted out to Punjab in this sector also. The Rajasansi airport at Amritsar is in a miserable condition. Maintenance is a casualty. Funds should be provided to develop the international airport at Amritsar as a model airport.

Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced during his visit to Punjab that the Halwara airport will be upgraded to an international airport. However, this Budget is silent regarding the Halwara airport. I appeal to the Finance Minister to release funds for the upgradation of Halwara airport into an international airport.

Sir, the Sahnewal airport near Ludhiana has been non-functional for the last many years. This is the long-standing demand of the people of the area that the Sahnewal airport should be made functional again.

Sir, the Central Government should provide adequate compensation to farmers whose standing crops have been damaged or destroyed in the recent natural calamities. A special package should also be given to revive the industries of Punjab. The airports in Punjab should be upgraded and made functional and funds should be earmarked for this purpose.

Wheat is being provided to the BPL families in Punjab through the Public Distribution System. Sir, this wheat is so sub-standard that it is not fit for consumption of even dogs or other animals. Hence, good quality wheat should be provided through the Public Distribution System.

Sir, the Government must provide relief and succour to the people of Punjab. Punjab must get its due.

[English]

*DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): At the outside I want to express this budget neither satisfied for the neither the working class nor the middle class of our country. If we see the direction and philosophy of budget is not at all new one. It just follows the same path, which NDA followed.

UPA Government in its NCMP, promised to help the farmers. Infact there are certain allocations to resolve the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

agrarian crisis in our country. In practice though the GDP growth rate is 8% for the last three years because of the 6% inflation rate during this period. The fruits of the growth do not reach the common man. The common man is facing the worse situation because of the high price rate of essential commodities and other means of livelihood.

In this budget for example, in agriculture sector a special package was announced to prevent the farmers from suicides but it is not at all adequate to tackle the pathetic condition of the farmers. Here I may sight an example of Andhra Pradesh where Rs. 9650/- crores were allotted for districts. If we see the implementation part most of this allotment goes to irrigation projects Rs. 5789 crores, for change of seed Rs. 470.18 crores, for watershed and lift irrigation 1600 crores, for waiver of interest Rs. 1436 crores. If this were the distribution, ultimately the beneficiaries would be contractors, seed companies and the banks, but not the real suffering farmer. This package only tries to wipe out the tears of the farmers. But not able to actual crisis that he encounters. In this way what would be the time frame to resolve the actual crisis in agriculture sector as proposed in this budget? Hence the CMP direction was not at all followed the monitory benefits are not useful to the actual sufferer.

I want to suggest the following measures to be considered to resolve the agrarian crisis:

1. Complete waiver of the all types of loans that small and marginal farmers are unable to repay.
2. Take up an all India debt survey and appropriate measures for relief those who are in distress.
3. Create a price stabilization fund for agricultural commodities.
4. Reduction of interest rates on farm loans to 4%.
5. Revamping of agricultural extensions services to the establishment of farm schools and village knowledge centers across the country.
6. Expansion of crop insurance to entire country covering all crops and with greater flexibility to respond to local needs of farmers.
7. Strengthening the procurement system as promised in CMP, promoting the role of FCI for

the storage, procurement and distribution in a scientific manner.

8. Public distribution system to be strengthened allover the country and universal food security should be ensured.

NCMP promised to protect the rural poor and prevents the migration of agriculture labour. But the promulgation of NREGA Scheme, which is supposed to fulfill this promise, is not taken up allover the country. Last year only 200 districts were covered and Rs. 11,300 Crores were allotted. There are certain lapses in its implementation. The main demand by the poor is extension of the scheme throughout the country. In this budget another 130 districts were included. It is a good step. But its surprises us about the allotment of Rs. 12,000 Crores only for all 330 districts. As per the principle act at least 100 days work should be shown, minimum wage around Rs.80 to Rs.100 is supposed to pay each cardholder. But the allotment now is not more than Rs.37 Crores for each district. How can it possible to provide 100 days work and minimum wage for the rural poor. It is not at all possible to guaranty the employment in the villages. The number of works naturally falls down and the people may not be given sufficient work. How can this help to fulfill the CMP promise? In other words it is the nothing but deceiving the poor people.

This budget vigorously follows the path of reforms and their by liberalization, privatization methods. This path is not so useful for the self-reliant development model of Indian economy. Hence I request the Hon'ble Finance minister to declare the stand on FDI in retail sector and try to help our native industries and services. With these words I supports the budget proposals.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I rise to support the General Budget 2007-08. While supporting the Budget, I would like to raise certain points for due consideration of the Government. The Economic Survey 2006-07 states, *inter alia*, that India has a very high rate of malnutrition and high rates of illiteracy and infant mortality. It is a matter of concern that India's Human Development Index, in spite of high growth rate of GDP, has slipped from Rank 124 in 2000 to Rank 126 in 2006.

[Prof. Basudeb Barman]

From the booklet "Budget at a Glance, 2007-08", circulated amongst Members, it is noted that total receipts for the financial year 2007-08 have been estimated at Rs. 6,80,521 crore against which the Central Plan outlays indicate an allocation for the Ministry of Human Resource Development at Rs.28,674 crore, *i.e.* at about four per cent of the total receipts; for health and family welfare, it is about 2 per cent; for agriculture, agro and rural industries and fertilizers taken together it is about 1.5 per cent and for Rural Development, it is just about 6 per cent. I am quoting these figures in order to draw the attention of the House and the Government especially of the hon. Finance Minister that such meager allocations in these vital sectors of national development will be quite insufficient for achieving the objective. In this connection, I would like to refer to the statement of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India who, in his first Budget speech on education stated that allocation for education should at least equal to that of Defence. We are far away from that. I shall refer to the commitment of the UPA in its 'National Common Minimum Programme, May, 2004 as under:

"The UPA Government pledges to raise spending to at least six per cent of the GDP with at least half this amount being spent on primary and secondary sectors."

I further quote:

"The UPA Government will raise public spending on health to at least 2-3 per cent of GDP over the next five years with focus on primary health care..."

The 2006-07 financial year estimates indicate that about 3-5 per cent of the GDP has been allocated for education and for 2007-08 financial year which we are discussing, the allocation is just below 4 per cent. It appears that the Government may be taking more than four to five years from now to achieve the target of six per cent of GDP. At least the budgetary allocations of 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 do not reflect these commitments to the desired extent.

The expansion of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programmes will address to some extent the problems of under-nutrition, which damages not only physical but also intellectual development, thus severely affecting the poor particularly the Below Poverty Line (BPL) sections of our

people decades after decades. However, a proper and strengthened Public Distribution System (PDS) would have solved these problems better and would also retard the inflation rate to a great extent. And the Government could raise more resources from a vastly enriched affluent section of our society by introducing a little more progressiveness in the tax system and re-introducing the death duty and a long-term capital gains tax, which could have fetched a tax revenue of Rs.21,000 crore, more or less.

Increase in the exemption limit for income tax by Rs. 10,000 as a gesture is not probably worth the meaning of the word. We may compare this with the benefits for Mutual Funds or other repositories of the really rich; we cannot forget that many of these entities have not been taken inside regulatory surveillance.

Interest income up to Rs. 10,000 per annum will not be subject to TDS in 2007-08 financial year—a welcome move; a few years back, it was Rs. 2,500 and in 2006-07, it is Rs.5000. Here, we should keep in mind that many low income group people, after retirement from services or on completion of their active life in agriculture, business, small industries or any other kind of self-employment of non-too-high a magnitude, sustain their life on interest incomes out of their term deposits in banks, generally nationalized banks; and TDS on interest incomes higher than Rs. 10,000 per annum, say up to Rs. 50,000 per annum would have helped these elderly people to a great extent.

It has been stated that the target for farm credit has been exceeded. The question is: how many of the poor and marginal farmers, several hundreds of who have committed suicide since the last Budget, got anything from that target-exceeded credit scheme? A direction could have been there so that nationalized banks could open adequate number of rural branches for giving credit in time to the poor and marginal farmers.

Sir, if the Government really wanted that every child should have schooling up to his/her age of 14 years, then adequate allocation should have been earmarked in the Budget of 2007-08 in order that a landless peasant or labourer could own at least an acre of cultivable land for sustenance of his family.

Sir, we all know that the Union Budget cannot solve all the problems. But it could and should have sent out

clear signals that the UPA Government really meant to make the most to bring up a well-nourished, healthy and well-educated younger generation who would look after the progress and development of the nation in the coming years. In the Panchayati Raj Institutions, in the scheme of decentralization embodied in the constitutional responsibility assigned to the States for looking after and improving upon the agricultural infrastructure, education and health, there is the potential for materializing that idea.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may conclude now. I have given you enough time.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: The increase in the Indian rates of saving should be utilized to fund both public resources and private incentives for sustaining the effort. But it appears that the crisis facing the Indian agriculture, the standard of education, nutrition and health, has not been grasped by the people in authority—the Budget of 2007-08 is an indication towards that.

Sir, having said so, I do hope that the Government, especially the hon. Finance Minister will do the needful for taking the fruits of the financial exercises to the real "aam admi" for their benefit. I support the Budget for the year 2007-08.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget 2007-08. While a target of 7 percent growth rate of GDP has been set for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a target of 2.3 to 4 percent growth rate has been fixed for agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 80 percent of India's population depends upon agriculture for the livelihood. Whichever party comes to power at Centre boasts of converting agriculture into a remunerative business. I would like to make 3-4 suggestions to the hon'ble Minister of Finance. The first suggestion is that if at the time of declaring the MSP, the Government keep in mind the price index, the farmers can get remunerative prices for wheat, rice and mustard seeds. Among the Governments that have come in power during the last 59 years, only the UPA Government has increased the MSP of wheat by Rs. 100 per quintal, which is laudable. I would say that the Opposition Members too, should have the courtesy to praise the Government for the good steps

taken by it. I remember, the MSP of wheat had been raised by Rs. 30-40 a quintal during the NDA regime at the Centre and in Haryana. But the leaders in that alliance used to claim that they were the well wishers of the farmers. Now, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has said that the Government would stop futures trading. I think that it would stabilise the prices or even reduce them as it would eliminate hoarding. The prices of wheat and rice will be controlled naturally. It will harm the farmers as well. My submission is that the poor should get wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds at subsidized rates. The Government have hiked the MSP of wheat by Rs. 100 a quintal. My suggestion is that the farmers should be paid bonus so that they get remunerative price and the poor could get grains at cheaper rates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion on subsidy has been held in this House. Some of my colleagues have contended that the farmers should be directly subsidized for fertilizers and not through the companies.

15.00 hrs.

We find that a large number of poor farmers get permit for fertilizers, whereas, the agency owners, who are rich, purchase it from them. It benefits the industrialists and factory owners and the common farmer derives no benefit from it.

Sir, increasing power generation capacity is very important. The Government of Haryana has undertaken the setting up of two thermal power plants during the last two years and the first plant will become operational from 1st of November. Thermal power plants are being set up in predominantly agrarian States, be it Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan. The Power generated by these plants will be costlier than the power generated by hydel power plants. Therefore, the farmers should be provided subsidized power so that they have to foot less bill for their tube wells.

Sir, tractor plays a vital role in agriculture. When a farmer purchases a tractor, he pays interest at the rate of 11% for the loan advanced for tractor. whereas these days interest free loan is available if one wants to purchase a car. If the Government desire to make agriculture remunerative, then I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Finance to provide either interest free loans for purchasing tractors or at the most the interest rate should be around 2-3 percent. Farmers take loan either

[Shri Jai Prakash]

from cooperative societies or from Lard Mortgage Banks. In the last year's budget, the UPA Government lowered the rate of interest from 11 per cent to 7 per cent. Even Swaminathan Commission has accepted it. My submission is that the interest on agri-loans should be only 4 percent as farmers can't afford paying more than this.

Sir, Haryana has an agriculture university at Hissar. The Government officials say that the wheat production is on decline for the last two years. Why production is coming down. It is because of excessive use of fertilizers. It has made the insecticides ineffective. On the contrary, it destroys the crops. Hissar Agriculture University developed a new variety of wheat. I can be sown without tilling the land after harvesting of paddy, saving diesel and labour of farmers. The new variety can produce 50 mound wheat per acre. Hissar University is famous the world over. I am sorry to say that not a single penny has been released to this university, whereas, last year an allocation of Rs. 100 crore was promised.

Sir, the issue of water is so significant. One day it is the Cauvery dispute, the other day it is the SYL involving Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi in a dispute. The hon'ble Finance Minister has suggested for interlinking of all the rivers and creating water reservoir so that wastage of water can be checked and water can be utilized for irrigation. On the lines of it, I would say that large dams may be constructed on Renuka, Laskar and Beas flowing through Haryana from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, which would immensely benefit Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. I would urge the hon'ble Finance Minister to include at least Beas, Laskar and Renuka dams in his budget speech and allocate funds at the earliest.

I would like to submit about Crop Insurance Scheme as well. Hailstorms during the last 5-6 days have destroyed the crops of the farmers. Hon'ble Members from Punjab, too, narrated the same story. Financial condition of hailstorm affected states such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh is not so good. The Government of Haryana in view of the recent spurt in inflation, increased the minimum wages from Rs. 2440 to Rs. 3510. I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Finance to provide a package of Rs. One thousand crore to Haryana so that the loss caused by hailstorm to the farmers could be compensated by the State Government.

Third issue, I would surely like to take up is about Anganwadi workers. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the Government disburses Rs. 1500 to a matriculate woman of a poor rural family. They should be regularized. Their entire remuneration should be borne by the Government and it should not be made dependent on the scheme. In case of abandonment of the said schemes the woman would lose her job. The Budget presented by the Central Government is very good. Some of my colleagues say the agriculture sector has not been allocated anything, but such Members are unaware of the agriculture-sector. The NDA Government during its six years stint, weakened the farmer financially. Therefore, my submission is that if the Government desire to alleviate unemployment, we should encourage agriculture, as it is the only solutions of unemployment.

Agriculture should be made remunerative which would in turn wipe out unemployment.

Sir, finally, I would like to say that a large number of poor men such as the Harijans and dalits are not covered under criteria fixed for the BPL by the previous NDA Government, six years ago and therefore, they are deprived of the benefits meant for the BPL category. Therefore, such landless poor, who are not covered under the BPL category should be provided wheat, rice, pulses at subsidised rates, so that the poor and also the farmers could get some relief.

Therefore, I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Finance to provide more financial assistance to farmers so as to turn agriculture into a profitable business and the farmers and labourers do not commit suicide. For this purpose, the farmers should be provided maximum benefits.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao, please conclude your speech in five minutes. The time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, instead of curtailing the time, we should curtail taxes and price rise.

We are shocked to see this kind of Budget this year. Earlier, the slogan of the Congress Party was: *"Garibi Hatao"*. Now, Shri P. Chidambaram has presented such

a Budget, which leads to "*Garibiyon ko Hatao*". I was expecting that our senior colleague, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta would raise important issues, by which we can really benefit.

This country needs a separate Agriculture Budget. Last time also I proposed this idea. Like a separate Railway budget, we should have a separate Agriculture Budget. Then only the problems that we are discussing could be solved. Sometimes it seems that we, in this august House, are shedding crocodile tears for the cause of the farmers who are committing suicide. If we really think for the cause of the farmers who are committing suicide in different parts of the country, then why this UPA Government not have a separate Agriculture Budget? Then only the problems, like price rise that we are facing in this country and the problems of farmers could be solved.

In this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has generated more regional imbalance. The Minister of State is from South and I am from North-East. We were expecting a lot of funds will be allocated for the development of North-Eastern region. With this kind of regional imbalance, the hon. Finance Minister is generating more alienation in the minds of people of North-Eastern region and is creating more backwardness in the North-Eastern region. The hon. Finance Minister was referring to inflation and nine to ten per cent growth in GDP. But one businessman told me that today we are having a "Percentage Finance Minister." I do not know what the abbreviation "PC" stands for.

Mr. Finance Minister, today the country is scaling it as a percentage. The country needs the growth on the ground and the country needs the reality on the ground, not in the 22-storey building of the Stock Exchange of Mumbai. Why should we not land on the ground? Therefore, it creates the regional imbalance in the country. If I am not wrong and subject to correction, once late Shri H.N. Bahuguna said to Shrimati. Indira Gandhi that "How you can do good to the farmers? You cannot differentiate between the plant of wheat and rice". The same thing is here for the cause of the farmers whether our hon. Minister of Finance can differentiate between the plant of wheat and the plant of rice. This is the situation why we are shedding tears in this august House. Therefore, it is my strong demand to this UPA Government that in future, this country needs a separate agricultural Budget for the development of the agricultural farmers in this country.

Sir, I do not know whether there are differences in the UPA or amongst the UPA. The hon. Minister of Railways has announced in his Railway Budget that four national projects have been announced for the people of the North-Eastern Region. But the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget speech has only highlighted only one national project, that is, Bogibeel. Is this not an injustice to the people of the North-Eastern Region flooded with underground activists? When our 60 or 70 Bihari brothers are assassinated in the North Eastern Region, the country feels for them. This is the result through which the underground activists are increasing in the North-Eastern Region and more alienation from this country are generating in the minds of the people of that part of the country. Therefore, the geographical factor should be reflected in the annual Budget.

Sir, I know the hon. Minister is from Tamil Nadu. I am from Arunachal Pradesh. I live under the Himalayan ranges and he lives within the sea shores of the Indian Ocean. This country is great—some are living with desert, some are living with oceans and some are living with the Himalayas. The classifications of Budget allocations should be based on geographical factors. ...*(Interruptions)* Now the funds are allocated according to the population. Now how will you develop Himalayas from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh? Within a few kilometers you are spending crores of rupees. But in the Gangetic and in other parts of this country, you can spend only Rs. 3 lakh and you can construct road up to that place. Therefore, distribution of funds should be based on the geographical factors of this country. So it is very important that geographical factors should be maintained while allocating these funds.

Now I come to health. We are happy that on the aspect of health and education, the hon. Minister of Finance has allocated a lot of funds. The hon. Minister has not realized as to from where the students will come from. They 'will come out from the farmers' family. Therefore, the farmers' interest has to be seen. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now I come to the new Look East Policy. This has been highlighted in this Budget. There was a proposal in the earlier Government and with this UPA Government that there will be a lot of border trades from the North Eastern Region. Where is Look East Policy? Connecting South-East Asia-by Railways, connecting South East Asia by Air Service and having border trades have not been reflected in this Budget.

[Shri Tapir Gao]

Sir, I come to a very important point and that is about the DONER -Development of North Eastern Region. You have allotted only Rs. 722 crore for the development of the North-Eastern Region Highways. If this sum of Rs. 722 crore is divided among the eight States of the North-Eastern Region, then one State will get Rs. 90 crore only. Will the Government of India be able to construct roads in the Himalayan Ranges with this Rs. 90 crore only? Therefore, you are generating regional imbalances where more people are generating a feeling of more alienation from the mainland of this country.

Coming to Air Service and the SEZ, why are the people of North-Eastern Region being neglected without selecting the SEZs for the North Eastern Region? In the Budget, the funds earmarked have to be spent within 31st March, by the end of this month. Whether it will come in reality or not has to be seen.

Now I come to power potential. Throughout this country, people of this country are crying for power. We have got the potential to generate more power. So, more funds could have been allotted for generation of hydro electric power in the North-Eastern Region.
...(Interruptions)

I make just one more point. We are happy, I will not say that this is an appeasement policy, I am not going to say this. Our Muslim brethren, our minority brethren have been allotted funds. A sum of Rs.16 crore has been allotted for the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. Why has the same kind of amount not been allotted to the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation? For the economic development of the North-Eastern Region, we have got the NERAMAC. Why has not even a single pie of money been given to the NERAMAC in this Budget? All these are the issues whereby you are generating regional imbalances. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister should have a re-look at the development of the North-Eastern Region.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now

(Interruptions)...

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. M. Ramadass. You can speak for five minutes only. This is my humble request. Do not go beyond five minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Then, I will not speak. I will not be able to comment on the Budget within five minutes.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Several members of your party have spoken.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am the only Member from my Party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may start your speech. If you are the only Member from your Party, then start it.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: All my thoughts are shattered now.... (Interruptions)

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Pattali Makkal Katchi and its Founder President Dr. Ayya, I commend the Union Budget for the year 2007-08 which incidentally happens to be the fourth Budget of the UPA Government. The hon. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram deserves all our accolades and appreciation for presenting an all-inclusive Budget.

Sir, my earlier speaker said that the hon. Finance Minister is only a "percentage Minister." I should only like to correct him by saying that our hon. Finance Minister is a "people's Minister." You can find mention of every section of the society in the Budget. Be it the North-Eastern Region, be it Tamil Nadu, be it Jammu and Kashmir, be it minorities or backward classes or women, everybody finds some place in this Budget. Therefore, it is a people's Budget. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Hon. Member, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I am not yielding. I should say that while presenting the last Budget, the Union Finance Minister said: "Growth will be our mount. Equity will be our companion and social justice will be our destination." This Budget marks one more milestone in the direction of that growth and social justice.

This is a Budget for the development of the country and for the development of the people. When we assess a Budget, we should look at the Budget from two angles—one is from an accounting angle and the second one is from an economic angle. From the accounting angle, the Budget merely signifies one thing.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: With regard to the Finance Minister, if there is anything objectionable, that should be brought to my notice. If it is objectionable, then, I will expunge it.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: From an accounting sense, the Budget presents the annual financial statement of the revenue and expenditure and the deficit of the Government. Viewed from this sense, this perhaps is the first Budget which has given a balanced Budget to the country because the total Government revenue is Rs.6,80,521 crore, which is exactly matched by that amount of expenditure, namely, Rs.6,80,521 crore. There is a zero deficit as far as the total revenue and total expenditure are concerned. This is the first innovation that we find in this Budget.

Secondly, as committed in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, the Finance Minister has been able to reduce the revenue deficit to 1.5 so that it could be eliminated to zero by 2009. The fiscal deficit has been reduced to 3.3 per cent so that it can be contained at three per cent in another two years. Therefore, the fiscal achievement of this UPA government is remarkable and this fiscal consolidation has come not only by revenue augmentation but also by reprioritizing the expenditure and also focusing on the outcomes.

These are all innovations which normally characterize a professional budget. Therefore, only a professional Finance Minister could achieve these targeted levels of fiscal deficit as well as the revenue deficit of the Government. As a result, today the country is enjoying a buoyant revenue. The revenues of the Government have been increasing. The tax to GDP ratio is increasing and various tax revenues are also much higher in the country.

We should also congratulate the Finance Minister for introducing a number of innovations in the Budget. For the first time, he has brought out the Outcome Budget where we are not only interested in the outlay but also the outcome of that expenditure which we are incurring. Secondly, he has also reported to the Parliament that whatever announcements he has made whether those announcements have been transacted into actions or not. In the last Budget, for example, he made 73 announcements in that Budget with regard to various sectors, out of which he has accomplished 42 announcements wherein full action has been taken and in the case of 31 areas, action is being taken or partial action has been taken and the progress is being monitored. Nowhere in the world, nowhere in this country, you could find such an Action Taken Report presented to the Parliament. Therefore, our Finance Minister deserves our congratulations.

He has also introduced gender budgeting, which is very important. Although, this House has not yet given 33 per cent reservation to our women, but at least the Finance Minister has been kind enough to tell each and every Ministry to prepare a gender Budget and show separately as to how much of money we are allocating to the womenfolk. Therefore, maybe in the next two-three years we will be able to, at least, see in each department we are spending 33 per cent of the total expenditure on women development.

Another way in which we can look at the Finance Minister's innovations is that the Finance Bill or the Budget will have to address the current challenges facing the country. Although, the Budget has also to achieve long term growth prospects of the country, he has to address the current issues. One such issue that is facing the country today is the deceleration in agricultural growth. It is true that Indian economy is growing at nine per cent, but this growth is contributed mainly by the manufacturing sector which is growing at 11.2 per cent and by the services sector, which is growing at 11.3 per cent. But unfortunately, agriculture refuses to grow beyond 2.3 per cent, which is even less than the Hindu growth rate which has characterized the economic growth of this country for a long time. Therefore, the Government will have to focus more on agriculture and the Finance Minister has done more than anything else to promote agricultural growth in the country. The second issue that he has addressed is the issue of inflation in the country. We are all concerned about the rise in prices. There is no doubt

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

about it. The common man is affected by the increase in the prices of essential commodities. But we cannot blame the Government for the failure on the prices front if one can be dispassionate observer of what is happening in the country.

Sir, the price rise is a manifestation of disequilibrium between aggregate demand and aggregate supply in the country. If aggregate demand and aggregate supply match, prices will be stable and economic growth also will be stable. This stabilization is possible only in a stagnant economy where aggregate demand does not increase and aggregate supply does not increase. As far as this country is concerned, today the Government is improving its expenditure. It is spending a lot of money on infrastructure and so on. Therefore, there is a greater increase in the liquidity in the hands of people. Therefore, purchasing power in the hands of the people is increasing; so the demand is mounting. Unfortunately, due to natural factors, the supply especially of the essential commodities is not increasing which results in disequilibrium and therefore price increases. The matter of disequilibrium can also be seen by disequilibrium in the savings rate as well as the investment rate. While the investment rate is about 34.9 per cent, the savings rate is only 32.1 per cent which is less. This also explains the mismatch between demand and supply. Therefore, he has addressed the issue of inflation by curbing the forward contracts, by augmenting the supply through the import of essential commodities, and by curbing the excessive liquidity in the economy by increasing the repo rate, interest rate etc. By a combination of both the fiscal factors and monetary factors, he has been able to bring about stability in the price. He has addressed the concerns of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. He has addressed the issues of the Common Minimum Programme. Thanks to all these efforts, today the economy is experiencing a higher trajectory of growth. At no point of time, the country has experienced 9 per cent growth, and we hope that we will be able to do much better. But, still, Sir, this is not a Budget without concerns. We have also a few concerns that we would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. One area where the Finance Minister will have to pay attention is with regard to Software Technology Park of India. This Software Technology Park of India, which is a component of the information technology industry today, is likely to suffer on account of the imposition of minimum alternative tax of 11 per cent. You know the information technology is one of the

fastest growing industries in the country today and it is providing employment which is growing at the rate of 30 per cent per annum. No other sector is providing 30 per cent growth. If Software industries are established in the Special Economic Zone; they are exempted from tax. But when they go to smaller cities like Tiruchirappalli or Pondicherry or Madurai, they impose a tax of 11 per cent. The persons who are going to be affected by this are medium and small enterprises, and that is not in good taste. I would therefore request the hon. Finance Minister to take up this issue.

Sir, CST and VAT are incompatible. Although the CST rate has been reduced from 4 per cent to 3 per cent, we feel that if VAT and CST are to exist, it will create anomalies in the country. Therefore we want complete phasing out of CST from the tax net.

Another issue which is concerned with Pondicherry is this. The Government has increased the number of districts from 200 to 330 for National Rural Employment Scheme. We want Karaikkal district, which is a part of the Nagapattinam district, which has already been declared as a backward district, should be included....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can lay it on the table of the House.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I have nothing to lay; I have only to speak. Puducherry, which is the only Capital city of this country, remains as a 'C' class city. A village in Andaman is treated as 'C' class city whereas a growing and dynamic city like Puducherry is kept as a 'C' class city. We want it to be graded...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Now Shri K. Francis George.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Let us be pragmatic. With this observation, I once again commend the Union Budget. I congratulate the Finance Minister for making a balanced budget for this country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri K. Francis George. You speak for only four minutes.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idduki): I am the only Member from my Party who is speaking on the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. That is not my headache. You speak for only four minutes.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Okay, Sir.

The Budget 2007-08 marks the launch of the Eleventh Five Year Plan with its declared objective of faster and more inclusive growth. The Budget, it is said, is framed on a canon that for growth to be sustainable it has to be equitable and that there can be no trade off between growth and social equity. So, to achieve this goal, the Budget has made substantial resource allocation for agriculture, irrigation, education, reduction of regional disparities, health and rural infrastructure, employment creation, skill development, social security for unorganized workers, and, of course, the flagship programmes. Sir, this is possible because the Finance Minister has announced that in his Budget Speech, about the growth in the services sector and in the manufacturing sector. But this Budget has not been welcomed by the corporate sector. There is a severe criticism that this Budget has not been bold on economic reforms and that it lacks giving way to the well to do classes. Sir, it seems that a Budget to be declared as bold, it has to entirely concentrate on the corporate, rather well to do sections of the society. We are very happy that the Finance Minister has proved otherwise by declaring a slew of measures in the agriculture sector which we all hope will go a long way in improving the present distress situation in this most important and vital section of our economy. We expect the agriculture growth in the 11th Plan to be four per cent. Some of the measures that have been announced need improvement.

The draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers is yet to be implemented by the Government, and the Government is awaiting the Report of Dr. Radhakrishna Committee on indebtedness of the farming community. We hope that the Government will take all the recommendations of these two Commissions and start implementing them at the earliest.

Sir, the Budget announced increase in farm credit to the tune of Rs. 2,25,000 crore and of adding 50 lakh farmers into the banking system. Let us all hope that this will not add to the number of indebted farmers in the farming community.

Sir, the Budget speaks of two percent interest subvention but we have to ensure that the farm credit available at a very low rate of interest. We, all of us, cutting across party lines, have been demanding that the farmers should be provided with loans at four per cent interest. I do not know what measure the Finance Minister has taken to achieve this objective. If the Government and the Finance Minister are sincere in their efforts to promote the farm sector, there has to be low interest credit and that too, the Government has to ensure that the amount really goes to the ordinary farmer in this country who has been suffering for a long time now.

Sir, in the case of distressed districts, the Government has announced help for 31 districts, out of which, three districts belong to Kerala. In fact, we have demanded that two more districts of Kerala namely, Idukki and Alappuzha have to be added to this list but no favourable decision has been taken so far in this regard. I would request the Government to include these two districts—Idukki and Alappuzha—under the Distressed Districts Assistance Plan.

Sir, in the case of agricultural insurance, which is a very critical component in helping this particular sector, we are very sorry to say that as far as Kerala is concerned, only six products have been included under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. In fact, a majority of the cash crops and the spices which Kerala produces have not been included even though we have been demanding it for the last so many years. In this very critical juncture, we have to provide insurance cover to our farmers. In fact, all the agricultural products and all the crops have to be brought under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme.

Along with this, I would like to make one more request that in the case of Kerala, a Spices Procurement and Trading Company has to be formed by the Government. We have demanded for this. We were expecting that there would be a declaration to that effect in the Budget. Why? It is because, even though all the spices are facing the price crash in Kerala, yet outside Kerala in our metropolitan cities, in our major towns, these spices fetch a very fair price. If these are being procured by giving a fair price to the farmers and if the Government agency could trade it in the major metropolitan cities and major towns in our country, the farmers could get a fair price.

[Shri K. Francis George]

In the power sector, which is also very critical to agriculture, the Government had announced various measures to improve generation and also to reduce transmission loss. One major initiative was the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The Government of India had promised incentives to the States which would reduce transmission loss in the power sector. In fact, Kerala had made a claim for Rs. 290 crore last year for reduction in transmission loss as per this particular programme. But the State is being given only Rs. 20 crore. That is not an incentive at all. When there is a claim, that claim has to be met fully. If you want to incentivize States to further reduce loss in this very critical sector, the claim has to be met fully.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government for very innovative steps for using the foreign exchange reserves for funding infrastructure. Such innovative steps have to be taken in the field of agriculture too if the Government is sincere in helping this particular sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I am just concluding.

Sir, while concluding his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister said that what needs to be done is to deliver the intended outcome. There are so many programmes to be mentioned, but due to paucity of time, I would not go into those details. But I would like to request the Government that if we all want intended outcome to be effective, all the schemes of the Central Government should come under the present Vigilance and Monitoring Committee System, that is in place in every district, which is chaired by the Members of Parliament representing that district. The Government should think on those lines. Let us bring in all the Centrally-sponsored schemes under this particular Vigilance and Monitoring Committee System, which will be supervised by the concerned Members of Parliament of that area. I hope that it would go a long way in getting these intended outcomes.

Once again, I would request the Government to extend maximum help to the agriculture sector of our country.

Last year in the Budget, there was a declaration about a very vital project for the whole of the country, not for Kerala alone, and that was Vallarpadam Container

Terminal. This year, we had expected that the Finance Minister would announce help for the Vizingam port, which is not only for Kerala, but for the whole country. It is located at a very vital route in international transshipment. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister that while he replies to the debate, he should make this announcement.

[Translation]

*SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Reeva): Sir, I am recalling two lines of a poem on the budget presented for the year 2007-08 and the budget speech delivered by the hon'ble Finance Minister. These lines are befitting this budget.

"Sab kuch hai apney desh main, roti nahi to kya;
 vayda lapatte lo, longoti nahi to kya?"

In the present budget, the hon'ble Minister has raised high hopes but no concrete initiative has been taken on practical grounds. Agriculture, employment and interests of the commonman have been neglected completely.

In his budget speech, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has mentioned an increase of 9% in the growth rate of GDP for the year 2005-06 as compared to 7.5% in the year 2004-05. As per the advance estimate, it would be 9.2% in the year 2007-08. Hence, during the three years tenure of Government of United Progressive Alliance, the average growth rate was 8.6%. Despite the unsatisfactory start in the year 2002-03, this significant increase has made us capable to achieve the target of 8% growth rate fixed for 10th Five Year Plan.

I fail to understand as to why no concrete and effective steps have been proposed in the budget to check the prices which are rising at an alarming rate despite having impressive growth rate of Gross Domestic Product. The control of the country rests with the top economists—Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram. Even then the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, oil, jaggery and salt are sky-rocketing.

Mahatma Gandhi had once said that the people in the Government should not, at least, raise the prices of

*The speech was laid on the Table

salt. A poor man when fails to get pulses or vegetables even after the hard work of entire day in the fields and factories, he satiates his hunger with salt and chappatis only. The Congress led Government which seeks votes in the name of Gandhiji has increased the prices of even salt and made the life of poor people miserable. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has played a cruel joke with the poor and commonman by lowering the prices of pet food instead of essential consumer goods.

I am not the person who is saying so. The monthly view report of economic think-tank of Government of India—the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) has also mentioned that on the basis of figures upto February, 2007 we can predict more increase in the prime lending rates.

The PLR of 5 commercial banks has increased from 11.5% to 12%. Similarly interest rate on term deposits has increased upto 9.5%. According to IEG the trend of increase in interest rate has not yet reached the peak and due to pressure of inflation on economy, it can further increase in the coming days. IEG is of view that the problem of inflation is going to get out of control under the present set of circumstances.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the prices of essential commodities should be brought down to the level of prices prevailing during the tenure of Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But no effective measures to check price rise has been taken in the budget.

The 78% population of the country comprises farmers, who produce food for the country, but they are compelled to commit suicide due to debt burden. No effective provisions to prevent farmers from committing suicides have been taken in this budget. Today, the agriculture business is running in loss. Till the farmers get remunerative price for their produce, the condition of farmers will not improve. The input cost of agriculture which include fertilizers and insecticides has increased manifold, but the farmers are not able to get even the cost of their produce. Under these circumstances, what else a farmer will do except committing suicide?

No scheme worth mentioning has been introduced in the budget despite the talks about fiscal discipline, economic development, promotion of capital market and concern shown about the need for social welfare. Similarly,

despite much rhetoric about the need for the development of infrastructure, no concrete measures seems to have been taken.

Similarly, Government has to borrow 19% of funds to meet the expenses whereas interest goes about 20%.

Except a handful of people, this budget has deceived the people of all other sections of society. Though the simplification of tax laws was expected from the hon'ble Minister but those have been made even more complicated and formal.

Not only this, cutting excise duty would promote the marketing of foreign goods but would result in great loss for the domestic industry. Stringent financial management was the need of the hour to curb the increase in cost of establishment but no steps have been taken to control it.

In brief, this is an anti-people budget in which no anti-inflationary measures have been taken. No special concern has been shown towards commonman, or farmers committing suicide due to burden of debt. No rebate has been paid to individual tax payers. In total, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has not been able to please any section of society.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time and will lay on the Table the remaining part of my speech. I thank you for allowing me to speak, on the General Budget. The people wait for one year to know as to what facilities will be provided by the Government in the next Budget and what will be the tax rate; and what will be the commitment of the Government. When the present Government came to power it had given a slogan that "Congress ka hath, aam admi ke sath". However, the last three years have proved that it is "Congress ka hath, aam admi ke gale ke paas." The price of every commodity has increased. As far as the commitment of the Government is concerned, three or four days before the Budget was presented, the Government made a statement that it would not allow increase in cement prices. The next day all the factories, increased the price of cement. It means that the authority of the Government was challenged. The people got the impression that the Government have no control over such things as only two days back a statement is made by the Government that they would not allow the cement prices to go up and then the price of cement is increased. What is the reason behind this?

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

When there was people's outcry over it a statement was made that there would be no further increase in the price. If the Government function like this the people will not believe whatever is said by the Government. Always there are three priorities of every Government i.e. law and order, health and education. We come from rural areas. These three things are totally missing in rural areas. If you visit even prosperous States like Punjab you will find that many posts of teachers are lying vacant for the last five years. A question was raised in the House regarding the present number of school drop-outs. If the Government fail to provide education to all even after 60 years of independence, I feel that those who sacrificed everything for the country might be thinking that they sacrificed everything even then the Government are unable to provide basic things to their children. Similar is the situation with the medical education. Thousands of patients are dying due to scarcity of doctors and medicines. Children are dropping study in the absence of teachers and schools. As far as the condition of law and order situation is concerned, there is one police man for 8000 people. How will he maintain the law and order situation. Attention was never paid on the basic requirements. Every year Budget is prepared, speeches are given in the House. I also deliver speech and go, however, the things remain the same. I would like to request that the Budget should be prepared keeping in view food, clothing and housing requirements of the commonman. I was going through some data showing that even today 26 crore people are below poverty line and this number will keep on increasing. As far as the trend of unemployment is concerned, 34.9 crore people are unemployed and this number will further increase to 48 crore by the year 2011-2012. Every Budget remains silent over the scheme of the Government to provide employment to these people. An hon. Member just submitted that the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched. However, practically it is a failure. It is only a political scheme. We visit various places as Members of Monitoring Committee where we usually find that Rs.100 per day is paid to labourers under this scheme. The labourers are asked to shift the soil from one place to other and then again labourers are engaged to bring the soil back to its previous position. This way we cannot provide employment. We will have to formulate such a policy as may provide employment. If we cannot provide employment to the youths then at least we can provide them a modest allowance so that they may meet their personal needs with that money because if after

doing M.A., B.Ed, they ask for money from their parents, they taunt them that they do not have money to give as they spend it on their education. So, a modest allowance should be provided, at least, to such youths. The hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here. I would like to draw his attention to one more thing. The Government have divided employees into two categories — Government employees and others. There is Punjab State Electricity Board in Punjab. It is completely a Government organisation. However, while all the Government employees are covered by the tax authorities under the Government employees category but the employees of PSEB have been kept in the other category which covers private company for the purpose of valuation of free accommodation of the PSEB employees. The salaries are given by the Government, investment is made by the Government, they are employees of the Government but they have to pay tax like the employees of private companies. It is on account of this that every employee has to pay, at least, eight to ten thousand rupees more as tax in a year. On several occasions, I have written letters in this regard. I have received a letter stating that the issue is being considered by the Government. However, till today nothing has been done in this regard. So, I would like to submit that BBMB is also a board but its employees are considered as Government employees, but the employees of PSEB have been kept under 'other' category. They are considered as the employees of a private company. So whenever valuation of free accommodation is done they should also be treated as Government employees.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance that the individual income tax exemption limit which is at present Rs. 1 lakh should be increased to Rs. 1.5 lakh so that general employees may get some benefit. In view of the rising inflation, it is essential to increase the income tax exemption limit to Rs. 1.5 lakh as the current value of Rs. 1.5 lakh has become equal to Rs. 1 lakh.

The hon. Minister in his Budget has not done anything significant for the senior citizens. Those who have attained 65 years of age do not have any means of earning yet they pay tax. If the provision is made by the Government that 10 per cent of the total tax paid by an individual will be given to him as incentive after attaining the age of 65 years then I can say with firm belief that it will be a goodwill gesture of the Government towards the elderly people and it will also encourage people to pay tax.

These days a large number of students take loans and when they get employment after completion of study they repay the loans. If the parents of the student pay the interest on loan, they should be given tax rebate on it. This will expedite the recovery of loan and they will also get the benefit. Tax limit under section 40(a) and (b) is Rs. 40 lakh for the last 20 years. Since then drastic changes have taken place, so, I would like to demand that it should be increased to Rs. 1 crore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please conclude and lay the rest of the speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I am concluding. The Business Expenditure Tax Limit under Section 40(a) and (b) should also be increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000. Without taking too much time I would like to extend my thanks to you. I hope that if the hon. Minister of Finance accepts these minor suggestions a large number of people will be happy.

*Sir, today I would like to lay my written views and suggestions on the Budget. Each year every Government presents Budget for one year and all the people of the country eagerly wait for the Budget as to what the Government give to different classes. The commonman is disappointed in the Budget that has been presented this year and on which we are holding this discussion. There has been no uniformity in speech and action of the Government and its impact is something different. For example, the Government made a statement that the price of cement will not increase. Next day itself, the cement factories increased the price of cement. We all know the impact of increase in cement prices on other commodities. Are the interests of the common people of the country taken into account while preparing a scheme or not? The commonman needs food, clothing and house. As on date all these things are out of the reach of the commonman. How long will we have to wait to provide to the commonman of the country two square meals? How long will we have to wait to ensure that all the people get proper clothing? There are instances where many areas three women share the same 'sari' for covering themselves. It seems highly improbable that the dream of a house for every family will be realized. Even today more than 26 per cent people of this country are living below the poverty line and more than 34 per cent people are unemployed and this number is likely to rise

upto 48 per cent by the year 2011-12. As per the NSSO, the rate of unemployment in rural areas has increased from 5.6 per cent in 1993-94 to 9 percent in 2004 and in urban areas from 6.7 per cent to 8.1 percent during the same period.

As per the World Development Report, the per capita income of a Under Developed country is 765 Dollar and of a Developed country it is 9386 dollar but the per capita income of India is merely 620 Dollar. In comparison to India, the per capita income of Switzerland is 78,230 Dollar and that of the USA it is 41,400 Dollar. When will our per capita income be comparable to these developed countries?

As far as normal diet of a person is concerned, one should get at least 2500 calories; however, in India one hardly gets even 2400 calories. In India people take on an average 55 gram protein, 38 gram fat and 8 gram carbohydrate where as in the USA one consumes 110 gram protein, 154 gram fat and 39 gram carbohydrate. How long will the commonman have to wait for enhancing their standard of living.

As per the Rule 3 of the IT Rule, 1962, the officials have been divided into two categories. One category is of Government officials and the second is of those officials whose rent free accommodation is evaluated. The officials of the Punjab Electricity Board are like Government officials because there is only Government investment in the Punjab Electricity Board and there is no private investment in it. However, for the rent free accommodation provided to them. Tax is deducted treating them as private officials and not as Government officials. It is an outright deceit with the officials. The Government must be aware of the burden borne by each of the officials. So I would like to request that the valuation of rent free accommodation of the PSEB should be made like that of the Government officials.

The Basic Tax Exemption Limit should be extended to Rs. 1.5 lakhs. 10 percent of the total tax paid by an individual throughout his life should be returned to the tax payer after he/she attains the age of 65 years. It will boost their morale and people will honestly pay their tax. It will provide security to the tax payers at the time of their old age.

Students take education loan and after completion of the courses they have to repay the loan. If the parent of

*.....This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

that student repay that education loan, they should be given tax rebate. This will not only lead to repayment of loans thereby banks getting their money back but it will also bring down the bad debts of the banks.

[English]

The rate of tax may be brought down from 30% to 25% because whenever the rates have been reduced, Govt. revenue has increased & development/progress of economy shown positive results. Higher the Tax rates higher the evasion.

On introduction of VAT in various states of India, it was promised by Central/State Govt. that multiple tax system in India will be reduced to minimum numbers. As such imposing FBT was unjustified, since it was an additional new tax and extra burden on assesses. It may be abolished.

Tax audit limit u/s 44AB be increased from 40 lacs to 1 Crore since it has not be increased from last about 20 years.

The limit of business expenditure u/s 40A(3) may be increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000.

The limit of Loans and Advances u/s 269 SS & 269T be increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000.

The agro based units such as plywood blockboard etc. which used poplar/Eucalyptus & other wood grown by farmers be fully exempted from Exise duty. The General rates of excise duty be reduced from 16% to 12% since inflation is being caused due to heavy taxes.

[Translation]

It is the responsibility of the Government to make medical and education facilities available to the citizens and ensure that there should be no law and order problem. Today the school dropout rate is rising due to shortage of teachers and lakhs of people die due to shortage of doctors and medicines. The people are not getting justice due to poor law and order situation. All these responsibilities lies with Government. If all provisions are made in the budget and they are implemented with a strong will, every Indian would lead a happy life and feel proud in paying tax.

I would like to make one suggestion as to how to generate revenue. The people of India are very generous. If one were to have a look at the organization one will find that the charitable organisations are more successful than Government organisations. People donate crores of rupees for charitable works in temples and Gurudwaras, but hesitate to pay taxes. Do the Government propose to create a fund where people shall donate voluntarily. If so, a comprehensive campaign in this regard should be launched, so that every citizen may be also to contribute in the development of country. Charity begins at home. Persons ranking from a peon to the Prime Minister should voluntarily donate for this fund. All MPs, MLAs, MC Government employees etc. can ask every citizen, whether he is rich or poor to make donations under this scheme. It will generate revenue for country and also create a sense of patriotism among people.

I hope that while giving reply to the discussion the hon'ble Minister of Finance will keep these things in mind.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Deepender Singh Hooda to speak now. Please speak for five minutes.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Thank you, Sir, for your time. This Budget statement is again a reflection of the perceptual change that the UPA Government has been able to bring in, in favour of the '*Aam aadmi*'. The general state of the economy, of course, is strongest that we have ever had. From an average GDP growth rate of 5.5 per cent during the NDA regime, we have now moved to above nine per cent growth rate, with a lot of growth coming from manufacturing and services sector, both experiencing double-digit growth. This has happened with fiscal prudence. The fiscal deficit which ran as high as 6.2 per cent during the NDA regime has come down in this year to about 3.3 per cent. The investment rate, as measured by the Gross Domestic Capital Formation, has also sprung up to over 30 per cent, well above 33 per cent now, which augurs well for the future outlook and the future growth.

A lot of our Members including Members from the NDA—my dear friend Shri Kharabela Swain is not present in the House today—conceded this as good economic performance. But Shri Swain said that the economy is indeed performing well, but it is due to the hard work done by the NDA regime.

[Translation]

I do not understand, one thing as how they cannot stop making comparisons with NDA Government if we do anything praiseworthy but as soon as something comes up for criticism they attribute it solely to us and put the entire blame on us. This attitude of theirs is tantamount to behaving on the lines of an age old adage of 'Head I win tail you lose.'

[English]

In this overall good picture of economy, however, some of the economists are pointing towards some concerning facts and some of the economists are saying that the economy is indeed overheating, with some classic overheating signs such as asset over-pricing or, perhaps, a bubble in the real estate pricing, very strong credit growth that we are seeing, increasing current account deficit at an alarming pace and, of course, the inflationary pressures which have been the substance of much of the debate that we saw in the House.

Well, that indeed, in my opinion, is the case. Whenever an Economist looks at this situation, he can look at either the demand side or the supply side. It is very easy to look at the demand side as the hon. Member Prof. Ramadass from Pondicherry was just concluding that by increasing rate or the repo rate, by curbing the liquidity from the market and bringing down the demand, that is one way of looking at or dealing with inflation. But that is just short term.

I must compliment our Finance Minister that he did not fall into that trap. Indeed with that, he focused a lot on long-term supply side measures, specifically in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture and skill and human resource development. I am going to focus my speech on the agriculture and on skill and human resource development, that is, education. I will make a couple of suggestions in these areas.

With regard to agriculture, I would submit that the crisis of agriculture, the agrarian crisis and the rural distress and the fact that we are not able to produce enough skilled human resource are inter-linked problems. From the time of our Independence, when 60 per cent of our economy was dependent on agriculture, it has fallen to about 20 per cent now. The proportion of cultivators, indeed, has just fallen from 83 per cent to 72 per cent.

Therefore, our average land size is coming down at an alarming rate.

[Translation]

Our forefathers used to own 40-45 'Killas' of land, but today my son holds, only 4-5 'killas' or even less than that. Today the solution to the problem of farmers cannot be evolved by focusing on land alone. Discussion on problem of farmers has been held in this budget session, but there is a need to hold discussion on the problem likely to be faced by the future generation of farmers. His problems would be resolved only when we will be able to empower him by providing education and job to fight with the problems of 21st century.

[English]

As far as education is concerned, I welcome the 34 per cent hike in the overall allocation for education. I think, this falls short of my expectation. We should look at increasing the allocation to education to at least six per cent of GDP, which is the norm in most of the developing countries, and in countries like China, it goes up to eight to ten per cent.

We have some more welcome measures such as merit-cum-means scholarship in which one lakh scholarships will be awarded every year through a national examination of the 8th standard students. I have a suggestion in this regard. This scholarship should be focused on girl child and rural children because of two reasons. First, 50 per cent of girls do not enrol for education and lot of girls drop out because their parents feel obliged to finance the education of their boy child rather than their girl child. Secondly, there is a huge disparity between urban and rural education. This scholarship scheme which has come and which will be based on a general examination should be focused on girl child and rural children more than just general examination.

Regarding teacher training, I would like to say that we have not increased any funding for the teacher training.

[Translation]

Today, the quality of education is very low. The quality of education provided in rural or Government Schools in comparison to private schools is very low. Mere launching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or construction of new rooms

[Shri Deepender Singh Hooda]

sn the schools will not serve any purpose, but there is a need to spend 5% of GDP on training of teachers teaching in those schools.

(English)

There is another big flaw that we need to curb. Fifty per cent of the students who are enrolled in primary education drop out in the primary itself and rest 40 per cent drop out during secondary education. So, only less than ten per cent of children actually reach the college. To fill this up, we need to have a scheme of community colleges which gives our children a second chance to go back and get education. This is where, I think, India is very different from any other country in the world because most of the developing and developed economies do have a system of community colleges which allows the children a second chance to go and study. That is another area that our Budget does not focus on. In the higher education, there has been a 79 per cent increase in contribution with the help of one per cent Education Cess. I welcome it, but along with this, I also profess a public-private partnership model similar to the one that has been successful with NHA1 so that we are able to get a lot more funding and remove the fundings from the throttles of organisations such as AICTE and MCI.

Vocational training is another critical area and I am really disappointed in this area. For the Vocational Training Mission, only Rs. 50 crore have been sanctioned separately and also only 1,396 ITIs have been marked for upgradation. This is ridiculous. If we look at the total ITIs in our country today, there are 5,000 ITIs and 7,000 more vocational institutes, that is, a total of 12,000 institutes. If we compare it with China, China has five lakh it is. We have two per cent educated people with ITI skills; Germany has 65 per cent. We are going to compete in this 21st century and we need our children to have these skills. I think we need to specially increase our funding for it is and vocational training institutes.

My last point is on the percentage of spending on research and development. There is no mention whatsoever in the Budget. The key to solving the problems in the 21st century will be driven through research and innovation, which are our strengths as a nation. If that is the case, we need to fund a lot more in tejs of looking at funding research and development.

I will make a few suggestions on agriculture. On agriculture, I appreciate and I acknowledge the fact that

this sector has received considerable attention in this Budget. We thank the Finance Minister for doing so. But the overall allocation in agriculture is less than two per cent of the GDP. This should be increased to over five per cent of the GDP. This is such a crucial sector, which you are also well aware of, Sir. A lot of points were covered by the previous speakers.

I also acknowledge the Groundwater Recharge Scheme, which is very innovative. But along with this, we also need soil recharge or soil quality restoration schemes because groundwater is getting discharged, but at the same time, by use of nitrogenous fertilizers in States like Haryana and Punjab, which are feeding the nation, their soil quality is getting deteriorated, and their NPK ratio is very bad. In future, we are looking at desertification of these States. Along with groundwater recharge, we should very urgently look at soil restoration schemes also.

Another thing about agricultural research is that I whole-heartedly support the point that was made by hon. Member from Haryana about having additional funds for the Hissar Agriculture University, Hissar. That was promised by the Finance Minister in the last Budget. I was very surprised that it did not come up.

Regarding subsidy, you will be shocked to know that a recent study reveals that OECD nations subsidize their farmers by above one billion U.S. dollars a day, which is about 44 per cent of the total income of the farmers living in these rich nations on an annual basis. Still, in each subsequent Budget, we talk about cutting our subsidies. I would request the Government that not only we should increase the subsidy, including the fertilizer subsidy, but also I demand that we should increase power subsidy because power is an essential component of the overall mix of agricultural constituents. In States like Haryana, we have to import a lot of power, and we put additional pressure on our farmers by importing very expensive power, but our farmers are not allowed to charge any surplus on their produce, the food grains. Therefore, I demand a financial package of Rs. 10,000 crore for the power deficient States, such as Punjab and Haryana, which are feeding the nation with food grains so that they are able to do their job properly.

My final point is that instead of taking only Delhi under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, the Government of India should think about taking all the

municipal committees, including Rohtak, Sonapat and Gurgaon under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission.

Finally, I will sit down by saying that yesterday, my dear friend from the B.J.P., Mr. Swain, had remarked that our Finance Minister is walking a tightrope between going for growth and controlling inflationary pressures. Theoretically, I do not agree with Mr. Swain. I do not think that there is a trade off there. In some cases, I must say that the Finance Minister did a great job.

*DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): I rise to express my views on general budget presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram in Parliament.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the overall reaction of the people regarding this budget is that "there is no dearth of schemes, there is no dearth of funds. What needs to be done is to deliver the intended outcome." And everybody in our country is frustrated how the schemes are implemented, how the money is utilized and how much outcome we are going to achieve. That is why at large, people are not at all happy with this budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. People were expecting a "Dream Budget". But, their dreams have been shattered. The budget would be pro-poor people, pro-farmers, pro-employment and a budget which would enhance economic growth along with social welfare and bring happiness to all.

Let me start from Agriculture sector. "Agriculture must top the agenda of the policy makers and must hold the first charge on our resources." It is a well-intended commitment; but not adequately reflected in the budget proposals. Increase in total Central Plan outlay for agriculture and allied activities is only 15.7 per cent, against higher hikes in the outlay for other sectors. It is 20.6% of the total central plans outlay and the present investment in agriculture is 1.3% of GDP which should have been raised to the level of 7% of the total investment. Agriculture GDP has fallen from 25.5% to 18.5% as per latest economic review. It is not only alarming but also shocking news to all of us.

As per ICOR (Incremental Capital Output Ratio) is highest for agriculture investments rather than any other investments like Industry, Communication, Transport,

Railway, Electricity, Mines and Minerals etc. It means that the investment made is recovered by 7.77 years, in Industry, by 5.37 years in transport by 8.33 years in communication by 14.66 years in Railways by 14.97 years in Electricity while it is returned by 1.99 years in Agriculture only. That is the difference!

I am regret to say, Sir, that during the last 3 years, average 20,000 farmers have committed suicide and in the last ten years as many as 1.5 lakh farmers have taken such a drastic step. Now the question arises, why this is happening? Why we are not able to stop this in spite of more budgetary allocation?

As per the figures given by Government of India, average monthly income of farmers in Andhra is Rs. 1634/-; Bihar Rs. 1820/-; Gujarat Rs. 2684/-; Chattisgarh Rs. 1618/-; Haryana Rs. 2882/-; and average income of Indian farmers are Rs. 2115/-; farmer family of 4-5 persons. How will he be able to survive with this meager income of about Rs. 25000/p.a./family.

My farmers are not getting minimum support prize even for their crops. The MSP itself requires upward revision. While deciding the MSP all ingredients of material used in cultivation should be taken into consideration e.g. cost of electricity, seeds, fertilizers, transportation etc. alongwith input cost, land value and inflation too.

Sir, the farm credit is doubled in 2 years. The target for 2007-08 is fixed at Rs. 2,25,000 crores. It is a welcome step. But in real terms the absolute population of the farmers has increased from 27 crores in the year 1947 to 70 Crores in 2005.

The agriculture credit is 12%, only, very low on proportion of total bank credit.

The interest rate on credit is still very high. No steps have been taken to cover farmers risk to boost their repayment capacity or liberal credit availability. On the contrary increase in indebtedness will prove detrimental to the farmers.

Again the interest rates for Co-operative Sectors needs to be brought down, though 2% interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans is continued.

Speaker Sir, only Rs. 153 crores in 31 Districts are provided under Scheme for milch animals and related

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Vallabhobhai Kathiria]

activities. The outlay is very low. In our country proper animal treatment can earn 50,000 crores of Rupees every year by way of milk and manure production along with organic crops in profit.

Speaker Sir, regarding Agriculture Insurance, quite flexible pre-farmer, weather based crop insurance policy requires to be implemented all over the country. There is no need for pilot project in few districts. Only 100 crores of Rupees are provided for this pilot project which is very low.

Sir, see yesterday only, what happened? Because of unseasonable rains, almost complete wheat and sarsau (Master) crops have been lost by the farmers in last stage. These farmers requires urgent attention, otherwise there will be more incidents of suicides in other parts of the country as well.

Sir, let me take irrigation; under Bharat Nirman, target of increasing 10 Million Hectors irrigation facility by 2007-08 is, unlikely to be achieved. Under AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme) Rs. 11,000 crores are provided, out of which Rs. 3580/- crores will be the state component. As such this Scheme is also proved to be unsatisfactory.

Regarding renovation and restoration of water bodies; World Bank will be giving loan to States and not the grant by Central Government. Central Government is only acting as mediator.

For ground water recharge, Rs. 1800 crores only are provided. We are in need of 7 million Dug wells. When shall we achieve the target with this speed? Rs. 100 crores are allotted for Rain fed Area Authority, a long pending need. Thanks to you, Hon'ble Finance Minister. But how much time will it take to be functional?

Sir, the Finance Minister has said in his budget proposal that "Agriculture Ministry will evolve suitable replacement of the "training and visit" (T&V) system farm extension in consultation with states." Sir, I would like to follow Gujarat example of "Krishi Mahotsava" where scientists have come out of lab and University campus and visiting land means farms—"Lab to land" concept. It is worth to follow without going for pilot project as usual.

Regarding Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs), I request you to include my District

Rajkot in Gujarat under Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and not under collectorate where experience is not good. A welcome step of giving fertilizer subsidy directly to farmers is taken in this budget.

Congratulations to Minister, Sir. There is no need of pilot project. It is proven fact. But the outlay will fall short of requirement.

Sir, I request you to completely slash import duty on irrigation equipments and bring it to '0' instead of reducing it to 5%. It is necessary to lower the cost of drip and sprinkler sets.

The total cultivable land in our country is 194 million hectors while gross sown area is 141 million hectors. And out of gross irrigated area of 78 million hectors net irrigated land is only 56.8 million hectors. Moreover, if farmers are provided drip and sprinklers, then 100% sown area can be irrigated and that to three times in year, not only in monsoon. That will increase our crop production enormously. We are worried about reduced production of Rice. 751.4 lakh tones this year in comparison to 831.3 lakh tones previous year. Similarly in wheat production is reduced to 669 lakh tones in comparison to 686.4 lakh tones previous year and in Oat 9.7 lakh tones in comparison to 130.3 lakh tones previous year.

It is the irrigation system only which shall increase the production of crops enormously utilizing maximum capacity of the land and all seasons. Rupees 500 crores for this is very meager amount.

Lastly, no permission should be given for SEZ in fertile agriculture land.

In short, many many steps are required to be taken by the Central Government to uplift the farmers and agriculture as a whole. I have narrated few of them only. That is why I reiterate once again that a **separate Budget for Agriculture** be prepared and presented on the floor of the House by the Union Government.

Now I come to health sector proposals in budget. UPA Government has given the slogan of National Rural Health Mission but please see the pathetic condition of health scenario. Infant mortality rate (IMR) is 62 whereas that of China is 26 only. MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) is 540 whereas MMR of China is 51 only. Under 5 Mortality Rate in our country is 85 while that is 31 for

China. 6.14 Crores children are suffering from mal nutrition and more than 70% people are suffering from communicable and preventable diseases.

Only 1.3% of GDP is allocated for health which requires increase at least 6% of the GDP.

Pulse Polio Programme is not doing well. After initial good results, again the Polio cases are increasing in our country. At one time from lowest 60 cases to now it is increased to 660 cases last year which is again an alarming situation.

On one side we are talking about medical tourism where we are spending crores of rupees for Corporate tertiary hospitals for affording people and while the real above population is neglected.

Incentives for doctors just like judges in the District or Tehsil area is given should be provided like Residential Quarters and educational facilities to their children alongwith the appointment in the Rural area.

Medical education requires total revamping alongwith the integrated health education. Budget allocation for AYUSH along with the infrastructure facilities and course curriculum requires immediate attention. Strengthening of Micro Insurance Health Schemes for poor people requires to be implemented immediately. Use of compulsory iodized salt should be removed whereas only in epidemic area the salt should be made available in abundance quantity.

My earnest request is to include Medical college Rajkot for up gradation under Centrally sponsored schemes or to change into AIIMS like institute Just like North Eastern Region. Saurashtra is the most western part of the country which requires urgent attention for development like North East. Please consider this proposal. Sir, Now I come to Industry Sector.

There is no mention in the budget regarding removal of excise duty from submersible pumps/DG Sets less than 10 HP which are used mostly by farmers.

There are no incentives given for ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat which is the only ship breaking yard in India facing competition against China. This can be the alternate source for steel and other scraps for industries. The custom duty on ship breaking required to be scrapped down to 0%.

Ship breaking industry requires inclusion under Section 43 of Petroleum Rules.

Income Tax Exemptions to State Maritime Boards should be continued Under Section 10(20) of Income Tax Act where State Maritime Boards were considered as local authority whereas now they are considered it as Port Authority where they have to pay 30% income tax. To promote the ports, it is highly necessary to exempt the Maritime Boards from IT. Government has put the local manufacturers into more trouble by increasing the custom duty on raw material and by reducing the Custom Duty on finished tiles. This is detrimental to the Indian manufacturers.

Finance Minister has increased the Excise Duty Exemption for SSI from 1 crores to 1.5 crores. In fact, one crores limit was raised in the year 2000. According to the Govt. inflation also, if we take into consideration the past 7 years, it should be 2.75 crores at least. Still all the SSI industries are demanding for Exemption upto 5 crores.

Gujarat is huge coastal area where poor fishermen are doing fishery activities. They have demanded subsidy in diesel based fishing boats to make the fishery business viable.

Government of Gujarat has requested to extend the time limit for Apparel Export Projects and TCIOs Projects and extending target determined Textile Parks upto 31.3.2007. The Govt. of India has sanctioned the above parks and export projects in Ahmedabad and Surat areas.

Govt. of India is requested for total ban on import of Natural Soda Ash so that interest of the domestic Soda Ash Manufactures are safeguarded.

For the last 5 years not a single National Highways is allotted to Gujarat. It is requested to include RajkotJamnagar-Okha, Porbandar-Somnath State High way; Coastal High way from Jamangar to Malia to Kandla State High way from Bhavnagar-Oholka-Ahmedabad and other State Highways demanded by Govt. of Gujarat on various occasions to convert into National Highways.

Extension of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express Highway upto Surat and Mumbai on urgent basis to tackle the transport problem on National Highway 8 is urgent and necessary.

Sir, Now I come to Education Sector.

There is a long pending demand from Govt. of Gujarat for establishment of HT in Ahmedabad. There is no budgetary allocation this year for this project.

[Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria]

What is the status of integrated and flexible Vocational technical education scheme started by NDA Government?. think nothing has been done so far on this front.

Eduset meant for Remote Education all over the country is not utilized properly and lot of money is being wasted.

Sir, Now I come to other sectors.

Sardar Sarovar Project should be considered as National Project and financial assistance is requested for construction of Narmada Canal and its main canal and its distributaries.

It is requested to increase the central assistance for Gujarat for Swajal Dhara Project where the villages are ready to contribute 10% of the project cost. There is a long waiting list but the Government of India is giving allocation for only limited villages every year. I think as a whole this scheme requires more budget so that the drinking water facilities can be provided to each and every village by the year 2007. It is a very popular programme at community level which is demand driven.

Government of India is doing injustice to Gujarat in allocation of funds under ARWSP—DDP Scheme for drinking water supply. It is requested to allocate the budget in parity with other States.

A proposal for Japan grant in Aid programme for water supply project for Tribal districts of Panchmahal and Dahod is pending at the Central Govt. level. Because of the pendency the project cost has been increasing every year. This project is aimed at providing safe and secured drinking water supply to tribal population.

Proposal for safe stage works and improvement of minor irrigation schemes in Gujarat State is pending at central level which requires immediate sanction.

Proposal regarding release of CRF grant for permanent restoration of damaged occurred during flood 2005 in Gujarat is pending. Immediate release of grant is requested.

Under the Urban Development Ministry, JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Development Mission) Scheme is doing well in Gujarat. I request you to include city of Gandhinagar being the capital city and Porbandar and Karamsad, both heritage centers, the birth places of Mahatma Gandhi Ji and Sardar Patel Ji respectively in JNNURM.

Under the National Afforestation Programme, Government of Gujarat has asked for sanctioning schemes for 25 Districts. It is requested to grant soft loan of Rs. 1500 crores for this flagship scheme.

The Income Tax levied on profit by Co-operative banks required to be scrapped urgently to safeguard the co-operative movement.

Pradhan Matri Sadak Yojana requires so many amendments. Government of Gujarat requested to amend the scheme. No action has been taken as yet.

Even today, more than 30 crores people are living Below Poverty Line whose daily income varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 45/- whereas there are around 500 millionaires whose daily income is around Rs. 80 crores. This shows the desperate picture of our economical and social justice after 60 years of our independence. People are suffering from price rise and corruption. Poor people are not having enough food to eat even once a day, no cloth to wear and no shelter for protection. The figure of unemployed youth and unemployment rate, both are increasing. The farmers are committing suicide. More and more children are leaving school every year and only 6% reaches to the higher secondary level. By mere allocation every year, we will not be able to cope up this demand to make our country a welfare state even after 50 years from today.

I think we require drastic changes in our democratic and administrative systems at all level. Corruptions requires to be eradicated completely, more work culture is to be established and spirit of "Swadeshi" Nationalism and self pride requires to be promoted at every level. Then and then we will be able to make our country happy, healthy and prosperous at the earliest. Let us join our hands together to fulfil the aspirations of our people before they lose faith in us.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude towards you for giving me an opportunity to participate in discussion on General Budget 2007-08. I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented a routine budget. Every year some money is increased and budget is presented. This budget could be called a good budget only. If the hon'ble Minister had presented new schemes for upliftment of commonman and had made

provision accordingly. This budget of Government had been worth mentioning only if schemes for welfare of all sections of society had been presented in the budget.

16.00 hrs.

It is a misfortune of our country that schemes are not formulated for the common man especially for the SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities keeping in view their social and economic backgrounds and geographical conditions of urban, rural and hilly areas. If the schemes are defective, they do not yield desired results. Due to this, condition of citizens of the country has not improved, even after 60 years of independence. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Finance towards the fact that for the all-round development of the citizens of the country special provisions for schemes should be made on these basis. The hon'ble Minister has made provisions for ICD Scheme for children, but it should be implemented in every block. More and more women self-help groups should be constituted and the works proposed by them for the upliftment of women should be initiated. A separate budgetary provision should be made to provide financial assistance for this purpose. I would like to say in regard to unemployment that arrangements should be made to provide incentives and loans at lower rate of interest to educated the unemployed for self-employment. Brain drain is taking place, it should be checked and the talent of youth should be utilised for the development and progress of the country.

About pension, I would like to say that pension rates should be revised for old people, women, disabled and destitute, only making of provisions will not serve any purpose. Price index is rising day by day and these pensioners cannot lead a respectable life with this meagre amount of pension. Similarly, scholarship given to the students belonging to Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minority communities should be revised. Today, with the rising prices, these people are neither able to make their both ends meet nor able to study peacefully as the amount of scholarship given to them has not been revised.

Similarly, I would like to make a submission for farmers and rural craftsman that they should get an appropriate market for goods manufactured by them. The Government should make procurement arrangements at block level so that they could be saved from the exploration by touts and middlemen.

I would like to say something about education. An arrangement for strengthening of education at primary and upper primary school level under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been made, similarly strengthening of education should also be done at secondary and higher secondary level so that arrangement for classrooms and teachers could be made. Agriculture Science and Commerce, Science subjects should be given priority in schools of rural areas, so that rural talents may get an opportunity to flourish. I would like to make a submission in regard to drinking water and sanitation, because even today pure drinking water is not available in rural areas. An arrangement for purification of drinking water should be made as per criterion and provisions in this regard should be made in budget so that the commonman may get pure water. In rural areas, neither medicines, nor doctors or medical staff is available in hospitals. Arrangements in this regard should be made in proportion to the population. Employment opportunities are very few in public sector, therefore vocational training should be given to the unemployed, so that they may become self employed. In animal husbandry sector, Hybrid variety of ox, goats etc should be made available to cattle rearers.

In the end, I would like to say that budget should be prepared keeping in view the size of rural population, 80 per cent population of the country lives in villages. Therefore, schemes formulated should be

16.05 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

proportional to the size of population and budgetary provision should be made accordingly.

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE (Dhule): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to praise the present budget and would like to mention some of its features. The budget allocations for drinking water and sanitation under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission has been increased from Rs 4680 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 5850 crore. Similarly provision of 11 thousand crore rupees instead of 7121 crore rupees has been made under Accelerated Irrigation Scheme. The budgetary allocations under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan has been increased from Rs. 17133 crore to Rs. 23142 crore. Old Age Pension given to senior citizens above the age of 65 years under National Social Help Programme has been increased from Rs 75 to Rs 200. Therefore, this budget

[Shri Bapu Hari Chaure]

is commendable I congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Finance for this.

Sir, the time is very short, therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of my constituency and State in particular. There is a sugar factory at Sakri in my parliamentary constituency, Dhule which has become sick after running for 10-15 years and has been included in the list of sick factories. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards, 'The Recovery of Debt due to the Banks and Financial Institution Bill, 1993,' according to which the factories which were unable to repay loans taken from financial institutes and became defaulter, and bank has given special rights for recovery of these loans. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Finance that banks want to sell off this factory. But, this factory was set up keeping in view the production of sugar cane by the farmers of the area. But what will happen to the two-three lakh tonnes of sugarcane production after the factory is sold off? The new owners of the factory have removed it from that area. Therefore, my submission is that there is a need to amend the legislation under which banks have been given recovery right. I want that factory should continue to function over there. If this law is not amended, the removal of this factory, after it is sold off, will adversely effect the sugarcane growers of the area. I have cited an example of one sick factory. But this is applicable to all the factories. My submission is that the factory should continue to function even if it is sold out.

Secondly, a tribal sub plan as per law has been envisaged for the economic, educational and social development of Adivasis. It has been found that the Special Central Assistance given under T.S.P. funds and 2751 are diverted. That is why it is requested that control should be exercised on the funds that are diverted. Besides, there are 5th and 6th schedule in the Constitution for the development of tribals. The District Panchayats have been empowered more through privileges under Schedule 6. Thirdly, the Panchayat Extension Schedule Area Act has been enacted. The Act for the development of tribals provides for more privileges for Gram Sabha which in turn would exercise these privileges for identifying the beneficiaries there. However, in Maharashtra the identification of beneficiaries by the officials is not being done in compliance with the Act. So, the benefits which should accrue to the beneficiaries for the alleviation of poverty are actually not being accrued and corruption is rampant there. Therefore, attention should be paid towards

it and there should be full compliance of the Act. For the purpose of elections, under the previous schedule Area Act, an area having more than fifty per cent scheduled tribe population has been designated as the schedule Area. The previous Act provides that the Chairperson of the Gram Panchayat shall be a tribal. The Panchayati Raj Act will not be applicable only to Gram Panchayat. It is applicable to District Panchayats, Taluka Panchayat and Gram Panchayats. When the Chairperson of Gram Panchayat is the Sarpanch then in the schedule area the candidature in District and Taluka Panchayats should be given to the candidates belonging to the scheduled tribe category. However, only the candidates belonging to the OBC category and general category were given a seat in the rotation system through Election Commission. This way our fifth and sixth schedules have been violated. Provision has been made under the Act for the development of backwards, but it has not been implemented. This way it is a gross injustice to the tribals.

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, a discussion is being held on the General Budget. Before the presentation of the Budget, the people had high expectations from the U.P.A. Government that it would envisage a New India since the U.P.A. Government quite often refers to a new and young India. However, after the presentation of the budget people only got more disappointed. This disappointment was all pervasive. The farmers, businessmen, industrialists and non industrialists all were unhappy. There was great disappointment among the youth? The hopes of workers were dashed since there is nothing to their morale in the budget although an effort to appease certain business classes has definitely been made.

Today, the farmer of the country feels harassed and is committing suicide. The UPA Government is in power approximately for the last two and a half years and a spate of suicides is continuing because the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce. They neither get electricity nor water on time for irrigation. They get substandard fertilizers. At times even the nature is not on their side. Then they are left with no other option but to take resort to suicide. So, it is requested that there is a need to study the figures of agricultural economic development and growth. There is a need to increase the ceiling of the National Crop Insurance Scheme. Seeds of every type of crop are required to be provided to the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

farmers. There is a need to extend the reformulated scheme of Cooperative Education and Training and provide special funds to the National Cooperative Development Corporation so as to develop the Cooperatives.

The Agriculture Universities are working on a large-scale in Gujarat and a lot of research works are being undertaken in them, so grants-in-aid should be released to them to meet the expenses to be incurred on upgrading the infrastructure of the agriculture universities so that these universities could be fully geared to undertake their outstanding research work. More special economic aid is needed to be given to the state implementation agencies for providing economic assistance to the farmers for rearing milch cattle and calves under the National Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme and under the programme to make available fodder for the cattle so that the farmers could live happily and contribute towards increasing the national income.

Today, there has been a great revolution in the milk industry of our country. Ghee, milk, butter have become export products. So, there is a need to provide financial assistance to various milk unions and federations of the country for implementing the intensive dairy development programme.

The crops of farmers get destroyed as they do not get quality fertilizers on time and their labour goes down the drain. The Government should provide fertilizers to the farmers and it should increase subsidy on the imported fertilizers. Similarly, subsidy should be increased on urea manufactured indigenously on a large scale.

Hon. Minister of Finance has given an assurance to Air India of meeting the expenditure of Rs. 25.91 crore on account of paying the compensation in lieu of expenditure incurred on making arrangements for special planes for haj pilgrims in the form of Supplementary Grant to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Similarly, I demand that special subsidy should be provided to crores of pilgrims who visit various places for worship and 'darshan'. 'Kailash' and Mansarovar are the pilgrim centres of Hindus. Expenditure to the tune of lakh of rupees is incurred on such pilgrimages so the Government should provide them special subsidy on the lines of other pilgrimages.

Hon. Minister of Finance is requested to provide special economic package for Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot

and Bhavanagar Airports so that these could be completed on time. Morale of exporters should be encouraged by withdrawing custom duty on exports for special economic zones and by expediting the cases of pending claims of compensation of Central sales tax. The morale of gems artisans should be boosted by providing Rs. 9.32 crore earmarked for providing assistance to the flood infested 6000 gems and jewellery units of Surat in Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the quality and maintenance of grains distributed under the Public Distribution System is very poor. As a result people are losing confidence in this system. All essential commodities should be included under Public Distribution System so that poor people living in the remote areas could lead a decent life. The Godowns were full with stock of grains when the NDA Government was in power. However, today wheat is being imported to maintain the stocks. Attention should be paid to the fact that the foodgrains imported from Australia are not worth human consumption. It is consumed by the animals there, however, it is imported for human beings over here.

The Ministry of culture provides financial assistance for the festivals which are conducted by Indian and Foreign theatre groups. A large number of artists from various parts of the country and from abroad have been coming to Gujarat for last 5 years during the Nauratri Festival and Vaybant festival and collective stage show are organized in Gujarat by these artists. Special efforts are made by the Government of Gujarat to create social harmony in the State. I would like to submit that special financial assistance should be provided to the Government of Gujarat for all this.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has assured us to provide an additional fund of crores of rupees for Sevagram Ashram Trust, Vardha and Gandhi Museums of Mumbai, Madurai, Patna and Barrackpur. On the same lines, I would like to demand that funds should also be made available for setting up the memorials of many writers, poets and martyrs, who laid their lives for the country, belonging to Gujarat, as memorial museums.

It is commendable that Rs. 1.88 crore are proposed to be provided to Animal Welfare Board for setting up of animal sanctuaries and animal care centers for the protection and population control of the street dogs under the Animal Welfare Schemes under the Ministry of Environment and forests. It is our duty to work for the

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

welfare of animals and protect them. They are killed without any thyme and reason. I would like to submit to the Government that a large number of Nilgais are there in my parliamentary constituency. I would like to request that a separate sanctuary should be set up, for thenx so thatthey may be protected and the economic losses being caused by them to the farmers can also be checked.

Many persons are engaged in bamboo industry in Gujarat, so, it is very essential to set up training centers for making bamboo foils. Experimental plant facility should be set up at a suitable place in Gujarat.

Zoos are located in the major cities all over the country, however, during summer season various types of birds and animals die in the zoo due to lack of proper maintenance. So, sufficient funds should be provided to each State for proper maintenance of the zoos. The proposals of various projects are submitted to the Central Government by different States for pollution control. Commendable steps are being taken by the Gujarat Pollution Board. More financial assistance should be provided to this Board for enhancing its work efficiency. Kutch Vegetation Eco-System Project is going on. The amount of Rs. One crore proposed to be given to various institutions for research projects should be increased.

The hon'ble Minister has made an allocation of Rs. 51.41 crore under the Ministry of External Affairs for Embassies and Missions, Rs. 2.48 crore for passport and visa and Rs. 28 crore for setting up a chair in Cambridge University (U.K.). However, I would like to know whether proper justice is being done by the Indian Embassy with the Indians living in foreign countries? Whether they are allowed to sit in the Embassy? Wether drinking water is made available to them and whether renewal of passport is done within stipulated time limit? There is a need to hold inquiry in this regard. I would also like to know whether meetings are held from time to time with the representatives of the Indian Community living there. I have got complaints that only selected people remain in contact with the embassy and only formality is being done. So, I would like to request that proper instructions should be given to the embassies and their branches.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Government officials become entitled to get pension after retirement and their medical requirements are met. However, no proper steps are taken for the unorganized labourers. They should also be provided social security

cover. It is our duty to ensure that financial assistance in the form of pension should also be provided to unorganized labourers and agricultural labour after 60 years of their age so that they may live with dignity in old age.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare gives advertisement to create awareness among people regarding polio immunization in order to protect the children from polio and people are encouraged to give polio drops to their infants from time to time. Similarly, camps should be organized by the Government for immunization of each child against every type of disease so that, the children of the country may be protected against polio, T.B., Malaria, Typhoid etc. Ours is a country of villages so the health services at the district level should be well equipped and doctors should be made available. Efforts should be made to provide medicines free of cost and the medical check up of each person should be conducted in the villages every year and financial assistance should be provided to each state by the Government of India. Today, some places of the country are infested with terrorism and others with Naxalism. What to talk of the common people, even VIPs are not safe. It is the responsibility of the police force to provide security to all. So, Rs. 33.76 crore has been allocated as grant under the scheme for the modernization of police forces. I feel that the amount should be increased. Gujarat is a border State. Terrorists of neighbouring country make efforts to infiltrate in India to spread terrorism in the country. However, it is on account of the vigilance of Gujarat police and commitment of the Gujarat State that infiltrators are not succeeding in their efforts. Sophisticated and modern arms and equipment should be provided to police forces of Gujarat and BSF personnels to further strengthen security system and jeeps and motorcycles should be provided to the officials of coast guards, so that, peace may be established in India including Gujarat.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Finance that Navodaya Vidyalayas are being set up in the country. Special attention should be paid on its maintenance. My area falls in Ahmedabad district. There is a need to set up a Navodaya Vidyalaya there so that the students living in the villages may get an opportunity to compete with others. The people of Gujarat are doing well in the field of education. Special financial assistance should be provided to them for going abroad. A loan of upto Rs. 5 lakh is provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students especially of Gujarat for

pursuing study abroad. However, day by day the number of SC and ST students desirous of going abroad is increasing. So as a representative of the State I would like to request that more financial assistance should be provided to the Government of Gujarat to boost the morale of the State.

The Kendriya Vidyalayas are running in all parts of the country. Most of the people want to get their children admitted in Kendriya Vidyalayas, however, it is due to lack of sufficient number of rooms that the children of the people other than the government employees do not get admission in these schools. Even Hon'ble Members of Parliament get coupons for the admission of only two students and it is on account of this that the people of their constituency get annoyed with them if they (MPs) fail to provide coupons to them. So I would like to demand that either the number of coupons given to members of Parliament, should be increased or this system should be abolished. The Government of India provide grants to the universities that includes all types of financial assistance. However, even today the posts of teachers/lecturers reserved for SC and ST candidates are lying vacant in Central universities. I would like to demand that these vacant posts should be filled up at the earliest. The vacant seats reserved for SCs and STs in Government Medical Colleges should also be filled up.

The grants are provided to WMCA, Indian Student Hostel London and School of Oriental and African studies by the Government of India so the quota for SC and ST students should also be filled in those institutions. The importance should also be given to IIT in Gujarat so that the students of this state may also get technical education and progress. The Board of Apprentice Training Centres are running in Mumbai, Calcutta, Kanpur and Chennai. Today, Gujarat is at the top the map of the country and performance-wise the Government of Gujarat has been rated as number 1 by various agencies of the Government of India. So, I would like to request the Government that such institutes, training centers should also be set up in Gujarat.

Sir, you are aware about the recent demand raised in the House for setting up of Meritime University. The state of Gujarat has extensive coastal region in comparison to Chennai and Kolkata. The number of sea ports in Gujarat is more in comparison to other states and the export activities are conducted through Kandala port of Gujarat. Kandla Port of Gujarat is nearest to states

of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. Therefore I would like to request that this University should be set up in Gujarat and its centres should be opened at other places to provide facility to all and evolve a peaceful solution to dispute between Kolkata and Chennai.

Various schemes are being run by Ministry of Women and Child Development. Children are future of the country and there is a need to pay more attention to women and children to strengthen the country. The Social Welfare Boards should set up 'Bal Shishu Bhawan' in all districts of the country. Women trafficking is taking place in many states of the country. They are dragged into prostitution, which has made their life miserable. The Voluntary Organisations alongwith the Government are also playing an important role in providing assistance to these women, they protect them well and provide them means of livelihood. Such organisations should be generously given economic assistance. Similarly, child labour is prevalent in many states. It is a crime to employ children under the age of 18 years. Even then, the crime against children are taking place. Therefore, I would like to demand that schemes on large scale should be formulated for the welfare of child workers and voluntary organisations should be encouraged for this cause.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting provide loan for producing regional films, but regional films are not getting desired coverage. The Government of Gujarat provides subsidy to regional films. These regional films show culture of the state, heroic tales of the state, story of saints and kings born in the state and cultural heritage of the state. Therefore, I would like to demand that more economic assistance should be provided to the states so that rural artists of remote areas may be promoted.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have launched a self employment scheme for welfare and rehabilitation of scavengers. But this scheme is not being implemented properly. Even today scavengers are not having proper house to live, they live in slums. In some places, carrying night soil on head still in practice. They are leading life of humiliation and at some places they do not even get salary on time. Therefore, I would like to request that first of all salary should be given to them and only after that other expenses of municipalities or Panchayats should be met. There is a need to enhance the amount of post-matric scholarship for the scheduled castes.

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

Ministry of Tourism provides subsidy to hotels etc. to promote tourism. I would like to request that it should be seen as to how many people of scheduled castes/tribes have been benefited by this scheme. Only few people of certain section are getting benefit of all the schemes. It should also be kept in view, that all sections of the society may be able to get benefit of Government schemes.

In the end, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has quoted the views of Noble laureate Mohd. Yunus. "Faster growth is essential for faster reduction in poverty. There is no other way to it." In a reply to it I would like to say— 'Nirdhanata Desh Ke Liye Hai Bada Shrap, Yah Nahin Mitenga Apne Aap, Agar Mitana Chahte Ho, Fizulkharch per Rakho Bap, Budget Mein Jo Baat Batai, Lekin Janata Ko Raas Nahin Aye, Sare Desh Ki Janata Mahangai Se Kar Rahi hai Hai Hai, Kab Jaye UPA Sarkar, Isliya Lagate Hain Prabhu Ke Paye"

"SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the commonman has been ignored in the Budget 2007-08 presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance. The Members who spoke before me has expressed many views. Today, the commonman is tormented by price rise. The common consumers have not got any relief even after reduction in prices of petrol and diesel. It is the fact of country's economy, that the price rise very fast, but come down slowly. Despite assurance by the Government, the prices have not come down. It was much propagated that growth rate is above 9%. It was propagated with much fanfare that sensex in share market has gained historic level. Soon, it will touch 15,000 points mark. But growth rate and sensex do not reflect poor economic condition of masses. The day when inflation rate reached 6.73% the share market closed at 1455.55 points, It means that the common man was feeling the brunt of price rise and share market continues to rise. It means that the growth rate and share market do not hold any meaning at ground level.

The Minister of Finance has tried to deceive the commonman in the budget, because the Government propose to bring insurance scheme for agricultural labourers in the name of 'Aam Admi Bima Yojna', the Central Government will bear premium of Rs. 100 per year per person and would spend Rs. 100 crore on it and urge the State Governments to bear the remaining

*The speech was laid on the Table.

amount of premium of Rs. 200 per year per person. But I am doubtful, whether the beneficiaries of this scheme will get any benefit, because old age pension, accident, disability, disease etc. has not been covered under this scheme. Therefore, I would like to ask as to why not the Government announce old age pension scheme for small farmers and agriculture labourers. The Minister of Finance should consider to provide old age pension for the farmers in view of their pitiable condition. The Government employees get pension after retirement, but farmers do not have any security cover for their livelihood, therefore, old age pension scheme should be announced for the farmers.

The farmers of the country are committing suicide due to extreme impoverishment. In Vidarbha region, farmers are forced to commit suicide in large number. The farmers are committing suicide due to gross indifference shown to agriculture sector by the Government. 65 to 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture. However, this problem has assumed an ominous proportion owing to the neglect of agriculture. NABARD made the recommendation of providing maximum loan for investment in agriculture sector. NABARD suggested 18 per cent, however, it is stuck on merely 11 or 11.5 per cent. The Government has not taken any proper action on the recommendations of the Committee set up under the leadership of the Chairman of National Agriculture Commission, Dr. Swaminathan. Their lacadiscal approach reflects their policy of neglect towards the farmers and agriculture. Dr. Swaminathan had himself recommended grant of crop loan at 4 per cent to farmers after meeting the families of farmers who had committed suicide in Vidharbha, but why it has not been implemented so far? Crop loan at seven per cent interest was announced in the last budget for farmers but it took one year to issue the orders. The cooperative banks are still dilly dallying to provide loan at this interest rate despite the orders of the State Government of Maharashtra to this effect. Due to this, the farmers are feeling duped. It highlights a wide gulf between the precept and practice of the Government.

The large-scale load shedding not only affects the commonman but the farmer is also compelled to be a mute spectator of his standing crops getting perished due to lack of irrigation. What else such a farmer would resort to if not suicide? The target of power generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan was 41110 megawatt, however, only 30 thousand megawatt has been generated till the

final year of the plan. The farmers, the common men and the small scale industries are, distraught owing to shortage of power. Mere assurances are not going to serve any purpose in the power sector. There is a need to work on a war footing in the power generation sector.

The area of cultivable land is likely to decline after the allotment of agricultural land for SEZs. The pressure on land is increasing due to population explosion. 71 crore 47 lakh people are residing in villages. During the green revolution in the eighties we were left with 18 crore 20 lakh hectare land. With the over increasing population and shrinking land, where is food security? And this problem will be compounded with the increasing percentage of cultivable land coming under "SEZ". Today we have to import wheat and if we do not take timely remedial measures now, then we may have to depend on foreign countries for food in future. There is 7 crore 70 lakh hectare barren land in the country. There is no proposal in the budget to make it cultivable. This barren land and the land lying waste for some reasons, will have to be developed for agriculture. If this land is given to the unemployed youth for making it cultivable then it can be carried out in the form of a campaign. The Government should announce a scheme taking this matter into consideration.

The Government has increased the budget under the head of health facility but if we take into account the health facilities particularly in regard to rural and tribal areas, then these funds appear to be insufficient. Even today, there exist vacancies of Doctors in approximately nine thousand P.H.C. and or community health centers in the country. It highlights the neglect of health facilities by the Government. The rural people are helpless and dying due to lack of health services. For them treatment of heart attack, cancer and kidney transplantation facilities are like a dream. There is a need for strong will power alongwith more funds for the expansion of health sector and for making it more effective besides the need to modernize the city hospitals. I demand that the Government should make efforts to provide health facilities by setting up more dispensaries/medical colleges in the tribal and rural areas. During the current year, Rs. 5850 crore have been provided for water supply in rural areas under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme as compared to the year 2006-07. This fund is meagre. There is presence of fluoride in the ground water of a large area of the country. Approximately more than 2 lakh villages of the country drink water containing fluoride.

Out of which more than 1.5 per cent fluoride is present in 75,000 villages. People are helpless and dying from diseases like fluorosis spread from water containing fluoride and other contagious diseases. There is a need to carve out a special scheme for the supply of pure drinking water after identifying such fluoride affected areas. The Minister of Finance should announce a special scheme by providing maximum funds.

As stated by me earlier if land has been acquired from the farmers for SEZ or any other project then they should be given a share in the profit of that industry and or project. An assurance should also be made to the effect of ensuring share of displaced farmers in the profit for their prospective life. Foreign Companies and corporate companies are entering into the retail sector. Approximately 3 crore people are getting employment in the retail sector today which is approximately 8 percent of the total manpower of the country. However, the retail sector of the country is unorganized and has been neglected in the absence of a network. There are approximately 15 million small shops in the country run by families. Retail business is the biggest source of earning revenue for the Government. Had a National Trade Policy been evolved for the retail trade instead of encouraging foreign companies and big industrial houses to enter into it then there would not have been any adverse effects on the small shopkeepers in the retail sector. The Government should take remedial measures for the safety of retail sector in future in view of the adverse effects on this sector. The entry of big industrial houses and foreign companies should be banned in the retail sector.

The extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme upto 330 districts has been envisaged in the budget speech of the Finance Minister. But the desire of the hon'ble Finance Minister to extend this scheme to the urban poor has not been fulfilled. I demand that the wages of Rs. 60 being given therein should be increased to Rs. 100. The small scale industries of the country are in bad shape. The question is how much benefit is likely to accrue to the small scale industries by increasing the excise duty to Rs. 1.5 crore for the small scale industries. There is a need to provide more assistance to the small scale industries in view of the crisis in the supply of coal/raw material and power. A special relief package should also be announced for small scale industries which are playing an important role in the country's exports and employment generation. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has not paid any attention to

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

the large number of unemployed people. In view of the failure of the Government to provide employment to 4 crore unemployed persons registered with the Employment exchanges and an equal number in the rural areas the Government should give an assurance of providing Rs. 1000 as sustenance allowance to the unemployed persons. The mineral wealth of the country is being exported. We can contribute to the local development besides providing employment opportunity by setting up industry there on the basis of inexhaustible mineral reserves present there. That is why I demand from the Government to evolve a promotional scheme for setting up industry based on these resources by putting a ban on the export of mineral wealth of the country. The royalty rates on the captive coal blocks allotted by the Government in the private sector are very meager. More tax should be levied on the coal mining of the captive coal box in view of the profits to the private sector. It can increase the Government's revenue. The Ministry of coal is compelling the small and medium sized industries to procure coal at 30 per cent more than the notified rate through e-bookings by not allowing it to obtain coal at safe and proper rate through coal distribution system. Coal should be supplied to these industries only at notified rate. E-bookings promotes black marketing. This loot should be stopped. The budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance fails to fulfill the expectations of the people. Hence I oppose it.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, while commenting well on the general framework and direction of the Budget, I am constrained to point out certain glaring deficits in the Budget concerning farmers and common man. Apart from the outlays, it is rational to think of the outcome projections.

Budgets are not about figures, as economists and media pundits would have made us to believe. At the bottom, there are the common people, like the people in Jhumri Talaiya, Jorhat, Kamrup or my village Kalpetta. These are the places with unfashionable names where real people lead real lives. They are not the smart set of people, who live with smart cards, pet foods and junk lifestyles. They are the destitute farmers of this land, who had invested their hope along with their mandate in us. But unfortunately, our commitment is towards those investors in Dalai Street, who seldom even bother to

vote. If the stock exchange sneezes, our policy makers catch a cold; but when Vidarbha and Wayanad in Kerala choke to death, the culture is, a committee is solemnly instituted. To the farmer, the Budget like the monsoon, can either be Yama or Lakshmi. If the monsoon fails they might find solace in destiny but if the Budget forgets them, we and they, both know who the culprits are.

All of us are aware of the agrarian distress in our country. Since 1997, the dictates of the neo-liberal agenda, while still chanting the mantras of 'sustainable' and 'inclusive' growth, have reduced farmers to indigence, which is reflected in the shameful fact of more than 25,000 farmer suicides. The two main reasons for the distress being the spiraling cost of agricultural inputs and falling prices of agricultural commodities, rooted in trade liberalization and corporate globalization. To compound this, was the dismantling of the subsidies to the agricultural sector in India. From 1995 to 2002, the U.S. doled out more than 114 billion dollars to farmers, and in 2002 President Bush upped subsidies to 190 billion dollars over this decade. In the year 2000 alone, U.S. spending on farm subsidies exceeded the Gross Domestic product of more than 70 nations. The British queen and her son Charles received a total of more than 1 million Euro dollars in farm subsidies in the past 2003-2004. There is a sharp supply constraint in agriculture. Nearly 40 per cent of the inflation is due to increase in the price of agricultural products. The GDP growth in itself does not say anything about the well being of the common man; because the focal issue in a balance between growth and social justice.

The National Commission on Farmer's recommendations could have provided succour. The price stabilization fund has not happened. The reduction of interest rate has not been implemented. Without this the boost to rural credit becomes meaningless. There is no incentive to encourage good crops in crisis zones. It is sad to say that since the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Vidarbha, the toll has gone up. In the first two months of 2007, it was 70 and 88 respectively, and nine people taking their own lives in just one day, on March 9. What it shows is a mistrust in our policy. And can we blame them, if we take the example of NREGA envisaged at Rs. 20,000 crore across 200 districts? It was allocated only Rs. 1,300 crore. This year when the coverage is extended to another 130 districts, with an additional budget of Rs. 700 crore. In other words while coverage goes up by 40 per cent, the money grudgingly goes up

by six per cent. Social scientists have observed how a recalcitrant Ministry was uncooperative at every juncture.

Another instance of the insincerity towards the poor is thrown up by the approach to integrated child development services. Compared to Rs. 4.90 per child, Rs. 100 allocated to children last year. This year it has fallen to Rs. 4.84, which amounts to a reduction, given inflation levels. The ICDS is not only the major national scheme for children under the age of six, which along with NREGA forms one of the core commitments of the Common Minimum Programme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, am I permitted to lay?

With a better humane approach and a mind to revisit old wisdom, the hon. Finance Minister, Thiru Chidambaram could have done more and proved that his office is more useful to the lowest of the lowliest.

*The budget has resorted to further cut of import tariff on edible oil. For refined Palm Oil the reduction is from 800/0 to 67.50/0 . In the case of raw Palm Oil also there is reduction.

Last year import tariff on edible oil was cut thrice. The last being on 24th Jan, 2007. It was from 12.50/0 to 10%. The budget has effected another cut of 4% on excess tax. Also on Sunflower oil the cut is 15%.

This leaves the 25 Lakh coconut farmers in deeper distress. The annual loss to the state is well over Rs. 7000 cores a year. The Paddy cultivation in Kerala is already in danger with increasing farmer suicide. To add to it is now co-conut cultivators. The impact of the budget on the entire farming community in the state is distress.

Bank interest rate has been increased. But there is no corresponding increase in the interest on Provident Fund accumulations of the workers and Post Office small savings where Aam Admi puts his savings. Why they have been neglected.

Another instance of the insincerity towards the poor is thrown up by the approach to integrated child development services. Compared to Rs. 4.90 per

Rs. 100 allocated to children last year, this year it has fallen to Rs. 4.84, which amounts to a reduction, given inflation levels. ICDS is not only the major national scheme for children under the age of 6, which along with NREGA forms one of the core commitments of the Common Minimum Programme, but its compliance is also mandated by the landmark Supreme Court judgement of December 13, 2006. It envisages a functional anganwadi in every settlement. As of now there is a shortfall of two-thirds in this sector, shortfall of 8.2 lakh anganwadis. To meet this 'universalisation with quality', the budget allocation is the same as last year. At the same proportion of GDP. In the light of the bitter truth, as revealed by the 3rd National Family Health Survey, that 46% of our children are underweight, the same figure as 8 years ago, is it not time we introspect, at what social cost we are sculpting our edifice of 'growth'. Also, to lend perspective, let us also remember that our future generations will seek a justification for devoting Rs. 96,000 crore to defence, while offering the crumb of Rs. 5,000 crore to the 160 million of our children below the age of six.

Of course there are welcome measures like:

1. 50 Lakh farmers additionally linked to farm credit with total credit availability of Rs. 2,25,000 crores.
2. 2.4 Million hectares more under irrigation.
3. More provision for research extension in agriculture.

There is no provision to improve efficiency of water use for increasing income & production per drop of water.

The fertilizer distribution system has to be reformed. The large subsidies now given to large companies must be given directly to farmers through the smart cards. (Suggestion by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan)

The milk revolution cited in the survey should be spread to pulses, Oil seeds and millets.*

[Translation]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): "Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in this general discussion on the Union Budget 2007-08. On 28th February, the hon. Finance Minister,

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

..... This part of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Shri Chidambaram presented the Budget in this august House. Honestly speaking this Budget is for the commonman and we should appreciate him wholeheartedly.*

[English]

The present UPA Government has entered into the second half of its term, arithmetic is simple. There are more gains and less losses. The best gain being the attainment of almost nine per cent growth rate of GDP. The seemingly apparent loss is our inability to maintain the price stability and to arrest the average inflation. To sustain this trend of growth and to arrest the average inflation, the following three thrust areas are identified. First, manufacturing being the main player of growth, it is to be strengthened. Secondly, maintenance of the already achieved growth in the Service sector and third which is the most important is the agriculture sector and its sustained growth. A country of this size and population has to be nearly self-sufficient in essential food items. Otherwise, supply constraints could very well upset macro-economic stability and growth prospect. Hence, agriculture must top the agenda of the policy makers and it is correctly put by the hon. Finance Minister. With all these initiatives, we are optimistic that the growth rate of GDP shall cross the magic double digit by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

This Budget confirms that the UPA Government has remained committed to economic reforms, fiscal prudence and monetary stability. Collection of revenues is quite comfortable. The additional revenues wherever available are put to good use to promote the core goals of the NCMP, namely, inclusive growth, equity and social justice.

This Budget is able to show the correct status of bank credit, money supply and foreign exchange reserves of the country. The prevailing monetary trends have put pressure on prices. Global commodity prices also exerted pressure on domestic prices. At the same time, supply constraints have emerged in some essential commodities. Thus there is a slight increase in the average inflation.

Sir, now the Government has undertaken a number of measures, including some stringent one on the fiscal, monetary and supply sides to maintain price stability. This Budget, on the whole, is able to show that now the

Government can moderate the present inflationary trend without any difficulty.

Sir, the declared objective of the Eleventh Five Year Plan is faster and more inclusive growth. At the moment our economy is sound and will be in a stronger position. Some other objectives of the Plan include growth of four per cent in the agricultural sector; faster employment creation, reducing regional disparities, ensuring access to basic infrastructure and health and education services to all.

Sir, to achieve these declared objectives, the ambitious *Bharat Nirman* and flagship programmes continue to make impressive progress. There is a substantial increase in the Gross Budgetary Support for the Plan. *Bharat Nirman* has got an increased allocation of 31.6 per cent; education has got an increased allocation of 34.2 per cent and the health sector has got an increased allocation of 21.9 per cent. It is also heartening to note that school education has been given primacy in terms of fund allocation. Fund allocation for school education has been increased by 35 per cent. Out of that the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* has been allocated a sum of Rs. 10,671 crore.

Sir, I think, with these words, I may now be allowed to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House. But before that I would like to make one point. We are still facing a number of difficulties in the smooth and proper functioning of our democracy and this is because a major chunk of our population is still not properly educated. For a purposeful and meaningful functioning of democracy, the citizens should be educated properly. We are very pleased to note that this Budget has shown the way in that direction.

Sir, with these words, I would like to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, Under ICDS, Government is providing nutritious food and proper healthcare to the Pregnant women, lactating mothers and all children below the age of six. The allocation of fund is increased by about 16.5 p.c. This is an ambitious programme of the Government in order to make each and every citizen of the country hale and healthy. Another beautiful aspect of this Budget is the expansion of the ICDS. Government is committed to

*... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

expand the scheme to cover all habitations and settlements during the Eleventh Plan.

After this SSA takes over. All school going children between 6 and 14 yrs are provided books—Text Books, Uniforms and all other learning materials, free of cost. Now, under MDM Scheme, these children are also given nutritious lunch during school hours. With these schemes in function, the drop-out rates in schools are being checked. At the same time, the parents can devote more time and energy to go to work to various work places. Because their children will not be waiting for them at home.

After attaining this much of school education and with a bit of National Character, Morality and Sense of commitment, these children shall become worthy citizens of our country—a Democratic India. However, I would like to draw the attention of this August House to the fact that the implementation of these two missions—ICDS and SSA along with MDMS remain very far from satisfaction in many states of the country. I urge upon the Union Government to see that a strict and purposeful monitoring mechanism is put in place for a holistic implementation of these missions. This will do a lot good for this country.

On Healthcare, with the advancement of Medical Sciences, the mankind now enjoys life and good health. There appears to be hardly any disease which cannot be cured. Even the dreaded Cancer can be fully treated if detected in time. However, HIV/AIDS poses a deadly threat to mankind. I am very glad to learn that the Government has brought HIV/AIDS out of the closet and promised bold and determined efforts to achieve zero-level growth of the disease. Now, we have medicines to stop the transmission of this disease from the mother to her child during pregnancy. Very soon We shall be able to invent a fool-proof medicine to successfully treat the disease.

There is an increase in the Budget allocation in 2007-08 for the NER from Rs. 12,041 cr. in 2006-07 to Rs.14,365 cr. in 2007-08, which includes Rs. 1,380 cr. provided for DONER. We welcome it. We also welcome the new Industrial policy for NER with suitable fiscal incentives to be put in place before March 31, 2007. Still we prefer that the Ministry of DONER be made a full-fledged Ministry by taking it out of the Home Ministry.

I am now coming to a very sensitive issue of the law and order problem in the country. Our land is the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence. It is with pain and anguish that I am trying to speak about it in this august house. Every day we have reports of the activities of violence from various ultras—be it—Naxalites, Insurgency in NE and J&K, Terrorists etc. There is hardly any day when there are no news of killings, murders and what not. This is too much. We have to address this problem with all sincerity and commitment, so that our children do not suffer from what we are suffering today.

My state, Manipur has been facing a lot of problems in getting timely supply of essential commodities including life saving drugs. This is due to the poor transport connectivity. Over and above this, there are frequent blockades and bunds on the NHs connecting Manipur and the rest of the country. The two life-lines NH 39 & NH 53 are yet to be fully developed. On NH 39, four laning from Maram to Moreh through Imphal has not been started. Even double laning of NH 53 is yet to be completed. Development of NH 53A, NH 150 & NH 150A may be taken up soon. The national Railway project connecting Jiribam to Tupul then to Imphal is in progress and is expected to be completed by 2010. We are very happy. I propose to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for introduction of at least one cargo flight per week to Imphal from either Kolkata or Guwahati to augment the scarcity of essential commodities including life-saving drugs during such Blockades and Bunds.

These are laws in this land which are national in character and regional in application. One such law is the infamous "Arms Forces Special power Act, 1958". This Act had been in some way or the other inherited from the British Raj of 1940s, 1942 to be precise, This Act has been put in force to contain the insurgent activities in Assam and its autonomous hill district of Nagaland in 1958. Slowly and slowly this Act is in force in all the states of N.E and J.K during 1980s. During this long period of time neither the growth of insurgency is contained nor peace is restored in these areas.

I am referring to these issues again and again, because we are very few in number in this House. Our suffering and woes are seldom heard. I am not complaining. Hence I seek your kind indulgence to my intervention.

[Dr. Thokchom Mainya]

The ongoing peace talk between GOI and NSCN (IM) is very crucial for the people of NE particularly, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Why? In 2001, The Ceasefire between GOI and NSCN (IM) was extended "without territorial limits". The three worded phrase created an upsurge of violence in Manipur. 18 important lives including a mother lost their lives. Manipur Assembly was burned down. There was chaos and confusion in the State. Every Manipuri stood against the extension of Cease fire without territorial limits and fought unitedly and these three words were rolled back.

My contention is quite simple. Cease fire is quite O.K. There is no problem. But the ground rules should be respected and not to be violated. The MHA and EC1 much be quite aware of this violation of ground rules of the Cease fire during the recently concluded 9th State Assembly Election of Manipur. A number of vehicles are pushed down the hills. A number of common men, security personals lost their lives during the election. The NSCN (IM) cadres roamed about with arms in areas other than their designated camps.

We strongly believe that every problem shall have a solution—a peaceful solution. We look forward to solving this problem sooner than later. The GOI is very sincerely and respectfully urged upon to take into confidence of all stakeholders. In this Case, The States of Manipur, Assam and A.P. should be taken into confidence while making an attempt to settling the long standing Naga issues. We, the people of Manipur have full faith in the Central Govt. of its commitment in the NCMP to safe guard the territorial boundaries of the states. The people of Manipur shall never compromise in its territorial integrity.

In Manipur during the upsurge, the people of Manipur faced the wrath of the AFSPA, 1958. A number of persons are arrested and no whereabouts, rampant custodian killings, fake encounters etc. The people there believe that these happenings are due to the presence of this Act. We have been fighting for the repeal of this Act. One lady, Irom Chanu Sharmila has been on fast for more than six years. She was brought to the capital last year and now again she has been taken back to Manipur. Still she continues her fast for the repeal of this Act.

In 2004, GOI under the leadership of our respected P.M. ordered, a committee headed by Justice Jeevan Reddy to study the status of the Act vis-a-vis-Repeal or to provide a humane face. The report of the committee

is with the Government. The recommendation is clear. It has recommended that the Act be repealed. Recently, Hon'ble P.M. during his visit to Imphal has suggested that the Act may be amended to provide a more humane face. We do appreciate this situation taking into consideration the prevailing law and order situation in these NE states and J & K.

At the moment, the Act is not in force in seven Assembly segments of Manipur; i.e., in Imphal Municipality area. Nothing happens. It appears that nothing shall happen. Since the Act can be repealed only by an Act of Parliament, I very respectfully urge upon the Union Govt. to kindly look into report of the Justice Jeevan Reddy committee and see that the recommendation of the report can be expeditiously implemented and repeal the infamous AFSPA, 1958. This will go a long way in the History of Manipur. And the present leadership both at the centre and in the state will be fondly remembered for all time to come.

With these words, I once again congratulate our Hon'ble Finance Minister for his excellent Budget, 2007-2008.*

*SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): The General budget is introduced in a period when the entire country is facing crisis in the agrarian, rural, health and education sectors of the country. While presenting the budget no proper attention is made to address the issues of the down trodden masses. The finance minister is claiming that the country is on the path of economic growth but we can say that we have obtained some achievements only when the economic growth leads to the economic development of the country. It can be seen that the economic growth is not being reflected in the agrarian sector. It is true that there is more fund allocation for the agrarian sector but much concentration is for the provision of credit facilities to the farmers through the banks. By mixing the budget allocation with banking funds Finance Minister has created a myth of a new deal for agriculture in the budget. But it is not at all sufficient since the agricultural productivity is considerably reduced. How is it possible for the farmers to take loan? When they are facing crisis out of the production loss? In fact there should be much concentration to increase productivity and to provide reasonable prices for the agricultural products. There should be more fund allocation for increasing the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

productivity by providing the better irrigation facilities and market facilities for the poor farmers. One of the reasons claimed for inflation in the higher prices in the global market. The Finance Minister is merely touched but not dealt with the issue of price rise. The poor have no alternation to food items like onion, vegetables and daal. The budget does not help reduce them. Better targeting of subsidized products is essential.

The extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to 330 districts in the country is highly appreciated. It should be extended to all the districts. The educated unemployment is increased now a days, So special schemes for the educated groups also should be introduced to the states like Kerala. Moreover the Act should be designed to guarantee women's access to work. Proper monitoring should be there to ensure the women's access. A National Minimum Wages for agricultural workers should be introduced.

A special scheme for migrant workers to help the access to food and health rights should be introduced. Adequate foods for work programs and BPL cards to all agricultural labour families have become necessary for their survival.

Kerala is state where the entire western side is covered with sea the situation of fisherman community is highly pathetic their access to public distribution system, health and educational facilities, sanitation etc. are very poor. There should be a special provision for sanitation in the water logged areas and seashore. Their should be provision for drinking water, Now in the scheme like Swajaldhara 10% beneficiary contribution is insisted. In the case of the people of coastal area as well as scheduled tribes and scheduled cast. There should be exemption from the payment of this contribution.

The increase in the allocation for SSA and Mid day meal is highly appreciated but the states like Kerala is facing crisis in the higher education and professional education sector there should be more allotment for the higher education and technical education of the states like Kerala.

There are increase, in the allocation for the health sectors, but the fund allotment for communicable diseases is highly sufficient. A report card on nutrition says India has the highest number of malnourished children in the world. One third of the malnourished children is an Indian of the world. 146 million malnourished children 57 million

are in India. They make up 47% of under five in the country. Even the sub-saharan African is better off where 33% of the children are malnourished the corresponding figure for china is only 8% malnutrition occurs when there is insufficient nutrition intake. The Public Distribution System should be strengthened by providing subsidized rate of food to the poor families. In such a situation the budget proposal for I.C.D.S is quite insufficient. The government is intending to increase the Anganvadi centres by putting more burden on the states. The poor Anganavadi workers and helpers who are overburdened by duties of various department are not given sufficient honorarium considering the workload of the Anganavadi workers and helpers their honorarium should be increased more fund should be provided to the I.C.D.S.

For the implementation of the newly introduced Act of Protection of Domestic Violence provision is not made in the Act. The state will act according to their own circumstances so special provision should be there for better implementation of the provision of the Domestic Violence Protection Act.

The UPA government is completing the 3rd year of the government is deviating from the assurance given in the National Common Minimum Programme. It has to face consequences. With these word I conclude.

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I would not like to go into the nitty-gritty of the economic issues. I would just like to come to two topics straight way. Some of the Members from the Ruling party and also from the allies have made a light criticism of the Budget, but I would have been happier if they had come out more clearly to voice their criticism about the Budget.

[Translation]

We are not happy with this budget. I would like to say a thing that the hon'ble Finance Minister while presenting the budget has ignored the interests of the largest industry of the country, tourism.

[English]

It is the largest industry in the world. It is an industry without smoke.

[Translation]

Why was it neglected? It seems that the said tourism sector has faded out of the Finance Minister's memory.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

The Government have maintained that special emphasis is being laid on the tourism sector and Rs. 423 crore has been earmarked for the total infrastructure development.

[English]

The Government earns revenue to the tune of six billion through tourism but the Government has allocated only a meagre of Rs. 423 crore. The Minister of Tourism has been speaking about development of infrastructure of tourism in the North-Eastern region.

[Translation]

There is no provision for it in his budget. If you kill the goose, from where will we get the eggs?

[English]

This is such an industry which the Government cannot afford to ignore.

[Translation]

Therefore, when the supplementary budget is presented please make sure that

[English]

there must be substantial allocation of funds for the development of infrastructure for growth of tourism, particularly in the North Eastern region.

[Translation]

The Government has also laid stress on the tourism circuit.

A country like Japan can provide assistance to the tune of Rs. 600 crore to the State of Uttar Pradesh. One of the smallest countries like Sri Lanka and Thailand are able to provide crores of rupees to Bihar for the development of Buddhism circuit, then why cannot we allocate funds to that extent in our own country? It seems to me that the Minister of Finance has got no interest in matters related to culture. Earlier also I had mentioned that they are talking about the Muslims round the clock. I had said earlier also that I am not against the Muslims but they have completely forgotten all other small minorities except the Muslims. Lord Buddha's 2550th birth

anniversary is being celebrated this year, there is Lord Buddha's 'Parinirvana' day and the issue of establishing Buddha circuits is also on the forefront, all the three above mentioned occasions are simultaneously due this year. What are the provisions made by them in this Budget for these three occasions? They have made provisions for financial support for Khalsa Heritage Project and for the Muslims also they have made separate provisions.

[English]

Why cannot you do it for Buddhism also? This year is a very special year for the whole Buddhism. The whole world is looking towards India for Buddhism and Buddhism is central to the whole world and India is central to Buddhism.

[Translation]

They have forgotten Lord Buddha in India itself, therefore, I feel that the tourist circuit about which they are mentioning is the chain of old monasteries located at various places that are visited by lakhs of tourists.

[English]

I am speaking about culture and tourism also

[Translation]

that they are mutually interlinked. The Government has forgotten such an important sector. The entire Himalayan belt and all the followers of Buddhism in India were hurt by their said step.

[English]

You have been talking about secularism. Have you reflected the true spirit of secularism in your Budget? I do not think so. If I may say that you have allocations only for the Muslims, then I dare to say that you are targeting the vote bank. Otherwise, you will never isolate an important component of the society, the Buddhist community.

[Translation]

Along with this, I would like to suggest the Minister of Finance, Prime Minister and Palani ji, to spend a few days in Himalayan region.

[English]

If you stay in the Himalayan region, you will understand the true problems being faced by that region.

[Translation]

They have done a lot for the coastal region.

[English]

You have done enough for the coastal areas and the plain areas but for the Himalayan region, which is the crown of the country; there is nothing in the Budget for the people of the Himalayan area.

[Translation]

They have pushed the hilly regions from the mainstream of the country and have neglected the development of the said region and I exhort them to keep this also in mind. I would like to invite Mr. Finance Minister to visit my Lok Sabha constituency. He has made a declaration that Arunachal Pradesh,

[English]

I am talking about my home State which is the hottest biodiversity spot in the world.

[Translation]

He has declared many spots like Alom, Seppa, Bameng, Chayangthajo, Koloriyang, Zero Dhaporejo as tourist destinations, please do something for at least these places. That's why I am saying that he should pay a visit to the said places then only he will get to know of its actual condition.

[English]

That is why, I am extending a personal invitation to the Minister of Finance to please visit my beautiful State. Then you will understand that the people of Arunachal Pradesh are simple peace-loving people and next time onwards you will provide a greater component as financial provision to that State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahtab, your party does not have any time as such but you may speak for one or two minutes. You may even lay it on the Table.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I will lay a part of my speech. There are two issues which I would like to raise. At the initial stage, I would say that the Budget is not just a document of accounts, income and expenditure. It is the most important policy statement of the Government and this is the fourth budget by the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. It is a far cry from the one which he presented a decade ago when he set in motion sweeping tax cuts that have earned him encomiums.

I would like to mention two basic aspects. One is about education and the other is about taxes that are being levied and the concessions that are being given. It is said that the hon. Finance Minister had hardly any elbow room for innovative actions, especially when Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act is in force. Some would also say that the Finance Minister has tried to balance the political interests of the rainbow Government and yet have tread the path of fiscal prudence.

Despite this deft handling, the Finance Minister has received a few bouquets after he presented this Budget for the year 2007-08. I think he is a disappointed man today. He has tried to keep the fiscal deficit and GDP ratio almost within the target. He has not raised tax rates, except the education cess, dividend distribution tax and modification of concessions related to software. These are the three major things which he did. But hardly anyone in this House has congratulated him on these points. Please convey this to him. Is he surprised by the moderation which he has made in this Budget? Of course, the chattering class, both outside and inside, are unhappy. Even the failures of the Party Chief Ministers are attributed to him. At times I wonder where is Congress's *haath*? Is it with the *Aam Admi*? Take the case of Union Government, for instance. The Leader of the House is in charge of External Affairs, the leaders of the Congress are in charge of Defence or Home Affairs or Law & Justice or I&B or HRD or Petroleum. But NCP Ministers are in charge of Agriculture and Food; RJD Ministers are in charge of Railways and Rural Development; DMK Ministers are in charge of Communication and IT; Forest and Environment; and Ports and Highways; and PMK Minister is in charge of Health. All these Ministries deal with the *Aam Admi*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mahtab, you can lay the speech on the Table of the House. The time is over. I am sorry to say that there is no time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I thought that since we have got more time, that is 16 hours, our time would also increase.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a great and an honourable man. Please place your speech on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would mention only one aspect for which I would like the hon. Finance Minister to reply. In the Budget speech of 2006-07, the hon. Finance Minister had announced and I quote:

"The Government has decided to ensure that the farmers receive short-term credit at seven per cent with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount. That would require a certain level of subvention to NABARD. I suppose to give the subvention. This policy will come into force with effect from *kharif* 2006-07."

What has happened in-between? Our State has suffered because 70 per cent of the farm credit is being provided by the cooperatives. The rest 30 per cent is from the commercial banks and RRBs and you are providing this subvention of two per cent to only commercial banks and also to RRBs. The cooperatives do not get any subvention of two per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahtab please conclude. You have a steady approach. You put in writing and place it on the Table.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would only expect a reply from the hon. Minister that the NABARD has put in certain conditionalities. Please review those conditionalities and extend the subvention to the cooperatives banks also.

I will lay the rest part of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Are you surprised, Mr. Finance Minister at your own moderation?

Of course, the chattering classes are unhappy. Even the failure of party Chief Ministers are attributed to you.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

At times I wonder where is the Congress ka haath? Is it with the aam aadmi?

Take the Union Cabinet for instance.

The Leader of the House, looks after *External Affairs*.

The Leaders of Congress are incharge of Defence, *Home Affairs, Law and Justice, I&B, HRD, Petroleum*.

But *NCP* leader has Agriculture & Food.

RJD has Railways, Rural Development.

DMK has Communication & IT, Env. & Forest, Ports and Highways. *PMK* has Health.

These are the social sectors which are more concerned with the aam aadmi. Where is Congress Ka haath? Yet, the Finance Minister has proposed more funds for social sector.

In fact, the track record of managing the social sector—comprising health, education, food and nutrition security has been quite pathetic. Thus India, languishes at the bottom half of the Human Development Index.

When we make a comparison with the performance of the past decade with the previous ones on every index of social sector performance, the answer is, India has slipped.

The issue is not simply about the disadvantaged sections and the Government. Rather it affects all of us. Social sector performance has a direct impact on everything that is Indian.

My question today is—

How long it will take us to *define poverty*? Planning Commission has one. Union Government, Rural Development has another and respective State Governments, have another. Can't we adopt a widely accepted norm describing poverty? The Finance Minister has proposed the extension of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to 130 more districts. Orissa 4 more districts' under what criteria, I fail to understand but more districts should have been included according to the norms that had been contemplated earlier. It is demand driven and there lies the catch. If the delivery mechanism is not functional, the whole programme falls flat.

The Finance Minister has announced stepped up allocations for Bharat Nirman, education and health.

Bharat Nirman will receive 31.6 percent more than what was budgeted last time.

The allocation for education has been enhanced by more than 34 percent.

For Health and family welfare the increase is nearly 22 percent.

But these are not Central Govt. Schemes. It has to be implemented through respective State Governments and it can only be done, if the States have the requisite share money.

Has at any time the Union Govt. tried to find out why many Planned A allocations are returned by the States?

The fact is, they do not have the money. Not that they do not have priorities. They do have but they lack resources.

When the Union Govt. is of the opinion that respective States have to share the major burden for achieving economic prosperity and improving the quality of life, then squeezing of State's revenue must be stopped. The formula of revenue sharing needs to be reviewed. Why poverty index not be made the criteria for allocation of Central fund and the matching state share be determined accordingly? Make a beginning.

At the threshold of the Eleventh Plan, the States have been called upon to step up expenditure in both the social and agriculture sectors. Financing such huge expenditure is, no doubt, a stupendous task.

Finance Minister has stated elsewhere that if tax revenue grow by 15 percent per annum in 2007-08 and 2008-09, it can meet the FRBM (Financial Responsibility and Budget Management) targets. This expected growth of tax revenue is critical. Will the Minister assure this House that the goal posts will not be shifted and yet achieve the expectation?

What has the recent edition of the RBI's "State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2006-07" has said? It gives an incisive analysis of State's fiscal situation. States have

shown improvement but sustainability of the process of fiscal correction in the long run is a moot point.

Sixth Pay Commission awards threaten to take a lion's share of the revenue expenditure.

As salaries rise in government jobs and faster still in private sector, farm incomes are getting less and less attractive.

Consolidation of holdings may be an answer but creating jobs in services and industrial sectors for more than 10 crore farmers and as many farm workers is mind-boggling. Our country is the single exception in the growth club, which is service-led rather than industry led growth.

Ideal situation is migration from agriculture to Manufacturing and rest 20 percent in services. But ours have been service heavy.

United States developed when just 2 percent of the population now works on the farm as against 21 percent in 1930 and,

41 percent in 1900.

To achieve that ratio, nine of every 10 farmers will need to take up another profession.

Does this budget make a beginning in that direction?

Today, Agriculture Graduates are not opting to look after their farms. Why? Because it is not remunerative. Yet people are forced to depend on agriculture because they lack skill and there is no opportunity.

What opportunity this budget provides to those rural educated unemployed youths? Nothing.

Now, I would like to discuss on—

Education—In this budget there is an increase in the allocation for school education around 35% from Rs. 17,133 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 23,142 crore in 2007-08.

Rs. 10,671 crore will be provided for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This is only the 50% which will be provided by you. Rest 50% be provided by respective States. How do you expect that the States will be able to put in their share? Do they have the money for such programme?

[Shri B. Mahtab]

How do you expect that this programme will succeed, when you have number of reluctant implementing agencies? Unless this SSA continues as it is, there is every possibility that it will die a quiet death. Money will not be spent, cannot be spent.

Today there was a question of dropout of girl child. States like Assam, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and even in West Bengal dropout rate is above 80%. Number of reasons are there but if you tag a programme of sanitation with the SSA, dropout of girls will come down. Minister may consider it. Higher education is a subject which needs deliberation.

Recently HRD Ministry has approved setting up 3 more IITs in Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

Why Orissa is being given a short shrift by this UPA Govt? Frequently this Govt. is shifting projects from Orissa.

It was on 28th August last year at Patna. Junior Minister for HRD, Mr. M.A.A. Fatmi has declared that Orissa is included in the proposal. But why Orissa been excluded?

Orissa is most deserving for allocation of an IIT not only in consideration of the industrial boom alone, nor only there is a ensuing requirement of quality technical personnel, but more importantly for it figures among the bottom three States in HRD's spending list. Rajasthan and Bihar are the other two.

As per the 2006-07 budget, the HRD's per capita spending on higher education institutions plus institutions of national importance in Orissa is only Rs 4.07.

While in Rajasthan it is Rs. 2.59 and in Bihar it is Rs. 1.87.

What are the reasons?

Reasons are, these States have the least number of HRD Ministry funded institutions.

A new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education Research would be set up in Bihar.

Andhra Pradesh would have an Indian Institute of Public Health.

Two Universities—

1. Osmania University College of Engineering,
2. Andhra University College of Engineering

have been shortlisted for upgradation to IIT status and be called Indian Institutes of Engineering Science and Technology.

But University College of Engineering of Burla of Orissa has not been considered. Nor a new IIT is being set up, what to speak of upgrading the extension centre of IIT - Kharagpur at Bhubaneswar.

Why Orissa being given a short shrift?

A report has been circulated detailing the foodgrain production in our country. As per the second advance estimate for agriculture announced on 6th February 2007, foodgrain production was placed at 209.2 million tonne during 2006-07. This is marginally lower when compared to the final foodgrain production estimate of 209.6 million tonne recorded for 2005-06. But this is below the peak 213.19 million tonne of 2003-04.

What does this demonstrate? It means the country's output of most grains have been virtually stagnant in the past few years. Despite a record 282 hectare being planted under the crop, the wheat output is way below the all time high 76.37 mt achieved in 1999-2000. This year the wheat output is projected to be 72.50 million tonne which is also lower than the estimate of 2005-06 that was 73.06 mt.

Why the rice production has declined? Rice which is mainly a kharif crop, though cultivated also in Rabi season, production is declining? Has any study been made? Why farmers are not achieving the targets? Why ploughmen are keeping their hands folded? Has the Finance Minister tried to find out the reason?

According to me, other than inflation, poverty, untimely supply of seeds, fertilizer and credit, unpredictable nature, one of the main reason of today's farmers' distress is absence of a competitive market for the farmers' produce. Providing credit to farmers is one thing but creating a favourable market for the farmers' produce is the need of the hour. I am sorry to state that there is no mention about the market for farmers' produce. Who will look into this aspect? The distress sale of farm produce give a big

profit to middlemen. It seems the UPA Government does not have the courage to stand up to them. If you have then why don't you create a farmer friendly market?

Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 2006-07 had announced, "Government has decided to ensure that the farmer received short term credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. This would require a certain level of subvention to NABARD. I suppose to give the subvention. This policy will come into force with effect from Kharif 2006-07". This was his pronouncement. Government was supposed to provide interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks and regional banks in respect of short-term production credit upto Rs. 3 lakhs provided to farmers. What is the position today? How many banks have provided such credit to farmers and what is the amount of subvention of 2% been given by the Government in actual terms. This House would be obliged if some details are provided during Finance Minister's reply.

I would draw the attention of the Finance Minister relating to my experience in my state, Orissa. In Orissa, the co-operative banks are the major players in agricultural lending operations. They finance about 70% of the total crop loan financed by all the banks in Orissa. Yet this sector is greatly handicapped in implementing the 7% interest scheme in view of the stiff conditionalities imposed by NABARD for providing refinance support to co-operative banks. Is the Finance Minister aware about these conditionalities? NABARD, in their Policy Circular for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations has put in these conditionalities during 2006-07. How do you expect the farmers to gain? Orissa is not in a position to provide interest rate subsidy of this order to the State Co-operative Banks owing to severe resource constraints. Time has come to review the situation. Get it examined afresh and take steps to remove the discriminatory approaches contained in the policy for lowering the interest rates on farm credit in respect of the farmer-loanees of Commercial Banks and those of Co-operative Banks.

I would suggest to the Finance Minister to consider providing an additional interest subsidy to the tune of 2.2% on the entire crop loan that are to be financed by the Co-operative Credit Structure in addition to the refinance by NABARD to the extent of 40% of total finance at the concessional rate of 2.5%.

As much as 70 per cent of the farm credit in Orissa comes from the cooperative sector and they finance 13 lakh farm families. Commercial Banks and the RRBs put together finance only 5 lakh farm families.

Hence, in case the subvention or interest subsidy allowed by the Government for the Commercial Banks being not extended to Co-operative Sector, the large majority of farmers in our state, so also in other states, are deprived of the opportunity of availing of farm credit at the cheaper rate of 7%. Why this double standard? How do you expect the State Governments to accommodate the huge financial burden of providing the required subsidy to the Co-operative Credit institutions?

At the end, I would express my anguish about the manner in which KBK districts of Orissa been mentioned. What was the necessity? You had a special sub plan for the development of KBK region. This KBK or Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput region is equivalent to the size of Kerala State which has large population of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Castes and BPL families. The 3 districts have been divided into 8 districts since the early 90s. Finance Minister says these districts been included in the Backward Regions Grant Fund. Bihar has been provided a special plan but not KBK? As such, these districts would have been included in BRGF because of its backwardness. What is so special about mentioning it when you are not giving anything extra?

KBK region needs special attention. I urge upon the Finance Minister to consider providing special funds for this KBK region.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naveen Jindal. Please be brief.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, I will take five or seven minutes. I hope that you will not stop me in the middle of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that I am doing an unpleasant job because we are sitting here for a number of days.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Sir, please do not keep interrupting me in between.

[Translation]

Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to present my views on current year's budget.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

I support this Finance Bill and I have got valid reasons to support it which, through you, I would like to present before the House.

Sir, I admit that the job of the Finance Minister is very difficult and is full of challenges. He bears the burden of meeting the hopes and aspirations of every section of the society. In my opinion the hon'ble Minister of Finance has made efforts to ensure the economic development of all the classes of the society keeping in mind the actual financial condition of the country. He has kept this fact in mind that the financial targets fixed for the year, are met. It is the result of the smart financial management that today there is 190 thousand million dollar foreign exchange reserve available with the country. The rate per savings is 32.4% and the rate of investment is 33.8%. During the current year the tax mop up has been to the tune of Rs. 35 thousand crore which has exceeded the target fixed in that regard. The fiscal deficit is 3.3%, which has come down from the earlier levels. Since UPA Government assumed power, growth rate of GDP has risen from 7.5 % in the year 2004-05 to about 9.2% in the year 2006-07 and in the course of time there is a possibility of its crossing the double digit mark which augers well for our bright future ahead. While the growth rate in the manufacture sector has been 11.2%, it was modest 2.3 per cent in the agriculture sector while it should have been about 4 per cent. This is a matter of concern.

Sir, even today India is predominantly an agriculture-centric country and two-third of the population of the country reside in villages and they are dependent on agriculture and its related activities. That is why the Minister of Finance has introduced many schemes related to agriculture. Agriculture loans estimated to touch the figure of one lakh ninety thousand crore in 2006-07 have been increased to Rs. 2 lakhs 25 thousand crore during the current year. This step is likely to cover 50 lakh new farmers under the agriculture financing system. Similarly, under the two per cent interest assistance scheme for short-term crop loan, a provision of Rs. 1677 crore has also been made in the budget. Under a special scheme, Rs. 16980 crore is being given to 31 distressed districts of the four States of the country. Out of it, approximately Rs. 12,400 crore have been allocated for water resources programmes. The UPA Government is very sensitive towards farmers reeling under debt because of agriculture loan. That's why it has constituted a Committee under

the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Radhakrishna. The Government have assured that no sooner the report is received, it would implement the committee's recommendations. Apart from it, several steps have been envisaged in the Budget for increasing agricultural production. In spite of all such initiatives, the UPA Government are more concerned about soaring prices of foodgrains and consequently, the Government have banned futures trading in rice and wheat. More such steps are being taken to control price rise.

Sir, I am a sportsman, so I would like to say something about sports. If we look at the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, we find, that only an amount of Rs. 138.37 crore has been utilized under schemes for youth affairs against an allocation of Rs. 171.79 crore. Similarly, for sports, only Rs. 383 crore could be utilized against an allocation of Rs. 443 crore. Under these heads, respectively Rs. 205 crore and Rs. 495 crore have been allocated during 2007-08. Though the Government could not utilize said funds, yet, I would emphasize that we need to pay more attention to sports and hike allocation of funds. Our country is hosting Commonwealth Games of 2010 with an eye on winning bid for holding Asian and Olympic Games later on. I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister for providing Rs. 200 crore more than last year's allocation for this purpose. We need to do a lot at international level. It is a matter of great disappointment for all of us ...*(Interruptions)* as since 1984 we could win only 3 medals in Olympic, whereas, China has won 300 medals. Therefore, we need to make more efforts and give due respect to the sports persons and provide them all kinds of facilities, so that they can bring honour to our country.

As our Government are emphasizing on public private partnership, so I feel that there is a need to stress more on this concept in the field of sports also. More than 200 countries participate in Olympic games, whereas, only 10 countries in the world play cricket. The sponsor companies, be it from public sector or private sector, should be granted 200 per cent tax exemption. Unless it is done, our country can't excel in sports. In view of it, I would urge the hon'ble Finance Minister to provide 200 per cent tax exemption. During last Common Wealth Games held in Melbourne, our players won 26 medal in shooting only, out of total 50 medals won there. Our hon'ble Minister of Finance is sitting here, I would specially request him that the air guns, used in schools and collage ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen, it is very important.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You can lay your speech on the Table of the House. There is no question of listening to you. Your time is over. You can give it in writing.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: I am driving at a very important point. Please consider what I am saying. Please pay attention to it. It is about air gun which is a basic weapon for training. The Government is still charging 35 per cent duty which is very unfair. With this, the Government has not collected even Rs. 10 lakh per year. Why should they not exempt it from the duty?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the valuable suggestions are quite welcome in the interest of sports. You can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Why should I lay it on the Table of the House? I will finish in five minutes.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are about 13 speakers from your party.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Sir, I would request you to just give me two more minutes without interruption. I will be very much grateful to you.

[Translation]

Hence, custom duty on air guns should be exempted. It can be imported under OGL even these days. Exemption would facilitate many schools and colleges to import it easily. It would help in preparing thousands of Jaspal Ranas and Anjali Vedpathak, who would earn name and fame for our country. Therefore, I would urge for duty exemption on air guns.

In the end, I would like to welcome export duty on Rs. 300 per tonne imposed by the hon'ble Minister of Finance. The company, wherein, I am a managing director, will have to dole out Rs. 45 crore more on duty. But, I feel it would help our country immensely. I feel hurt when I read article in newspapers about people opposition to it as the rate of iron ore in international market has increased by equivalent to per tonne hike in export duty. So, it should be welcome.

Last point, I would like to make about royalty rates. My colleagues from Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh would support it. The royalty rates in our country on iron ore, lime stone, bauxite or coal are very low. The rates of raw material have increased by 3-4 times to 10 times during last 3-4 years in our country, whereas, royalty rates have remained unchanged. If rates are made ad valorem, the royalty collection would touch Rs. 15000 crore against Rs. 5000 crore now. It would help in providing better infrastructure and other facilities in States like Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Finally, I would thank the hon'ble Finance Minister, Prime Minister and Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji for having presented a growth oriented budget. I fully support it.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I am bringing a very serious matter to the kind notice of this House. In Nandigram, West Bengal so many people have been killed... (Interruptions) This is a shocking news... (Interruptions) This has remained a burning point... (Interruptions) Sir, the State Government is incapable of convincing the people that their lands will not be taken away... (Interruptions) Sir, I am trying to draw the attention of the Government so that the Central Government should immediately intervene there; otherwise more and more people will be killed... (Interruption)

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Sir, it is a very serious issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are raising this matter without giving any notice. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is not only a State matter but this is a matter of the entire nation... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, we will bring it to the notice of the concerned Minister for necessary action... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I rise to support this budget with a very heavy heart.

1. Agriculture

Looking at the continued low growth rate in the agriculture and the crisis this sector is facing all across the country, there was a general expectation from the Hon'ble FM on much greater investment and thrust on this sector. The expectation was for major path breaking schemes for agriculture. Unfortunately this is not reflected in this budget causing disappointment in the agrarian community. Though the Hon'ble FM has touched certain major issues like credit, training of farmers, crop insurance, seeds, irrigation etc., however certain vital aspects concerning agriculture and farmers income like soil, marketing and value addition did not find mention in this budget. I believe, the farmers' income may not increase without sufficient investment in improving the soil quality, marketing and focus on post harvest value addition. It is still not too late for making a lump sum allocation for these items of investment. Some of the other issues I would like to elaborate relate to credit, insurance and irrigation.

(a) *Credit*: While the extremely slow pace of the implementation of the Vaidyanathan Committee report on short-term credit is causing concern, I am more worried that the final view about the long-term co-operative credit structure has not been taken so far. It would have been wiser if both the reports were implemented together since these two structures compliment each other. The eligibility

criteria for the primary co-operative credit societies for revitalization support also needs to be relooked.

Further the areas, which are repeatedly affected by droughts/floods, require different dispensation. The normal relief provided to the indebted farmers in the case of crop failures by conversion of loans into medium/long term loans is not enough in case of successive crop loss. These farmers require relief by writing off the principal and interest as the case may be. However the present banking system does not provide for this. There is a need for **Agriculture Relief Fund** to provide relief in such cases. Urban Cooperative Bank capital base must be strengthened. These are the banks serving small households in particular. Mergers are not the solutions. Please stop merger of this bank.

(b) *Risk Mitigation Arrangements*: In view of the Commercialization of Indian agriculture an effective system of risk mitigation is a pre-condition for minimizing farmer's sufferings. The existing crop insurance scheme is neither, need based and effective nor farmer friendly. There is a need for major changes in the above scheme. It was heartening to note that the Hon'ble FM has initiated weather based crop insurance scheme on pilot basis. However the need is to develop hundreds of insurance products for different crops and areas to be really useful to the farmers. Uniform schemes covering large areas will not adequately cover the risk of individual farmers effectively.

(c) *Water resources*: The Hon'ble FM has taken welcome initiatives for irrigation development. However, the need was far more for reaching strategies. I agree there are problems between the States on the issue of sharing of water of the rivers. We can initiate schemes in which the water within the State is circulated from surplus areas to deficient areas to reduce the water shortage (*Intra-linking of Rivers*). Like in Maharashtra, the Godavari and Tapi basins are deficient and the surplus water from Konkan rivers can be transported to these basins. After the water requirement of the state is satisfied, the remaining surplus water should be transported to the deficient states. We should give a serious thought to such a scheme. I may like to inform that the Maharashtra Pani Parishad took the initiative and formulated such scheme and submitted it to the Government of Maharashtra some time back. The need is to explore such possibilities rather than looking at conventional schemes only. The Hon'ble FM may at least consider

*Not recorded.

**The speech was laid on the Table.

making some financial provision for such studies and development of pilot projects.

(d) *Diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.* There have been heavy investments by the Government for creating agricultural infrastructure like irrigation etc. The government should not at any cost divert such developed good/fertile lands for non-agricultural purposes. The farmers need pro-active advice on matters relating to land use with a clear view on market. Such pro-active advice may have to be based on meteorological, marketing and management information taking into account soil characteristics, irrigation water availability and other agro-ecological conditions. Restructured Land Use Board at the State and Central level supported by team of technical experts/agencies could render such advice to the farmers. These Land Use Boards should also be consulted before allocation of land for specific purposes like the SEZs etc. The SEZs should develop their own infrastructure like power, water etc. and not with the last of farmer and rural area in particular like power, water etc and not with the lost of farmer and rural area in particular.

2. Power

We are aspiring for about 10% growth rate in the economy. However the growth of power generation has been low at 7.5%. For achieving 10% growth rate it is essential that the power growth rate is around 15%.

Similarly in case of agriculture, for achieving 4% growth rate in this sector and development of non-farm sector in the rural areas there is need for much greater focus on rural electrification and qualitative improvement in the power supply. Electrification in rural areas and improvement in power supply by itself could be a major factor in increasing employment and rural incomes. To my mind this needs the highest priority.

3. Social Security

The Hon'ble FM needs to be congratulated for introducing the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) to provide social security cover for the rural landless households with 50% premium component to be borne by the Central Government while the remaining 50% to be borne by the respective State Governments. Since the financial condition of most of the states is not so good it is doubtful whether they can bear this burden of premium component. This being a very good initiative, it is essential that the central government bear 75% of this premium at least

for the first 2-3 years so that this scheme is effectively introduced to benefit a large number of poor.

4. Vocational Education

The Hon'ble FM has taken the initiative of introducing 1 lakh scholarships for the students at secondary and higher secondary level. I feel that similar initiative should have been taken for the vocational education also and adequate financial provision should have been made for this purpose. Skill training is very important and requires much greater focus. I urge the Hon'ble FM to announce at least 1-lakh scholarships for 2007-08 for vocational training of rural youth. Efforts should also be made to modernize the ITIs. In future it may be seen that the new ITIs are established mostly in rural areas.

I am surprised to read some newspaper reports that a school in Delhi for the children of bureaucrats was allocated Rs. 10 crore and the Hon'ble FM has made a provision of just Rs. 50 crore for the Vocational Education Mission, which can become an engine of employment for a large number of youths.

5. Increase in the Excise Duty on biris

The Hon'ble FM has increased the excise duty on man-made biris. This sector provides employment to a very large population, particularly the tribals. Increase in the duty will adversely affect this industry. I urge the Hon'ble FM to reconsider this increase of duty on man-made biris.

Agriculture Credit

There is an urgent need for creation of Agricultural Debt Relief Fund for providing relief to the farmers who face 2-3 consecutive crop failures due to natural calamities. At present, the banking system provides only conversion of short-term loans into medium-term loans or re-scheduling of loans. This relief is not adequate as the debt burden due to postponement and fresh borrowings becomes quite excessive. In case of two successive crop failures, it is necessary to waive the interest and in case of three successive crop failures, waiver of both principal and interest is necessary. The relief could come out of the Agricultural Debt Relief Fund.

2. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC) has been generally well appreciated by all concerned; however, the

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small and marginal farmers and the women farmers continue to face difficulties in obtaining KCC. It is suggested that the issue of KCC should be treated as an entitlement of all landowners and the non-issue of KCC to any farmer needs to be explained in writing. This will help in more inclusive growth of agriculture credit.

3. There is a need for a long-term agricultural credit policy and clearly defining the role of different institutional agencies in the multi-agency approach, which has been adopted in our country. There is also a need for taking a fresh look at the mandate of the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) and its business model.

4. The UPA Government deserves to be congratulated for taking deep interest in matters relating to rural credit and particularly its expansion and growth. However, we have to recognise that in spite of the rapid growth of institutional credit, a majority of rural households continue to depend on professional moneylenders for their credit needs. During the past few years, these moneylenders have become stronger and with their connections, resources and muscle power are causing miseries to the rural population who borrow money from them. They have acquired lands of the poor borrowers and have been using various measures to exploit them. Time has come, that we realise the seriousness of this situation. The Union Budget 2007-08 needs to address this issue in a comprehensive manner. The law needs to be reviewed and it may be appropriate to consider declaring the borrowing contracts with the unregistered moneylenders as null and void and also insist on reduction in the rate of interest charged by the registered moneylenders.

5. The trend of closure of rural branches of the nationalised banks has to be reversed. The banks assess the viability of the rural branches mainly on the basis of turn over and not the outreach. The Government may consider making a special budgetary provision for three years for sustaining such branches.

6. Growth of agriculture credit without corresponding increase in agriculture productivity or outreach is not likely to be sustainable. It is, therefore, essential that like the target of priority sector lending, all banks should also be given target of number of farmer household accounts with sub-target for small and marginal farmers. The performance assessment of banks should be based on

both; (a) the number of borrowers, number of new borrowers, the coverage of small and marginal farmers and (b) quantum of disbursement.

7. Keeping in view the acute distress of farmers in certain States in India, there is a need to introduce a One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS) to provide relief to them. The Government of India may create a **National Debt Relief Fund** to enable the cooperative banks and RRBs to provide this relief. The scheme may provide for interest waiver, debt reduction etc. on a case-to-case basis.

8. For improving growth of agriculture and bringing in the second green revolution, there is a need for greater focus on investment credit and its availability at lower rate of interest and adequately larger repayment period.

Insurance

9. The crop insurance scheme being implemented by the National Agriculture Insurance Company is not farmer friendly and more than 85% of the farmers are not covered by it. As promised in the Union Budget for 2005-06, the recommendations of the Expert Group appointed by the Govt. of India for reviewing the existing scheme need to be considered expeditiously. While the unit area needs to be lowered at least to the panchayat level it would be desirable to try farmer wise crop insurance on a pilot basis in a few districts. It may be possible to train rural youth to work as surveyors for assessing the yields, which could become the basis for settlement of claims like the surveyors report for milch animals and general insurance products in the rural areas.

10. Most of the rural population is outside the coverage by any insurance. There is a need for a lot of developmental and promotional work for educating the rural population about the benefits of these financial products for covering life cycle and other financial risks. It is suggested that a sum of Rs.100 crore may be placed with the National Agriculture Insurance Company for taking up insurance development work on a sustained basis in rural India.

11. In absence of adequate and effective social security measures in the rural areas, it is suggested that an integrated micro insurance product for providing cover for medical requirements of the family (for say upto Rs. 10,000/- only), accident coverage, the risk of death

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of the earning members of the family (Rs.10,000/-) and firej other risks to the dwelling may be introduced. The Government of India may provide life saving support to the rural families by meeting at least 50% of the cost of this insurance premium (which would work out to about Rs. 400 per annum) for the first 3-4 years. The balance premium may be collected from the beneficiaries through the SHGs/NGOs, Bank Branches and Post Offices etc. The National Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India may also work out innovative models to facilitate expansion of this insurance product in the rural areas in a cost effective manner. It would be reasonable to cover the majority of rural families in a period of about 5 years.

National Rainfed Authority of India

12. While the Government of India have taken a major step in establishing the National Rainfed Authority of India, it is necessary that this Authority becomes operational without any delay and adequate budgetary provision is made for this purpose in the coming budget.

Agriculture Infrastructure

13. Biopesticides, Biofertilizers units—The Government have imposed the rules of registration and certification for which the fee for one product is around Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs. The small units who are producing 3 to 4 products and their annual sale is around 5 to 10 lakhs, cannot pay Rs. 6 to 8 lakhs for their product registration. The registration fees should be drastically reduced to Rs. 5000/- per product. The procedure also should be simplified otherwise these small bioagents production units will be closed.

14. Oilseed and pulses promotion programme—Government is spending 15 to 16 thousand crores on importing oilseed and pulses. The area under wheat and rice can be diverted to oilseeds and pulses if proper market price assurance is given to the farmers. Due to the oilseed and pulse rotation to wheat and rice, the soil improvement can be done. Therefore, minimum support price for oil seeds and pulses needs to be further increased and the MSP needs to be protected all over the country. Roadmap of self-sustainability of oilseeds and pulses can be prepared to protect and encourage Indian farmers. To protect and encourage Indian farmers, there is need to increase import duty on oilseeds and pulses within the WTO limits.

Tariff

15. Import duty on cotton should be raised to 40% to protect the interest of farmers. If necessary export

promotion subsidy or other tax rebates can be given to textile industry.

16. Agro Export Zones (AEZs)—The Agriculture Export Zones are not yet provided with the proper infrastructure and manpower. The AEZs should be strengthened to boost the export of fruits and vegetables. Cold storage chains, market intelligence center, inputs and services, skill-imparting institutions regarding exports should be started in each AEZ. The Central Government should invest more amounts for this purpose. Investment for infrastructure development in AEZ may be made an eligible purpose under RIDF.

17. Rural radio/Farm radio—For mass awareness about different programmes, dissemination of specific technologies and location specific emergency messages etc., rural radio (farm radio) could be very effective. The local NGO/KVK should be encouraged and supported to start rural radio. At least during this budget 100 districts should be selected on trial basis and each center should be provided with the grant in aid of Rs.20 to 30 lakhs for the purpose.

Restructured Land Use Board

18. The farmers need pro-active advice on matters relating to land use with a clear view on market. Such pro-active advice may have to be based on meteorological, marketing and management information taking into account soil characteristics, irrigation water availability and other agro-ecological conditions. Restructured Land Use Board at the State and Central level supported by team of technical experts/ agencies could render such advice to the farmers. These Land Use Boards should also be consulted before allocation of land for specific purposes like the SEZs etc. In no case fertile agricultural lands be diverted for non-agriculture purposes.

Irrigation

19. The importance of developing irrigation cannot be overstated in our predominantly agriculture based economy. On a macro basis nearly 40% of the cropped area is covered by irrigational facilities. However, the spread of irrigation is very uneven in different States. It is suggested that the States having less than 25% cultivated area under irrigation needs to be given a high priority in allocation of resources for irrigational development. Till

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the 25% level is reached, all irrigation projects in a State may be financed as National Project by the Central Government. In allocation of funds, priority may be given for incomplete projects. Highest priority may be accorded to these projects, which were started in the 9th Plan or earlier and have been completed to the extent of at least 75 %. This would also help in unlocking lot of sunk resources and create irrigation potential speedily. It is also suggested that a **National Irrigation Authority of India** be established to oversee and implement the above suggestions. This Authority will have a major role in orderly development and optimum utilisation of the irrigation potential created in the country and also in implementing intrastate river linking projects for transportation of floodwater from water surplus basins to water deficient basins.

Education

20. Anganwadi plays an effective role in imparting pre-primary education in rural, tribal and urban areas. The Scheme of Anganwadi should be considered as a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It is recommended that special funds should be allocated to Anganwadies belonging to drought prone and tribal areas.

21. Pre-primary to secondary education 0-16 years/tenth standard should be considered as basic and compulsory education. To reduce the high drop out rate, the facilities of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should be extended to the students belonging to economically weaker sections and below the poverty line families.

22. For creating the knowledge-based society skill initiative and area specific courses should be introduced at the secondary level i.e. from the 8th standard. It is recommended that sufficient funds should be allocated for upgrading and creating required infrastructure.

23. There is a scheme to provide hostel facilities for school going children at Tehsil level. There is a need to strengthen these facilities to accommodate the boys from below the poverty line and economically weaker sections. Substantial budgetary provision is required to be made for it. Special funds should be allocated for providing hostel for girls in rural areas to minimize the rate of drop out.

24. As most the professional educational institutions are located in and around urban centres giving locational

advantage to the urban areas and disadvantage to the students from rural and remote areas. It is suggested that there should be a drastic change in policy regarding granting of permission to start educational institutions and should provide one time grant for the creation of infrastructure for spreading professional education 30-40 kilometres away from the urban centres.

25. Higher Education has become a matter of great concern and out of reach of the common man. Therefore, it is suggested to establish "Education Foundation of India with allocation of Rs. 500 crore at the initial stage for providing educational loan and creating infrastructure in rural areas.

26. Charitable Trust may be encouraged to donate above 25% of their surplus for Education Development as suggested above.

27. Scheme of providing educational loan to needy and poor students is a welcome step. However, it is found that many students coming from poor families and families below the poverty line are not benefited by the scheme. Education loan should be sanctioned without collateral and recovery of loan should be after the beneficiary is employed.

28. Research and Development play a vital role in the development of every nation. However, in India the share of Higher Education for scientific research is very low. It is strongly recommended that the adequate amount (Rs. 500 crore per year) should be allocated for setting up world class infrastructural facilities for research and development. Research grants should be given liberally to the institutions offering vocational, professional & higher education.

29. Earn and Learn scheme plays very vital role in providing education to the 774 poor and needy students particularly in rural areas. It is suggested that 100% exemption should be given in the income tax to the donors donating funds for educational purposes.

Vocational Education & Skill Development

30. Top priority should be given to the vocational and skill based education. Special financial provisions in the coming budget should be made to set up vocational schools in each revenue circle.

31. Due to starting of self-financing of Vocational and Technical education, the expenditure has gone beyond

the reach of the poor people. Government should take full responsibility to pay tuition fees of economically weaker families, BPL families and unorganised families.

32. There is a need to set up National Level Accreditation Board to accord recognition to non-formal short-term vocational courses. The scheme for "Centre of Excellence" should also be extended to LTJs run by NGOs.

33. Due to rapid growth of industrialization and service sector, there is need to add sophisticated and hi-tech application courses. Need based courses as designed by some NGOs should be encouraged. Certain life skills/ soft skills also should be introduced along with technical skills.

34. The 10th plan noted that large gap between the number of new entrants to the labour force and availability of seats in all forms of vocational and professional training institutes. Hence it is necessary to increase the number of seats in these institutes and new ITIs should be opened to fill this existing gap.

35. It is necessary to impart marketable skills to the persons of agricultural families. There is need to launch major programs to train about 5 to 6 crore rural youths in time frame of 5 years with an outlay of about Rs. 6000 to Rs. 7000 crore. The Government may announce 10 lakh scholarships on annual basis for youth from tribal/below the poverty line families. The school dropouts could also be made eligible for these scholarships. The focus in this training should be on developing soft skills and other marketable skills to enable the trade youths to get jobs/ start micro enterprises.

36. Community colleges should be set up in each district (150 every year) to offer professional skills, marketable skills and soft skills. One time grant should be provided for development of infrastructure & facilities.

Non-Conventional Energy Resources

37. To mitigate the concern about the energy security especially in the rural areas, it is important that we encourage the use of non-conventional energy resources like wind, sun etc. to meet the requirements of these areas and farm activities. The Central Government may, therefore, increase budgetary support for such activities.

Sanitation

38. Due to the scarcity of resources the local bodies like the panchayat, municipal council etc. are unable to provide better sanitation facilities to the citizens of the country. The Government may provide grants to such institutions for better affluent treatment plants being undertaken by such institutions. This will ensure better environment and hygiene of the citizens.

Farmers Suicide

Up to the 8th decade of 20th century farmers were getting some income from their agri-business. His land was the only income source for him. Farmers were doing agri business as a religious work, farming was a worship for him.

Eventhough in this era farmers were facing many problems, water shortage was his main problem. But he was maintaining his business in scare water situation. Farmers were getting enough power supply. However the credit was insufficient where farmers where linked with credit institutes. Uncertain market was there but they were maintaining somehow.

In the 9th decade situation started slowly declining. Water scare area in agriculture increased tremendously due to change or priority of water. Agriculture given third level in water priority. Drinking and industrial use was given first and second priority respectively. Due to water scarcity, farm production started declining. Agriculture inputs prices went on hike and became the cause of drastic increase in production cost. On the other hand farm product market could not increase in proportional manner. Here farmers suffered a big-loss in agriculture business. Power cut was the another cause of low productivity. Loss in production resulted to increase his debt in the financial institutes. He could not repay due to heavy loss. Financial institutes were unable to give more finance for agriculture and ultimately farmers were forced to get finance from private money lenders at the highest interest rate, which he could not return. Farmer were in debt at 80th the levels. He was unable to carryout his household responsibilities. Family health problem, marriages of daughters, children's education were his priorities which he could not fulfill. Every house of the farmer became a cluster of problems and Every farmer and whole farm community was under severe frustration. Farmers were ill the mood to leave the land, but they

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could not do so, because there was no alternative for him. In this situation he started killing himself, which we call farmers suicide.

Urgent needs of the Farmers

1. Water supply for agriculture
2. Power supply for minimum 20 hours continuously.
3. Institutional finance to meet his all needs (every agribusiness).
4. Reasonable price of agri-inputs.
5. Minimum Support Prices, considering production cost and little profit.
6. Assured market for his produce.
7. Value addition - Agriculture-processing.
8. Village based - Insurance scheme.
9. Health and Educational facilities for his next generation.
10. Government and private participation in rural infrastructure development.
11. Special development programme for rainfed area.
12. Agriculture land acquisition for industrial and urban development purpose should be banned immediately.
13. Wasteland development programme should be accelerated and developed land should be allotted to the farmers.
14. All Industrial development and urbanization would be on waste land only.
15. All incomplete irrigation projects should be completed in specific period.
16. Irrigation purpose project should be used for agriculture purpose only.
17. Separate water project should make for urban and industrial use.
18. Every farmer should get institutional finance at the rate of percent only.
19. Medium and long term finance for farmers own infrastructure development should available on 4% rate.

20. Every farmer should have K.C.C. every farmers should have a bank account.
21. Efficiency of a financial institute should be checked on the basis of Accounts they have and not on the amount they disbursed.
22. Farmers own value addition project should be financed with government guarantee and its rate should be very low.
23. Farmers above 65 years should get pension.
24. Girls education in every education institute should be free. A long-term drive for giving technical education and skill education to rural masses. Which will help them to get job at urban and rural area.
25. Separate corps funds at state and central level.
 - (1) Corps fund of 10,000 cr. for rainfed area.
 - (2) Corps fund of 10,000 cr. for farmers emergency debt waiver purpose.
 - (3) Corps fund of 10,000 cr. for rural technical education.
 - (4) Corps funds of 10,000 cr. for market intervention.
26. Today farmers are paying five times more cost seeds of 50% fertility of the seed.
27. Law of seed should immediately be passed in parliament and the law should be observed keenly.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the General Budget for the year 2007-08 has been presented. The day General Budget is introduced, all eyes are cast on it with the expectation that the Commonman would get some relief. The budget is the index of the future of the country since it mirrors the developmental schemes and overall trend of our economy. The hopes of the commonman have been dashed to the ground by the general budget presented by the hon. Minister for the year 2007-08. It has failed to pay any relief to either farmers, unemployed persons or housewives, or students neither does it contain any measures to check rising prices. The slogan of Bharat Nirman raised by the UPA

Government is as hollow as the slogan "Congress ka Haath Garib ke Saath" i.e, the hand of the Congress is with the poor, while in reality it is eyeing the pockets of the commonman and it is manifested through this Budget. The entire budget looks high on rhetoric and less on ground reality, or any concrete measures which is meant to appease a certain section of society only. It contains plethora of schemes. How these schemes would be launched and completed, how would they be budgeted, it is not mentioned anywhere. It is an eye wash and the people have been cheated. The Government should have single mindedly taken steps to ensure that the rays of development could reach the poorest of the poor. Leave aside development, it has become difficult for the rural people to provide themselves with two square meals a day. The commonman is placed in a quandary in the very frame of Bharat Nirman. On the one hand there is backbreaking price rise, incidents of farmers committing suicides, increasing unemployment; rising inflation and on the other hon. Minister of Finance says that he has made the food for dogs and cats cheap. What can be a bigger failure of the UPA Government than this that they could not control price rise in the budget and on top of it a very responsible member of the Congress said it for the Leftist colleagues that if the prices have not declined and the foodgrains have not become cheaper then they can go for dog and cat good. I wonder what is the compulsion of the leftist colleagues that despite getting so much insulted they are supporting the Government. This could be their personal matter, we have nothing to do with it, they may give whatever support. However, when it would be the turn of the public the fate would be similar to that of Uttarakhand and Punjab. Now it is the turn of Uttar Pradesh where the Congress would be annihilated owing to price rise.

When the hon. Minister of Finance was delivering his speech, the farmers were committing suicide because of the policies of the UPA Government where it fails to provide any solution to the farmer that he can take easy term loans but does not know how to optimize the yield with low cost. There is no scheme to free the farmer from the debt trap. The suicides by farmers are increasing constantly which is a matter of shame for the Government and the country.

The price-rise has resulted into a lot of hue and cry all over the country. People are agitating. A woman coming to her home in the evening after doing the jobs of a labourer expects pulses, rice, flour, sugar, tea-leaves, milk

etc. at a fair price at a provision store. She is not concerned about the revenue earned by the Government or inflation; she is concerned only about two square meals. But she is not getting that as the prices of everything have sky-rocketed. It has become an uphill task for a house-wife to arrange two square meals for her family. The Government have failed to control inflation and it has failed on all fronts. It is the same Congress, which was defeated in the elections and thrown out of power because it failed to check the price of onions. Today, everything including sugar, oil, tea and grains has become dearer but the Government has no shame and it is not trying to check it. *...(Interruptions)*

We are lagging behind in sports also. The schools should be provided adequate funds so that the children can excel in sports from childhood itself. They should be provided facilities at the villages level so that they can be prepared to compete at national level.

More funds should have been allocated under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. But it was not done. There are only 7 IITs in the country and no mention has been made about opening more IITs. So far as Employment Guarantee Scheme is concerned, the number of districts has been increased from 200 to 330, but funds have been hiked only by Rs. 700 crore, which is quite inadequate. How the scheme can be implemented successfully with this fund. I am happy that Madhya Pradesh has emerged first in implementation of Employment Guarantee Scheme. All centrally sponsored schemes are successfully implemented. But, as far as allocation of funds to Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the State is meted out step motherly treatment. *...(Interruptions)*

A proposal to open six more AIIMS was approved in 2003-04. The foundation stone for these hospitals was laid by the former Prime Minister. But Budget has no mention of said hospitals. Three years have gone by, but not a single AIIMS has been opened. We talk of development, but if we look at the official figures regarding the state of health services, our head bows down in shame. The cases of anaemia amongst women have increased by 5 per cent. As per report of UNICEF, 45 per cent of child population is suffering from malnutrition, which reflects horrifying state of health of our children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, you may place your speech on the table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Budget is not meant for poor people, the rural ones. It is just to please a handful of industrialists and large corporate houses. I oppose it and I urge the Government to come out with a pro-poor and rural oriented Budget. Majority of our population is poor and stay in villages.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma—not present.

Chaudhary Lal Singh; please help me in concluding the discussion.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I always help you because you are a very nice leader.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this budget. I would like to put forth some suggestions on the budget. The near rhetoric about the growth rate cannot satiate the hunger of commonman and merely flouting it, is not going to help. I would like to point out that the prices of essential commodities like flour, rice, pulses etc. cannot be lowered by merely propagating the growth rate. The Government should pay attention towards this issue. My suggestion in this regard is that the vanished Acts and Bills against the black marketeers are required to be reorganized. An act should be enacted to put a ceiling on the stock to be kept in godowns. Only then the price rise can be controlled.

At present the rich are becoming richer and the poor is becoming poorer. He is talking about privatization. I would like to explain the things in two seconds only. Take the example of Reliance and Airtel. Initially when Airtel had introduced the mobile, the call rate was between Rs. 16—Rs. 36. Had BSNL and MTNL not entered the market, the present call rate would not have been 0.50 paise to Rs 1. Therefore, please do not pamper them. Now these business houses are entering politics through Rajya Sabha or Legislative Council. My submission is that there shall be no harm when people who are close to reality are involved in politics but the entry of high level people will harm politics. India should be viewed from one of the perspective countries of third world. Today no politician come forward to advise us. Rice is being procured today. Pepsi which failed in other countries

operated successfully in our country. Now that company is going to fail here also. This company has acquired thousands of acres of land for its use. Restrictions like Land Ceiling Act etc. are imposed whenever a farmer purchases a land, however, no such issue is raised when a capitalist purchases a land in the name of setting up of an industry. He uses that land for the cultivation of Mosambies and California's oranges. But our farmer can neither purchase land nor can cultivate oranges. I would like to state that the law is not for the exploitation of agriculturist. Now big business houses are spreading their hands in the field of procurement. Therefore, the Government should take steps to remove the lacune in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, please take note of the education sector. There should be a uniform education system in our country i.e. all the children whether belonging to lower strata or upper strata should be imparted the same kind of education. It should happen rather globally. Four types of education systems are prevailing in our country. In such a scenario, what is the future of our children. The Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Members of Legislative Councils, Members of Rajya Sabha, bureaucrats, IAS/IPS, teachers etc. should send their children to government schools. Otherwise, we cannot do justice with poor people. Affluent people send their children to prestigious private schools but the children of commonman take education in the schools where only one teacher is deployed and classes are upto fifth standard. Infrastructure is not upto the mark in these schools. The country cannot progress with such schools. The same teacher will impart education to class five, class three and class one. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding. Similarly the situation in health sector is pathetic in this country. In Government hospitals, instruments often remain out of order whereas private hospitals offer best medical facilities. Doctors in government hospitals generally do private practice also. They often advise the patient to get the tests done from a particular laboratory.

17.00 hrs.

Doctors get commission for recommending these tests. In many cases the doctors suggest costly treatments like heart surgery etc. and earn commission.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lal Singh, please conclude now. You may lay rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Just give me two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I cannot do that.

Now, Shri Ram Das Athawale : not present.

Shri Manjunath Kunnur.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, please listen to my final submission. I would like to state that when instead of persons having knowledge of ground realities, high level persons will enter politics. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

"I support the budget but I will give some suggestions for the betterment of the people of my country.

No doubt Finance Minister given some solutions for the higher growth rate of our country and sorry to point out that the budget does not provide adequate avenues for food and agriculture to the 'AAM AADMI'. I failed to understand how a common man could mitigate his hunger if the prices of essential commodities like Rice, Atta, and Pulses are skyrocketing. It is unfortunate that no worthwhile measures seems to have been contemplated to check black marketeering and other anti social acts. What is the use of having a budget by which we do not can a square meal to a common man nor can we provide employment to the youth? I feel that we should be firmer in controlling black marketers. I am sorry to point out at present the richer is becoming richer and the poorer is becoming poor. No body gives a thought to these sad plights.

I feel the budget seems to encourage the privatization, I think by privatization only rich and affluent and businessmen are benefited. There are some businessmen/Business houses like Reliance, Tata etc. who

"....." This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

enter in politics through backdoor to State/Central legislative assemblies and influence the decision making process. It is because of their interferences that people friendly decisions are replaced with such decisions that bring monetary gains to big business houses. They have been able to spread their hands in all important fields of communication, education, and health care etc. to name a few.

I am constrained to ask why are we not able to bring an Act/Bill to clip the wings of MNC's. Pepsi and coca-cola's operate freely in our country to mint millions and they don't care whether their products are furious and a health, hazard. Why don't we encourage our villagers to grow oranges, Kinus, Mosambies and other seasonal fruits, which are not only hygienic but, gave health impetus. A lot of fertile lands in our—villages are lying barren. Why can't we educate our villagers about the various schemes of the government which enables to get easy and affordable loans for irrigations/cultivations and other farming purposes.

At present many villagers are duped by some unscrupulous politicians and leaders who eat away a sizable part of the money meant for the villagers.

Now some of our countries big business houses like reliance etc. are in a procurement mode. They are procuring wheat, rice and other food items from the agriculturists. Are they really doing so for the betterment of our agriculturists? Or do they have other intentions of filling their own pockets. I have my doubt that the recent decision of the government to fix the procurement rate of wheat at Rs. 7.50/quintal has been under pressure from these business houses.

I still cannot understand why are we encouraging private business firms in the communication field? Everybody knows that the govt. owned BSNL and MTNL are doing a wonderful job. What was the necessity of bringing in the Airtel, Reliance, Hutch, and Tata when our own govt. owned organizations are doing & good job? A case in point that when Airtel/Hutch etc. entered the field of mobile phone connectivity, they levied around Rs. 7/can.

However when our own govt. owners MTNL and BSNL came into the field, they made the call possible with several times lower the rates charged by those big business houses.

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

Sir I am sorry to point out the present trend of commercialization of education in our country. 5 star luxury cultures are spreading in our education field. Even the peoples representatives MLA's, MP's, are sending their children to such 5 star education institutions. The exorbitant fees structure of the school/colleges prohibit the common man in venturing to send their wards to such schools but satisfying by sending their children to govt. run schools.

Sir I feel that we MP's and MLA's and all the high ranking bureaucrats of IAS/IPS etc. should set an example by sending our children to govt. owned institutions. It should be our endeavor to enhance the standard of coaching in such schools and colleges.

The health cares provided to our govt. hospitals are most pathetic ones. Either there is dearth of doctor's, specialists or nursing staff or there is dearth of adequate life saving medicines.

The common men are put to untold miseries owing to this sad state of affairs in our hospitals. The common men are perforce to go to reputed hospitals that charge formidable fees.

To save their dears and nears they people sometimes had to mortgage their land and other valuables to afford treatments in such 5-star hospitals.

The administration in our govt. hospitals is haphazard. Regarding the cleanliness the less said the better. No equipment to carry out various tests and diagnose the disease. The attitude of the available doctors are most unbecoming as they advice the patients to carry out the tests etc. in laboratories known to the doctors to earn a commission. One of the malpractices, often seen in hospitals is that the Doctor in govt. hospitals often refer cases of poor patients in big hospitals, obviously with an eye to earn a commission. In many cases it has been seen that in many such referred cases where costly treatments have been recommended, like Bypass surgery, Kidney transplant, Dialysis, the illness actually did not warrant such treatment but was a gimmick to fleece the poor patients of their money.

We should put a full stop to such unethical practice and where such activities are found the concerned doctors should be brought to book and taken to task.

Sir I have attempted to point out some of the maladies which if attended will bring great consolations and comfort to our people. I advocate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and all his ministerial colleagues to deal with the problems of the common people of our country with utmost care, compassion and humanity

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mr. Manjunath Kunnur.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. friend, Chaudhary Lal Singh, do not waste your energy. What you are speaking now is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Home Minister has made a *suo motu* Statement regarding Nandigram police firing incident. Our request is that he should come and make a *suo motu* statement in this regard in this House also... (Interruptions) it is a very important matter. We had also raised it in this House. Many people have been killed in Nandigram because of the police firing. ... (Interruptions) So, I shall appeal you in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, what is this? Can anybody speak anything?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What do you want?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The hon. Home Minister has made a *suo motu* statement in the Rajya Sabha regarding the Nandigram police firing incident. We want that let the hon. Home Minister come and make a *suo motu* statement in this regard in the Lok Sabha also.

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He has just made a statement in the Rajya Sabha. We will send the word to him. Let the debate continue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kunnur. You have to conclude within two-three minutes. The time allotted to your party is already over. Rather, time allotted to each party is over and there is no time left for anybody. Just because Members require to sit here for hours for the simple reason to get the opportunity. I am giving you the opportunity but you should not exceed the limit. We are having the debate on the General Budget for the last two days, and we have been sitting late also. But always bear in mind that we are here to accommodate you.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am immensely thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the debate on the General Budget for the year 2007-08.

The Budget is sugarcoated and it is fake and unhelpful to consolidate the fiscal position of the country. It speaks of good intentions but actually not for the poor. It does not seem to help the weak and the downtrodden of the country.

Though I fully endorse the efforts taken by the Government by giving higher allocation on agriculture and education, I would like to quote an English, who said: "Words are easy like the wind but faithful friends are hard to find." I hope, this would clearly give the real picture of the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram.

Many schemes are proposed by the Centre but the States find it difficult to implement them due to various reasons. The Central Government should ensure that the State Governments implement the scheme in true spirit. Unless there is a monitoring mechanism on the scheme relating to agricultural credit, irrigation and rural infrastructure, restoring water bodies, water harvesting, flood control, it would be like "A confused ruler, a chaotic state".

I hope that the Finance Minister would initiate proper steps in this direction. In this country, 70 per cent of the people depend on agriculture sector. They are not only the farmers but also the labourers in the rural areas. I

hope the Government would give due respect to the unorganized sector too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place it on the Table.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: The farmers do not get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. That is why, the plight of the farmers is miserable. I would request the Government to increase the allocation made for agricultural insurance scheme. They have only allotted Rs. 500 crore. So, this should be increased. They have also imposed stringent conditions to get the agricultural crop insurance amount. For example, they want three years yield to pay the insurance to the farmers. But it is very difficult for the farmers to get this. Therefore, simple method should be introduced to get crop insurance for the farmers. This is most important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You lay it on the Table.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Sir, the hon. Minister is here. Also, regarding export duty on iron ore, previously in none of the years, export duty of Rs. 300 per metric tonne was imposed on iron ore. But this year only, they have imposed Rs. 300 per metric tonne on iron ore. In this sector, the majority of the iron ore that is produced is fine product which has hardly any market in the domestic industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even then you do not realize the position.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: This imposition of tax is going to hit the export of iron ore badly, and exports are likely to fall by 50 to 60 per cent from this area. This would lead to serious employment issues. Today, a couple of lakh of people are directly or indirectly depend on this industry in this drought-affected area. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the export duty on iron ore also.

I will speak now only about the MPLAD scheme. I will lay the rest of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You lay it.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: In this connection, I am very much humiliated. I would request the Government to increase the MPLAD fund to the tune of Rs. 5 crore.

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

Otherwise, they must withdraw the MPLAD scheme in this present Budget itself. It is because in my parliamentary constituency, there are eight Assembly constituencies and 1,200 villages are there. Everybody from our constituency is coming and asking for fund. People are coming in groups and by vehicle. They are wasting our time also. Therefore, we are not able to provide to all of them. At present, Rs. 2 crore is given. It is like you have given me two *rotis* and you are asking me to feed nine people, that is, nine Assembly constituencies are there. In Karnataka State, for each Assembly constituency, they have given Rs. 1 crore whereas for our entire parliamentary constituency, Rs. 2 crore will not be sufficient. Either they must increase the amount to Rs. 5 crore or they must remove it immediately.

"Sir, I may please be permitted to lay pages 1 to 13 of my speech on General Budget.

Many schemes were proposed by the Centre but the States find it difficult to implement it due to various reasons. Central Government should ensure that the State Governments implement the schemes in true spirit, unless there is a proper monitoring mechanism on the schemes relating to agricultural credit, irrigation and rural infrastructure, restoring water bodies, water harvesting, flood control, it would like *Andheri Nagari, Chowpat Raja*. The hope, the finance Minister would initiate proper steps in this direction.

70 per cent of the people depend on agriculture sector, but only the farmers but also the labourers in rural areas. I hope the Government would give due respect to the unorganised sector too. There is no mention of allocation for the development of drip irrigation.

Decades back, Shri K.L. Rao made a suggestion for the rivers. But the same is yet to take shape. I would request the Government for the linking of Ganga and Cauveri rivers. Why not we find a permanent and lasting solution for this perennial tragedy of facing droughts, cyclones and floods almost every year? We spend huge amounts for droughts, cyclones and flood victims. Why not invest huge money for linking of rivers, and implement it on a war footing? I hope the Government would entrust itself with this task of not only linking of rivers with new vigour and take steps to start the implementation of linking of rivers but also construct dams and canals in the country.

*.....*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to talk about my parliamentary constituency. Haveri district is the most backward area in Karnataka State. Now, the Government has taken the initiative to implement the Upper Tunga project, without the construction of Malt reservoir. Hence, I would suggest the Government to consider my request for the construction Malti dam in Malti river at Tirtahilli village in Shimoga district before they implement the Upper Tunga project.

I would also request the Central Government to set up one of the major industries in Haveri district, which is the most backward area in Karnataka to eradicate unemployment and to make constructive improvement in the lives of the people of my parliamentary constituency.

Another startling fact is that there is a Minimum Support Price for every product but not for chilli. Why is it so? I would request the Government to think over it and fix a Minimum Support Price for chilli?

Another interesting fact is that a very good variety of chilli is grown at Byadagi, Karnataka. It is considered as one of the best varieties and best quality in the international market. But no proper marketing facilities are available to get good price for the farmers who toil in the farm. The Standing Committee on Commerce headed by Shri Murl Manohar Joshi has submitted a Report to Parliament highlighting the fact that Byadagi chilli of Karnataka and the Guntur chilli in Andhra Pradesh are the two best chillies for export in the international market. Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government would take initiative with the Agriculture Ministry to establish Agro Export Zones (AEZ) in Byadagi in Karnataka and in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

In Karnataka, we are also growing maize crop in abundance in Haveri district. We are even transport this maize crop to other adjoining States and in various parts of the country. In fact, we are the number one State in the country in producing maize. But the maize oil factories for maize oil, starch, glucose and some other related products are set up in Sangli and Yeshwantpur in Maharashtra and in Ahmedabad in Gujarat where maize is not even grown. This wrong should be set right by establishing maize factories in Haveri district in Karnataka.

Another important point I wish to highlight is that we are also growing cotton in our area. Hence, I would request the Government to establish garments factory in

our area without any further delay. I would also request the Government to establish a Textile Park, Food Park in Haveri district taking into consideration the immense potential available in Haveri district of Karnataka. This aspect has been brought out by me a number of times both inside this august House and outside.

I fully appreciate and endorse the initiative of the UPA Government which has proposed to make a special grant of Rs. 100 crore to recognise excellence and has selected the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore which would be given Rs. 50 crore. At the same time, I would like to request the Government to allocate Rs. 100 crore for the develop of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, which is one of the premier institutions. There is also KIMS Hospital,

Karnataka Medical College in Hubli, which was established long ago and which is located in the heart of Karnataka and this institution is considered as a pioneer institution but medical facilities are not available in Hubli city and people in the city have to go to other cities like Bangalore and other metros. Hubli-Dharwad is considered as the second largest city in the northern part of Karnataka. Hence, I would request the Government to allocate a sum of Rs.100 crore for the development of infrastructure in the said institution.

Sir, there is a rapid demand for the development of cold storage facilities. The scheme of Grameen Bhandara Yojana may please be extended to set up cold storage and godown facility in Haveri district of Karnataka to help the farmers. It is needless to say that it is very essential for the farmers to keep their agricultural produce in cold storage. In this connection, I would request the Centre to provide more funds to the State for the implementation of Grameen Bhandara Yojana keeping in view the huge loss due to non-availability of cold storage facilities.

The other aspect I would like to touch is that agricultural produced has a very limited retentive capacity. If not taken preventive steps, it would get damaged or destroy. In fact, if we provide cold storage facilities to our farmers, agriculture would flourish. But the bitter truth is that these industries are in a very bad stage. If we fail to modernise it, we would lose heavily. Hence, I would request the Government to take steps to set up food-processing industry on a large scale as the private sector is not interested in investing in this processing industry with the result agriculture is suffering.

I would like to state here what Dr. Swaminathan has once said. He suggested that in every district a food bank should be established. If this genuine and same suggestion is accepted by the Government at the Centre, we would not see malnourished children and other ills surrounding the country. I hope the Government would agree that it is not too late to think over this suggestions and take effective steps to implement setting up of food bank in every district.

I would like to lay stress on the fertility of the land. In fact, the Government should take extra efforts to protect and preserve the fertility of the land, for which water is very essential. If we use water in a frugal manner, we can make use of water for better purposes like protecting and preserving the fertility of the land. I hope the Government would initiate efforts in this direction by improving the fertility of the land and thereby bringing in more land for cultivation which would indirectly help more agricultural production to feed the growing population.

The current stage of sugar industry is very bad. The Government should not allow it suffer like the other industries for example, textile and jute. In my constituency, no special package has been given to the sugar industry though there are many sugar industries. Sangur Sugar Factory, Haveri, Karnataka is in a very bad state. This year, farmers have grown 3 lakh tonnes of sugarcane, but the said factory has been taken over on lease basis for 3 years by Renuka Sugars, Belgaum District of Karnataka, which has started to crush the sugarcane from January, 2007 onwards but they have crushed only 1 lakh tonne out of 3 lakh tonnes due to time factor. It did not keep its promise as per the agreement entered into. In fact, Renuka Sugars have to pay Rs. 3 crores to the factory for the second year and in the first year, Rs. 1 crore. Breach of contract has taken place with the result they have not even paid the laries to the employees. It has become very difficult for the farmers in my constituency. It is unprecedented as the entire farming community in my Constituency has been affected. Hence, I would like to sincerely request the Central Government to Interfere and some immediate action should be taken against Renuka Sugars immediately so as to help the farmers of Sangur Sugar Factory Haveri, District, Karnataka.

Now, I come to Budget Estimates for 2007-08. The Plan expenditure for 2007-08 is Rs. 205,100 crore whereas the Non-Plan expenditure for the corresponding

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

year has increased by only 6.5 per cent. The revenue deficit is estimated at Rs. 71,478 crore.

Now, I would like to highlight the importance of upgradation of IITs. I heartily welcome the effort of the UPA Government to upgrade 500 IITs over the next five years. I wholeheartedly welcome this attempt. I would like to request the Government to start an ITI in Hubli-Dharwad area as it is the most backward area of the State of Karnataka. I hope the hon. Minister would consider my genuine request for the benefit of the poor people in my parliamentary constituency.

I would also like to appreciate the Government effort to launch an ambitious programme for e-governance. I hope it would be extended throughout the length and breadth of the country which would make people in the rural areas computer savvy.

About the National Highways, I would like to stress on 4 lane road in kms.280-404 on NH-4 under the Golden Quadrilateral Project between Hubli-Harihar, which is still pending. The work so far executed in of very bad quality. Safety measures have not been taken in to account. In fact, this process should have been completed in 2003 but it is yet to see the light of the day. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that this all import project is completed at the earliest with the stress on the quality of the road.

The MPLAD Scheme has been serving the constituencies of the Members. But it has been realised of late that the fund amount is not sufficient to cater to the growing needs of the constituency, particularly when the constituencies are very large.

In fact, in Karnataka State, a sum of Rs. 1 crore is allocated to each Assembly constituency per year by the State Government. By that standards, a Parliamentary constituency should have been allocated more money per year because each Parliamentary constituency consist of 8 Assembly constituencies. There are 1200 villages on my parliamentary Constituency.

Allocation is Rs. 2 crore is not sufficient by any standards as there are a minimum of 20 to 25 towns in each parliamentary constituency and we have to allocated a minimum of Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakhs to each town. Hence, I would request the Government to enhance the MPLAD Fund to Rs. 5 crore per year keeping in view the

ever growing needs of the people of the parliamentary constituencies on the other hand I would take to request the Hon'ble Govt. to withdraw the MPLAD Scheme.

This is not the view of me. This is in fact the view of majority of hon. Members in the House. Hon. MPs were disheartened with the present MPLAD Fund. We have in real sense became unpopular with the people in the parliamentary constituencies. I found out this when we entered into an indepth and extended interaction with my colleagues.

I hope the hon. Finance Minister would think about this with the seriousness it deserves and enhance the MPLAD Fund by Rs. 5 crore per year so that hon. MPs would take care of their constituencies in a better fashion otherwise the MPLAD scheme my please be dropped in the present Budget itself.

I welcome the proposal of the Government to construct the 6-lane road project. It is the step in the right direction as we can see the growing traffic requirements in various parts of the country. I would at the same time urge to initiate steps to expedite the above mentioned NH-4 project in Karnataka under Golden Quadrilateral project with due importance to quality and the safety aspects. I hope the Government would consider this request of mine and take steps in this regard.

The Swaminathan Committee has recommended to the Government to provide 4 per cent credit loan to the agriculturists, which the consecutive Governments at the Centre have not implemented. I would earnestly request the Government to reduce the present 7 per cent rate of interest on loans given to farmers to 4 per cent with immediate effect so that farmers could reap the benefits.

The farmers do not get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. That is copy the plight of the farmers is so miserable.

I would request the Govt. to increase the allocation made for Agricultural insurance scheme. The AIC has laid (Agricultural Insurance company) stringent conditions to get crop insurance like 3 years average yield by crop cutting experiment and hobble as a creat etc. AIC should impose easy method to get crop insurance.

Export duty on Iron ore, Govt. has imposed duty of Rs. 300/- per M.T. on Iron ore is unscientific and baseless.

Majority of the Ore that is produced is fine which has hardly as market in the domestic industry. This imposition of tax is going to bit the exports of Iron Ore very badly and exports are likely to fall by 50% to 60% from this area. This would lead to serious employment issues where today couple of lakh people are directly and indirectly dependence — on this drought area. Therefore I urge upon the Govt. to withdraw the Export duty on Iron Ore.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: His speech would not be recorded. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you must please realize - at least some of you—that I am here till about 9 o' clock everyday simply because to accommodate our hon. friends. Everyday I am here till about 10 o' clock or 11 o' clock in the night to accommodate hon. Members to speak. The time allotted to the parties is over. You must realize the position.

Shri P. Ravindran to speak now.

[Translation]

**SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI (Godhara): Sir, I rise to oppose the budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister. This budget is not in the interest of the people living below the poverty line. The number of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and small farmers is very high in my Parliamentary Constituency Godhara in Gujarat. I would like to put forth my suggestions in respect of agriculture. Agriculture GDP is more than 2% which includes growth of livestock also. I think the growth of livestock is more than 4%. That is why agriculture GDP has risen more than 2%. It is because of the functioning of the UPA Government and the budget that the agriculture GDP has fallen and in my view if the Government continues to work like this, it would lead to rise in the number of incidents of suicides by the farmers.

I would like to draw your attention to the Panchmahal District Co-operative Bank which has ceased functioning due to a ban put by RBI since 2003. The operational

area of this bank was spread up to two districts of Gujarat—Panchmahal and Dahod. Loan of more than Rs. 200 crore was granted to the farmers of both the districts when the bank was in operation. I have written several letters requesting to revive this bank during the past three years but no action has been taken in this regard so far. Hon'ble Minister of Finance had constituted the Vaidyanathan Committee which has already submitted its report. And the State Government of Gujarat has issued M.O.U. also in this regard. My submission is that 56% farmers of both these districts are tribals. They used to take loan from this bank before 2003. It is entirely a forest area. Therefore, I request that the scheme being formulated to compensate the losses suffered by the cooperative bank of tribal and hill areas of Sikkim, may also be adopted for the revival of Panchmahal District Cooperative Bank Limited, Godhra, so that the tribals, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and small farmers of the area could get loan easily and they could be saved from committing suicide.

In the previous budget the rate of interest on agriculture loan was fixed at 27%. The growth of livestock is added to determine agricultural GDP but the rate of interest on the loans granted to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, people living below poverty line and the small farmers is very high.

I have also written a letter to the hon. Minister in this regard and through the House I would like to once again request him that the rate of interest of loans provided by the banks for purchasing milch animals should be kept 7 per cent as is the rate of interest for crop loans.

The hon. Minister has increased the amount of crop loan to farmers in the Budget, however, I would like to request him that he should instruct the nationalised banks to provide easy loans to farmers and to provide loans to landless and marginal farmers because presently they provide loans only to those farmers whose bank deposits are with the banks.

In his Budget speech he has said about the construction of two road cum railway bridges,, one over Ganga in Munger, Bihar and another over Brahmaputra in Assam under a national project and I welcome this proposal. However, for so many years, it is being demanded to make the Sardar Sarovar Dam a national

*Not recorded

**The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Bhupendra Singh Solanki]

project. Hon. Minister may be reminded that Sardar Sarovar Dam under the Narmada Project in Gujarat will provide irrigation facility to lakhs of acres of land and Rajasthan will also be benefited by this project. Similarly, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan along with Gujarat will be benefited by the power generated under this project. I would like to request that this project should also be declared a national project.

The hon. Minister in his Budget speech has proposed to increase the fund allocated for Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana from Rs. 3000 crore to Rs. 4000 crore. This project had been implemented in my district Panch Mahal, Gujarat. However, even after getting approval two years back till now no work is being done. I would like to request the Government of India to expedite the implementation of the project and the work should be completed at the earliest.

With these suggestions, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

*SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Hon. Chairman Sir, the Budget seems to favour the corporate giants. Unemployment is the biggest problem facing our country. There are no specific guidelines to tackle the problem of unemployment in this Budget. Merely by implementing a few policies this problem will not be solved. The economic survey report, says that the total number of job opportunities that existed in 2004-2005 has been reduced this year. This reduction in job opportunities is true of both the private and the public sector. Therefore you need policies to generate job opportunities.

Many employees will lose their means of earning in my home state Kerala.

This is due to the increase of tax in the Bidi industry. Unless the tax is reduced, it will affect the means of livelihood of millions of poor employed in this sector.

Sir, majority of our youth power in Kerala are employed abroad in Gulf and other countries. When these men return home after earning NRI remittance for our economy, the Government ought to give them social security. A hardship they are now facing is the steep

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

increase in flight charges. Both Indian airlines and Air India have hiked flight charges and in this way they are harming those needy and not so affluent who go abroad to earn a livelihood.

Similarly, the decision to reduce the import duty of all edible oil is going to destroy our coconut farmers. This will affect all coconut growing states badly.

Sir, Kerala is a state that has an enviable record for producing nationally and internationally known athletes and sportsmen. But there is no provision in the Budget to upgrade sports facilities and infrastructure.

The Vishingam Harbor Project is a very important project on which the future development of Kerala depends. Sir, it is essential that Kerala gets Central Government help for Vishingam Project. I request the Finance Minister to help Kerala in this project.

Though Kerala is a small state, we are witnessing an economic growth spurt. Industrial sector and traditional industries in Kerala should get all central help. I request you that this Budget should include financial help for all such deserving projects.

[English]

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (Tenali): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the opportunity given to me.

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government for presenting the Budget for 2007-2008 for the *Aam Aadmi*. A new focus has been laid on agriculture with the increase in the allocation for agricultural sector. In the Union Budget 2007-2008, the hon. Minister of Finance has increased the spending on key growth areas/sectors, while slashing taxes on key commodities to fight inflation. At the same time, he has also introduced measures for the benefit of rural poor.

This Budget does not display inflationary tendencies. The fiscal deficit is very much under control and our hon. Minister of Finance needs to be commended for this. The UPA Government needs to be complimented for allocating large allocations for agriculture, education, health, physically handicapped sector, minorities and especially students from the weaker sections who drop out of school after eighth standard.

The new scheme 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' would provide death-cum-disability insurance through LIC to landless rural households. It is undoubtedly a very welcome measure. Another welcome measure is the opening of more regional rural bank branches with 80 uncovered districts.

More money has been earmarked for minorities for pre-matric, post-matric and graduate level scholarships and a sum of Rs. 91 crore has been allocated for the OBCs for post-matric scholarships.

The allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme has been increased by 35 per cent to Rs. 23,142 crore. The allocation for health sector has been increased by 22 per cent. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been extended from 200 districts to 330 districts. Senior citizens get the tax relief to the tune of Rs. 2,000. The exemption for small-scale business has been raised from Rs. one crore to Rs. 1.5 crore.

Another very important aspect is that a number of representatives of iron ore mine owners and exporters have brought to my notice that in the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on 28th February, 2007, the Government has imposed an excise duty on iron ores of all sorts and concentrates at the rate of Rs. 300 per metric tonne. He has mentioned in his Budget Speech that the Hoda Committee has recommended export duty on iron ore. But I would like to inform the august House that the Hoda Committee has recommended export duty only for high grade iron ore, that is, above 65 per cent ferrous content lumps only. ... *(Interruptions)* The other fact is that below 64 per cent ferrous grade iron ore is not at all used by the domestic steel industry. Three years back, low grade iron ore of below 60 per cent ferrous, which was dumped in huge quantities in mines and all major steel plants like that of SAIL and Tata, has created serious environmental problems and pollution. Fortunately, Chinese steel mills have started taking this waste material to blend with high grade cargo from Brazil and Australia. If this duty is imposed, then the entire low grade iron ore exports will become unviable. When the process has created a huge employment potential, has given boost to infrastructure in ports and railways, has been earning considerable foreign exchange, and, above all, giving employment to millions of people, the hon. Finance Minister should rethink on export duty levied on iron ore of less than 64 per cent ferrous content,

keeping in view the plight of a large number of mine owners and exporters. ... *(Interruptions)* In fact, I have written a letter on 1st March, 2007 itself to the hon. Finance Minister when this matter was brought before me by the representatives of mine owners and exporters highlighting the fact that the cost of low grade iron ore (below 60 per cent ferrous content) is below Rs. 300 per MT.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: My dear friend, you need not read the whole thing. You can lay the remaining portion of your speech. You are a very responsible person. Why do you not realise it?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Party people like you know it that he can very well place it on the Table. There is no need of reading everything. Every day, we are sitting here till 9.00 p.m.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House a very important issue of a Maritime University. I would request that it should be made in Andhra Pradesh because Andhra Pradesh has been the centre for maritime related institute and services more than any other State. Andhra Pradesh has 12 ports and 980 kilometres of coastal area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not realise the difficulty. It is for you. You are from the Ruling Party. You must realise the difficulty. I can understand if it is done by the Opposition, but not from you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for you that we are here. You do not realise it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: I would like to mention various institutes of maritime which are based at Vizag in Andhra Pradesh. These are Dredging Corporation of India, Eastern Command of Navy, Hindustan Shipyard, National Navy Design and Research Institute, National Oceanography Centre and so many other institutes. ... *(Interruptions)* Since 1968 Andhra University is having a Marine Engineering Course and this University has produced hundreds of marine engineers for the country. Apart from all these facilities, Andhra Pradesh Government has agreed to provide land facility for a Maritime University in Andhra Pradesh. In these circumstances, I would request that it should be established in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni]

"I would like to highlight a few aspects on agriculture.

After the assumption of power by the UPA Government in 2004, when the interest rate for agricultural loans given to the farmers was 11%, the Government was kind enough to reduce the interest rate on agricultural loans to 7% keeping in view the hardships undergone by the farming community. I would now like to request the UPA Government to reduce this rate of interest of 7% further to 4%, keeping in view the recommendation made by the Swaminathan Committee.

Agriculture has been the bedrock of India's development. As we are all aware, it, is the farm sector that provides livelihood for 115 million families.

Climatic changes due to global warming is not a passing phenomena. We have to initiate corrective measures otherwise years of planning and reforms would not reap rich dividends. Under this backdrop, I would say that the weather insurance scheme run by Agricultural Insurance Corporation since Kharrif 2004 is a welcome measure. In this Budget, there is a commitment to rainwater harvesting in view of the reduce underground water level. 70 lakh water harvesting structures would be created on land belonging to farmers, which would make a big difference in their overall living. The Government has announced that it would provide 100% subsidy to small and marginal farmers and 50% subsidy to others. Taking into account farmer committing suicides, this is a very welcome measure.

Next, I would lay stress on public-private partnership, private investments in agricultural production, post harvest infrastructure, cold chain infrastructure and processing. World estimates indicate that 13 billion dollars of produce is lost from harvest to market and this is very high in developing countries. Though import duties on food processing machinery has been reduced from 7.5% to 5%, it is not enough to attract them in this sector.

On the credit front, the Government has stated that an addition of 50 lakh new farmers would be brought into the banking system. Here, I have a doubt that by laying emphasis on targets, I hope the emphasis would be more on ensuring new farmers are brought into the credit fold. As profitability and productivity in agriculture is falling, men are migrating to urban areas in search of

"..." This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

better alternate livelihood. Supporting private sector companies must be done cautiously, otherwise, it would lead to the exploitation of helpless farmers. Our agricultural universities and research centers have been severely suffering for want of funds and support to them would revitalize them.

Sir, I now draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister to the handloom sector, which is the second largest unorganized sector that provides the largest employment in rural India, next only to agriculture. Sir, the cluster development programme would benefit the master weaver. It is often for want of finance that the handloom workers have been falling into the trap of exploitation of the master weaver. If he has the access to institutionalized credit at low rate of interest, on par with agriculture, if not 4%, then he could save his skin to some extent. Institutionalized banks refuse to forward him credit treating him as a bad repayer as a result of which he knocks at the door of private moneylenders. That ultimately leads to his suicide. Therefore, I would like to urge the Finance Minister to make credit available to the handloom workers at lower rates of interest.

Turning to the important and vital area—rural development "repeating the words of Mahatma Gandhi, that India lives in its villages, I would like our honourable Finance Minister to realize that India which enjoys a 9% plus growth rate also has a poor cousin 'Bharat', where 60% of our population live.

The dual taxation on cement is definitely going to hit our rural housing programmes like IAY and other housing schemes very hard. The unit cost per house still is Rs. 25,000/- for IAY and Rs. 35,000/- for the house cum work shed scheme for the handloom weaver. The steep rise in the cement and steel no more makes the house a reality and leaves it a distant dream for the poor. Thus, there is urgent need to increase the allocation for the housing schemes too. If my fears come true, this may also lead to black-marketing of cement. Therefore, I would like to sincerely request the Finance Minister and the UPA Government to kindly take into consideration the above mentioned concerns and redress the grievances for the larger benefit of agricultural and handloom sectors.

With these words, I conclude my speech by once again extending my support to the General Budget which had completely taken *Aam Aadmi* into account. I thank you, Sir, giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget for 2007-08."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can understand an Opposition Member reading it, but you have read from A to Z. No harm will be caused after reading a portion of your speech, if you lay it on the Table. You are not bound to read the whole thing. You read the important portion and place it on the Table so that much of the time can be saved. The meeting of the House is a very costly affair. The money of the Exchequer is being wasted on this prolonged business. We can do it within a short time, if you co-operate. Laying the speech is as good as reading it. If people like us do not realise it, if you do not realise it, then who else will realise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Chairman, Sir. hon. Minister of Home Affairs will be coming here to make a statement. He is away. He had left the House. So, we have called him. He is on his way. Within 15 minutes, he will be here. Till that time, let the House go on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Now, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav will speak. Your party's time is over, but I am giving this chance as a matter of concession. So, please be brief. You cannot speak as long as you like.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, thank you very much. It is so kind of you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the General Budget, 2007-2008. I feel that the common people are enraged at the unexpected price rise. Several hon. Members have expressed their concern regarding the increasing price rise. I would once again like to submit that India is a country of poor people, farmers and labourers. I feel that it is on account of price rise that all the sections of society are annoyed. The hon. Minister of Finance is an able economist, learned and experienced person, however, I fail to understand the reason why despite all efforts, he is not able to check and control the price rise. I feel that there is anxiety and annoyance among people. If the price rise is not controlled in the coming days it will not be a good sign for those in power. So, we should ponder over all these things and pay attention towards finding out its solution.

Ours is a country of farmers, however, the farmers are not getting the assistance that they deserve. There is nothing new in it. Sixty years have elapsed since independence and during all these years 70-75 per cent population engaged in agricultural activities depend on it for their livelihood. Probably the Government have not paid attention towards the assistance that should have been provided to them and it is on account of this that agricultural productivity has declined. Today the farmers and other people engaged in agriculture are disappointed and leaving their profession. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Finance that he should take some concrete steps in this direction. Farmers engaged in cultivation are not getting the remunerative prices of their agricultural produces. They are forced to sale their produce at throw away price and it is on account of this that a large number of farmers in several States of the country are committing suicide.

I feel that when UPA Government was formed the people had much expectations from the Government. It is certain that the people had rejected the previous NDA Government and had given us a chance to form the Government with much expectations. But probably we are not performing as per their expectations. It is a matter of concern.

I would like to draw your attention to the irrigation. The farmers of the country depend on their agricultural fields. There are various sectors of production in the country like industry and at several places petrol and diesel are required. The hon. Prime Minister has expressed his concern and hope that production will be increased. But how this hope will be fulfilled? Only 40 per cent of the total agricultural area in our country is irrigated and in my State, Bihar cultivable irrigated area is only 20 per cent. The agricultural infrastructures of the country like major and minor canals which were built during the British period are in a dilapidated condition. We have not paid our attention in that direction. Our agricultural production capacity depends on irrigation. For irrigation water is more important than diesel and petrol. It is the vision of our hon. Prime Minister that our production capacity will enhance and if water becomes easily available for irrigation, I feel that production capacity will increase. If steps are not taken to enhance irrigation capacity and attention is not paid towards irrigation how can we enhance production capacity? It is on account of natural calamities that for the last few years sometimes there is flood and sometimes there is drought like

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

situation. There are nearly 16 such districts in Bihar which come under the grip of drought and nearly 20 districts are affected by flood. Bihar is affected by both drought and flood. The condition there is deteriorating. In the event of flood infrastructure worth crores of rupees are damaged. It was being expected from the hon. Minister of Finance that he would provide special component for Bihar. I accept that in comparison to the previous Government the present Government have paid attention towards Bihar and have certainly allocated funds for various projects. However, after reorganisation of Jharkhand the condition of Bihar has deteriorated. Apart from this it is also on account of the condition of North-Eastern areas that its condition has deteriorated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission. I would like to present some figures regarding the per capita income. I would like to inform the House about the condition of the people of Bihar. The per capita income of Bihar is very low. In Bihar, it is only Rs. 6015 while in Punjab it is Rs. 25,855. In Maharashtra it is 26,386, in West Bengal Rs. 18,775, in Orissa Rs. 10,340 and in Assam it is Rs. 11,775. It is a matter of concern that the per capita income of Bihar is even lower than Assam and Orissa. We all know that the condition of Bihar and Assam is not good. However, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Finance that he has disappointed us. The previous NDA Government had committed that it would give special component to Bihar after creation of Jharkhand. However that remained only assurance and it was not translated into reality. It was expected from the present Government that it would certainly pay attention in this direction
....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My dear friend, please hear me first and then speak. Your Party had 41 minutes' time. Two hon. Members from your Party have already taken one hour and forty minutes. Remaining here for a long time will be very difficult. We can understand sitting here for some time. I will give you two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I know that the time allotted to my party is over. But unless you will provide me special favour, I will not be able to express my views in the House. It is applicable to all the parties. If you want me not to express my sentiments on such an

important issue, I am ready to sit down. Today, the future trading is being discussed a lot, on future market.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Only two minutes!

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot sit here for long. There is a limit to it. I have been sitting here for three hours. You continue now. I give you two minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Please do not interrupt me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Whenever you will order, I will sit down. I was saying that the hon'ble Minister of Finance had stated that the growth rate was around 9 per cent. But nobody is understanding the concept of growth rate. Do the common man living in villages such as the rickshaw-pullers, hawkers, tea, biscuit vendors, etc. understand the concept of growth rate. Is it affecting them? He has to ensure that the common people get benefited by the growth rate. The hon'ble Minister of Finance should not try to deceive the people with the jugglery of figures. He is requested to take concrete measures to benefit the common people.

Today, forward trading is being discussed. There are 112 items permitted to be undertaken for forward trading. Rice and wheat have been excluded from forward trading after a lot of efforts made in this regard. The hon'ble Minister has not excluded items like pulses and millets, which are among our staple diet.

He has not excluded coarse grains, which is the common man's diet, from forward trading. What is the reason for not excluding these foodgrains. The common people have become sceptical that there is definitely something wrong in it. Keeping these commodities under forward trading leads to price rise. 80-90% people of this country are having 2 to 3 acres of land. Forward trading does not mean anything to them. They earn on daily basis to feed themselves. Hence, I request that all essential commodities should be banned from being taken under forward trading. I will conclude after putting specific points. As per your order, I will conclude quickly.

Sir, I was saying that our economy has almost collapsed and not only the farmers, but also the common man is suffering. I understand that we have to find out ways to take them out of that situation. The approach of the budget, the policy of the Planning Commission in respect of the backward States need to be changed. The states which are not having any economic resources are treated at par with the prosperous States. The backward States are not allocated funds. There is a criterion for the planning that is carried out. Hence, the formulae in respect to the backward States need to be changed. The plan should be formulated on the basis of backwardness and needs, then only the backward States would be able to get some more funds; otherwise, the backward States will remain backward and the progressive States will continue to progress more. This is the reason that Bihar, Assam and Orissa are in a distressed situation. There is a large amount of black money. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, please give me two minutes. I am concluding after raising a very important issue. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister. At present, there is a huge amount of black money in our country. All legislations are here to nab the small farmers and the people belonging to the poor sections of the society as well as to those who invest in small industries and are subsequently unable to repay their loans. Banks seize their property and file cases against them, but there are big people and industrialists who avail of the loans but do not repay it and become defaulters; however, the Government and the banks reach settlement with them and write off their dues. Then again, funds are allocated to the same industrialist or his ancillary companies. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance as to how much black money is in the country and the measures taken to unearth this black money.

Today, the people like Hassan Ali are having Rs. 35,000 crore in their account. Nobody is aware of it. Why steps are not being taken to check hawala transactions etc., so that people like Hassan Ali may not surface again. Hassan Ali might not be the only such person in our country, many people like him may have been there with a fortune of Rs. 35,000 crore or so but there is nobody to check them. The Government's policy is such that taxes of persons who export their items through Mauritius are waived off.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You can place it on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is my last point. Sir, please cooperate with me!*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I am concluding my speech. I would like to submit that if we want the country and its common citizens to march ahead on the path of development, then we need to formulate a concrete policy. Otherwise, the public would not forgive us as they showed to the NDA politicians who were carrying out 'India Shinning' campaign. We have to chalk out measures to fulfill our resolve for 'Bharat Nirman'. Can we afford to build India with the people suffering from hunger and distress? If the Government are thinking that the economic condition of the country could be strengthened at the cost of the farmers and the farm labourers then it is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Unless, the common people, the farmers and the farm labourers of this country become prosperous, the country cannot make progress. For this, a policy has to be formulated which should be pro-poor and favourable for the rural areas. There is a huge amount of black money in the country which should be unearthed and used for the welfare of the common man. A firm decision has to be taken against the guilty persons, however influential he may be. Unless the Government turn the screw on the culprits, the welfare of this country will not take place. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Minister of Finance that he should be vigilant and cautious towards his duties, otherwise we will have to face the public wrath. With these few words, I conclude my speech supporting the budget.

*Not recorded.

*SHRI SARTAJ SINGH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, I will also express my views on the important issue i.e. agriculture sector on which a lot of concern has been expressed in the budget for the year 2007-08. As far as GDP growth, manufacturing growth, service sector growths are concerned, progress is satisfactory, but dissatisfactory progress in agricultural production has caused increase in inflation rate and sixty per cent population of the country dependent on agriculture is facing tough conditions. This situation is prevailing for the last several years. Agricultural production being based on monsoon remain in the state of uncertainty. To give protection against this situation, NDA government introduced the agriculture insurance scheme but the drawback was that it took block as a unit of the coverage which was changed later to Gram Panchayat. But it is not proper from justice point of view also. When insurance premium is taken on individual basis, then assessment of damage should also be made on individual basis.

To provide easy loan to farmers, Kisan Credit Card Yojana had been implemented by NDA government. This scheme needs to be extended. This is appreciable that the target to make agriculture loan double in three years, you have achieved it in two years only and in 2007-08 it will increase to Rs. 2,25,000 crore from 1,90,000 crore presently and 50 lacs more farmers will be benefitted through this. But the problem will not be solved only by increasing debt limit. Farmers are still compelled to commit suicide due to increasing burden of debt. We have to accept the fact that it is not debt which kills the farmers but it is the interest thereof that kills them. Keeping in view uncertainty of agricultural production, we cannot compare the interest of agricultural loan with other industries. Therefore, the maximum interest limit on agricultural loan should be fixed at 4 percent and loan limit should be fixed on the basis of the area of land. In China, which is an agro-based economy like us, farmers do not commit suicide there because there is only 0.54 percent interest rate on agriculture loan.

For the development of agriculture increasing the funds allotted for irrigation, road and electricity etc. is an appreciable step. A number of irrigation projects in different parts of the country are incomplete due to the shortage of funds. Therefore, priority should be given to complete these projects.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

You have mentioned about tea, coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut in plantation sector. The plantation of teak and poplar trees should also be included in this scheme. Teak and poplar trees can be easily planted on the boundaries of the fields. Jagadhari (Haryana) has become the largest timber market of Asia and largest producer of plywood only through the plantation of poplar trees in the boundaries of fields. This kind of action plan should be made for other States also.

Huge subsidy on fertilizers is given to fertilizer producing factories but farmers do not get the full benefit of it. Therefore, such schemes should be made by which farmers can get full benefit of subsidy.

Sir, not going into detail, I urge you to consider the following points:—

1. Unit for agriculture insurance should be individual.
2. Rate of interest on agriculture loan should not be more than 4 percent.
3. Priority should be accorded to complete the incomplete irrigation projects.
4. Plantation of teak and poplar trees on the boundaries of fields under the plantation programme should be done.
5. Direct benefit of fertilizer subsidy to the farmers should be ensured.

(English)

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Hon. Finance Minister has tried to touch all the important points in his Budget speech but, I regard 2007-08 Budget as a regional imbalance Budget presented in this august House. I have reasons to say so.

There are 12 Special Category States in the States. Special assistance used to be given to these States but this year not a single special assistance is being mentioned in the Budget.

I have one suggestion to make. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 2nd February 2006. If the Central Government is so desirous of developing the backward States, all the Special category States should be covered under this new scheme.

17.36 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

All the time we are talking about the North-East Development and I am happy that the Minister in-charge of DONER is here. The Finance Minister says that the allocation for this has been increased from Rs. 12,000 crore to Rs. 14,365 crore. He has also said that this includes Rs. 1,380 crore sanctioned for the North-East. In this Budget there is no mention about the NEC. Sometimes, the Minister used to sanction money but when it comes to the actual implementation, he would say that this money would go to this side or that side. What happens is, the money sanctioned for the year 2005-06 has not yet been released. This is because the DONER Ministry will invite priority list from the State Government. The State Government will submit the priority list to the DONER Ministry. The DONER Ministry will again send it to the line Ministry. Line Ministry will not clear sanction on technical grounds and it will lapse. In such a situation, I think the best thing for them would be not to speak about the development of North-East because all the schemes are only on paper and the Government is trying to fool the North-East people. If the Government is really desirous of developing the North-East, it should form one Civil Engineering Wing in the DONER Ministry. When projects come for approval, query after query is being asked but no step is taken to sanction money to North-East. If you really want to develop North-East, I would suggest that a Civil Engineering Wing be graded in the DONER Ministry which should clear all the schemes.

There is a talk about the new industrial policy in the North-East. It has been mentioned that from 31st March, 2007 the Government is going to renew the North-East Industrial Policy. The States like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram or Nagaland where there is no industry at all, where do we implement this new industrial policy. In Nagaland we have got only one sick unit, Tuli Paper Mill. The State Government and I have requested the Central Government to revive it. But the Government is not listening to us. Though the Government has taken a decision to have a new industrial policy in North-East, where do we implement it? Therefore, I would suggest the Central Government that each State should have at least one industry so that the new industrial policy can be implemented in North-East.

Where would the Government like to implement the proposed New Industrial Policy for the North-East? Do they plan to implement it in Delhi? I think this is wrong.

Sir, lastly I have one more point to make and it is about the National Highways. The North-Eastern States like Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh do not have any other means of transport other than inland roadways. Only a stretch of 400 kilometres of roads were meant to be developed during the last year. But this year there has been an enhanced allocation of Rs. 10,671 crore for development of the road sector in the North-Eastern region. We had made a request to the National Highway authorities and the Minister of Road Transport for declaring a few routes in the North-Eastern region. But that was refused. Then, where can we spend this money? We do not have any means to spend this money. The economy of our region is largely dependent on development of the road transport. This time the hon. Finance Minister has been kind enough to give us sufficient funds but in the absence of any route for development, where would we spend this money? Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to have co-relation between funds and the routes to be developed for the North-Eastern States.

17.41 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.42 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Incident of firing in Nandigram,
West Bengal on 14.3.2007**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I was told that I have to make a statement on what has happened in Nandigram in West Bengal. I did not have the notice. I was in a meeting and

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

immediately after this I have another appointment and I have to go back.

Sir, in the Rajya Sabha I was directed by the Presiding Officer in the morning that I should get the information from the State Government of West Bengal and give that information to the House. So, I spoke to the Chief Minister on telephone; the Home Secretary spoke to the Chief Secretary and the Special Secretary (Security) has been speaking to the officers over there. We have been asking them to give us the information in writing. But probably it has not been possible for the Government of West Bengal to send the information in writing to us because the things had happened in Nandigram. They are also collecting information. Some people who have been injured are in the hospital. They are collecting the information. But telephonically what they told us, I am giving that information to this House. I have not received that information in writing signed by them.

I was told that near two places in Nandigram area a large number of people had collected and they were objecting to the acquisition of agricultural land. They were also not allowing the construction of road and bridges to take place. They were obstructing the work that was going on over there. So, the workers were going to that place to construct the road and the bridges. They were also supported by the police. It seems that when they came close to each other some altercation took place and stones were thrown at each other. I was told that some also took place. Some pipe gun firing also took place. I was also told, orally of course, that something like bombs and explosives were also thrown. Then, the police in order to protect, I was told by the State, also had to resort to *lathi charge* and use tear gas shells. They fired some rubber bullets. Later on, they had to fire real bullets. In the process, in the information given to us, initially, they told us, four people had died, but the information which was sent to us was that six people had died and about 20 people were injured and the injured people have been sent to the hospital. The police is over there and they tell us that the situation there is under control. This is the only information that we have and I am sharing it with the hon. Members of this august House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): What is the

Government going to do about it because the acquisition of land is not the problem of only West Bengal? ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of India should also intervene and solve the problem.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Swain ji compete information has not yet been received. As soon as complete information is received, you may raise the issue.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We will do whatever is directed to us. We will do whatever you ask us to do. If the direction is that we should give some more details, we will come with it. What I am doing today through this statement is giving the factual information to the hon. Members. As regards the policy which has to be followed can be explained by those people who are acquiring the land and they would be responsible for making policies. Naturally, Government of India, if consulted, will give its views and, if necessary, will also try to solve the problem and try to overcome the difficulties. But it is not possible for me to make a statement on the policies instantaneously while giving information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Information is still being collected, complete information has not been collected. As soon as complete information is received then you may ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Please take your seat. This is not the opportune time for clarifications.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We are very disappointed with the behaviour of the Government of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* We strongly protest against what the West Bengal Government has done and hence, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*

17.47 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kharabela Swain and some other hon. Members left the House.)

17.48 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 2007-08— GENERAL
DISCUSSION
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
(GENERAL), 2007-08
AND
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—(GENERAL), 2006-07—*Contd.*

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I welcome the Budget proposals announced by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. It is a dynamic, development-oriented Budget which aims at overall social and economic growth of the country. It will give special impetus to the growth of hilly, backward and tribal areas of the country and will integrate them with the national mainstream. The Government's proposal to increase the allocation for backward regions from Rs. 5000 crore to Rs. 5800 crore would accelerate the development projects in the regions beside other backward areas in the country.

The Government's decision to introduce a social security scheme for unorganized workers and the proposal to extend death and disability insurance cover through the Life Insurance Corporation of India to the rural landless households under a new scheme called "Aam Admi Bima Yojna" would benefit the rural population of our country.

The Government's announcement to increase the Budget allocation for schemes benefiting the SCs and STs to Rs. 3271 crore would directly benefit the tribals living in the snowbound areas and would increase the pace of development.

The allocation under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Programme would encourage and support the students belonging to the tribals which would help them to harness their intellectual potential. I would even congratulate the Government for the increased budgetary allocation of 34.2 per cent in the education sector.

I also welcome the decision of extending the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from the current level of 200 districts to 330 districts. At present only two districts are covered under this scheme and I would request to kindly include, three more districts like Mandi, Shimla and Kangra.

I also welcome the allocation made for Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana. I would request the Government to increase the allocation by Rs. 12,000 crore, with an initial provision of Rs. 2,080 crore, which would provide employment to the youth in the rural areas. The proposal for reduction of customs duty on drip irrigation system, agriculture sprinklers has been highly appreciated by our farmers all over the country. It will not only bring more area under cultivation and irrigation but also conserve water. It will also increase farm production and more growth will be achieved in the farm sector.

The exemption of crude oil and refined oil from additional customs duty will make it more cheaper and within the reach of average middle class Indian families.

I also welcome the decision to reduce the VAT rates from the present four per cent to three per cent from April 2007. This will bring down prices and provide relief to ordinary household. ...*(Interruptions)*

We welcome the Government's stand to remove the customs duty on import of wheat and also for importing 55 lakh tonnes of wheat. Rightly, the FMC has banned forward trading on wheat and rice and tur dal and urad dal. I may humbly request you that forward trading in other pulses should also be banned with immediate effect as this forms the staple diet of the common man. So, in such matters there should be no forward trading at all, which leads to speculation, which increases the price of these commodities.

In the end I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for the Budget that he has presented to the House. The Budget exhibits a nine per cent growth in general terms, 11.2 per cent growth in manufacturing sector, 32 per cent growth in savings; and 34 per cent growth in investment. The foreign exchange reserves have gone up to 95 billion dollars.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

*DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Karnal): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on General Budget for the year 2007-2008. Ruling as well as opposition parties are expressing their views in the House. I think that this budget is a quick step towards making great patriot late Rajiv Gandhi's dream true for farmers,

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Arwind Sharma]

labourers, agricultural labourers downtrodden, backward classes, youth, employees, traders, freedom fighters, women, and unemployed persons of the country under the leadership of UPA Chairperson Hon'ble Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji.

To provide every possible facility to everybody is not feasible and there are some shortcomings also in this budget. But I would like to mention special features of this budget be it rural development, agriculture, social justice and empowerment or education, health or development sector by allocating all possible amount for these areas hon'ble Minister of Finance has tried to provide relief to farmers, weaker sections, downtrodden, backward classes, minority communities of the society for which I would like to congratulate him. To control the inflation Hon'ble Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi took the decision not to increase the prices of petrol, oil and gas. I thank them for this. Besides, they should take hard decisions to check the black-marketing of essential commodities like pulses, foodgrains, so that inflation can be controlled. It is needed to remove the restrictions on LPG for people living below poverty line and they should be provided kerosene and other essential domestic goods on maximum subsidy and number of gas agencies should be increased in the areas where there is acute shortage of gas. Poor people have a lot of expectations from the UPA Government. Therefore, quota of wheat, rice, sugar, pulses, kerosene should be increased for the people living below poverty line and their prices should also be reduced.

Farmer is the food provider of crores of people of the country, he feeds the entire country. They need special attention for quality education and health facilities for their family. Subsidy on fertilizers should be increased, seeds should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates and minimum support price of crops should be increased so that financial position of farmers can be improved.

I would request the Honourable Minister to increase grants for providing modern technology tools to farmers. Special training should be imparted for inducting modern technologies in agricultural production and running domestic and cottage industries and loans with lower rate of interest should be provided so that unemployed people could get employment. Ready crops of farmers get destroyed by natural calamities, hailstorm, flood, etc. Farmers of Northern India are worried about their future as their crops got damaged by unexpected rains recently.

So, I would request the honourable Minister to waive off the loan provided to farmers by co-operative banks and nationalized banks in view of natural calamities which occurred recently. Besides, special subsidy should be provided to farmers by cooperative banks and other farmers societies for sowing and procuring other agriculture inputs for the upcoming season to compensate the losses suffered by the farmers in the last harvest.

Delhi is attracting lot of attention from entire world in view of ensuing Commonwealth Games. We would have to think about facilitating the stay of politicians, players, journalists and sports supporters who will come to India from different countries from now only. Our well arranged programme in this regard will not only add to the prestige of our country in the eyes of other countries but it will also showcase the progress of our country if it meets the international standards. I believe that the preparations for commonwealth games can not be completed by developing Delhi only. So, we should increase the area of N.C.R. by 150 kilometers and it should be increased upto Karnal in Haryana and maximum amount should be allocated for providing the basic amenities like electricity, water, transport, roads, railway, health and education.

Last year on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of National Elevated Highway in Panipat, honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had made an announcement in the presence of Ch. Bhupendra Singh Hooda, Chief Minister of Haryana to establish Kalpna Chawla Medical College in Karnal. Haryana has only one medical college in Rohtak so poor people have to travel as far as Chandigarh or Rohtak for getting treatment. Hence I would request the Government to immediately provide funds for the construction of Kalpna Chawla Medical College so that poor people, farmers, labourers and other patients of Karnal, Kurkshetra, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Sonapat and other districts could get treatment.

Few days back the hon. Minister himself dedicated the new naphtha plant to the nation in the presence of the Petroleum Minister, Shri Murlidhar Deora, Shri Dinsha Patel, honourable Chief Minister, Shri Bhupendra Singh Hooda. The nation needs to make heavy investment in the petroleum sector which can create lots of opportunities of employment. Panipat is the industrial town in Haryana, a refinery is also located here and it is going to become a petro hub. So, I would request you to include Panipat necessarily while chalking out programme for investment

in Petroleum, Chemical and Petro-Chemical sector for the financial year 2007-08 so that the people of this area might get employment and farmers might get adequate compensation and development of this area could be ensured.

I support all the pro-people works in the budget and conclude with my suggestions.

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, the budget proposal for the year 2007-08 presented by the honourable Finance Minister is very disappointing. At a glance it seems that he has tried to cut the roots of the tree of economic prosperity and sprinkle water on its leaves. Hotels, corporate world and industries have been given rebate instead of farmers in the budget. In the same manner concrete and effective steps have not been taken for the development of infrastructure. Inflation has been discussed but no effective measures have been adopted to control it to check price hike. While making an effort to pat himself and his Government on the back he has said in the beginning of the budget proposal that in the year 2006-07 the growth rate of gross domestic production has, reached 9.2 per cent. The manufacturing sector and service sector registered growth rate of 11.3 per cent and 11.2 per cent respectively during three years of rule of this Government but I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister that on the one hand he has praised his Government and on the other he has accepted its failure by admitting that the average growth rate in agriculture sector is estimated to be 2.3 per cent during the tenth five year plan which is less, than the desired 4 per cent in fact almost half of it.

Sir, we would have to accept the fact that unless growth rate of agriculture sector increase, the growth rate of economy of the country would not increase. We are not strengthening the agriculture sector which is the backbone of our economic development. Honourable Finance Minister has declared in his budget proposal that highest priority will be given to agriculture sector and has also made some big announcements. But no concrete steps have been taken to improve the condition of farmers and increase agricultural production. Increasing agriculture loan is not a permanent solution of this problem. It has been stated in the budget proposal that a target of Rs. 2,25,000 crore has been fixed for the year 2007-08 for agriculture loan which shows an increase of Rs. 50 thousand crore in comparison to the last year. Likewise

*The speech was laid on the Table.

a target has been fixed for inducting 50 lakh new farmers in the banking system. It means that 50 lakh more farmers would be brought in the net of debt and 5000 farmers out of them would be compelled to commit suicide in future. It is a matter of serious concern that on the one hand agriculture loan is being increased through banks and on the other farmers continue to commit suicide.

The farmer does not have any other option when he is crushed under the burden of loan. I am surprised that though a large number of such incidents occur in the State of Finance Minister, yet he has not been able to find its solution. The amount of agricultural loan is being increased but he has not thought about bringing improvement and amendment in the banking system. The rules of banks are so complicated that small and illiterate farmers are unable to get its benefit due to not submitting necessary documents. On the other hand the loan for agriculture purpose is not provided on simple interest like in the case of business and industry. Farmers have to pay compound interest.

Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the honourable Minister of Finance whether he has ever seriously considered the fact that why is it that always a farmer becomes an easy prey of banks when it comes to loan recovery. They are harassed in different ways for a meagre amount and compelled to commit suicide. On the other hand nearly 12000 big industrialists, companies and businessmen have usurped an amount of more than one lakh crore rupees of public sector banks but these banks are unable to recover loan from them. I would like the Finance Minister to seriously think about this issue and if it is not possible to waive off the loan of all farmers then he can atleast announce to waive off the loan of the farmer holding 5, upto hectares of land. For this we can deduct from the amount earmarked for schemes, which are running on papers only and have not given fruitful results. A country where 70 percent population is dependent on agriculture and lives in villages, the dream of 'Bharat Nirman' could not be fulfilled without ensuring well being of villages, agriculture, poor people and farmers.

The Minister has expressed concern in the budget proposal over the fact that the production of pulses has not increased. It is obvious that the Government was not concerned about this issue so far. The production of pulses has been stagnant at 130 to 135 lakh tonnes for the last 40 years. Same is the case of oilseeds. In this

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

situation, the dependency on import for fulfilling domestic demand is increasing. In spite of finding out its permanent solution, he has made provision for making the import of pulses, oilseeds and edible oil cheaper in the budget.

What could be the bigger irony than this in spite of being predominantly an agricultural country and even after 60 years of independence arrangements for irrigation have been made for only 40 per cent of the cultivable land. Instead of solving this problem permanently the present budget talks about only simple methods of irrigation. Several major irrigation projects of the country have been pending a long time but no provision has been made in the budget to complete them. In the same manner the budget does not mention the important scheme for interlinking of rivers. The aim for construction of 15 lakh houses in villages every year has been fixed under the Bharat Nirman and future programme in the budget and a provision for Rs. 4040 crore has been made for this purpose but no attention has been paid towards the increasing population. The number of construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana should at least be doubled in view of increasing population of the country. The budget only discusses social security and social security scheme for the labourers of the unorganized sector has again been kept in abeyance for some time. No arrangement has been made to provide relief to agricultural labourers and child labourers have not been spared a thought. The most amazing thing is that impractical vision of social security has been conjured in the budget without even discussing how to eradicate unemployment. The number of educated unemployed. Youth is increasing in the country. The young generation is taking to crime and violence due to disappointment and frustration arising out of their uncertain future. Young persons living in villages are compelled to migrate to cities in the absence of agriculture based small and cottage industry. In such circumstances the discussion on social security is meaningless until any permanent solution regarding the problem of labourers working in unorganized sector, agricultural labourers, child labourers and unemployed youth is found out. I would request the honourable Finance Minister to provide unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed persons till they get jobs. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is providing Rs. 500 per month to the graduate unemployed persons for the last one year and it has not affected its financial conditions adversely. But for this the Government needs to have strong willpower. In all, this budget has paid less

attention towards self-sufficiency in foodgrains, control on inflation and price hike, food and housing for the poor and the focus of the budget is on pet animals and unimportant issues. In the end I would only like to say with regard to the budget proposal that—

Is Dor-e-Tarraqqi ke Andaaz Nirale hain.

Jehnon Mein Andhere Hain, Sadakon Pe Ujale Hain.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few things about the General Budget. We are discussing about the fourth General Budget of UPA Government. This budget has greatly disappointed all the sections of society in the country. Our country was very happy on the day the great economist of the country. Dr. Manmohan Singh took oath as the Prime Minister of this country. We were happy when honourable P. Chidambaram took oath as the Finance Minister of our country and Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia became the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. People of this country were hopeful that these three economists would take the country in the right direction but unfortunately even the fourth budget of this Government could not do this and it has spread disappointment through cross-section of society in the country.

Sir, I would like to tell you that all the leading industrial organizations of the country whether it is FICCI; ASSOCHAM or CII have declared this budget as disappointing. In the same way all trade unions are criticising this budget. All the farmers are disappointed with it. Not only this even the political parties which are the ally of the ruling party are taking part in the budget discussion and supporting it in a half hearted manner and some are criticizing it severely.

Sir, I would like to know that the UPA Government is doing for this country which has a population of 110 crore. While formulating the budget of this country we should keep in mind where we are taking our country in comparison to the world. It was said in this House that—"Kaun Banata Hindustan, Bharat ka Majdoor-Kisan". Today what has been done for the labourers and farmers in this budget. A labourer does not even get minimum wage. He works for the whole day and still he does not get minimum wage. Farmers are committing suicide. The farmer who is providing food for the whole country is in such dire straits and is unable to do anything for himself. He is reeling under the burden of loan. Whatever crop he grows with his hard work gets destroyed by natural

calamity, flood, drought or hailstorm. For the last two-three days various parts of the country have been facing heavy hailstorm. I would like to ask that why we have not been able to find out the methods to save the crops of farmers even after so many years of independence. We have been saying continuously that agriculture is the basis of our economy. If agriculture is the basis of our economy then we have to save the crops. Farmers do not get any benefit from the National Crop Insurance Scheme. I would like to draw your attention towards the growth rate which you are mentioning. The Finance Minister says that we have increased the growth rate upto 8.6 per cent, similarly, he claims that growth rate in manufacturing sector has increased upto 11.3 per cent. But, I wonder if growth rate is healthy, why rate of inflation is going up. You have not been able to control the rate of inflation. You are also not able to control the prices of commodities. The budget was presented in this house exactly 14 days back. I want to know whether the price of any single commodity has come down in the meantime. There is no commodity, price of which might have come down. Today, I was going through a news that price of onion has gone upto Rs. 19 a kilogram. What was the price of onion during harvesting season? How the prices of onion have gone up suddenly? The Prices of all the commodities are skyrocketing one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party is over you may now lay your speech on the table.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, after raising some points I will lay the remaining speech. A lot of attention is being paid to the growth in Gross Domestic Products, but there is no concern about inflation, the prices have not been controlled, the incidents of suicide by farmers have not been checked and so far we have not been able to provide the farmers a remunerative price for their crops, the employment opportunities are depleting day-by-day, after all what this all is happening? 70 out of 100 children leave their study at school level. The area of 'Patwari' has not been made a unit for insuring the crop of farmers, so far. We have not been able to provide security cover to the crops of farmers and drinking water in each village of the country so far. Tall claims have been made that in the field of electricity we have connected all parts of the country. I would like to know whether there is any proof to substantiate this claim. Out of 6.5 lakh villages there is no electricity at all in 25 to 30 percent villages. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please lay your written speech on the table and it will become a part of the proceedings.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, lastly, I will conclude with a humble submission. I had to speak a lot on this budget but due to paucity of time, I am not able to raise all my points, hence, I take your leave to lay my speech on the table.

*Mr. Speaker Sir, there is disappointment among all sections of society on this budget. This budget has been criticized across the country and even the coalition partners of the ruling party have criticized this budget. Major industrial organizations of the country like ASSOCHAM, FICCI, ICCI, Farmers, Workers of the country, small scale industries, postal services, Anganwari health workers who are engaged in providing health services in rural areas all have expressed disappointment on this budget.

- Around 20 crores people of the country don't have even two square meal. On one hand our children are starving but on the other hand, the food of pets is being made cheaper in the budget.
- UPA Government claim to bring the average growth rate at the level of 8.6 per cent. While in the manufacturing sector, it has been claimed to be at 11.3 per cent.
- If there has been a constant growth in the Gross Domestic Product then why the rate of inflation is increasing which is hovering at 5.4 per cent.
- Why the prices are not being controlled.
- Why the incidents of suicide by the farmers have not been checked.
- Why the farmers are not getting the remunerative price for their crops.
- Why the employment opportunities are not increasing.
- Why the health care facilities are not being provided in the rural areas in proportion to the population.
- Why 70 out of 100 children are forced to drop the school.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

- Why the workers of unorganized sector are not getting the minimum wages.
- Why in place of Tehsil the land of farmers, is not being made a unit for insuring their crops.
- Why the safe drinking water has not been provided to all the villages so far.
- Why the Small Scale and Khadi Gramodyog are becoming financially sick.
- Why a concrete policy aimed at self employment to enhance self reliance has not been formulated so far.
- Why the identification of actually poor families has not been done in proper manner so far.
- Why the inequality in the field of education has not been removed.
- Why the commercialization of education is not being checked.
- Why there is separate education system for rich and poor people.
- Why the 30 lakh Vidya Bharti Schools in the country are being defamed despite their contribution towards the nation by way of imparting education to 33 lakh children through one lakh Teachers having the value of patriotism, ethics and harmony.
- Why is the standard of education not improving in the rural areas.
- This budget is completely spiritless.
- The Finance Minister has given a lot of stress on 'Bharat Nirman'.
- In the budget, he has extended the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 200 Districts to 330 districts.

But no provision has been made to sort out the practical problems which are afflicting this scheme i.e.:—

- Not a single educated person has been able to get employment under this scheme.
- The workers employed under this scheme are not getting even minimum wages.

- Atleast 50 percent of the amount should be provided for permanent work under this scheme.
- Each district should be provided the funds in advance, presently which is not the case.
- The condition of maximum 100 days work should not be applied to the Districts which are constantly affected by natural disasters.

The work of Golden Quadrilateral Project is nearing Completion but the Condition of national highways is still very pathetic.

- The condition of national highway nos. 7, 75 and 85 in Madhya Pradesh is so pathetic that no one even imagine that they are national highways.
- The Finance Minister has stated about increasing health care facilities.
- They might have forgotten that despite the survey report of 2001 census has been released not a single new hospital was opened in rural areas for the last many years.
- In the villages having population of more than 5000 people as well as brith in the radius of 15 to 20 kilometer no hospital is available in the country.
- Urban areas are facing population explosion which causes unemployment, day by day basic facilities are getting scarce and the provision made in budget by hon'ble Minister is too less.
- The number of Antyodaya families have been drastically decreased under public distribution system whereas many card holders have been excluded from the category of persons below poverty line. The statement that 26 crore families have been included in the category of persons below poverty line is incorrect. In fact a good number of people needed to be included under this category.
- The Minister of Finance has declared to award scholarships to the students of certain categories.
- The provision of Rs. 210 crore has been made for the students belonging to minority classes who are only 13 per cent of total population.

- OBC category which constitutes 52 per cent of the population has been provided with only Rs. 91 crore which is the clear cut discrimination with OBC category.
- Even for education sector by making the provision of 34 percent in the budget the Minister of Finance is getting popularity whereas its reality is something else.
- The said amount is to be spent on the higher educational institutes being expended by the Centre and nothing will go to the schools and colleges in rural areas.
- The minimum wages fixed for labourers by the Government is very low.
- 74 per cent poor people of the country still live in villages for whom no provision has been made in the budget.
- The Minister of Finance has stated to give 1 lakh new jobs to handicapped persons but they will be given only Rs. 25000 per annum which is a meagre amount, it should be increased.
- There are many such National Highways which pass through the cities.
- Keeping in view the increasing number of road accidents there is a plan to construct bypass out side of cities but there are highways which pass through towns such as NH-75 which goes through Satna, NH-7 which goes through Mehar, NH-7 which goes through Amarpass, NH-75 which goes through Nagoud cities of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, construction of bypass here is necessary for which provision should be made in the budget.
- The distribution of funds made by Central Road Fund for the construction of roads and bridges is found often biased.
- Madhya Pradesh is always receiving nominal funds.

Satna to Semaria road, Satna to Rewa road towards Rampur Chormari Chhiboura Gajan Rewa road, Satna to Kothi Mohar Jhali Singhpur Sundara road, Kothi to Jaitwara Mehuti Virsinghpur, Sarbhanga road of district Satna and Katni to Badvara road in Katni district should be included in budget for the construction of roads.

An approval should be given to the proposal of over bridge on Mehar railway crossing on national Highway which is under consideration since long.

The draft of National Agriculture Policy is under consideration with the Government which is not adopted by the Government. It is betrayal with the farmers of the country.

Agriculture is proving to be a loss making business we always hold debates on it in the House we express our concern but we are unable to help them.

The crop of farmer is hit by continuous drought, floods and hailstorm.

In such a situation the farmer is reaching in the condition of starvation. My demand to the Government is that the debts of the farmers should be waived off to some extent.

The actions of Central Government are also biased. Madhya Pradesh used to get 300 Mega watt power from Central pool which was also discontinued. Madhya Pradesh is facing natural calamities since long, even then the Central Government have not rendered any help.

Yesterday also many states of the countries witnessed hailstorm. Earlier also many districts of Madhya Pradesh were affected by this. Again yesterday my constituency Satna and district Katni witnessed heavy hailstorm in which almost 50 people were killed in the country which includes Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. 16 people were killed in Madhya Pradesh. Satna, Katni, Rewa, Chhindwada-Chhattarpur and Sagar witnessed heavy hailstorm. By making wide amendments in RBC Act the state Government in providing aid to farmers with 20 times increased amount. Till date the assistance to the tune of Rs. 12 crores has been distributed.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has increased the education cess from 2 per cent to 3 per cent which was static on 2 per cent for the last 55 years. This Government have increased 1 per cent in one go which will directly affect a large number of citizens of all sections.

In the whole country, there are 1 crore registered bidi workers and 60 lakh Tendupatta collectors. Madhya

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Pradesh alone has 21 lakh workers who are getting minimum wages of Rs. 25 per thousand bidi, whereas the wage fixed by the Government is Rs. 45 per thousand bidi.

For the housing of bidi workers a grant of Rs. 60,000 is being provided and Rs. 5 thousand are deposited in the districts by each worker himself but this amount was not released by the Central Government and it was not mentioned in the budget. In Madhya Pradesh thousands of workers have deposited their share of Rs. 5 thousand each whereas the share of Central Government i.e. Rs. 60,000 has been released till date, which should be given."

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget for 2007-08.

First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance, and the Government of India as a whole, to the endless tragedies being faced by the people of the Bodoland territory in particular and also several millions of the indigenous Scheduled Tribe people of the whole country.

Sir, what I have observed in this year's Budget is that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been allocated only a sum of Rs. 1,732.04 crore. This is a very inadequate amount of money. So with this meagre amount of money, the Government of India cannot develop the tribal people's overall socio-economic condition in this country. So, I would like to appeal to the Government to enhance the Plan fund allocation in favour of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs from Rs. 1,732 crore to a minimum of Rs. 3,000 crore for this financial year 2007-08.

18.00 hrs.

Likewise, the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region has been given only Rs. 1380 crore which is a very meagre amount. With this meagre amount of money, Government of India can never develop the North-Eastern Region. I would like to appeal to the Government of India that from the tune of Rs. 1380 crore for the North Eastern Region, the total allocation should go at least up to Rs. 3000 crore.

Coming to the tragedy of the people of the Bodoland Territory, I would appeal to the Government of India to enhance the Central Grant to the Bodoland Territory. ...*(Interruptions)* from Rs. 100 crore per annum to atleast Rs. 500 crore per year.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Several hon'ble Mmembers have to participate in the dis cussion on budget. If the House in agree the time for discussion may be extended by on hour.

The time of the House is extended by an hour with the consent of the House.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for our Bodoland area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You only have two minutes time. Kindly utilize the same.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: The Government had promised to provide Rs. 100 crore only per year for five years as central assistance since year 2004, but this amount is insufficient. Hence, I demand from the Union Government to increase this yearly amount of 100 crore to atleast 500 crore per year. This amount should be directly given to the Council of Bodoland territorial area district. From the point of view of development, our Bodoland area is more backward in comparison to other regions. Hence, if this area is to be developed then the Government of India should atleast sanction Bodoland Central University.

[English]

There should be a Bodoland Central Agriculture University. There, in the Bodoland territory, the Government should also set up at least one Medical College, one Engineering College, one AIIMS model Institute, one All-India Institute of Management, one National Institute of Information Technology, one National Institute of Eri-Silk Textile and Fashion Technology, 10 numbers of polytechnic Institutes, 10 numbers of ITIs, and one IIT. Further, the Bodoland Territory should be given topmost priority in the matter of industrialization, the reason being except the Bongaigaon Refinery, there

is no other industry within the Bodoland territory. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up adequate number of agro and forest-based industries and industries on some other viable sectors too, within the Bodoland area so as to opportunities to provide job the unemployed youth.

[Translation]

I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious issue that in Assam education is being imparted in Bodo Medium, but nearly one thousand bodo medium Primary schools, Middle English Schools and High Schools have been running as ventures for many years. The Government of India should provide atleast rupees one thousand crore in a year to Assam Government to make arrangements for provincilization of all these schools. Atleast one domestic airport is needed for Air service connectivity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Your time is over.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Two irrigation projects were taken up on Dhanshree and Champamati rivers 20 years ago and even after more than 20 years these two major river irrigation projects have not yet been completed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is concluded from the chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now call Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat. You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

*(Interruptions) ... **

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. You can lay your speech.

*(Interruptions) ... **

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Chairman Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for the 2007-08 Union Budget for mobilizing huge sum of money without burdening individuals and industry with heavy taxes... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Shri Suklabaidya's speech, nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Sir, I will shorten my speech by dealing with only few of the issues that I believe I should raise at this optimum time.

Sir, there are the good things which the hon. Finance Minister has embodied in the Budget for achieving the targeted growth rate. Our State is Assam and Assam is a poor State. Before Independence, its income was much higher than the average national income level. Now, we are limping toward development.

Sir, we are an agricultural State and thanks to the hon. Finance Minister that he has taken several measures as far as agriculture is concerned. We hope that the agriculture will develop with this. He has also admitted that in the North-East agriculture is not modernized. So, priority should be given for modernization of agriculture in North-East.

Electrification is a major problem. Where there is electricity, there is no power and where there is no electricity, they want electricity. So, the hon. Finance Minister has increased the allocation from Rs. 3,000 crore to about Rs. 4,000 crore under Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana. This will help us a lot. Here, I would like to mention that the rivers Barak and Brahmaputra have very heavy potential for electricity generation. So, if the rivers Barak and Brahmaputra are harnessed, the power problem of the entire State can be solved.

Sir, in education the 34 per cent hike is a welcome step. As far as education is concerned, we have a class of teachers who have been doing all the jobs of Government schools but they do not get salaries. We have about 6,000 such schools and the teachers in these schools have been serving for the last 18 to 20 years. Some of them have even retired without any salary. The

[Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya]

hon. Minister of Human Resource Development has made a provision for 2 lakh posts of teachers under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to allow the State to utilize these posts by taking over the services of these unpaid school teachers who have been serving for quite long and doing the same job.

Sir, we are proud of our tea industry. I thank the hon. Finance Minister for making a special provision for setting up the Special Purpose Tea Fund. It can rejuvenate our tea industry in the State.

Sir, as far as health sector is concerned.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay rest of your speech on the Table.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: All right Sir. I lay the rest of my speech.

*All measures taken by the Hon'ble Minister in promoting the health sector is well devised. Training of over 2 lakh of Associated Social Health Activists (ASHA) and extending medical facilities will surely bring in better health care in rural areas.

However, family planning should be given the major thrust—otherwise the growth benefit shall never be achieved. Due to want of a strict Population policy the population is increasing in all directions. We are not strictly adhering to our 'Hum Do Hamare Do'. On the other hand China, which had very high growth of population, is able to control the growth by strictly following 'Hum Do Hamara Ek' Policy. Those who follow the principle of 'Hum Do Hamare Do' are to be encouraged. Women of 40 years of age having maximum 2 children belonging to BPL should be given good incentive which can help them to elevate their level of living. This will also encourage Family Planning also.

Each child is born with one mouth and two hands. We have enough hands, and we have to find ways and means to employ the hands to feed the mouths otherwise we are advancing towards the DEAD END of the road of progress. We must strictly follow the population policy without any discrimination otherwise all our efforts for progress and prosperity will be simple waste.

*..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The proposal of funds from Rs. 423 crore to Rs. 520 crore in 2007-08 for construction of tourist infrastructure is farsightedness.

But unfortunately Tourism potential in the North Eastern Region which has unique flora and fauna and wild life is not at all explored. I have raised this issue earlier in the House and wrote to the Hon'ble Tourism Minister on 20th November 2006 and again on 7 April 2006 but nothing has been done. In Barak Valley has many interesting tourist spots including Sonbill, the largest fresh water lake in Asia but nothing has yet been achieved. It is well known that tourism tops the service sector—it not only brings in State's revenue but also very much labour oriented that can provide employment to a large number of educated men and women. Unfortunately nothing has been done so far.

In the Education sector, I emphasize that vocational education should be work oriented not just typewriting or tailoring, etc. It should be trendy and must have relevance of the change of trend in the market. The vocational training should include scooter repairing, watch repairing, mobile phone repairing, welding, driving, handling goods movement, jewelry designing and making, boutique printing, handicrafts, etc. A trained person in any of this sort of disciplines can be self-employed. The huge amount of school dropouts before class X and XII are by and large from financially backward section of the population. And the reason is that they prefer earning to education. If we do not train them properly, they will enlarge the unorganized sector which is not very healthy development.

My overall view is that Hon'ble Finance Minister has set the ground for agriculture, industry, education, infrastructure, etc. to take off. But it is now the responsibility of the implementing agencies to utilize the opportunities and provisions given by the Government — if they lack in their responsibilities the whole purpose will be defeated.

With these few words, I support the 2007-2008 Budget proposals submitted by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.*

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi):
On behalf of our MDMK Party, I would like to participate

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

in the discussion on the Union Budget for the year 2007-08. The people of the country expected a very good Budget this year considering the remarkable growth in our economy in the last three years. But in the light of economic growth in the preceding three years whether the aspirations of people from all the sections of the society have been fulfilled is what we are looking for now. Tax revenue has increased. The gap between the tax revenue and the GDP has also increased. Capital expenditure is also increasing. But the plight of the agriculturists is still far from enthusing. Of the country's population 60 per cent of people are agriculturists. About 10 crores of such agriculturists, that is, 40 per cent of them are at their wits end preparing to give up their occupation anytime. Of course, there is Budgetary allocation for the farming sector. As early as in 2005, our Finance Minister said that our people go by results and not by the amount spent. We must bear in mind that 'India Shines' campaign by the previous rulers in 2004 which only saw the results of the pain in the hearts of the people. It ended up like a mirage during that election campaign and the fate of that Government was decided in that hustings. Let us look at it from this background. We have increased the quantum of farm credit to agriculture sector and we have also reduced the interest rate on crop loans. A special package for 16 thousand crores of rupees was extended by our Prime Minister to 31 districts in four States. But still the farmers have deep wound in their hearts. Because they do not get remunerative prices and even minimum support price. They do not have storage facilities to save their produce grown after putting in hard labour. Hence, they are not able to wait for the opportune time to get a good price. According to the level of agricultural production, adequate storage facilities must be in place. Crop loan must be extended before sowing. Timely loan facilities must be available to the farmers. Budgetary allocation is there for improving water bodies. But irrigational needs are yet to be addressed in a better way. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our irrigational resources are not any better when compared to 3 of our neighbouring States and there are disputes. Our Tamil Nadu in itself does not have enough water resources and is generally dry. So we want inter-linking of rivers in the Southern part of the country. At least the inland rivers in Tamil Nadu must be linked as a pilot project. We expected that a pilot project at least would be commenced with his Budget allocating funds for the inter-linking of rivers. But that has not happened. Our leader Vaiko's demand to go in for the

project to link the Southern rivers is still there. Inter-linking of rivers remains a dream again this year. Education and public health are getting increased allocation of funds in this Budget. We could not achieve the target for power generation in the last Five Year Plans. Even now, there are many stages that are faced with power shortages. Some States go without power for hours even six hours and beyond at a stretch. Our industrial production can go up only when there is an increase in power production. Small enterprises get an incentive by way of enhanced turn over limit from rupees one crore to one and a half crores of rupees. I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to increase it further to a level of two crores of rupees so that the benefit really accrue to the small industries sector. Similarly, as far as the personal income tax is concerned, just an increase of rupees 10 thousand in the standard deduction has been announced. Considering the increasing incidence of higher wages and salaries in the backdrop of our growing economy, this income tax ceiling may be increased further. As far as my Sivakasi Parliamentary constituency is concerned, it is fully dependent on the growth of enumerable small scale industrial units. They need to get encouragement through incentives. The Small Scale Industries Ministry of the Union Government may be roped in to extend a special package to our small scale industry. Thirty seven industries in the small scale sector have been recommended for inclusion in this. All these are very important for the industrial growth of production and productivity of our State Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Union Government to announce a package in this Budget itself to give a pep to our small scale sector. With this I conclude.

(English)

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, let me remind this hon. House that Assam Accord was signed in 1985 and in that Accord, clause 7 was inserted. That clause was aiming to develop Assam economically in all aspects. In this regard the Government of India had constituted a Committee, which is known as L.C. Jain Committee, to assess the resources, possibility of upliftment of industry in the State of Assam and North East. After that, he had submitted a very meaningful Report. In that Report, he made many recommendations. But, I am sorry to inform the hon. Members and this august House that those important recommendations have not yet been accepted, not yet been considered.

[Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai]

Even in the last Budget, there was not even a single line which could touch the hearts of the people of Assam and North East. In the Railway Budget, four projects have been declared as national projects. But when the General Budget was placed in this august House, the three Projects were missing and only one project has been included, that too again put in a world of uncertainties by saying that Bogibeel Bridge will be taken up as a national project; not approved. Again, this Budget confuses the people of Assam and North East. If this is the double standard played by the same House in the same Session, what would be the fate of the region? That is why, my humble submission is that considering the sentiment and emotion of the North Eastern Region, this particular matter should be cleared by the hon. Minister within this Session.

Secondly, regarding the water resources management, in that particular sector, we have come to know that 13 States have been taken up; and even in this regard the Government of India has taken up the matter with the World Bank and had some negotiation and settlement. But in the case of Assam, as you know, since 1951, Brahmaputra and its tributaries are creating a lot of problems. And because of the flood and erosion problem, not only the State of Assam but the entire Region is suffering in terms of development, communication and also industrial growth. This flood and erosion problem is not only breaking up our very foundation of our economy but also our tea gardens, our cultivable lands and rehabilitation. Now, in order to protect the people of Assam, unless the Government of India considers this particular issue to be as a national issue, it will not be possible for the State Government to tackle this problem. That is why, my second submission to the Government is that the flood and erosion problem of the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries in both the Barak Valley and in the Brahmaputra Valley should be considered as a national problem, and the Government of India should have a separate fund allocation to tackle these natural calamities.

My third point is regarding a Centre of excellence. Sir, as you know, some of the institutions have been given a special fund, and more than a sum of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated. We welcome this particular decision. It is the question of the future of the students of this country. Let me tell you one thing. We have the Assam Medical College, which was established, during the British regime, in Dibrugarh immediately after the

Second World War. Sir, this is one of the oldest medical colleges in Asia. But up till now, in spite of lot of requests made by the people of Assam, this has not been accepted as an important national institution, and it has not yet been upgraded to the AIIMS standard. That is why, my humble submission is that Assam Medical College should be upgraded to the AIIMS standard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: I will conclude by making two more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is the last point.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, as you know, in the petroleum sector, in Assam, there is a Digboi refinery which is the oldest refineries in the world. This refinery was established in 1889, 120 years back, during the British regime. This was the first refinery set up by the British regime in 1889. You will be surprised to note that up till now, the production capacity of the Digboi refinery is only 0.65 million tonnes, not even one million tonnes. According to the expert of the petroleum technology, this is not economically feasible. We, being the producer of crude and natural gas, have every right to demand that the Digboi production capacity should be increased at least to one million tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, Assam was exposed to the global market through quality tea. More than 10 million people are involved in this industry throughout the country. Dibrugarh constituency being the key sector of tea gardens, there is a large number of unemployment problems. That is why, the Government should have a special recruitment drive for the unemployed youth of the tea labourers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call the next Member, Shri K.V. Thangkabalu, to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Thangkabalu.

(Interruptions) ...

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sonowal, nothing is going on record. Please take your seat. If you want, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

Now, Shri K.V. Thangkabalu.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for having given me this opportunity to speak on the Union Budget 2007-08, presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, this Budget is the unique Budget; it is one of the very important milestones in the annals of the history of our independent India. The Government of India established by the UPA under the chairmanship of Madam Sonia Gaadhi, headed by the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has embarked. Our hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has risen to the expectations of our leaders. He has done his best to implement the National Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, today, the country needs overall development of all sections of the society. Aiming at this aspect, our hon. Finance Minister ventured to a new direction in the area of agriculture. In fact, this Budget provides a new direction and a new involvement; and thereby, a Green Revolution is going to take place in this country for which he has done the best of efforts from day one he became the Finance Minister.

The first announcement made by him in this august House was to give more loans to the agrarian community. He started with Rs. 1,05,000 crore in the beginning; and today, he has earmarked Rs. 2,25,000 crore for the agriculture sector by way of loans. This will give a new impetus to the agrarian sector. We have been demanding that the interest rates on loans to the agriculture sector should be reduced from nine per cent to seven per cent, and the Government readily agreed to that and made the announcement, for which we and the agrarian community are thankful to the hon. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram; our Chairperson, Madam Sonia Gandhi; and our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. This is not an easy achievement.

Today, we have got the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for which an allocation of Rs. 11,000 crore has been made. Similarly, Rs. 12,400 crore have been earmarked for the water related programmes. This is also a very-very important programme, which will help the agrarian community to get more water.

Sir, I must say here that in Tamil Nadu, our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar has given one of the wonderful programmes. He has waived the agricultural loans totally, which comes to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore. That has helped the whole agrarian community in Tamil Nadu from the indebtedness. Likewise, we have been demanding to the hon. Finance Minister about the waiving of the interest part of the loans taken by the people of the agricultural community from the nationalized banks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thangkabalu, please conclude now.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Sir, I have just started!

Another important request that I would like to make about the agrarian community is that the rate of interest should be reduced from seven per cent to four per cent. It is one of the major demands of the agriculturists in the country. I wish the Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister would look into it.

There are so many thrust areas. In the Bharat Nirman, we have got an increase of 31 per cent in the allocation, and Rs. 24,603 crore have been earmarked.

Education is another very important and valuable area. Here also, an increase of 34.2 per cent has been made, and Rs. 32,350 have been allocated.

Sir, next is health. In the health sector also, there is an increase in the allocation by 21 per cent. The Government has allotted Rs. 15,281 crore. I do not want to dwell upon many issues. But in the education sector, two lakh teachers are going to be appointed and five lakh classrooms are going to be included in this Budget. This provision is one of the important milestones whereby the weaker sections of the country will get more and more benefit.

The other issue is that the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is one of the finest programmes ever seen in the country today. More than 538 projects have been cleared with an investment of Rs. 23,950 crore.

Salem, my parliamentary constituency, is one of the important stations and it is also one of the important districts of Tamil Nadu. Our Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted to the Ministry projects worth Rs. 637 crore for the Salem Mottur Drinking Water Scheme, drainage

[Shri K.V. Thangkabelu]

scheme, road and transport. It is pending with the Government of India. I urge upon the Finance Minister to use his good office to see that Rs. 637 crore is immediately released for the Salem Urban development programme.

18.26 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I compliment the hon. Finance Minister for having given Rs. 17,681 crore for the SC and ST welfare and development schemes in the overall Budget. Another thing, for minority communities, he has made a beginning by announcing Rs. 381 crore for their welfare and development. This is the first time in the history he has given the highest amount. Likewise, he has done for women also. In this country, 50 per cent of the population are women. Rs. 22,380 crore has been earmarked. This is also a very remarkable achievement by the UPA Government under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. It shows that we have concern for the women, the weaker sections. At the same time, we have been demanding in this august House and through various fora also that the OBC community who shares 60 per cent of the population of the country should be taken care of. Hon'ble Finance Minister has given Rs. 91 crore. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation to the extent of at least Rs. 1000 crore in this Budget, and in the next coming years, he can improve upon.

I have only two points. Another important area where employment potential is there is the textile sector. Most of the workers are from the rural areas and also from the textile sector. We have got today Rs. 991 crore under the TUF scheme. We also welcome this scheme. Sir, the handloom sector has got Rs. 321 crore. I urge upon the Government to continue the TUF scheme upto the 11th Plan period which is now continuing. I want more allocation for the TUF scheme thereby more and more small industries can come in the rural areas. Thus, the textile sector will grow in a faster way.

People are agitated over the issue of retail business by big industrial houses in the country. Big industrial houses are coming forward and setting up their shops. This is not going to help the common man and the weaker sections. Many of the small vendors are affected by this. I urge upon the Government to think over and allow the small people to continue their business and not the

industrial houses to set up this sort of retail shops and ruin the small sector people.

Online trading is another serious issue. Pulses and other important items are being traded in online trading thereby the price is going up and up. The hoarders and the anti-social elements are using this opportunity and putting the Government in a very pitiable condition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you not conclude?

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: I will stop now.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to stop the online trading and also the retail trade by the big people.

*Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice the way in which the Government of India is discriminating the senior citizens. In all the scheduled banks, Post Offices, railways, airlines, House-Tax Departments, a senior citizen is defined as someone who is of 60 years age or above. The senior citizens are given higher rates of interest on their fixed deposits, that is, one per cent more than the normal rate of interest. There is another savings scheme in the Post Offices called the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme which is specially meant for senior citizens and the age kept is 60 years and above. Necessary concessions are provided in the Railways, Airlines and in the House-Tax Departments to persons who are of 60 years and above. However, for the purposes of filing of Income-Tax Returns, the Finance Minister has kept the age of 65 years. There should be a uniform age for determining senior citizens.

I would urge upon the Finance Minister to look into the matter to bring down the age from 65 years to 60 years. With this, I support the budget 2007-08.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He would not stop. Now, Mr. Karunakara Reddy, you can start.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. The UPA Government's Budget for the year 2007-08 is very much disappointing.

* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

There is no tangible plan to end the agrarian crisis.

As far as inflation, price rise, unemployment and poverty are concerned, the Budget has not delivered anything other than extending a lip service. In sum, it has betrayed the hopes of millions of ordinary people and proved that the much-touted slogan of inclusive growth is only a mirage. The opportunities for addressing the problems of inflation and unemployment have not adequately been made by the Government. As far as inflation is concerned, the hon. Minister of Finance has failed to announce any measures to check inflation which is skyrocketing at present.

The Budget has failed to address many of the vital problems of the common people particularly the farmers and unemployed. The proposed outlays for agriculture, health, education and employment generation are low and inadequate and should be increased to a great extent.
...(Interruptions)

At the time of the Budget presentation, I was eagerly listening to the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance that at least, this Budget may bring some good news to the farmers and the common men. But nothing is done. The farmers whom we call the backbone of the country have been totally neglected. There is no mention in this Budget about the support price to the farm produces. We watched on several occasions that the farmers are throwing their produces like tomatoes, chillies, etc. on the roads because they are not getting the support prices. I hope that in reply to the debate an assurance would come out that minimum support price will be given to the farm produces.

While hearing to this Budget speech, I hope that the hon. Minister of Finance would reduce the interest rates on crop loans. On crop loans, up to Rs. 50,000 the farmer is charged 9 per cent rate of interest and above Rs. 50,000 the farmer is charged 11 per cent. Hundreds and thousands of farmers are committing suicide across the country. When the hon. Prime Minister recently announced a package to the farmers at Vidarbha, the suicides have increased. I demand that the interest rate may be reduced to four per cent as it is done by the Government of Karnataka successfully.

The farmers are not getting even power for their requirements. Only three to four hours of power per day is given to the farmers. I demand to the Union

Government to give at least 12 hours of uninterrupted power supply per day to the farmers.

This Budget must assure that the most important thing of crop insurance. The present system of crop insurance is not in a scientific and practical way. Presently a Mandal, consisting of some 20 villages, is taken into consideration and five years' average is taken to compensate the losses. I demand the Government and request them to take it at Gram Panchayat level and the compensation should be assessed for that year only and only the loss of the particular year has to be taken into account.

Most of the recommendations of the National Commission for Farmers have been ignored such as creation of a price stabilization fund for agricultural commodities and extension of crop insurance to all farmers and all crops. No additional protection from imports has been provided for cultivation of raw cotton. Again, there is no mention about inter-linking of rivers. Yesterday I was hearing to the speeches of the hon. Members. Everybody was insisting on this inter-linking of river projects. In some parts of the country we are facing floods and in some parts of the country we are facing drought. I request that at least the Union Government should come forward for inter-linking projects.

Lastly, this Budget has brought very much happiness for cats and dogs but not for the common man and farmers. Thank you, Sir. I seek permission to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

"I come to the most important point that is the crop loan of the farmers. The crop loan, which is required by the farmers exactly, is not given by the banks. Only partial amount is given to the farmers. For the rest of the amount, the farmers have to go for private moneylenders and the private money lender charging interest of nearly 36%, which the poor farmers facing great difficulties to repay the loan and interest amount. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, to give direction to the banks asking them to give full amount which is required by the farmers.

Then I would come to the point that the interest rate and other charges being paid by the farmers for this crop loan. I would like to mention that interest rates over the past year have firmed up and prime lending rates of

"....." This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri G. Karunakara Reddy]

the past year have firmed up and prime lending rates of most Public Sector Banks are hovering around 12-12.5%. The RBI has already raised its short-term lending rates five times this fiscal. In such a scenario, bankers feel that the cost of funds should determine the lending rate. I demand that the Union Government should take immediate steps to contain this increasing trend of interest rates on farm credit so that farmers will not be overburdened.

The farmers have to pay 20.20% towards Insurance Premium for Chilly-Dry, 17.20% towards Insurance Premium for Chilly-Irrigated; 11% towards Insurance Premium for Onion; 13.50% towards Insurance Premium for Cotton-Dry; and 9.650/0 towards Insurance Premium for Cotton-Irrigated, which is very much higher in percentage. Like this, they have to pay 10.25% as interest cost for all products. I urge upon the Finance Minister to reduce the Insurance Premium at the rate of 2% and the Rate of Interest to 5% on all crop loans, so that the small farmers will be benefited greatly.

Sir, on farmers' financial position, the indebtedness is one of the major reasons for rural distress. Moneylenders not only charge exorbitant rate of interest, but also drive the farmer to bankruptcy. I urge the Union Government to extend bank credit for small and marginal farmers to break the cycle of debt and poverty.

Sir, the Budget should have been focused on extension of the public distribution and an enhancement of food subsidy. Instead, increase in proposed outlay on food subsidy is just 6.2%, which implies a cut in real terms when inflation of 6-7% is taken into account. Also, the increase in purchasing power of the poor delivered through special employment is almost negligible. I demand the Finance Minister to increase the food subsidy for the benefit of the poor people.

I am opposing this Budget because it has brought very much unhappiness and no word has been put in this Budget about the interlinking of rivers project. The crores of farmers since years are looking towards this Project because it not only solves the irrigation problems but also the drinking water problems of the crores of people of this country. It is a national important matter and this project should be started up immediately. In some areas, there is flood and in some other areas, there is drought which we are noticing since centuries. This uneven situation causes great problems to the people and this project should be taken up very seriously and

immediately on a war footing basis. Sir, everybody says that the farmers are the backbone of the country but we are not giving importance to this project of interlinking of rivers. Many say that Green Revolution has been brought. I think, only with the inter-linking of the rivers, Green Revolution will be come into true. If these inter-linking of rivers project will be completed, the scope for irrigation, drinking water, power, navigation and tourism development will be on a higher side.

The Union Government is allocating funds for supplementing the States in their Effort to provide safe drinking water to all rural habitation. I would like to mention that in Bellary, nearly 90% fluoride contaminated water is being supplied which causes great health. problems to the people. I request that a huge amount be allotted to Bellary District, Karnataka for providing safe drinking water to the people.

Sir, now I come to the fertilizer sector. With global prices of fertilizers as well as feedstock soaring, along with a 100/0 rise in consumption, the Department of Fertilizers estimated the fund requirement for the current financial alone at around Rs. 28,100 crore. Adding to this, the Rs. 5,900 crore carryover payments from the previous fiscal, the actual fertilizer subsidy outgo was projected at over Rs. 34,000 crore by the Department.

As against this, the revised estimates in the budget papers show a total provision of only Rs. 22,452.01 crore and leaving a gap of over Rs. 11,500 crores. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has conceded that the provision for fertilizer subsidy made in the Budget was inadequate. I urge upon the Finance Minister to look into this aspect and allocate more funds for the fertilizer sector.

Sir, on the education front, the Finance Minister has increased the budget allocation and the Finance Minister has sought to expand education through the government system by appointing two lakh additional teachers. But this is unlikely to improve the educational status of those at the grassroots. The average government school pass percentage is about 40 against the private schools' 70, though government teachers most often are better paid compared to their private sector counterparts. For this, the government teachers, however, cannot be entirely blamed for this state-of-affairs; the parents have a role to play too. Most government school students come from

low-income families; in the struggle to earn living wages, school and studies can hardly be expected to head the priority chart. The Government should concentrate to improve the quality of education. Simultaneously, an independent regulator should be appointed for this education system along the line of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India or Election Commission. I request the Finance Minister to consider this suggestion and if possible, take steps in this regard.

Sir, the Finance Minister has allocated the sum for Mid-Day Meal Programme, which I feel, is very much low. A sum of Re. 1 is being given per student for this Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The students are not able to get proper healthy food because of this low amount. I suggest that this amount should be increased to Rs. 3 per student so that the students, who are the future younger generation, can get healthy food.

Sir, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is meant for development of education in the country, especially in rural areas, is a welcome step. I visited personally nearly 90% of the schools in my Bellary Constituency. The class rooms in these schools are in a bad condition and these class rooms should be repaired immediately. Many school students in Bellary Constituency, Karnataka are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of proper class rooms. The students of the class are increased to a great extent, and nearly 100 students are studying in a single class room. Sir, the Central Government have not taken any step to provide amount for proper class rooms to these students and the funds available for this purpose is very much shortage. There is an urgent need to construct more number of class rooms in each schools upto the requirements. I urge upon the Minister to provide sufficient funds for this purpose immediately.

Sir, on health sector, the Finance Minister has increased the allocation in the Union Budget. But the outlay for the health sector of Rs. 13,875 crore this year is too little to make up for the lag of four years. The UPA Government had promised that the Budget for the health sector would increase from 0.9% to 3% of the GDP in five year. But, till the last Budget, it was 0.9% and still it is nowhere near fulfilling its commitment. The 2007-08 Budget has also brought no relief to patients affected by rising prices of drugs. I urge upon the Minister to see that the prices of essential drugs are well within the reach of the poor patients.

Sir, regarding health care, the population of our country has crossed more than 100 crores. But most of our population is very poor and do not have any access to quality healthcare. As everybody is aware, the cost of healthcare has gone up many a times and the sky-rocketing everyday. When this is the situation in urban areas, I do not emphasis here about the situation in rural areas. People living in villages have to travel a long distance to reach hospitals and many a times, when they are critically ill, they find it difficult to travel and sometimes they die before they reach the hospital. This is the condition of health services in the rural India.

The Government should set up a health centre in every village, or at least in every Gram Panchayats, the Government must set up Primary Health Centres, and that health centre should have all basic facilities and to handle emergency cases. It should have the facilities for pregnancy, laboratory and other first-aid facilities. The Government should set up one hospital with all modern facilities in every Taluk Headquarters and that hospital should have all facilities including facilities to handle all major operations and emergency cases, surgeries, etc. And at the District level, the Government should set up one Referral Hospital and Research Centre which would cater the needs of the whole district. Large numbers of patients are facing hardships because of this non-availability of medicines and doctors and this aspect should also be taken into consideration and rectify these problems immediately.

Sir, there is one Government Ayurvedic hospital by name Taranath Ayurvedic College, functioning in Bellary, Karnataka and this is the only hospital functioning in this area. This hospital functioning in an old building and it requires a new building. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 5 crores is required. If this amount is released by the Central Government as grant, this hospital can develop its functioning and it will be beneficial for large number of patients. Hence, I urge upon the Minister to release a sum of Rs. 5 crores towards grant for this hospital for the benefit of public at large.

On the power sector, I think, the Finance Minister has missed an opportunity to assist the ailing power sector which is reeling under an average shortage of over 8% and peak power deficit of 13%. There has been no mention of any incentive or tax breaks to attract both domestic as well as foreign investors in the sector. The Finance Minister has done little to provide a filip with this

[Shri G. Karunakara Reddy]

Budget. Amongst some of the measures that could have been initiated, was the extending of the mega status benefits to smaller power plants of 250 MW and 500 MW. The Budget, while addressing reduction of levies on coking coal will be beneficial for steel sector, also the same benefits could have been extended to coal used by thermal power plants. I urge upon the Finance Minister to consider this suggestion and extend the reduction of levies for this power sector also.

The Finance Minister pointed out that the target of rural electrification had not been pursued well and the Government was falling short in performance. So far, only 19,758 villages have been covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuthikaran Yojana, as against the target of 1,25,000 villages. If this is the present situation, I do not know when all the villages in the country would be covered under this Yojana? I urge upon the Union Government to increase the allocation for this project and ensure that all the villages in the country to cover and complete the rural electrification project at the earliest.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister had promised to make substantial progress in the infrastructure sector, particularly where it concerns roads and ports. But, this was not to be. The National Highways Development Programme came to a standstill till September due to differences over setting up of a public-private partnership appraisal committee. Furthermore, the work on highways began in right earnest only in October when the Cabinet approved NHDP Phase-V and VI. Due to the delay in land acquisition and law and order problems in certain States, only 94% of the golden quadrilateral was completed till January 2007, as against the targeted 96% by June 2006.

Sir, the present UPA Government's flagship programme for rural infrastructure development, Bharat Nirman, also drew flak for being non-sustainable. While the budgetary support for Bharat Nirman was 1,74,000 crore, only Rs. 18,696 crore was sanctioned for the fiscal. To address this problem, the Government has now opened a separate window—Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 4,000 crore. Bharat Nirman aims to achieve road connectivity in all villages with a population of less than 1,000 (more than 500 in tribal and hilly areas). The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has stated that till December 2006, 12,918 km. of rural roads had been completed. But in reality, a large number of villages in the country are still without proper road connectivity and

I demand the Finance Minister to include all roads in the rural villages under this Programme and to take immediate steps to connect all the villages with proper road connectivity.

Shipping and ports sector also stayed out of the action in the fiscal, mainly due to a deadlock between the Planning Commission and the Ministry over the MCA for ports. As a result, hopes of getting private participation for about 10 projects this year is largely unfulfilled.

In rural telephony, the target set for this purpose was not completed during the last year and the reasons for this are best known to them. The Minister has said that 15,054 villages have been provided with a telephone against the target of 20,000 villages till December 2006. This has to be taken seriously and the Government should take necessary steps to complete the target set for this purpose.

The Government is manufacturing land-line telephone instruments, and the cell phone instruments are being manufactured by the private manufacturers. The private manufacturers are charging heavy amount for this cell phone instruments, which causes great loss to the middle class cell phone users. I urge upon the Union Government that the cell phone instruments should also be manufactured by the Government and the instruments should be sold in normal prices. This would enable the people to purchase the cell phone instruments at cheaper rates.

Sir, I came to know that under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), no amount has been allocated and released during the past two to three years to the Sellar District in Karnataka. This is great injustice to the people of Sellar District. I urge upon the Minister to see that necessary funds may be allocated and released to this District under the VAMBAY scheme immediately.

In the month of October-November and March-April, there is a big water crisis in Karnataka, especially in Bellary District. The farmers are not getting proper water supply for their crops. The farmers are frequently agitating for not providing water to them. The storage capacity of the Tungabhadra Dam is drastically reduced nearly by 30 TMC because of silt formation in the Dam. There is an urgent need to restore the reduced 30 TMC of water. I urge upon the Union Government to provide necessary financial assistance to the State Government of Karnataka for this purpose for the benefit of farmers.

Sir, I am given to understand that under the Rural Sanitation Programme, an amount of Rs. 1,200 is being given per house for the people living below poverty line. It is very difficult to provide rural sanitation with this small amount. I urge upon the Minister that this amount should be increased to Rs. 2,500 per house for the people living below poverty line, which is practically required to construct a house. The amount allocated in the Current Budget for the Rural Sanitation Programme is also very meagre and the Union Government should increase the allocation to a great extent.

Since Bellary District is also a Backward District, it has to be included in the Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana for the development of the District.

Sir, regarding textiles, I would like to mention that in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country, the weavers, especially handloom weavers are facing lot of problems. The rate of interest for their loan is on the higher side and their product yields low income. And because of these huge gaps, they are not in a position to clear their debts and to the extreme, they commit suicide, which is a very grave situation and needs to be addressed immediately. But nothing has been mentioned about this problem of the weavers, especially handloom weavers in the country, and there is no mention about the reduction of interest rate for their loan in the Budget. The Union Government should form a Commission to look into the problems being faced by the weavers to finance the weavers at lower interest rates and see that their products are sold at higher rate without middlemen, so that they can lead their normal life and committing suicides can be avoided.

Regarding tourism, especially in Karnataka, the large numbers of domestic as well as foreign tourists are visiting Karnataka. After Kerala, Karnataka is having wide scope of developing tourism. The World Heritage Centre of Hampi in Bellary District, the famous Fort of Chitradurga, Badami Pattadakallu in Bagalkot District, Mysore, Belgaum and many more important tourist spots are in Karnataka. Lots of coastal parts of Karnataka are also having tourism potential. The State Government of Karnataka have sent proposals to develop tourism in Karnataka. I urge upon the Union Government to clear all the proposals pending with the Tourism Ministry for financial assistance and other purposes in respect of Karnataka.

Bellary City is thickly populated place having a population of nearly 5 lakhs. One railway line (LC: 110) is crossing at the National Highway No. 63 between Ankola-Gooty Section. Due to heavy mining activities, number of goods trains carry iron are to different parts of country causes frequent closure of the railway gates. Due to this, vehicular traffic is frequently jammed. Most of the time, school buses are also caught jammed and students are also greatly suffered. This requires immediate Road Over Bridge. I request the Union Government to take up this project immediately so that the traffic jams in these sections will be reduced.

I request the Union Government and the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see that the above proposals/suggestions are considered and cleared at the earliest. *

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, while complimenting the hon. Minister of Finance for bringing out the Budget, a lot has been focused as far as agriculture is concerned. I would also share the agony which has been posed by many hon. Members that the interest rate has not been brought down to four per cent. So, I request that that must be considered.

Secondly, regarding agricultural insurance, it is a scheme where lot of agricultural produces are not included. I request that spices, rubber and other cash crops also may be included urgently. Thirdly, I would submit that as far as import duty on edible oils are concerned, there is a lot of concern for farmers especially those cultivating coconuts and other oilseeds from which oil is taken.

So, I would like to submit that it must be considered. Vanilla is one crop whose price has gone down from Rs. 3,000 per kilogram to about Rs. 150 per kilogram. If you spend Rs. 10 crore for procuring vanilla, the problem can be solved to a great extent. I would urge upon the Government to do that immediately.

I would request that the co-operative banks, where the farmers are now collectively coming up, are also to be considered and about 30 per cent of tax, which has been levied on district level and state level co-operative banks, should be reviewed and it should be stopped urgently.

There are lot of problems with respect to LPG. The availability of LPG is very low. When the VAT has come,

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

in many of the States, the tax has reduced on LPG. That has to be passed on to the LPG consumers. It must be done immediately.

Energy security is one aspect on which Budget has also stated something, but I would submit that a lot of work has to be done at our coasts, especially in the offshores of Kochin and Tamil Nadu and much concentration has to be made therein. I would submit that more amounts have to be earmarked for this aspect.

Coir is one sector for which amount has been given, but the amount given is only Rs. 120 crore, which is meagre.

As far as construction of class-rooms is concerned, it is a good suggestion that five lakh class-rooms are going to be built. I would submit that Government schools as well as aided schools may be considered. So, a scheme may be drawn out immediately so that this scheme goes down to the grassroots.

Lastly, corruption is on the increase. This is a matter on which there is no party-difference also. We find that many parties, many politicians as well as many in power and bureaucracy are also involved in corruption to a great extent. So, something has to be done to address this problem. I would think that the Budget would also have pointed to this aspect. Recently, a survey was done and it has been reported in many of the papers today. It is seen therein that India stands fifth in corruption in Asia. Maybe, because of globalisation, anybody can compete and even become first! I would submit that this is a shame. I would submit that apart from figuring it in the Budget Speech, even a Joint Parliamentary Committee could be formed to see that the allegations of corruption are taken seriously and matters can be passed on to the level where immediate inquiry takes place and proper punishment is given to the persons involved in corruption.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP (Rajampet): Sir, I rise to support the General Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. The growth rate has increased, but agricultural growth has come down. He has given priority to health, education, agriculture and irrigation sectors. I hail from the backward area, Rayalaseema of Andhra Pradesh. There, the rainfall is only 500-600 mm and the condition of farmers is so bad. Here, in the Central Government, our Finance Minister has announced Rs. 11,000 crore's allocation in this year's

budget to create additional irrigation potential of nine lakh hectares in the country. What I want to say is that our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Rajasekhara Reddy, keeping in the view the pathetic conditions of farmers for the last ten years in the State, has taken up Jalayagnam Project. Right from 2004-05, he has started concentrating on pending and ongoing irrigation projects mainly. In the Budget of Andhra Pradesh State, he has made an allocation of Rs. 12,000 crore this year. The Chief Minister has decided to provide water to irrigate one crore acres of land before-2009. Every year, he is going to spend Rs. 12,000 crore for irrigating 12 lakh acres of land. Every year, we, the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, who are large in numbers, particularly from Rayalaseema, request the hon. Finance Minister to consider these pending and on-going projects which are scheduled for completion by 2009 by extending all help and assistance to our Chief Minister. I would request the Finance Minister to kindly consider this subject matter, as a special case. We, all Members in this House, are very much concerned about the farming community.

Polavaram Project is the major project that is coming up in our State, and it is a viable project. After getting clearance from CWC, I would request the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to consider this project as a national project.

Ananthapuram and other Rayalaseema Districts in Andhra Pradesh, as I mentioned earlier, receive only 500 mm of rainfall. Therefore, to meet the irrigation requirements, our Chief Minister wants to take up Pothireddy Padu Project and Tungabhadra High Level Canal Project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now because there are other speakers also.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: I will complete the main points in another two minutes and I will lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

The Pothireddy Padu and Tungabhadra High Level Canal Projects should also be considered as national projects by the Central Government by giving preference to the drought-prone areas. Three hundred *mandals* have been declared as drought areas in Andhra Pradesh where the rainfall is very low.

Schemes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Rain-fed Area Development Programme,

Water Resource Management, Restoring of Water Bodies, and Groundwater Recharge Programme are all very important ones. Sir, I propose to the Government to lay similar emphasis on other plantations like sweet orange, lime, banana, papaya and mango in dry-land areas, particularly in the Rayalaseema region.

The Central Government has given special emphasis to the plantation sector by launching Tea Fund for replanting and regeneration of tea plants. Government is also considering a similar financial package for coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut. Keeping in view the drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh, the Government should consider the points mentioned by me.

Finally, before laying the rest of my speech on the Table of the House, I would like to recall what our beloved leader late Rajiv Gandhi has said. In the month of June or July, 1989, before I became a Member, our beloved leader late Rajiv Gandhi visited Cudapah District. Looking at the condition of the farmers in the backward areas, backward regions and the plight of the backward people, with a heavy heart, he said, "Though the Central Government allots and releases funds, by the time it reaches the beneficiaries, before it has passed through from the State to the district headquarters, from the district headquarters to the *mandals*, from the *mandals* to the revenue divisions, and from revenue divisions to the *Panchayats*, he gets only ten *paise* out of one rupee, and nobody knows where the remaining 90 *paise* is going. He himself said these words before the public.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place the rest of your speech on the Table of the House. You belong to the ruling Party.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: We are very much concerned about agriculture, and by giving special emphasis to the agricultural sector, we can increase our growth rate.

With these words, I would like to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, growth rate has increased but agriculture growth rate has come down. Sir, you have given priority to the Health, Education, Agriculture and Irrigation Sectors.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, I express my views with regard to irrigation, Agriculture Sectors mainly.

I am happy to notice that you have earmarked an outlay 11,000 Crores this year for irrigation sector under Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme. Sir, you said 35 projects are likely to be completed and additional potential of 9,00,000 hectares will be created in the country.

Sir, I wish to draw your kind notice that in Andhra Pradesh keeping in view of the farmers pathetic conditions for the past 10 years in the state our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy giving priority to the pending irrigation projects from 2004-05. Sir, this year Andhra Pradesh Budget allocation is 12000 crores. Sir, every year in my state, 12 lakes of Ayakut will be added with full of irrigation facilities and our Chief Minister is Committed to complete the pending and on going projects before 2009.

Sir, we, M.Ps large in number from Andhra Pradesh seek all your cooperation in giving helping hand to Andhra Pradesh to achieve the remarkable results.

Sir, Polavaram Project which is again useful project to my Tate is viable project and should be treated as National Project after clearing from CWC.

Sir, Jalayagnam programme is again appreciated by our Hon'ble Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji and again several times our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh ji the activities going on particularly irrigation side in Andhra Pradesh State. Sir, kindly extend all your help to Jalayagnam Programme launched in my state of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, in page 9 of your speech Accelerate Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Rainfed Area Development Programme, Water Resource Management, Restoring Water Bodies and again Ground Water Recharge are to every important one,

Sir, National Rainfed Area Authority was established a few months ago to coordinate all schemes relating to watershed development and other aspects of land use.

Sir, a pilot project to repair renovate and restore water bodies was launched in 13 states. Sir, 4,00,000 hectares

[Shri A. Sai Prathap]

will be given water by the water bodies in Tamil Nadu. An agreement made with Andhra Pradesh to cover 3000 water bodies with a command area of 2,50,000 hectares. Sir wherever Ground Water level is low such water bodies will be useful to store rain water, to store in small well type structures. Sir, Government has identified 1065 assessment blocks in the country as over-exploited and or critical. So 80% percent of such blocks are in 100 districts. Sir, dugwell each structure will cost about Rs. 4,000 Requirement, as you have stated again, seven Million structures in the country. Sir, to dugwell it; Rs. 4,000 will not be sufficient.

Sir, I request and recommend to conduct survey before going for such small well in different parts of the country as because it again depends on the soil structure. If it is loose soil it is ok. Or if it is hard soil then amount requirement will be more. So kindly get reports from the different states, so that such projects will be useful for small and marginal farmers in our country.

Sir, 80% are dependent on Agriculture in our country. Sir, out of them 60% of the farmers who holds 2 acres to 5 acres maximum. Most of them are small and marginal farmers.

Sir, in my state Andhra Pradesh I quote one area Rayalaseema consists of four districts—Ananthapur, Kadapa, Kurnool and Chittoor. Sir, average rainfall will be 500 to 600 mm. Sir most of the farmers will depend on rainfed crops only Sir due to natural calamities 4 to 5 years time their earning will be only 2000 or 3000 maximum from the dry land, depending on rainfed crops. Sir, the investment by a small farmer in consecutive years will again keep them unhappy.

Sir, we should concentrate on such areas in our country and give separate package to such draught areas for the upliftment of small and marginal farmers.

Sir, Training of Farmers is again a dream. I can say. Technological advancement has failed to deliver to our farmers under dry land situations. Sir, we possesses 90 million hectares of rainfed agricultural land in our country at this growth rate it takes 37 years to provide irrigation facilities to all the cultivable area of land. Sir can we afford to continue with the sufferings of our dryland and rainfed farmers for such long period? So we should prepare for both long and short term strategies to counter this problem.

As per my knowledge that 57% of the farmers are not aware of Crop Insurance, 71% do not know Cooperative Assistance. Further, 82% are not aware of use of Bio-Fertilizers. Sir, training is necessary take rural India for the benefit of various schemes of the Central Government.

Sir, ICAR should take necessary steps in collaboration with connected departments in using technological advancement particularly in our country where the rainfall is below 600 mm in the interest of small and marginal farmers. Sir, the allocation of 100 Crores to training farmers may not be sufficient to achieve the desired growth in Agricultural field. So kindly increase the allocation.

Sir, bringing another 50 lakhs farmers under farm credit is certainly a commendable move. Sir, the time has come to go into deep sector-wise analysis of credit flow in agricultural sector. Special allocation is required to address the credit requirement of most suffered lot. The interest rate chargeable on farmers is very high considering rate of return and high enterprise risk to the small and marginal farmers.

Sir, in regard to plantation sector a special purpose Tea Fund has been launched for re-plantation and rejuvenation of Tea. Government is also considering similar financial mechanisms for coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut. Sir, I propose to the government to lay similar emphasis in other plantations like sweet orange, lime, Banana Papaya and mango plantations. In the dry land areas particularly in Rayalaseema region we have huge extent of land under these type of plantations.

In regard to Fertilizer subsidies, I appreciate government for budgeting Rs. 17,253 Crores for fertilizer subsidies in 2006-07. I welcome government's thinking on alternative mechanism of delivering subsidy directly to the farmers. But in this regard, I would also request government to take up the cause of organic farming more seriously. Time has come to think seriously to consider various models of increasing organic agriculture which will decrease the farmers dependent on chemical fertilizers. I know the disadvantages of chemical fertilizers which is harmful for soil fertility.

Finally, sir I still remember that in the year 1989 our beloved leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji when he visited to my district Kadapa early hours of the day he expressed

with a heavy heart as Prime Minister, we made so many allocations in the general budget of the Central Government keeping in view of the difficulties of all section including farmers, we made allocations in the budget will reach the State Governments for the upliftment of our society. But when it reaches to the state from centre again from the state to district headquarters, from district headquarters to Revenue Divisions, from revenue divisions to mandals, from mandals to Panchayats for example each individual who is expected to get 1 rupee whereas that particular individual gets only 10 paise out of one rupee released by both Central and State Governments. Remaining 90 paise where it is going? culprits should be punished. So sir, measures are to be taken because 60 years have been passed after independence still suicide farmers deaths are increasing. So, kindly give attention and directions as you are a senior and highly knowledgeable finance minister as we expected year by year the growth rate will take our nation farther.

With all them I conclude."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to tell you one thing. You impress upon the leaders the fact that the party leaders speak for unlimited time thereby leaving the others to suffocate. So, there must be some equitable distribution of time. Each and every Party should consider this aspect. Leaders come and speak for a long time, the time is exhausted, and others do not get time to express themselves. This is a wrong procedure. You must impress upon your Party leaders to see that there is equitable distribution of time among the Party speakers. Otherwise, we will be put to difficulties. They come and speak for long time and the others who speak afterwards do not get time. This is the usual practice adopted by all Parties.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I am the leader of my Party. I should be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name was called but unfortunately you were not present in the House.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Respected Chairman, Sir, when the Budget was presented on the 28th February to this august House, the people of the country were anxiously looking forward to it with the hope that the UPA Government and the Finance Minister would do a lot for the common people, downtrodden people, SCs, STs, and the agriculture sector. But all their expectations went in vain.

The Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka came here and requested the hon. Finance Minister to reduce the rate of interest on farm loans from 11 per cent to 4 per cent, and if that is not possible to reduce it at least to 7 per cent. All their requests went in vain. The only thing that the Finance Minister did is that he increased the outlay farm lending from Rs. 1,75,000 crore to Rs. 1,90,000 crore. He has increased the loan amount. To clear one loan, farmers have to take another loan. Because of this, farmers are committing suicide in the country.

My district is a special district. In the last two years, there were heavy rains and the district was badly affected. During that time they have given some relief. During that time, the accounts of farmers who had taken loans were regularized. Because of that the benefit of distressed farmers' package has been given to my District. But the real farmers are not able to get the benefit of this package. The honest farmers who have taken loans are in trouble because of floods. The Minister of Agriculture, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister directed the banks to covert short-term loans into long-term loans. Because of this, the real farmers are not getting the benefit of this package. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please consider the cases of all those farmers whose accounts have been made regular during the flood situation.

My district is a major sugar-growing district. In Maharashtra and Karnataka, most of the farmers are growing sugarcane. There has been no mention in the Budget of any special package for sugar farmers this year. Last year, the hon. Finance Minister announced a special package for sick sugar industries in the cooperative sector. This year there has been no such reference. Because of this, sugarcane is not being crushed in my district and in my State.

The other day, hon. Minister of Agriculture had visited Karnataka, and expressed his inability. He said,

[Translation]

What can I do if the country is producing so much sugarcane." When the Minister has given a statement like this then what can I say.

[Shri A. Suresh Angadi]

[English]

On the one side the hon. Finance Minister takes away the entire money to Tamil Nadu and on the other the Minister of Agriculture says that he is unable to do anything. If this is the situation, I have to call this Government a *Tughlaq Raaj*.

[Translation]

Unable of taking a decision.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, it is unfair on the part of the hon. Member to say that the entire money goes to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Actually, that seems to be the case. Water is for Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The universities go to Tamil Nadu; water facilities go to Tamil Nadu. Everything goes to Tamil Nadu. He is the Finance Minister of the country and not the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu. My request is that he should consider himself as the country's Finance Minister.

Further, I want to mention something about the price of sugarcane. Last year, the farmers were getting Rs. 1500 per tonne. But this year, because of distress conditions, they are getting only Rs. 650 - Rs. 900. If this is the case, they may again commit suicide. The problems are very severe; the farmers are in great trouble in our region. Sugarcane is not going to the factories; the factory owners are not taking sugar cane. The farmers will commit suicide, if this condition continues. Otherwise, they have to put all the sugarcane into fire.

About cement, I want to say something. The price of cement has gone up; in Mumbai, it was Rs. 300. Still, 75 per cent of the people do not have any civic amenities in rural areas. Cement prices have gone up to Rs. 300. If the common man cannot have cement, he cannot have minimum basic civic amenities. If cement is sold for Rs. 190, the incentive to the seller is Rs. 2.50. If it is sold for Rs. 300, the companies will get huge benefits. So, I would say that the hon. Minister has not taken care of the development of this country. If cement is not there, we cannot have infrastructure in this country. For the development of the country, we need cement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not record anything. The speech of Dr. Manoj will only be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

#SHRI SURESH ANGADI: I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak on the budget. People of the country were very much anxious and hopeful for good news. But people of the country upset after the budget as the Honourable Finance Minister laid the negative budget. This budget is not in the interest of farmers, wherein Karnataka the State Government has reduced the rate of interest of Co op Banks from 11% to 4%. But very sorry to inform you that your own Government has appointed Dr. Swaminathan Committee which has also recovered 4% interest to the farming community the same has not implemented, Finance Minister inversed credit limit 1,75,000 into 1,90,000 crore to farming Sector.

There is a special package of farmers in distress. My district farmers are not eligible to avail this facility. My district was affected by flood, during this time many roads, bridges, villages submerged in water heavy loss of crops, also of life and animals.

During this time Hon'ble Agricultural Minister visited my district also Prime Minister and UPA Chairman. A small relief was given to my district and during this time loans of the farmers were not waived off. The loans of the farmers were regularised the bad debt accounts of the farmers made them as long term loan without any payment.

Subsequently my district has included in a special package of farmers in distress for the bad debt loans of the farmers. Here the real farmers unable to get this package because their accounts were renewed as per the Government Directions here I kindly request the Hon'ble Finance Minister please direct the concerned bank authorities to take the accounts of the farmers those whose accounts have made regularised during flood affected time, for "Distress Farmers Package".

Sugarcane :—Mr Speaker Sir last year the Hon'ble Finance Minister has kept some money for sugar factories for revival of the sick sugar factories but this year no mention. These industries provide large employment for

* Not recorded.

#.....# This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

the rural people. Further Mr. Speaker Sir I am very sorry to inform to this August House that Honourable Agricultural Minister visited Karnataka recently, he has stated his inability to the farmers of sugarcane growers as their sugarcane not lifted from the fields. More than 50% of sugarcane will remain in the fields of farmers and same farmers may burn their sugarcane because most of sugar factories are not lifting. These factories are purchasing the sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 650 to 900 per MT due to this once again farmers will put great hardship. Where as the sugar was sold all these day at the rate of Rs. 1700 to 2000 per quintal. This Government is not in the favour of farmers or not in the favour of 'AAM JANTA' is not in consumer favour this is a negative Budget. Hence, I request Hon'able Finance Minister therefore Sir you kindly take care about the sugarcane growers in the country to pay them at least Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 as subsidy to overcome with the problem.

Cement Industry:— Sir, to see any country with Developed or Developing that is only by its infrastructure that in roads, bridges, community, health, Airports and ports apart from this residential, Hotel etc. The cement is important. Mr. Speaker Sir when there was clash between lefts & DMK yesterday in the House you have acted like 'CEMENT' and you have brought House in order. To bring the country to the Developed stage cement is important. But Hon'ble Finance Minister levied excise duty Rs. 12 per bag extra this year. Further he has given incentive of Rs. 2.50 per bag of the cement sold at the rate Rs. 190 of the cement sold above Rs. 190 for this Rs. 12 extra excise duty. By this all over the country today the cement price is above Rs. 250 Hence this budget is negative not for the Development, Mr. Speaker Sir, I appeal through you to honourable Finance Minister he could have given more encouragement to cement industry to produce more cement than the cement price could have come down which will help us to develop the country. This industry will give large employment also, labours, coolies, masons, architects, engineers, etc.

Unemployment:— Sir, there are huge human resources in the country. There are many unemployed youths for them. There is no mention in this budget. Many nationalised banks are not financing to the youths under PMRY because of this most of the youths are getting frustrated, the incident shameful for all of us when our beloved His Excellency President of India has visited Gulbarga in Karnataka state four youths consumed poison before him while addressing public meeting there. Hence

I request through you Sir the Government of India must also make some arrangements like Government of Karnataka to train the youths in their respective fields.

Ayush University:— Sir, I apprise the Government through you sir the Fincance Minister has not provided any special amount for Ayurveda. This country has 5000 year history and in this country most of the people are surviving on traditional medicines most of people unable to go to the big Hospitals. Sir My Constituency is full of Western Ghats. There are many Ayurvedic colleges, hence I request through you sir the Government should start Ayurvedic Universities in my area. There is an Indian Medical Research Centre there. The Govt & Finance Minister has not kept any amount for the traditional medicine. Now I request you please provide special fund and Government should sanction a Ayurvedic Univerity in Belgaum.

Water Policy:— Respected Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister has not kept any amount for Ganga Cavery Yojana. He has promised only 11000 crore for irrigation.

If the country spends Rs. 50,000 crore for irrigation there more than 60% irrigation can be made. The States are fighting each other for water. One side, for Cauvery water Tamil Nadu & Karnataka, for Bhima Krishna Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka and for Mahadai water Goa state & Karnataka for drinking water. Sir to avoid these problems immediately there should be a National Water Policy for all the states and the Honourable Finance Minister should provide special amount to start Ganga Cauvery.

Karnataka is one of the important state in the country, in IT and BT. Bangalore silicon city bigger than America due to IT Karnataka people brought the country's name on top in international intellectuals. Karnataka is the Educational Hub. But due to the water & river dispute the neighbouring states are always quarrelling in our country. Hence through you Sir, I appeal to the Finance Minister & Government to have a water policy immediately and provide adequate money for this purpose i.e. "Ganga Cauvery" #.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having given me the opportunity to take part in the debate on the General Budget for the year 2007-08.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

There is nothing in the Budget for which the UPA Government could be proud of nor are there any concrete steps to meet the challenges of majority of the people in the country like the agrarian crisis, inflation and unemployment. While boasting of 9.2 per cent growth in the current year, the overall growth in agriculture is only 2.73 per cent. This is very important since 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Only half of what was proposed in the Tenth Plan Period was achieved in agriculture sector. Also, more than 60 per cent of the people are living in rural areas and majority of them depends on agriculture. So, more than 50 per cent of the population of our nation is outside the growth trajectory. They are actually the victims of growth. When growth is not reaching the majority, we cannot say that it is in the correct direction.

On an average, nearly one lakh farmers are committing suicide every year. Contrary to our expectation, to attain food self-sufficiency and security in the country, we are now thinking of importing more wheat, sugar, onion, etc. I must say that any planning process forgetting the farmers would not be fruitful. What is required in the farming community are seeds, fertilizer, insecticide at low price, etc. They need electricity and irrigation facilities. They demand remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. It is not the farm credit alone that they are wanting.

Apart from fertilizer subsidy, there was no mention about any other subsidies in this Budget. The moneys allocated for irrigation facilities are very meagre. In this era of knowledge explosion, no emphasis is made on R&D in the field of agriculture. There is nothing in the Budget to ensure remunerative prices to agricultural produce.

FDI in retail sector not only affects the retail industry, but it also leads to denial of remunerative prices to agricultural produce. Apart from FDI, the entry of MNCs in the retail sector would also lead to crashing of prices given to farmers.

Fisheries sector also come under the Agriculture Ministry. Fisheries sector also earning foreign exchange to the exchequer. More attention needs to be paid to traditional fisheries sector. Now, the traditional fishermen are not provided with subsidized kerosene oil, whereas diesel is provided with subsidy. So, the quota of kerosene oil to traditional fishermen should be increased and subsidy should be given to them.

The traditional fishery crafts are not provided with insurance. National Insurance Scheme for traditional fishery crafts should be provided. The excise and customs duties on imported outboard engines used by the traditional fishing sector should be waived off. It is learnt that the Planning Commission has come out with a recommendation that only one fishing harbour in a State would be given Central assistance. This is objectionable. More Central assistance for constructing more fishing harbours and fish landing centres should be provided.

Several policies adopted by the UPA Government are against the federal system prevailing in the country. For example, when the price of petroleum product is increased, there was a direction by the Central Government to the States to curtail the sales tax to decrease the burden on consumers. In the matter of inflation also, the hon. Prime Minister urged the States to take such measures. Now, in the implementation of Aam Aadmi Beema Yojana where death and disability insurance cover is given in the unorganized sector, 50 per cent of the premium should be borne by the State Government. Also, ceiling limit put by the Central Government over the State Government credit availability is another example of this supersession of our federalism.

Sir, I would like to place the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Even in the wake of high inflatory tendency, there is nothing in the Budget to strengthen the Public distribution system for universalization of PDS.

Even though the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is extended to 130 more districts, adequate allocation is not made in the budget. Also several backward districts, like Alappuzha, even though recommended by planning commission are not included. I urge the government to include Alappuzha district which is also debt driven district under NREGS. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan is making a study on the Agrarian crisis of Alappuzha district and has submitted an interim report. I urge upon the government to implement the interim recommendation of the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee.

Honourable Finance Minister has recommended Merit-cum-means scholarships to avail drop-out from schools. But this will not make any difference. In addition to programmes like Mid-day-Meal, Lump-sum-grant or

.... This part of the speech was laid on te Table.

stipends should be given to children of backward & rural areas and children belonging to SC/ST and SEBCs.

Sir, 5% of the population is constituted by mentally challenged individuals. In my district alone there are 15 schools for mentally challenged children including one residential school. But only two schools are getting grant-in-aid. Grants should be given to more schools and more institutions for training teachers to teach these children should be established.

Under NRHM more importance should be given to primary health care. Strengthening of Primary Health Centres with adequate manpower, provision of drugs medical investigation faculties in all PHCs: If PHCs are strengthening by participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the overcrowding at district hospitals and Medical college hospitals can be avoided.

Mental Health Programmes should be extended to all districts under NRHM. Problems of old aged people (Gentries Health Problems) and life style diseases also should give due attention under NRHM.

Cancer Control Programme also should be extended to all districts in the state. National Family Health Survey has shown that 47% of children in the country are malnourished which warrant the universalization of ICDS in the country. Honourable Minister has mentioned about the upgradation of ITI's in the country. Health Care Service also demands more human resources, I would urge only the government to establish more public institutions for medical and paramedical courses. Sir overseas Indians contribute very much to our exchaquer. But nothing is mentioned in the budget for the welfare of the overseas Indian and their family members here.

Sports— More allocation should be made for building sport infrastructure in the states. More allocation should be made for building tourism infrastructure as tourism is emerging as a prominent stay of our economy. Coastal Area of Kerala is socially, economically and educationally backward. Special allocation should be given for the development of coastal areas in the country."

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Sir, I rise to speak on the General Budget 2007-08, presented by Shri P. Chidambaram, hon. Minister of Finance. I whole-heartedly support the Budget.

The Budget is equity-oriented. The core features of the Budget are commendable, like increased outlay for the rural sector, education, health, employment and social security schemes. Given the gavages of inflation, which really hurt the vulnerable sections the most, it would be unconscionable not to increase allocations to these segments. The allocation for education is increased by 34.2 per cent, which helps in strengthening the educational infrastructure and also teachers training and Mid-day Meals Programmes. The allocation of Rs. 3,240 crores for implementation of new OBC quota is a welcome step.

Lét us thank the Finance Minister for allocating 21.9 per cent increase in health sector. Out of Rs. 15,291 crore, Rs. 1290 crore has been earmarked for the eradication of Polio and Rs. 969 crore for AIDS control. As regards National Rural Health Mission, I want to say a few words. With regard to communicable diseases, vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Filariasis, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue and Chikungunya, which are prevalent in coastal and tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, special focus should be paid and a Vector Control Centre should be opened at Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh immediately to control these diseases. This would also help the people of neighbouring States like Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Even NGOs should be involved in eradicating these diseases in tribal areas. But the allocation to the health sector is still less than two per cent of GDP. So, I would request the Finance Minister to step up the allocation for the health sector substantially.

I compliment the Finance Minister for disbursing the farm credit of Rs. 175,000 crore in two years instead of three years. The Government is confident of reaching farm credit of Rs. 190,000 crore during the current financial year. For 2007-08 the farm credit target is fixed at Rs. 225,000 crore with an addition of 50 lakh new farmers. In this connection, I would suggest to the Finance Minister that new farmers' groups, "Rythu Mitras" just like Self Help Groups, should be encouraged and strengthened for effective implementation of the agricultural credit loans, crop insurance and insurance for farmers. This will help in fixing up the accountability and optimum recovery of loans. There should be training programmes for farmers and they should be made aware of the various schemes launched by the Government.

I would also like to congratulate the Government for Bharat Nirman and the flagship programmes, which are going to change the face of rural India.

[Shrimati Jhansi Rani Botcha]

19.00 hrs.

The Finance Minister has increased the allocation for Bharat Nirman by 31.6 per cent to Rs. 24,603 crore. In this regard, our Chief Minister, Dr. Y.S. Raja Shekhara Reddy has taken up additional irrigation projects. For want of clearances from various Central agencies, this work is not proceeding at the expected speed. Once these projects are cleared, it will definitely contribute to the national agricultural production. I sincerely submit that the Finance Minister has aptly quoted Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's famous statement made in 1947, and I would like to quote it again because it is more relevant today. He said: "Everything else can wait but not agriculture." All these efforts indicate that the UPA Government is for the farmers, of the farmers and by the farmers.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for achieving the target of construction of rural houses. We have been told that the Government is likely to exceed the target of 15 lakh houses. Since there has been a hike in the cost of the raw materials, the cost of these rural houses would automatically go up. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to step up the allocation accordingly.

Finally, before concluding, I heartily congratulate the Finance Minister for increasing the tax limit in respect of a woman assessee from Rs. 1,35,000 to Rs. 1,45,000. At the same time, I would request the Finance Minister to increase the tax limit in respect of middle class brothers from the proposed Rs. 1,10,000 to, at least, Rs. 1,25,000.

I would like to lay the rest of the Speech on the Table.

"I whole-heartedly support the Budget. The budget is equity-oriented. The Finance Minister performed the difficult task of balancing distributive justice and fiscal prudence, providing sufficient impetus to stay on the growth path and yet, not strengthen inflationary expectations. The Budget aims at realizing our dream, which is eluding us since long. That is, the gain of growth must be shared with larger sections of the people, the sections that are being neglected. At the same time, we should guard against the criticism that many of the social schemes we have funded are badly managed, badly governed, badly monitored and corrupt, so that the fruits reach the needy and poor.

"... " This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Agriculture sector is a cause for concern to the Government. Most of our agriculture production depends on the vagaries of the monsoon. The Tenth Plan estimated a growth rate of 4 per cent but the Government, could achieve only 2.3 per cent. There are about 115 million farming families in the country. Therefore, the Government, in its wisdom, has given top priority to agriculture.

It is good that revenues have peaked. The Government has also collected additional revenues. The hon. Finance Minister has promised to put these revenues to good to promote comprehensive growth, equity and social justice, which are enshrined in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Inflation is a cause for concern. Only last week the inflation rate has come down because the Government has taken a number of steps on the fiscal, monetary and supply sides to maintain price stability. Let us not forget that when the UPA Government came to power in 2004, the inflation rate was on the rise. Bank credit has grown steadily by 29.6 per cent. Money supply has increased by 21.3 per cent. Foreign exchange reserves stood at US \$180 billion. I agree with the Finance Minister that these are indicators of high growth. The Finance Minister did a delicate balancing job in this Budget. At the same time, he kept the growth engine running.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for proposing an outlay of Rs. 11,000 crores for 2007-08, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in order to complete more irrigation projects which will bring additional 9 lakh hectares. The Finance Minister has aptly quoted Jawaharlal Nehru's famous statement made in 1947, and I would like to quote it again because it is more relevant today. "Everything else can wait but not agriculture." All these efforts indicate that the UPA Government is for the farmers, of the farmers and by the farmers. The summer season is approaching fast. Many areas will be facing acute drinking water problem. I would request the hon. Minister to cover more habitations, particularly drought prone, tribal and coastal areas, in the next financial year, 2007-08 under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. Therefore, this scheme and comprehensive protected water scheme for providing drinking water should be given a top priority because many of the diseases in these areas are water borne.

Under rural roads up to 12,198 KMs have been completed till December, 2006. But the Finance Minister

has not mentioned the target to be achieved. If we want to achieve the desired growth rate, then, we must have proper infrastructure like pucca roads. Due to non-availability of pucca roads in interior and remote villages in backward districts, farmers are unable to bring their produce to the markets and get remunerative prices. They are not getting even the cost of inputs which they have invested. Taking advantage of the situation, middlemen and moneylenders are exploiting these farmers. Even the roads which were laid a decade back have become useless. Special funds should be provided for maintenance of these roads so that farmers can transport their agricultural produce to the market.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for achieving the target of construction of rural houses. We have been told that the Government is likely to exceed the target of 15 lakh houses. Since there has been a hike in the cost of the raw materials, the cost of these rural houses would automatically go up. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to step up the allocation accordingly.

The service tax exemption on clinical trials would help boost R&D and innovation, which is needed for the overall growth of the pharma industry. The industry welcomed the move and reiterated that this will give a greater impetus to R&D, making India a more attractive and low cost pharmaceutical destination.

Even though Rs. 72,246 crores were allocated for rural package of which Rs. 12000 crores for NREGS, I request the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation further as the scheme is expanded to 130 districts more from the current 200 districts.

Tax concessions given to S.M.Es are welcome. The reduction in customs duty, the increase in the dividend distribution tax are also welcome.

Before concluding, I heartily congratulate the Finance Minister for increasing the tax limit in respect of a woman assessee from Rs. 135,000 to Rs. 145,000. At the same time, I request the Finance Minister to increase the tax limit in respect of middle class brothers from the proposed Rs. 1,10,000 to at least Rs. 1,25,000.

Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Budget (General), 2007-08.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for the discussion is over. If you all agree, we can extend

the time by half-an-hour as there are still three-four Members to speak.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Chairman, Sir, people had lot of expectation from the 11th five year plan that inflation and unemployment will be deliberated upon seriously in it. But when I went to my constituency than people stated that budget should not be implemented. Because flour which was at rupees 14 per kg before the budget, has gone up to rupees 15 per kg after it. A Cement bag which used to cost rupees 190 per bag has gone up to rupees 225. Hence this budget has increased prices. On the other hand unemployment has not been discussed in it. The number of unemployed persons is rising in the country. Several factories are sick or lying closed. No efforts have been made to restart them so that unemployed person can get work. Earlier we used to get our money's worth but if the prices continue to arise at this pace, then we will have to carry money in bullock cart to buy a pocket full of things.

Sir, as far as the question of education is concerned, our friends are discussing the condition of primary schools and high schools. I would like to say that there are many schools with only one or two teachers. Para teachers have been appointed in primary or secondary schools where there is shortage of teachers. In Jharkhand Para teachers are being paid a salary of Rs. 2000. Whereas the regular government school teachers are drawing salary between rupees 15 thousand to 20 thousand in the same schools. 2000 para teachers which have been appointed are teaching well and are talented. Hence through you I would like to request the Union Government to give directions to the Jharkhand Government to pay at least Rs. 5000 to the para teachers. The salaries of teachers who have actually been working should be increased. The teachers who have been adopted on adhoc basis and are approaching age limit should also be given the benefit of raise in the salaries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been discussed. The number of districts to be covered under this scheme has been increased from 200 to 320, but in Jharkhand there is no progress in this regard and no officer is willing to work under this scheme. I would like to state about Rajiv

[Shri Tek Lal Mahto]

Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme that tender has been given to DVC in Jharkhand but even after more than a year, no amount has been provided to DVC. Hence the work of rural electrification has not been taken up anywhere.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Member of Parliament gets rupees two crore as MPLADS fund in Jharkhand every MLA is being given rupees three crore. Under these circumstances, I would like that rupees two crore should be allotted for every legislative area under the MPLAD fund or else it should be done away with because we face lots of problems due to this. We find ourselves so helpless when we visit our constituencies. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state something about drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)* No member can get a well dug up in his constituency from the MPLAD fund. ...*(Interruptions)*. Hence, through you, I request the Union Government to grant permission to use this fund for the said purpose. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE (Khargone):
Hon'ble Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister towards those missing links of the budget of financial year 2007-08 due to which it has failed to be a commonmen's budget.

In this budget, 2007-08 neither measures have been taken for controlling ever increasing inflation nor any concern has been shown towards ordinary man. This budget has nothing to do with the farmers committing suicides due to heavy loans and no relief has been given to individual tax payers. As a whole, no section of the society has been given any relief in this general budget. However, fiscal discipline, economic development, encouragement to capital market and concern for social sector have been reflected in this budget. But, no such new project has been initiated in this budget, which is worth mentioning. On one hand, the Government has initiated Bharat Nirmaan Yojana and also stating about the development of infrastructure but in reality no strong measures have been taken 31.6 percent increase has been made in this year's budget for rural development. 130 more districts will be brought under National Rural employment guarantee scheme during the financial year 2007-08. Thus the scheme will be implemented in 330 districts. For this 12000 crore rupees have been provided

in the budget while 11,300 crore rupees were sanctioned last year for 200 districts. This budget provision shows that the amount sanctioned last year under this head could not be fully utilized and as a result, proportionate increase has not been made in the budget though number of district have been increased this year. Similarly an increase of 34 percent for education and 31.9 percent for Public Health and Family Welfare has been made.

The target of creating an additional irrigation capacity of one crore hectares has been fixed under Bharat Nirmaan Yojana. Hence, to strengthen accelerated irrigation benefit programme a provision of rupees 11 thousand crore has been made for 2007-08 as against an outlay of rupees 7121 crore made in the year 2006-07, out of it, grants for states will stand at rupees 3580 crore which is higher in comparison to the last year's provision of rupees 2350 crore the practical problems being faced by the state Governments in arranging financial resources under this scheme from other financial sources are being brought to the notice of hon. Finance Minister since last year, but no attention has been paid on the same in this budget. The Government has also a scheme of connecting 66802 habitations having a population of more than one thousand with all weather roads. Appropriate financial provision has not also been made to achieve this targets. Similarly the target of providing drinking water and construction of 60 lakh dwelling units for the rural poor will also turn out to be mere announcements due to shortage of appropriate budget provision. Leave aside the attempts of the Government, even common man can now only dream of constructing house, because of increase in cement prices due to increase of excise duty. The Government have set a target of providing electricity to one lakh twenty five thousand villages covering 23 million families under Bharat Nirmaan Yojana, but the pace at which the work of rural electrification is going on, it seems that this project also will not be able to achieve its target within the stipulated time limit. Even if we agree to government's better performance on economic front, still then hon. Finance Minister has forgotten to consider economic consistency. The rate of economic growth is increasing and the process of liberalization is still continuing, then it's natural that foreign investors are attracted towards India due to which there is no doubt that this year income will be 40 percent more than the estimates, but the same has no effect on common man and he is suffering from inflation. Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself agreed to the fact that in

*The speech was laid on the Table.

agriculture, growth rate was below 3 percent though industrial growth rate was crossing the figure of 14 percent. In a country where 60 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture sector whose growth rate is 3 percent while rate of inflation is 6 percent then actual agriculture growth rate instead of being 3 percent is in fact 3 percent in negative, but none has paid any heed to the same.

In this budget it was expected from Hon. Finance Minister that he will take some effective steps to prevent farmers from committing suicides but he has left the hopes of farmers on R. Radhakrishnan Committee's report. An attempt has been made to show needs of farmers as the mask of the budget. In agriculture, which is the lifeline of 60 crore Indians, 80 percent of them are indebted farmers with less than 2 and a half acre land. These farmers are also included in our poorest sections. The farmers who contribute only two percent to the national income how much can they invest for increasing income of agriculture sector after hardly managing their two square meal. Hon'ble Finance Minister should consider it seriously.

In retail sector, farmers should be made partners of such companies, which do business on their agricultural products. I mean to say that such farmers whose crop is purchased and whose products are sold in world market by packaging through food processing industry, should be provided with any kind of partnership with these retail companies because retail business will flourish on their crops only, hence they should not only get right price for their crop but should be made partners in the profit of such company then only farmers of our country will prosper.

Nothing has been done to counter the possible threat arisen out of inflation in the economy as has been indicated in the Economic Review. Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that during NDA's Government in 2002-03, foodgrain production was 3.5 crore ton less, due to severe drought, but inspite of that our stores had 6 crore ton foodgrains. However, the prices have not gone down, inspite of import of 55 lakh ton wheat. My submission is that if the Hon'ble Finance Minister is sensitive towards farmers, he should certainly consider about support price, so that farmers can get relief at this level atleast.

The concession provided to the business class in importing foodgrains at cheaper rate by waiving custom

duty can not remove shortcomings of Public distribution system. Allowing middleman in the import of essential commodities like pulses is another option of inviting inflation.

Similarly in order to recognize commonman an commonman insurance scheme has been formulated. Under this scheme the Centre will pay half of the amount of premium of such rural people who are not covered under insurance, and rest half will be paid by the State Governments. While making provision of 1000 crore rupees under this need hon. Finance Minister forgot the outcome of other schemes, which had states partnership. Similarly, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan is also unable to achieve its target inspite of all out efforts by the Government.

Exemption of import duty will increase the market of foreign products and this will affect indigenous industry. By decreasing excise duty on petrol and diesel, only oil companies will be benefited, not the commonman. This budget will strengthen foreign powers, but will destroy agriculture, farmer and small scale industries.

The way concern is shown towards the poor in woods only same approach has been adopted towards handicaps.

There is provision in the Budget for providing employment to one lakh physically challenged persons in organized sector and for this the Union Government will pay the share money of employers for Provident Fund and employees security insurance premium for three years. However, I fail to understand as to why any employer will employ a physically handicapped person for only 10 percent of the Provident Fund contribution.

Very small amount has been allocated for small scale industries.

India is facing tough competition from China in this sector. Similarly, medium scale industries have also not get any assistance in the Budget. 2.5 percent tax has been imposed on the dividend released to the investors by the mutual fund companies. It will discourage investors to invest in mutual fund. The Government want to push the depositors to invest in share market which is full of risk for small depositors. Along with that, the hon'ble Minister of Finance is not maintaining any transparency about the constantly rising sensex in the share market.

[Shri Krishna Murari Moghe]

Giving supreme priority to National income growth leads to price rise. Who remembers that the consumer goods price index which was at 100 in 1982 has at present increased to 588 and has drastically decreased the purchasing capacity of rupee. Who is that common man whose income has increased by 6 times? This is different thing that this price rise has helped a small section of society enjoy high income during this quarter of century.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance quite cleverly has introduced cess to extract money from tax payers. Though there is no increase of Excise and Service Tax, however, it is a fact that 1 percent increase in education cess will lead to increase in prices of all services along with telephone bills. If the hon'ble Minister of Finance is so concerned about the education, he could have made provision for this from the Budget itself but has left education to survive with the support of cess.

As per the provision made by the hon'ble Minister of Finance, senior citizens may mortgage their houses and get fixed income and they do not have to worry for paying interests and principle amount. It has not been clarified in the scheme as to how much amount will have to be paid by their heirs after the death of the senior citizen and by what time he or she will get the mortgaged property. It also means that the property of those senior citizens who have no heirs will remain with the National Housing Bank for ever.

It is interesting to note that as per the study group of International Monetary Fund (IMF), nearly Rs. 110 lakh crore is deposited in various funds of the IMF to streamline the economy of the country facing budgetary deficit for years whereas the fiscal deficit is around Rs. 75 thousand crore. Hundreds of funds have been constituted in the country that includes Road Development Fund, Railway Safety Fund, Defence Fund, Pension Fund, Employees Welfare Fund, Textile Fund, Tea Grower Fund, General Insurance Fund are 19 such funds in which Rs. 110 lakh crore is deposited. If this huge unclaimed amount is utilized, the Budgetary deficit of the country can be easily met. It is worth mentioning that while on the one hand billions of rupees are lying idle in various contingency Funds of the Government of India which are not being utilized and on the other hand the Government have to give interest on it by keeping them in the account.

In view of the above, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he should be sensitive towards the problems being faced by the common man and should make provisions in the Budget accordingly.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was expected that the common man and the people at large will get relief from the Budget, however, after presentation of Budget it became clear to all that no section of the country has got any relief. So there is utter disappointment among people. You are aware that the farmers in several states have committed suicide. It was the moral responsibility of the Government to announce some package for them, so that, the financial condition of their families may improve and they may get two square meal ;however no such provision has been made in the current Budget. The price rise is so steep that it has broken the back of common man. The common man was waiting the Budget with the hope that it would mitigate price rise because some measures would be taken in the Plan Budget, but nothing has been done in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must be aware that the cooperative societies which are functioning in cooperative sector were set up on the demand of the people of all the places. The cooperative banks have also been brought under the ambit of income tax. They should be exempted from it. The Minister of Finance has not listened to the common people. I would like to make one request I will say few things and then lay the remaining part of my speech on the table of the House. There is paucity of time, so I will speak only on two issues. You know that even now there is one time settlement scheme for nationalised banks. However, there is nothing like this for the Urban Cooperative Banks of states operating in cooperative sector despite the demand for the same for many years. Earlier such schemes were introduced for these banks once or twice. The cooperative sector was also given one time settlement scheme. The volume of their NPA account has increased very much. They want that we should repay their loans; however, the amount of compound interest and penal interest has increased to the extent that is not possible to repay this amount. So, the people will be ready to repay the loan only if such scheme is introduced by the Minister and the Government will also be benefited by this. .../(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am elected from Goa and one issue has been raised by all my colleague that the Government have imposed export duty of Rs. 300 on iron ore. Now the entire iron ore will be exported by the Ministry. At least 40 percent people are employed in this profession. So, I would like to demand that the export duty that has been imposed by the Government, should be withdrawn at the earliest so that Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or Goa or any other states may be relieved of this burden. I lay the remaining part of my speech on the Table of the House.

[English]

"I would like to highlight the following points which have been brought in the Budget proposal delivered in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2007 wherein Export Duty is sought to be imposed on Iron Ore and concentrates all sorts at the rate of Rs. 300 per ton—*should be withdrawn*."

Economic and Strategic Relevance

The Goan Iron Ore Mining Industry is 100% dependent on Exports. The reason for this is two-fold. The first is the Goan iron ore is entirely Medium and Low Grade in Nature. Mining activity produces roughly equal quantity of both simultaneously. This Iron Ore is 85% of Fines quality and 15% Lumpy. Fines material has no market or demand in India, because there is absolutely no sintering facility or technology available in India. The sintering process is also highly environmentally polluting and ought not to be encouraged. The Lumpy quality is of too low a grade to be used in India Steel Mills, who have access to far higher grades of lumps, which are more cost effective. The Transportation over long distances is also on environmental concern. Thus, if Goan iron ore is not exported (and converted to Foreign Exchange, after undergoing the process of generating employment and tax revenue) and is not consumed in India, it ceases to become a strategic natural resource and loses all economic relevance, and the Low Grade generated in the course of mining will have to be treated as waste.

Export Duty Impact

Export of Grades below 58% Fe (10 million tons) will be extinguished. Export of Grades from 59-60% Fe

(3 million tons) will yield marginal profit, due to the need to absorb additional overheads on infrastructure already created as well as committed and in the pipeline. It is estimated that the Government of India and Government of Goa receives about Rs. 2007 per ton of Export at current levels in terms of Royalties, VAT, Duties, Service Tax, etc., which are direct in nature. Major cost heads in the Production and Export sequence are consumption of Diesel, Spares for trucks/pumps/earthmovers, Tyres and Steel Plants.

Apart from this, Mormugao Port Trust (Major Port) and Panjim Minor Port will lose revenues of about Rs. 150 Crores per annum in respect of Berth Dues, Port Dues Anchorages and Loading Charges. National Oil Companies would forfeit a further Rs. 450 Crores. Customs (Light Dues) about Rs. 2 crores.

It is difficult to assess the impact on FBT and Income Tax, but a ballpark figures suggests that perhaps a further Rs. 700 Crores will become forfeit. The main impact however, is that 25,000 people (out of a total population of 1.35 million) ranging from mine workers, barge workers, machine operators, truck drivers, mechanics, poor villagers engaged in tree plantation, taxi drivers, etc. will have their means of livelihood terminated. This will further impact indirect tax collection as well as have a cascading domino effect on the rest of the Goan economy. Already faced with a Budget Deficit, the Government of India will be unable to sustain the economical, social and political fallout. This would have a cataclysmic effect on the economic and social fabric of the citizens of a Model State with the highest per capita income as well as tax compliance in the country.

Most of the recent investment made in infrastructure (both Government & private) to cope with increased export market demand will become unviable and would lead to higher production cost of exportable grades, which could make these increasingly unviable through the cost spiral effect.

Despite the fall in Goan Exports, China, presently the main market for low-grade iron ore, will procure from Australia and Brazil to seamlessly fill up the vacuum, and market will be lost to Goa and India forever.

The Hoda Committee Report

The Hoda Committee Report is completely consistent without stand in that it proposes an Export Duty on High

* * This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Shripad Yesso Naik]

Grades (> 65% Fe) of Iron Ore LUMPS only, which we largely endorse, in the strategic interest of our domestic Steel Manufacturing Industry. With the introduction of the Export Duty, the effect has been that there is an encouragement to Export increasing quantities of only High Grades through economic viability, because the price realization is much high Grades through economic viability, because the price realization is much higher, while Low and Medium Grades, which out to be encouraged for export because they are of no strategic importance to domestic steel producers and the nation at large, are being encouraged to remain within our shores by virtue of rendering them economically unviable for Export. This cannot and does not serve the strategic interests of our Nation.

Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Budget Speech that "Taking a leaf out of the report and in order to conserve our natural resources as well as to raise revenue" this export duty has been proposed. The net effect of the tax is to reduce economic activity in Goa, thereby reducing revenues, while encouraging export of +65% Fe Lumps which are required by domestic steel producers.

The Budget proposal should strictly adhere to the Hoda Committee Report or else at least specifically exempt Goa and Port Redi, Maharashtra, which are also exempt from Export Licenses, from the purview of Export Duty in order to protect its economy and Iron Ore Mining Industry which as carried and economic aspirations of the Goan 'Aam Aadmi' for the last seventy years, rather than disillusion Goans to the point of turning them into unwanted economic refugees outside their State.

Sir, this request through you specially because Government twin objectives of conserving natural resources as well as to raise revenue will not be achieved in the Goan economic theatre as already explained.

In view of the above, Sir, I would therefore, request you to abolish the Export Duty in order to protect its economy and Iron Ore Mining Industry of Goa."

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chidambaram has presented the budget 2007-08 in the House. All of us are aware that the country's first budget was presented by Shri Shanmugam Shetty in the House on 28 November, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri P. Chidambaram had also presented the budget in 1996. He had also presented the budget for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2007-08. It appears that this budget is for strengthening the common man, it is true that prices are rising but NDA people are responsible for it. Their Government had been in power for six years, thereafter the UPA came to power.

Sir, Rs. 6,80,521 has been earmarked in the budget, and budget allocations has been increased for all the departments. As far as common man is concerned, 37.50 crore people are employed in unorganized sector of the country. It has been decided to implement an insurance scheme for one crore people of unorganized sector. It is a very good thing, but the insurance will not reduce the prices. The prices are increasing. My party is small. My party is supporting the Congress party and UPA Government, but is not supporting the price rise. We oppose the price rise.

Chidambaram, Sir, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji and Pallanimanickamji are renowned economist. The entire country is expecting a lot from UPA Government and we too want that it should provide relief to the common man. The justice should be provided to dalit, Unemployed youth, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Adivasi, farmers, labourers and women and lot of measures are required to be taken in this direction.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, the UPA Government still has two and a half years to complete its term. I would like to mention that a provision of Rs. 1,70,130 alone was required for component plan or tribal sub component plan, but the provision made in the budget is quite less. Therefore, I expect that Shri Chidambaram will make good budget and make provisions to check the price rise.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I am the leader of my Party and I will not take much time. .../(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that Shri Chidambaramji "hum mahangai badane wala budget nahin chahte, NDA ko Satta me chadane wala budget nahin chahte, Hum to budget chahte hain Sonia ji aur Manmohan ji ki takat badane wala aur UPA sarkar ko 2009 mein chadane wala".

[English]

*SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA (Davangere): Respected Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Budget. Sir, this Budget has not fulfilled the Rural India as there is no guarantee for the rural employment. The employment for rural people shall be given minimum 200 days Instead 100 days.

The Karnataka Government has made Coop Bank rate of interest 4% for the farmers so the same can be implemented for the Nationalised Banks in the country due to the suicide can be stopped.

In my constituency the farmers are growing paddy sugarcane and arecanut for these crops. The Central Government may firm the support price to encourage the farmers to grow more. "Water Policy" Speaker Sir I appeal through you the Government should take initiative to start Ganga-Cavery to avoid dispute between states for water and provide funds for his project. Arecanut farmers are offered by the central policy i.e. Tax on Gutaka 66%. Pan masala 45% if the Tax reduced from 66% to 45% on Gutaka that will benefit the arecanut growers in my state otherwise the farmers will have to suffer and due to the excise duty the tax collection will be less if you bring down the excise duty collection of Tax will be more this will avoid the Tax evadors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on the General Budget is over and the reply of the Finance Minister will be made tomorrow. Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions) ... **

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Special Mentions.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Due to the Central Government legislations and the Supreme Court directives restricting sound pollution, the festival celebration in all Hindu, Christian and Muslim places of worship in Kerala are facing functional difficulties.

There is a restriction today that prevents festival celebrations between 10 O'clock at night and six AM.

Sir, Kerala is a land of festivals. It is known worldwide as God's own country. It is also a hub of cultural activities, and has a rich tradition of religious harmony.

All our classical and folk dances and performing arts like Kalhakali, Ottam Thullal, Kuthu, Kuddiyattam, Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipuddi and Kai Kotti Kali, Kolkali, Oppana Margam Kali and Tribal dances and performance of percussions instruments will be affected, if the Supreme Court directive is enacted.

The internationally famous fire work displays during Trichur Puram will be discontinued.

All rituals in temples will be affected and the blowing of conch shells and bursting of crackers will have to be discontinued.

Even the call for prayers given by Muslim mosques and the tolling of bells in Churches will be stopped.

Lives of several lakhs artists and employees who are solely depended on temple arts will be severely affected.

Cases are pending against several temple authorities and Christian clergy men for flouting the Supreme Court directives on sound pollution.

Sir, the temple festivals in Kerala are not so noisy as the Diwali celebrations in the north. They are part of age old rituals. They are occasions for social rejoicing.

The organizers take prior sanction for holding fire work displays, performing percussion instruments and staging various performing arts and parading elephants.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Lonappan Nambadan]

Sir, the various temple and church festivals should be celebrated with the same fervor and enthusiasm, as they have been celebrated down the centuries.

This way we can foster and encourage the plurality and healthy survival of our socio cultural heritage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to make one thing very clear. If you are brief, I will allow all of you a chance. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House. Please be brief. Do not read a statement like this for Special Mention. Only mention the points. Members bring long and lengthy statement and go on reading. If you do this, then there will be no end to it.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. Around 1.5 lakh citizens of neighbouring country Bhutan are forced to live a life of refugees for last 16 years. Their crime was just that they had lunched a peaceful movement for human rights against the monarchy. In return, King of Bhutan ordered firing on them, they were imprisoned and their citizenship was terminated and they were ousted from their country. Till then, all these people are living as refugees in Jhapa and Morang districts of Nepal and UNO organisation is looking after these people. The Government is keeping itself distant from this issue, though it is a matter between two neighbouring countries. I demand that the Government of India should take initiative for a tripartite dialogue in this matter.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to make submission before the Government that Chief General Manager, Telecommunications office was set up 16 years ago in Jammu during militancy. Since then, it is there. There is no danger to life and property. Now, it is operating property for both the areas. But under some conspiracy it is being shifted and has been kept under 'Durbar Move'. I would like to say that there is no office of the Government of India which is working under 'Durbar Move' in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, I would like to say that Chief General Manager, Telecommunication office should remain in Jammu only if the Government wants to set up an office in Kashmir also, it can set up two offices in Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of UP so that there is no dispute on this account.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Members of the House for an urgent public matter regarding Assam Government's and the legislature's resolution for changing the name of Assam State from Assam to Asom. The said decision was taken without any broad-based consensus of the Assamese people and its intelligentsia.

The Government of Assam's premise that the name 'Assam' being coined by the British and the same being hence a colonial legacy and the same 'Asom' being the original name of Assam is totally false and is not supported by any historical facts and records.

The name 'Assam' is an original name of the State which is continuously in use for the last 800 years as the main external identifier word for Assam. The name 'Assam' in itself is a heritage that needs to be retained as Assam is already established worldwide as 'Assam' only.

Since it is only the Parliament which has the power to change or alter the name of any State of the Indian Union as per Article 3 of the Constitution of India, I sincerely appeal to the hon. Members of the Parliament House for not to pass any Bill for changing the name of the Assam State. This will save our already problem ridden State from further problem.

I hope and trust that the hon. Members will go through the facts and take steps in the right direction.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, through you, I would like to draw an important issue for the consideration of the Government.

Haldia Port Authorities have floated a global tender for starting transloading operations in Kanika Islands off the Orissa coast without the consent of the Orissa Government. Recently the West Bengal Government has also sought the intervention of the Union Shipping Ministry in this connection. The Union Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary in the Shipping Ministry to examine the feasibility of undertaking bulk cargo handling operation. The Haldia Port authorities are trying several options to tackle the acute capacity constraints.

But the problem is Kanika Islands are under Orissa State jurisdiction and without informing Orissa, Haldia Port authorities have floated global tender and the Union Government is examining the feasibility of undertaking bulk cargo handling operation.

This is grossly unfair and illegal. I urge upon the Government to take the Orissa Government into confidence before proceeding in the matter and not to allow transloading in Kanika Island. We are not opposed to the development of Haldia and Kolkata Ports, but not at the cost of Orissa. It is bounden duty of the Union Government to protect the interest of Orissa.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): The Department of Archaeology, University of Kolkata resumed excavation at Village Mogulmari PS-Dantan of District - Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. The excavation has so far revealed the existence of a Pre-Pala (possible 7th century A.D.) Buddhist monastic complex with extensive stucco and/or lime decoration which is unique in eastern India. Embellishments on the frontal wall in particular and the monastic establishment in general will definitely throw a significant light not only on the early medieval history of Paschim Medinipur, but also on that of the entire West Bengal. The observation of the excavators, the Head of the Department and his staff members is that the Buddhist character stucco figures is supported by the discovery of two Buddhist stone sculpture from a stratified context, one of them representing the figure of the Buddha in the well-known *bumisparsa* pose. According to them the discovery is unquestionably comparable to the monasteries of Nalanda (South Bihar), Raktamrtika (Murshidabad) and Nandadirghika (Malda). To complete the excavation work of such a big Buddhist monasteries and its preservation, sufficient financial assistance in this regard is required.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to extend necessary financial assistance in this regard so that the excavation work can be done effectively and this great heritage can be preserved properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I will have to make an announcement because the 'Special Mention' is meant for raising a special issue and that must be precise and to the point, and not reading a statement like this.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, the Comprehensive School Health Programme and Adolescence Education, introduced by the Central Board of Secondary

Education in all CBSE schools from Class-VI to Class-XII, is nothing but objectionable sex education. The adolescent education programme handbook is being implemented at the national level by the NCERT and it was proposed by the UNICEF as a measure to prevent AIDS in the Third World countries. The module, prepared by the SCERT, however, followed a western approach with explicit content. For example, girl students of Class-VI will be taught about the condom usage, including a mock demonstration from the class teacher using an actual condom. Class-VII students will be taught lessons in sexual intercourse. One of the new modules is about tackling molestation and sexual abuse. This will require students to perform molestation scenes whereby they will learn practical lessons on dealing with outrage. Class-VIII students will have to write essays on bizarre topics like "if there were no clothes for anybody", "if there were no condoms", and "if men had a uterus". The Minister of Human Resource Development is requested to direct the CBSE to withdraw this objectionable module.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): The Military Nursing Service stands out as the earliest portion of the Indian Armed Forces where women were permitted to serve. This is also true for all the Armed Forces of the world. The Army nurses have made a permanent place in every nation's heart by nursing millions of sick and wounded soldiers back to life and health.

The Military Nursing Service is an integral part of the Indian Armed Forces and renders service to the hospitals in the Army, Navy and Air Force establishments. The officers of Military Nursing Service had distinguished themselves in the Second World War.

After the Second World War, in the ensuing years, the large majority of the nation had constituted Army Medical Corps and Army Nursing Corps. India also formed our Army Medical Corps in the year 1948 and ignored the plea for MNS's proper integration into the Army by formation of an Army Medical Corps.

I would urge upon the Government to repeal the Military Nursing Service Ordinance of 1943 to constitute the Army Nursing Corps.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, there is a town called Khairtal in my Lok Sabha constituency, Alwar.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

It has a very big agriculture market. A railway line passes through the town. The people are stuck in traffic jam for whole day because of level crossing and agriculture market. A train passes through level crossing after every half an hour and queue of traffic jam becomes to miles long. I would like to submit that an under-bridge at around 150 metre in the North can be constructed on this crossing, so that the traffic may run smooth. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways for the construction of an under bridge over there.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, it is a very important issue. For last three years, I have been suffering.

I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government and the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways about the problems being faced by the people due to badly damaged road between Hospet and Bellary District connecting Andhra Pradesh in National Highway-63. The road stretch of approximately 85 kilometres between the abovesaid place is in worst condition and even small vehicles like cycles are not in a position to move on this road. Sir, according to my knowledge, no other road/national highway in the country is in the worst condition like this one.

Due to the bad condition of the road, repeated accidents are taking place and the vehicular movement has become very difficult and slow. I had already raised this issue several times under different Rules in Parliament during the last two-and-a-half years. I had already written several letters to the Minister. Even I met the hon. Minister on so many occasions and explained the position in person. I requested him many times.

Sir, in spite of all these efforts nothing has been done. People are facing a lot of problems. So, I urge upon the Union Government and the hon. Minister for Road Transport and Highways once again to look into the matter and arrange to repair the stretch on a war-footing basis and also to take steps to convert this stretch on NH-63 from four lanes to six lanes immediately.

[Translation]

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, Cardamom, clove, pepper and spices help us to earn

foreign exchange for the country. Lakhs of people in my constituency are working in these plantations and tea estates where spices are also grown. Most of these plantation workers are people from the depressed and deprived sections of the society. Most of them are Scheduled Caste people. Daily wage workers and daily wage supervisors are two sets of workers engaged in these estates. In the neighbouring Kerala State there is a limit that only 16 kilograms of tea leaves can be culled by a worker in a day. But in Tamil Nadu, Tea Estate workers are forced to pluck 33 kilograms a day. Temporary workers are made to gather 60 kilograms a day. They get a mere 50 paise per kilogram as an additional payment when they are over exploited. Both men and women are affected by occupational hazards like cardiac and hernia complaints respectively. They are languishing and dying without any PF and insurance cover. They do not have means of transport and communication facilities. They live in unhygienic conditions and are subject to insect bites without proper health care. Their children do not have education facilities as there are no schools. Telecommunication facilities are not there. Hon. Minister for Communication, Shri Dayanidhi Maran, has provided a Telecom Centre and tower near highway hills at my behest. Duty on tea must be reduced. Minimum support price must be ensured. Remunerative prices should be available to the tea growers so that workers are benefited. Ceiling on bonus must be lifted and tea plantation workers must be paid 25% bonus. They must get medical facilities and protected drinking water for better health care and longevity.

[English]

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Sir, Hubli-Dharwad in Karnataka is the second largest city in Karnataka State. It was supposed to be included in the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. That was recommended by the State Government.

We, under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister, hon. Minister of State for Revenue, Shri Rajasekhara and I met the hon. Minister of Urban Development, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to include the Hubli-Dharwad city under the JNURM Scheme. At that time, he specifically told us that since he could not include Hubli-Dharwad, he would accommodate the maximum fund in UIDSMT Scheme, that is, Urban Infrastructure Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme, and then asked the hon. Chief Minister and the State Government to send a specific proposal. Now, the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

State Government and the Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation has sent a proposal for a sum of Rs. 35 crore for various projects of Hubli-Dharwad. But since the Urban Development Ministry has not accorded its approval, I urge upon the Urban Development Ministry to immediately give the approval for the entire sum of Rs. 35 crore and not to exclude any of the items which are there in the list of the State Government and the Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): There are two NTPC plants in Talcher of Angul district of Orissa. They generate around three thousand megawatts of electricity. The land of the people over there has been acquired to set up two plants over there. 500 SAPs shall get jobs under joint acknowledged rehabilitation policy of the Government of India and State Government of Orissa. They are sitting on dharna for the last two months at the gate of plant. The State Government has also apprised the Union Government that NTPC is not taking any action. The level of ash is rising due to old and new plants. The people should be heard, because due to rising level of ash, the ecological balance is getting disturbed. The ash storm is going to hit the area during the summer season. Therefore, the government of India should listen to the voice of displaced people and take steps to restore ecological balance. Through you, I would like to bring these two issues to the notice of the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M. Shivanna, you have been given permission to speak as a special case.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise an important issue regarding the leasing out of all the Rail Yatri Niwas to Taj Groups. Sir, the Indian Railways have set up Yatri Nivas in Railway Stations, to cater to the needs of common people, but the Indian Railways have leased out these Yatri Nivas to Taj Group for 115 years for a meagre sum of only Rs. 55 lakhs per year. It is very unfortunate. The Taj Group is minting more and more money by charging high rates like Star Hotels. I condemn this lease agreement. It is a grave injustice to the people of the country. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to withdraw these Yatri Niwas from the Taj Group. The Railway should run themselves these Yatri Niwas. It will certainly help the Railways to earn more revenue.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 15th of March 2007 at 11 a.m.

19.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Thursday, March 15, 2007/
Phalgun 24, 1928 (Saka).*

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