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Fourteenth Series, Vol. III, No. 18

Wednesday, August 18, 2004

Sravana 27, 1926 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 18, 2004/Sravana 27, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to an important subject ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have got a very happy announcement to make.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Shri Rathore has won the Silver medal for India in Athens Olympics yesterday. The entire House must congratulate him.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am upto provided you let me do that.

11.01 hrs.

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

Congratulations to Major Rajyawardhan Singh Rathore on his Winning the Silver Medal at the Athens Olympics

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am sure the entire House would like to join me in congratulating Major Rajyawardhan Singh Rathore for his remarkable achievement of winning the silver medal in the Double Trap Shooting event at the Athens Olympics. It is for the first time that an Indian has won a Silver Medal in Olympics in individual event in independent India. He has done the country and its Armed Forces proud. I am confident that this achievement will spur the Indian Olympics Contingent to scale new heights and bring laurels to the country. Major Rathore's victory will also inspire the country's sporting community and the youth of the Nation to excel in their chosen fields.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday what he leader of the House said in his statement here in the House concerning the insult heaped on Vir Savarkar by the Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us tackle it. If you all give your judgements, then why do you have a Speaker? You decide it amongst yourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let us conduct the proceedings in an orderly manner. Since I have allowed him to speak. You should not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I had raised the issue of Savarkarji's insult yesterday in the House. In that regard the leader of the House had assured that he would make a statement after getting the matter investigated. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar is a Minister in the Government. Yesterday he was in the Rajya Sabha till noon and later on he came to the Lok Sabha. I want to know when a statement would be made in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : You should also listen to me.

[English]

I am sure, all the Ministers are here. The Leader of the House has given some statement. I have come to know about that, though I was not here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Today in the Rajya Sabha a statement has to be made on this very subject at 12 o' clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not compete with the other House. Let us go on with the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I want to know as to when a statement has to be made by the Government in this regard?...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, the Rajya Sabha Member Shri Rashid Alvi had also made a statement against this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody will support this. Please sit down.

[English]

It is very unfortunate. Your are a very able and responsible leader of an important party. I am sure, other hon. Members will learn from you. The Leader of the House has made a statement. Give him some opportunity. We shall find it out.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot discuss here any subject which pertains to the other House and we cannot mention about any member belonging to that House. It is a rule...*(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sino-Indian Border Talks

*322. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third round of Sino-Indian special representatives-level boundary talks were held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has decided to enter into trade with China through the Nathula border;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The third meeting of the Special Representatives of the Governments of India and China on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on July 26-27, 2004. The meeting between the National Security Advisor, Shri J.N. Dixit and the Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Dai Bingguo, Special Representatives of India and China respectively, was held in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. On July 27, Mr. Dai Bingguo called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. During the call on the Prime Minister, he handed over a letter from the Chinese premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting in Beijing at a mutually convenient date.

(c) to (e) During Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to China in June 2003, India and China signed a Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade, which adds Nathula as another pass on the India-China border for conducting border trade. The Indian side has agreed to designate Changgu of Sikkim State as the venue for border trade market, while the Chinese side has agreed to designate Renqinggang of the Tibet Autonomous Region as the venue for border trade market. The modalities to put the agreement in place are being worked out by the concerned agencies.

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have come to know that the date for next round of Sino-Indian talks is being worked out. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister, by when the final solution of all these border disputes can be had.

I would like to put one more question. In the event of achieving good Sino-Indian relations. will the Government of India expedite the opening of Indo-China trade route through the State of Sikkim, that is through Nathula border?

I would like to give more stress on these questions because the opening of new windows will provide growth in tourism, trade, pilgrimage and food industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him reply. After that, you can put your second supplementary.

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : Sir. this will bring about employment. It will not only provide growth in our mountain economy but also provide economic gains for the entire country. What is the present scenario? When will the final decision come out positively?

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question very well.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir. I am grateful to the hon. Member. First of all, no time frame has been fixed for the resolution of the border issue between India and China. We have had three rounds of talks and the next round of talks will be held in the coming few months.

With regard to the trade from Nathula, I would like to read out, with your permission, Sir:

"During the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to China in June 2003. India and China signed a Memorandum of Expanding Border Trade, which adds Nathula as another pass on the India-China border and sets up an additional point on each side of the border. The Indian side designated Changgu of Sikkim State as the venue for the border trade market, while the Chinese side designated Renqinggang of the Tibet Autonomous Region as the venue for border trade market. The two sides agreed to use Nathula as the pass for entry and exit of person, means of transport and commodities in the Indian border trade. The exact modalities operationalising the argument including setting up of necessary infrastructure are being worked out by the Department of Commerce, which is the nodal agency for this in consultation with the State Government and relevant Department".

MR. SPEAKER : Now, second supplementary. Have you got any other question?

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : No, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, did we discuss with the Chinese authorities with regard to providing full autonomy to Tibet? If we have made any discussion with regard to that, what was the Chinese response to that because His Holiness the Dalai Lama had given up his demand?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It does not really arise from this Question. You have put your first question, whether any such discussion was held.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Let me complete my question. If you disallow it, that is all right. But let me put the question at least.

MR. SPEAKER : I am only trying to find out how far it relates to this Question.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Kindly allow me to put the question. If your disallow it, that is a different matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Please carry on.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am the convenor of the Indo-Tibetan All Party Parliamentary Forum. Naturally, I have got the right to put such a question.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not denying your right. Please carry on.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : His Holiness the Dalai Lama has given up his idea or demand about an independent Tibet. Have we asked the Chinese authorities for providing the real autonomy to Tibet? If so, what was the Chinese answer to that?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir, as you have said, the question raised by the hon. Member has no connection with the Question that I am answering and that has been asked. Our policy with regard to Tibet is well known. We consider Tibet as an autonomous region of China and that is the Government's policy.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has put forth his stand with regard to only trade ties. Thousands of pilgrims from India go on the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage and the route on the Chinese side which is permissible for the pilgrims is more arduous and tortuous and landslides occur on that route very often and the pilgrims get stranded there. One more route which passes through Laddakh is said to be more convenient. Whether the Government of India will hold talks with the Chinese Government for opening the said route via Ladakh for the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims?

[English]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir. I will certainly make necessary enquiry. With due respect, I must also say that I am unable to give an assurance on this because it deals with our relations with China. There are set procedures as to where we have to go and how we have to go. But I take your point.

[Translation]

MOHD. SALIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, An agreement is going to be signed between India and China on border trade and commerce concerning the Nathula pass. My question is whether the Government of India is fully ready on this count? Since as the hon. Minister has said in his repiy that infrastructure will have to be developed for that purpose. There is only one highway which connects Bengal to North Bihar and also to North-East via Sikkim. We know that the hardships are faced due to lack of infrastructure across the India-Bangladesh border which results in delay in trade dealings. The manner in which China is making its full preparations on this count, whether the Government has also taken up the job of working out modalities in this regard by holding talks with other concerned ministers like the Surface Transport, Home Ministry and Commerce Ministry. And if they are on the job, what is the level/status of their readiness in this regard? Besides this, what is the level of preparations internally in regard to the commitments entered into with China by the Commerce Ministry?

[English]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Various Departments of the Government are working on it. We attach the highest importance to this matter because when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee went to China last year in June, a memorandum was signed with regard to trade, and the various Ministries concerned are taking up the job. If the hon. Member likes, I would request my friend, the Minister of Commerce, to certainly get in touch with him and inform him.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : We are pursuing two different strategies with China. One is to solve our border problem. We are engaged in the talks with them for the last 42 years. On the other hand, China is growing as one of the largest and fastest growing economies of the world. Therefore, obviously we are interested to promote our economic relationship with China. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any inherent contradiction. On the one side, we want to solve our vexed border issue with China and on the other side, we want to develop the economic relations. Is development of the economic relations coming in the way of solving the border problem? Or, is it that the border problem is not allowing us to grow as much as we should grow in the development of our natural economic relationship with our close neighbours?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : No, there is no contradiction. There is an instrumentality on both the sides for dealing with the border. Special representatives are discussing the border question. With regard to trade, I am glad to inform you, Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, that our trade with China by the end of this year should touch 10 billion dollars. So, the discussions on the border issue are not coming in the way of improving our economic relations which are doing extremely well.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : My question is related to the border relations with China. Recently a news report has come out. We need a clarification whether it is true or not. I would like to now whether China has shown interest to open a new roadway through Myanmar to connect the North-Eastern States, specially Arunachal Pradesh and other neighbouring States of the country. What is the response of our Government to that proposal?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I would be grateful if the hon. Member would tell me precisely where this report appeared and what is the authenticity of the report.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I will give you the details. A road was closed just after the Sino-Indian conflict in 1962. It was going through Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar to China. That proposal is under consideration. That sort of news has come out. I will give you the specific date and the newspaper. It is an Indian newspaper, a *Economic Paper* in which this has come out. I will give you that.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I will appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU : In the month of April, a group of officers led by Chief Commissioner of Excise visited Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh to see the feasibility of a trade route through Arunachal Pradesh to China. Now, I would like to know whether during the last round of talks the feasibility of a trade route through Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh figured.

Secondly, I would also like to seek a clarification from the Government. One month ago, the hon. Minister of State Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal had stated at Kolkata that the new Government is going to review the trade policy. So, I would like to know the stand of the present Government in this regard.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : If I may respectfully say so, the question we are dealing with is about the talks we have had at the special representatives level on the border question. With regard to the statement by my colleague, I am certainly not aware of it but I would certainly ask him about it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, if you get any information you can let him know.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I will do that.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the news of our improved relations with China is coming out nowadays. The way the armies of both sides participated in the Independence day celebrations in Arunachal Pradesh indicates that our border relations with that country are improving.

It has been learnt that the Government of India is considering to secete a vast area of Laddakh to China which is under the occupation of China since 1962 where as it is very important to protect our interest in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. I want to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs as to whether this august House would accede to secession of the fairly large chunk of the said area of Laddakh to China compromising our interest in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

My second point is that customs officials had visited Domchuk area in Laddakh for assessing the scope of trade relations and had recommended for establishing trade relations over there. This has been discussed for years but no decision has been taken so far in this regard. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether Laddakh region will be opened up for trade relations. This is a matter of great concern that opinion of Laddakh people is being sought to know their likely reaction in case their region is seceded to China. I want to know the reaction of this august House and the people of India in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It does not really come under this Question. However, it is a sensitive issue and so I am allowing it.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I can only say that the matter raised by the hon. Member is a speculation. There is no substance in what he has said.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) B.C. KHANDURI : Hon Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion on Nathula has been done here for having trade with China and hon. Mohan Singhji has also mentioned about Laddakh. Similarly, the route ex-Joshimath via Mana in Uttaranchal has been very old and traditional one which had very huge quantum of trade but it remains closed since 1962. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any demand to open this route alongwith other routes. If he is aware of such demand then he should inform about the present situation and if he is not aware then let us know whether the Government will consider it.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has been a Minister himself and is aware of this fact, also, he represents the same area. But, his point that whether trading activity is going on via around Barahuti or from the other route. Our passengers go there but their is no problem in their way if at all, there is any hurdle, it is resolved through dialogues. But, when you want a categorical answer, then I shall try to give that.

[English]

Child Mortality Rate in Government Hospitals

*323. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether there is any provision for conducting preventive checks to provide better medical facilities in Government hospitals like Safdarjung, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the hospitals in Delhi were the child mortality rate is on the increase;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

Statement

The Medical facilities available in various Central Government Hospitals like Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, which are multi-disciplinary treatment institutions, are reviewed periodically. The required upgradation of the facilities both by way of addition of sophisticated equipments and introduction of treatment facilities in various new areas of speciality/super-speciality are undertaken in order to ensure that better health care facilities are provided to needy patients. These hospitals provide tertiary care facilities to large section of patients not only from Delhi but also from adjoining States and other parts of the country. There are also in-built mechanism both within the hospital and the Department of Health to ensure that the standard of health care facilities provided in these hospitals is maintained.

In pursuance of various reports on unusual deaths in paediatric wards of Safdarjung Hospital, the position of child mortality for the last three years in three major Government Hospitals in Delhi wherein large number of children are treated *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Kalawati Saran Children Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital, was reviewed. The data, however, has not indicated any unusual rise in the child mortality rate in these hospitals in recent past. It was also observed that majority of the deaths are within 48 hours of admission and attributed to multiple diseases like Cardio-Respiratory Failure, Severe Pneumonia, Severe Dehydration and Shock, serious CNS infections, Congenital Abnormalities and Sepsis etc.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has indicated in this reply that most of the deaths of the Children occurred within 48 hours. A news has appeared in the *Indian Express* that 12 children died on the 3rd July out of which 8 children were admitted the same day. These 8 died within 5-6 hours of their admission. After this, the hon. Minister made surprise visits to some medical colleges, I personally thank the hon. Minister for this.

Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what shortcomings did he notice during his surprise visit to the AIIMS and what remedial measures have been taken.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The hon. Member has mentioned about the Safdarjung Hospital about which a report had come in the *Indian Express* newspaper. I would like to state here that Safdarjung Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in Delhi built during the Second World War and it housed the American Army at that time which were using it as barracks. I agree that a lot of buildings there are old buildings which need restructuring. I had visited the hospital twice in two months. The first time was a four-hour visit and second time was a three-hour visit of the paediatric wards. I had hove case by case to follow all the deaths which occurred in the report. I had ordered an inquiry in the hospital also. In most of these case—about 80 per cent of these cases—the deaths which occurred were within 48 hours.

The Safdarjung Hospital is a tertiary hospital where terminally ill patients come and those who are sent away from other hospitals are admitted, and when they come to the hospital itself. they are in a very critical condition.

In this case, 80 per cent of deaths had occurred within 48 hours and most of the babies which had come there had cardio-respiratory failure, severe pneumonia, severe dehydration and shock, serious cerebral CNS infections, Congenital abnormalities, Sepsis, etc. They had come there in all these conditions. But our hon. Prime Minister and our Government is very committed that not even one death should occur due to medical negligence and severe action will be taken against the erring doctors, if found any. After my visited to the hospital, certain deficiencies were pointed out and these are being rectified at this level.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of patients come to the AIIMS for treatment from all over the country but it has been seen that even some serious patients have to wait for months. Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the hon. Minister and the health department have received

any such complaints and the hon. Minister has issued any remedial instructions in this regard.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I understand the concern of the hon. Member. But AIIMS is a hospital of excellence doing research work. They admit patients in that hospital according to the capacity of the beds. Accordingly, more than that, they refer the cases to the Safdarjung Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER : There is always lack of space.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra—not yet returned.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Child mortality has increased in the last few years ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you go on uttering 'Sir' every second, how can I hear you? Do it in a manner, raise your hand in a good manner and I shall notice. You just try to catch my eye. That is a part of parliamentary system. Anybody calling me 'Sir' will not be called.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Child mortality has increased in the last few years despite the fact that the longevity of the life has increased in this country. Will the Government concentrate on this issue and will the Government appoint some expert doctors including a committee to check this child mortality which has increased rapidly, particularly in Orissa and Maharashtra.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, with regard to the concern of the hon. Member, infant mortality has come down in the past two decades to around 63 deaths per 1000 live babies. There are different causes and reasons for these child deaths in Maharashtra and Orissa and in Delhi. We are going to form an expert committee in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where all the experts from all over the country will be in that panel to go about not only Child deaths but all other important health related issues.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI TOOFANI SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring into the notice of hon. Minister that the patients have to wait for one to two months to secure dates for TMT in Ram Manohar Lohia hospital causing too much inconvenience to them. Whether hon. Minister is aware of it and if so, the immediate remedial steps being taken in this regard?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I will look into the concern of the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha to ask the supplementary. You are putting the question on behalf of the entire RJD.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the AIIMS, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital and Safdarjang Hospital do not have the Child Specialists as per their sanctioned strength resulting in higher rate of infant mortality.

Sir, I would like to state here in this House that the then Government had decided to set up AIIMS like hospitals in various parts of the country following which the hon. Vice President had laid the foundation stone in Patna but since then work has come to a stand still not only there but at all other sites in the country where setting up of such hospitals had got underway. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by the Government in regard to the decision of setting up of the AIIMS hospitals in various parts of the country and the achievements made in that respect and whether the Government propose to increase the present strength of specialists doctors in pediatrics?

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, it is a very important question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding child deaths, these were not caused due to deficiency of doctors. But generally there is a deficiency of doctors all over the country because of the policy of the previous Government of downsizing the direct recruitment of all the Ministries including the Health Ministry in 2001 by an order of DoPT.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : How many posts are sanctioned?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You allow him to finish. This is not right. He has not finished as yet. Do not be impatient.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : During the previous Government, in the order dated May, 2001, the DoPT ordered downsizing of direct recruitment of one-third of the existing vacancies occurring every year or one per cent of the total jobs, whichever is less. Due to that, we have vacancies in all the direct recruitment of doctors and technical staff all over Central Health Service hospitals. I have written to our hon. Minister of DoPT, Shri Suresh Pachauri about this and also the hon. Prime Minister is concerned about this.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to answer about AIIMS.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, second part of my question has not been replied to.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to help you. You unnerve everybody with your volume. I am unnerved, he is unnerved.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding the second part of the question, like I have informed the hon. Speaker in the last session, this project was envisaged last year and only now we are going to the Expenditure Finance Committee. I am also much concerned. A project of AIIMS-like hospital is going to come in Patna, Bihar also.

MR. SPEAKER : You should visit Patna.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I am going there on Sunday. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, funds have not been allocated so far, *...(Interruptions)*, when there is no provision for funds in the budget then *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will not give you a supplementary. I was thinking of giving you a supplementary. I will not do that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not co-operate, I will not ask him to answer your question. He said that he would go there, look into it and try to do it.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Sri,, He wants to do something*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, if your want to add anything, do it, but not under pressure. I will have to protect the Minister also.

(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Shri, I will answer that *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate. The hon. Member has asked about it. You cannot force him to answer. This is not the way to behave. Please sit down. I am giving everybody a chance to ask supplementary. I am allowing even 8, 10 or 12 supplementaries. Even then, you are not satisfied.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, if you have to add anything, do it, but not under pressure.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the foundation stones of six AIIMS-like hospitals were laid by the previous Government.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Rupees 100 crore were released.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The Foundation stones were laid without going through any formalities.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : What formalities?

MR. SPEAKER : There cannot be a running commentary...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I will tell you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You need not reply.

Shri Prabhunath Singh

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else's statement will be on the record excepting Shri Prabhunath Singh.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Topdar, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Prabhunath Singh's supplementary will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that the Children died within 48 hours. It raises two points—first in hospitals like AIIMS, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia etc., the investigation process is quite long drawn and at time it is heard that the patients are referred to outside owing to breaking down of machines. Those who have got financial resources, get the investigations done outside and those without financial resources keep waiting and as a result of which their and the children's admission into hospitals gets delayed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether during his visit to hospitals he ascertained as to how many children's deaths were caused by delay in their admission into the hospital or how many children died due to negligence of the doctors? Has he conducted separate inquiries into it, if not, whether he proposes to conduct inquiries into these questions? This is what I would like to know ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order please, Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have put your question. You are not a Minister. You are not answering the question. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, you please make the Railway Minister understand that he should not speak in each issue. He keeps speaking while sitting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have been given the opportunity, please utilise it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, let three be discipline and order.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, regarding the investigation procedure, no patient is asked to have investigation done outside. All the investigations are supposed to be done only in the hospital premises. If there is any case where the patient has been asked to get investigation done outside, I would like the hon. Member to inform me. Then, stern action will be taken against the concerned persons.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I would like to say that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have disturbed me. I will not give you a supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the infant mortality rate in India is higher than other Asian countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. So, what steps is the Government taking to bring down the IMR because during the Tenth Plan period, we were supposed to bring down the infant mortality rate to 28 per one thousand child births? So, I would like to have a specific reply from the Minister whether he will pursue the previous

NDA Government's programme to reduce infant mortality rate or not.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, of course my Prime Minister, and our Government is very much concerned about the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). According to the National Population Policy 2000, the IMR is supposed to come down to 30 per thousand patients by the year 2010. Today, we have an IMR of 63 per thousand. Definitely all steps will be taken for further reducing the IMR. For example, in the Immunization Policy, we have planned to increase the immunization coverage of all the children from the current 45 per cent to 90 per cent. We are trying to increase the immunization procedure, and all steps will be taken to prevent and decrease the IMR.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently some organizations or companies claimed that they have developed medicines in India to treat 'AIDS' patients. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have verified their claims and whether those medicines are being tested? If so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

MR. SPEAKER : What a question you have put in.

[English]

Hon. Minister, are you in a position to answer this question now?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I can answer this question when the House takes up my next Question, namely, question No. 324.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohd. Tahir, have your gone to the next question? Your may please sit down.

Chaudhary Lal Singh, please ask a relevant question, and nothing related to your security.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call you sir as you are sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You will get that too.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask as one of my colleague has also wanted to know earlier whether the Government fulfil the promises made and proposals etc. approved or sanctioned by the previous Government *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am controlling him. Why are you bothering him?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Singh, please come to the point now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Please listen to me as my question is very relevant. I want to know whether it is not the responsibility of the government of the day to upgrade G.M.C. to 'AIIMS' in Jammu & Kashmir in regard to which a decision was taken by the previous government and whether this government will honour this decision or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very relevant question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I fully understand the concern of all the Members regarding the six new AIIMS-like institutions. I had mentioned last time also that we are very much concerned about this issue because all these States are very underserved in the health area, and these institutions should be brought in these States. I had a discussion with the Planning Commission, as there were a few financial constraints in this *...(Interruptions)* Kindly allow me to complete my answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the Ministers to answer according to your satisfaction only? What is the entire thing going on?

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I had a discussion with the Planning Commission regarding this issue, and we are moving forward in a positive manner *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, in Assam, particularly in tea gardens, there is no good hospitals and health care systems.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing so many supplementaries because this question relates to a very important issue, namely, health.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : As a result of that, hundreds of tea labourers have to die every year due to outbreak of gastroenteritis, cholera and diarrhoea. This year also—during the months of May, June, July—4,700 people were reported to have been hospitalised due to outbreak of gastroenteritis. In this regard, I have already communicated to the hon. Health Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, nearly 70 people have already died due to this. I have a specific question to ask the hon. Health Minister. What measures have been taken so far, to combat the situation, particularly with regard to the tea garden labourers in Assam?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As regards Assam, I had visited Assam two weeks back to look into the flood situation. I had also visited the camps where the rehabilitated people were put up. We have given all the assistance which was asked by the Government of Assam, like DDT, chlorine tablets, mosquito nets, anti-snake venom vaccines. etc.

We have supplied all the medicines and necessary requisites to the Government of Assam.

Regarding tea plantations, they have a rule that the tea plantation owners have to look into the health issues of their plantation workers.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Praboth Panda, please put a specific question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : I will put only one question.

MR. SPEAKER : Naturally, you are entitled to put only one question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : I would like to know whether the Government is envisaging to upgrade any hospital in Kolkata to the AIIMS level.

MR. SPEAKER : You are putting any or every question. Of course, I cannot ignore Kolkata.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding setting up of new Institutes and upgrading the old ones, my answer is the same.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the same thing applies to you. Now, the last question will be put by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. Please be brief and to the point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about the other questions? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Other questions will also be taken up. I am trying to take up other questions too. You please sit down and see.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : This is the only second question which could be taken up so far. What will be the fate of other questions?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not dictate to me. You must behave yourself. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : We came here with full preparation but that goes in vain *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do that I will never allow you to put a question. You cannot show your eyes to the Chair. You are dictating to the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that keeping in view the increasing number of patients in 'AIIMS' New Delhi particularly, the then government have decided to set up 'AIIMS' in five States including Bihar. An announcement to this effect was made during the time of general elections and foundation of those 'AIIMS' was also laid. Patna is my constituency. Land has also been provided for setting up of 'AIIMS' at Patna but the hon. Minister has not stated clearly that 'AIIMS' at Patna will be set up or not. Patna is bearing the burden of entire Bihar *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief. I have allowed a lot of time on this question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should categorically state whether the said hospital has been sanctioned or not and whether it will be set up or not? I want to know as to why an announcement was made in regard to opening of the said hospital and why foundation of same was laid without any sanction? I as well as the entire country want to know as to why the hon. President as involved in it?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I have already answered the question.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already answered the question. Now, we will go to Question No. 324. Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao to put the first supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to this question is not satisfactory so please allow half an hour discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has nothing new to add. Now, question No. 324 will be answered.

Eradication of AIDS

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*324. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI :
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that AIDS affects nearly-7 million people in the country;

(b) if so, whether any specific steps to achieve zero level growth of HIV/AIDS have been proposed by the Government in the budget for 2004-05;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the financial assistance being received from foreign agencies, World Bank and WHO for the above purpose;

(e) whether any contract has been signed by the Government with any foreign company for AIDS medicine;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the mechanism adopted to monitor and check the proper use of the aids by NGOs and other agencies in the field of AIDS awareness programmes; and

(h) the action plan taken/being taken to combat the AIDS?

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

Statement

Government has, over the years, institutionalized an annual HIV sentinel surveillance survey to track and monitor trends in the growth of HIV infection in specific high risk groups as well as general population.

The HIV Sentinel Surveillance Round 2003 has estimated 5.1 million HIV infections in the country.

Government directs and coordinates implementation of a comprehensive national AIDS prevention and control programme as a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme across all States and Union Territories in the country. The First National AIDS Control Project was implemented from 1992-1999, and the current Second National AIDS Control Project is being implement from 1999 to 2006. Government adopted a National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy in 2002, which envisages that we achieve zero level growth of HIV/AIDS in the country by 2007. Government adopted a National Blood Policy in 2002, followed by a detailed Action Plan on Blood Safety in 2003.

The objectives of the Second National AIDS Control Project are:

(i) to reduce the rate of growth of HIV infection in India; and

(ii) to strengthen India's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS.

The National AIDS Control Programme has a basket of operational strategies for prevention of HIV, coupled

with strategies for the care, treatment and support of people living with HIV. Our interventions on prevention focus on:

- Preventive Interventions for high-risk population through behaviour change communication, counselling and testing, condom promotion, and referrals for treatment of sexually transmitted infections. These are implemented through targeted interventions at high risk sites, through an enabling environment fostered through awareness generation, and inter-personal communication;

- Preventive Interventions for general population through dissemination of information, education and communication across all segments, programmes on safe blood, services for voluntary testing and counselling, reaching out to adolescents and young adults through the School AIDS Education Programme and University Talk AIDS Programme and awareness generation among out of school youth through the Nehru Yuva Kendras;

- Interventions for low cost care and support through community care centres, installation of services in ante-natal clinics that prevents HIV transmission from the HIV positive mother to newborn infants, commonly know as prevention of parent to child transmission, managing the HIV-TB co-infection, treating people living with HIV/AIDS for opportunistic infections, and protecting health care providers with post-exposure prophylaxis;

- We have recently expanded the agenda on care and support of people living with AIDS (PLHAs) and introduced anti-retroviral treatment across six high prevalence States (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland) in 8 designated government hospitals. From August, 2004, onwards and during the current financial year, we will expand the designated government hospitals from 8 to 25. We will include government hospitals in moderate HIV prevalence States and low prevalence States.

  Anti-retroviral treatment for People Living with HIV/AIDS will help boost their immune systems and restore quality of life, which in turn, will enable them to resume an active life.

The National AIDS Control Programme supports the following interventions :

- 709 Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres to provide access to people seeking voluntary HIV testing with pre and post test counselling.

- 273 sites in antenatal clinics for preventing HIV transmission from HIV positive mothers to their newborn infants.

- 1020 Blood Banks, one in each district of the country to ensure more widespread availability of clean blood and blood products.

- The School AIDS Education Programme, covering 60,000 schools across the country, reaches out to adolescents and young adults with information on HIV/AIDS.

- 738 STD clinics with medicines and consumables, to ensure early diagnosis, treatment and management of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

- Management of "Opportunistic Infections" for people living with HIV/AIDS through financial support provided to the state AIDS control societies for onward disbursement to all major hospitals in every State/UT of the country.

- Inter-sectoral HIV prevention activities including workplace interventions.

- Support for care and treatment in hospitals run by the Ministry of Railways, and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) public-private partnerships.

- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, operational research and programme management.

Government has not signed any contract for AIDS medicines with any foreign company. Medicines for opportunistic infection treatment and Anti retroviral drugs are bought from indigenous sources only.

A detailed monitoring and evaluation system has been built into the national AIDS control programme. A Computerised Management Information System and a Programme Finance Management System have been developed to ensure regular feedback from the NGOs through their respective State AIDS Control Societies to enable appropriate evaluation.

The accounts of the NGOs funded are further subject to audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India from time to time. External evaluation is carried out in respect of those NGOs who have been implementing the intervention programme for more than three years.

Additionally, regular visits are made by officers from NAGO to high as well as low prevalence states to ensure effective implementation of the programme in various States.

Annexure indicating details of the financial assistance being received from foreign organizations is enclosed.

Annexure

Financial assistance from foreign organisations

Funding Agency	Amount (In crores)	Period	Remarks
World Bank	959.00	1999-2006	Amount as credit
DFID	487.40	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
USAID assisted APAC Project in Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	64.58	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
USAID assisted AVERT Project in Maharashtra	166.00	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
CIDA	37.81	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
AUSAID	24.65	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
UNDP	6.47	2002-2007	Assistance as grant
WHO	0.5	2004-2005	Assistance as grant
WHO Country Budget Biennium 2004-05 Global Funds for AIDS, TB & Malaria			
GFATM (Round 2) [January 2003] For prevention of transmission from HIV positive mother to newborn infant	122.74	2004-2006	Awarded a financial grant of Rs. 480.38 crores for 5 years (2004-2009)
GFATM Round 3 (October 2003) For accelerating management of the HIV-YB Co-infection			Awarded a financial grant of Rs. 71.14 crores for 5 years (2004-2009)
GFATM Round 4 June 2004 For antiretroviral treatment for people living with AIDS, and implementing strategies for prevention of HIV among the general population			Awarded a financial grant of Rs. 760.90 crores for 5 years

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : My question is related to eradication of AIDS in India. As we see, there are more than 55-60 lakh HIV-infected patients in India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the incidence of AIDS among children, adults and elderly people. Has the Government compiled any data about it to ensure that there are no new persons affected by AIDS?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : So far, we do not have any details regarding separate incidence of children, adults and women being affected. We are going to go

for a national assessment cum survey, to be done by an external agency like IIM, Bangalore or Ahmedabad, or any other external agency, about the incidence and occurrence of AIDS in our country. That survey would tell us as to what we are supposed to do, where we are lacking and what should be our focus. In that survey, I think, we can bring out more details.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering or conducting any research or trials of any preventive or curative vaccine against this, whether any action is being taken for anti-retroviral therapy in case of pregnancies, and whether any research programme is initiated by the Government to combat and restrict the spread of AIDS in India?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Regarding the preventive vaccines, we are looking into three types of vaccines which are: (1) Modified Vaccine Ankara type, (2) HIV-I Subtype-C DNA, and (3) Recombinant Adeno Associated Virus. Regarding the first vaccine, clinical trials should begin by early next year. On HIV-I Subtype-C DNA vaccine, along with the Ministry of Science and Technology, we are going about the research.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati D. Purandareswari—Not present.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, there are reports from some parts of the country that small children who are going to schools and who are HIV positive are facing discrimination. Have such incidents come to the notice of the Government? It is an inhuman approach. Innocent children who do not know anything about AIDS are being denied the right to study and right to live. Is it not indicative of the fact that there is still lack of proper awareness among people about AIDS? What are the measures that the Government would like to take in this regard?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. We are in preliminary discussions to enact legislation against discrimination of HIV-affected persons.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are told that financial support is provided to the State AIDS Control Societies for onward disbursement to all major hospitals in every State and Union Territory of the country. In this context, my experience is different. Some time back, the anti-retroviral medicines which were being provided to some of the Union Territories—including the one I come from, Chandigarh—were withdrawn. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure that assistance for anti-retro viral treatment is provided not just for some places where, they say, there is high prevalence but to all the places where the prevalence is modest and where there is need to prevent AIDS.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I would like to thank the hon. Member for asking this question. Regarding anti-retro viral therapy, we have started this from April 1, this year. About eight Government hospitals have anti-retro viral therapy now. By the end of this year, we have planned to identify 25 hospitals in total for anti-retro viral therapy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is given in the statement already. There were some hospitals which were being provided assistance earlier, from where it has been withdrawn fully.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : If there is any specific hospital, I would like the hon. Member to inform me and I will refer back to him.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Information has gone long back but there has been no response to that. In response to this question, I do not have to provide information; that has been sent long back.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to people of the country. Sir, women are most affected and the hon. Minister do not have figures in respect of the women. My first question is how a figure of seven lakh people has been reported without conducting any survey in this regard and out of these seven lakh people how many are women? This question is related to women of the country as well as humanity. 'AIDS' is also one of the challenges before the country today.

My second question is that if both husband and wife are infected with 'AIDS' whether the Government are formulating any scheme for upbringing and education of their children? If the Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme then by what time it is likely to be formulated and implemented?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I have already answered the first part of the hon. Member's question. We are going in for a comprehensive national survey to be done not by the NACO but by an external agency. After that survey, we would be able to put down figures as to how any children are affected and how many women are affected. Till date, we have only around 78,000 known cases of HIV/AIDS.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : My second question has not been replied.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only one question is allowed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Sir, I have asked if both husband and wife are infected with 'AIDS' whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for their children as they are unable to do any work and as such they beg on streets.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As it is, today, we do not have any scheme regarding this.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister on to how many centres have been set up in districts and blocks of each State especially of Jharkhand for diagnosis and treatment of HIV patients during the last three years alongwith the details of the beneficiaries in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, can you reply to that question? Do you have any information on this?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We do not have any figures specifically concerning Jharkhand. But we have figures concerning all over India. We have about 709 Voluntary Testing and Counselling Centres. Anybody can come voluntarily to these Centres to test themselves. We have about 738 STI Clinics and 670 Sentinel Sites.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if there is any information on Jharkhand, Kindly inform the hon. Member.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir, I would do that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : This is very important question. He has furnished some information. As per foreign agencies, by the end of this decade, India. will have 2.5 crore HIV patients. This is going to be an economic liability. Has the Statement made any assessment and the effective steps being taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to add here whether the Government propose to involve the MPs in the monitoring mechanism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Will you involve hon. Members of Parliament in the monitoring mechanism?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I understand the concern of the hon. Member on HIV/AIDS. It is a very serious concern for us also. Of course, our Government, under our hon. Prime Minister, is very about this. There is a mention of HIV/AIDS in the Common Minimum Programme/Manifesto. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : No cross-talk or whispering please.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Mention of HIV/AIDS in the Manifesto itself shows that we are serious enough concerned about HIV/AIDS. I would, through you, request all the Hon. Members of Parliament to join the HIV/AIDS Parliamentary Forum. Only 100 Members of Parliament had attended the last Forum meeting in July last year. This year, I would request, through you, all the hon. Members to attend the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you have made an appeal to all the hon. Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of information.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will go away and I will ask you to sit here.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Sir, South Africa tops the list of AIDS-infected countries. There is a trend of increase in minor rapes in the context that child rape cures HIV patients. Now, child rape is increasing in India also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such trends which are prevailing in South Africa are prevailing in India also. I would like to have details on this. I would also like to know the number of male and female AIDS patients in India.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister has already clarified that they are making investigations.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As far as part (a) is concerned, there is no such case of increase child rapes attributable to believe it cures HIV/AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : Regarding the other parts of the question, he has stated that it is already being done.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been stated earlier that this is a very sensitive issue and in these circumstances, the disease is transferred from husband to wife as a result of which whole family is disturbed. Hon'ble Minister just said that it does not include any scheme for the children. No scheme as of now but huge funds come from foreign countries for creating awareness and we also spend a lot of money on creation of awareness about it. I would like to know whether hon'ble Minister would formulate a scheme whereby the patients get medicines also as they do not have funds and face death and a lot of hardships in these circumstances. Hon'ble Minister may set up a separate fund alongwith the formulation of the Scheme. As also there should be a provision for the children as they do not earn anything ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Even though our primary focus is on prevention of AIDS. We have gone one step ahead now by providing care and support. Now, we are saying that AIDS cannot be cured but ii can be treated. Since we are going in for this anti-retroviral therapy, we have put in lot of funds for that.

Regarding the concern of the hon. Member, we are funding NGOs to take care of these children affected by HIV.

MR. SPEAKER : The Parliamentary Forum will help you.

Failure of Meteorological Department

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*325. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Meteorological Department has failed to predict movement of Monsoon and other factors responsible for Natural calamities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to better equip this department in order to enable it to make timely and accurate predictions;

(d) if so, the plans worked out therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to save people from nature's fury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Monsoon rainfall over the Indian peninsula is a result of several natural phenomena occurring across the globe. With the present day observational infrastructure and technology the world over, it is not possible to make predictions on spatial and temporal variations of the monsoon activity. However, on the basis of observations, patterns of rainfall across the country can be identified for making useful forecasts. The India Meteorological Department has been monitoring rainfall across the country since a long time and has already evolved models for forecasting the total seasonal rainfall as well as making short range forecast for meteorological sub-divisions. These forecasts have given important guidance to our operations, in particular, the agriculture operations.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a Long Range Forecast (LRF) for the South West Monsoon seasonal rainfall (total during June to September) for the country as a whole on April 2004. As per the IMD's prediction, year 2004 is expected to be normal year with actual rainfall being 100% (with a model error of ± 4%) of the Long Period Average (LPA). As on 11th August, 2004 the actual rainfall recorded over the country on the whole is about 93%. The accuracy of this forecast can be ascertained only at the end of the season. IMD has

also predicted the date of onset of the monsoon over the Kerala coast this year on 18th May, 2004. In addition IMD has been monitoring the advance of the monsoon across the country and advising the Government on its progress. IMD also issues short range (2-3 days) region-wise forecasts to assist the farmers to plan their activities.

In the case of phenomenon like tropical cyclone which are understood much better, it is easier to predict their track and intensity with a fair degree of accuracy using space and ground based remote sensing technology. IMD has been issuing cyclone warnings on a regular basis successfully.

(b) The performance of the Department in predicting monsoon during the last three years is given in the table below :

Year	Forecast (% of Long Period Average)	Realised Rainfall (% of Long Period Average)
2001	98	91
2002	101	81
2003	96	102

2002 was an unusual year and there were no indicators of onset of drought conditions in the month of July.

(c) and (d) Upgradation of equipments and models is a continuous and evolving process. The Government is committed to augment the existing observational network, upgrading the communication facilities and improvement of weather forecast models. A proposal is being formulated for allocation of additional resources for augmenting the observational and forecasting capabilities for consideration by the Government. Work on developing a dynamical climate prediction system for extended range forecasts has already been initiated jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Space Application Centre and Indian Institute of Technology.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated that the Government is equipping the Meteorology Department with world level state of the art machines and gadgets. This is all right but the meteorology department is not utilizing several parameters like global warming, cycle pattern of monsoon, sun-earth link and the temperature emanating from sun spots for making weather forecasts though all these parameters are used by the meteorology experts all over the world. Whether the Government propose to issue directions to the meteorology experts for making use of these parameters to facilitate accurate weather forecast.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Let us have some discussion on an important subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That will not be recorded. Nothing will be recorded except the reply.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : There are no international parameters for the prediction of the south-west monsoon in India. There are international parameters for prediction of monsoon or rainfall in various parts of the world, but there is no specific model for the south-west monsoon. We have developed our own model. In fact, there is no such thing as prediction of the monsoon. We can only suggest that there is a possibility of rain on a long term basis. But to suggest that one particular day in a given district it is going to rain or not, is not humanly feasible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister whether the Government consider it necessary to appoint monsoon managers in the villages to educate the villagers to understand the monsoon related data.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : In fact, one of our biggest problems is that the assimilation of data and the dissemination of data have not yet been made on-line. It does not happen contemporaneously. In fact, till about two weeks ago, no data was being disseminated at the district level at all.

12.00 hrs.

In fact, the Ministry took a decision just two weeks ago that we will now disseminate data at the district

*Not recorded.

level, and that is being done on the basis of the parameters that we are following today.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Indian Meteorological Department is thinking of having supercomputers for east-coast of Andhra Pradesh, which is often affected by cyclones, so that the early cyclone warning can be given. What is going to happen in this regard? Has the Government of India got any plan to do it just to help the people of Andhra Pradesh, especially the farmers?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the question is not just of Andhra Pradesh, the question is for upgradation of the entire Meteorological Department by investments at various levels. Computers and high quality contemporary computers should be bought and must be bought, and the Government is planning to do that. In fact, we are putting up a proposal to the Government so that they can consider it and investments can be made. In fact, the issue of monsoon is not a question of rain, it is the question of life, and that is the manner in which we view it ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, it should be discussed in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you give notice. You know the procedure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Policy for Development of SSI

*326. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to free the SSI Sector from the Governmental control to ensure its development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a fund for the development of the small scale industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount of loans provided to the small scale industries by the banks during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government has launched a new scheme to promote small scale industries in North-Eastern States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) SSI is already a free sector where the units can be set up by individual entrepreneurs without any Government control except for the compliance with some general laws and area specific local regulations.

(c) and (d) A Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) Fund with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore has become operational from 1st April, 2004. The fund, which is being operated through Small Industry Development Bank of India (SIDBI), is to be utilized over the next two years, *i.e.* 2004-05 and 2005-06. Eighty percent of SME Fund is proposed to be earmarked for SSI units having investment in plant and machinery up to Rs. 1 crore and balance 20% for other SSI/service sector projects, medium sized enterprises and infrastructure projects, etc.

(e) The outstanding amount of advances to small scale industries (SSIs) in the books of public sector banks for the last three years is as under :

1. At the end of March, 2002 : Rs. 49743 crore
2. At the end of March, 2003 : Rs. 52988 crore
3. At the end of March, 2004 : Rs. 58277 crore (Provisional)

(f) and (g) The Union Government supports the development and promotion of small scale industries through its various schemes/programmes, which are uniformly implemented in the country. However, in case of Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, the Central Grant from Government of India for projects in North-Eastern Region is given to the tune of 80% subject to the maximum of Rs. 4 crore as against the usual rate of 40% and a maximum of Rs. 2 crore.

[English]

Setting up of Helpline for Expatriates

*327 SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken at present by Indian Embassies abroad to help the expatriates in distress;

(b) whether Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia is setting up a 24-hour helpline for its expatriates in distress;

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

(d) the names of the other countries where Indian Missions propose to start helpline services and organize open houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Indian Missions/Posts abroad have standing instructions to take up the complaints/problems of expatriate Indians in distress with the local authorities, and with their employers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In Saudi Arabia, the Embassy of India in Riyadh has set up a telephone based 24-hour helpline from 19 July, 2004 for Indian expatriates to contact our Mission for advice and assistance in redressing their grievances.

(d) The Embassy of India in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah have started organizing an "open house" every second Thursday of the month starting from 8 July, 2004. The Government proposes to start helpline services and organize "open houses" in Indian Missions in other countries in the Gulf.

[Translation]

Criteria for Allocation of Funds under PMRY

*328. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for allocation of funds under the PMRY and the guidelines laid down for the use of these funds;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints about the non-compliance of above guidelines;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard and the outcome thereof;

(d) the amount of financial assistance allocated and released under the PMRY during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether some States have requested for allocation of more funds for PMRY particularly North-Eastern States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), loans are provided to individual beneficiaries by the implementing banks against the overall target of beneficiaries allocated to each State/UTs by the Central Government. In addition, the Central Government provides funds for subsidy to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for release to the individual beneficiaries through implementing banks and funds for Entrepreneurial Development (Training & Contingency etc.) to State/UT Governments. The targets are allocated on the basis of population and number of educated unemployed youth registered with the Employment Exchange in each State/UT. Performance of the State in the Scheme during the preceding year, recovery of loan overdues and the specific requests received from the State/UTs are also given due consideration. The guidelines for use of these funds are at statement-I.

(b) No, Sir. No such complaints have been received from State/UTs.

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

(d) State-wise details of loans disbursed by banks and financial assistance provided to State/UT Governments by the Central Government for Entrepreneurial Development during the last three years is at statement-II. The assistance for subsidy from the Central Government is authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks. Hence, the State/UT-wise details of assistance released for subsidy are not available. Funds amounting to Rs. 178.80 crore, Rs. 152.55 crore & Rs. 147.63 crore have been authorised to Reserve Bank of India for subsidy during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04, respectively.

(e) and (f) Requests have been received from some States/UTs including the North Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland for enhancement of targets for

the year 2004-05 under the PMRY. The targets for these States for the year 2004-05 have been revised as per their requests.

Statement-I

Guidelines for use of Funds under the PMRY

1. For advancing loans by the implementing Banks :

(a) Industry/Service Sectors : Projects cost upto Rs. 2.00 lakh

(b) Business Sector : Project cost upto Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(Note : Banks loans constitute 80 per cent of the project cost; remaining 20 per cent is subsidy from the Central Government and margin money contribution from the beneficiary).

2. Assistance from the Central Government :

(i) Funds for Subsidy :

The funds for subsidy are released @ 15% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- per beneficiary (Rs. 15,000/- per beneficiary for NE States, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir).

The funds for subsidy are authorized to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and are not released directly to the State/UTs. These funds are passed on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks. The RBI ensures utilization of these funds.

(ii) Funds for training & contingency :

Training funds : Beneficiaries sanctioned loans under the Scheme are required to undergo an Entrepreneurial Development Training for 15-20 working days for setting a project under industry sector and for 7-10 working days for setting a project in service and business sector.

The norms for releasing the financial assistance for Entrepreneurial Development Training is as under :

For industry sector :

Stipend :	Rs. 300/-
Training expenditure :	Rs. 700/-
Total :	**Rs. 1,000**

For service & business sector :

Stipend :	Rs. 150/-
Training expenditure :	Rs. 350/-
Total :	**Rs. 500/-**

(iii) Contingency funds :

The contingency funds are released @ Rs. 250/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan. These funds are provided for operative expenses.

The funds for (Training, Contingency etc.) are released to State/UTs. State/UTs who are required to submit utilization of these funds. Surplus/deficit of the previous years is adjusted in the subsequent releases.

(iv) In addition, the funds are released to State/UTs for evaluation of the Scheme etc. in special circumstances.

Statement-II

State/UT-wise details of loans disbursed by banks and assistance from Central Government for entrepreneurial development (training, contingency etc.) during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of States/UTs	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Amount of loan disbursed by banks#	Assistance from Central Government	Amount of Loan disbursed by banks#	Assistance from Central Government	Amount of Loan disbursed by banks*#	Assistance from Central Government
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
Haryana	3944.42	19.73	4227.09	38.86	3406.77	68.99
Himachal Pradesh	1605.63	7.13	1504.99	16.96	1881.3	19.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu & Kashmir	754.21	4.29	517.15	2.49	556.73	13.16
Punjab	5209.82	103.23	4779.03	30.22	3479.24	78.18
Rajasthan	6886.93	0.00	6542.92	57.83	4562.11	106.01
Chandigarh	89.41	0.48	29.32	0.37	74.37	0.47
Delhi	482.06	0.00	453.90	0.00	486.29	0.00
North Eastern Region						
Assam	2818.12	42.85	3279.33	110.73	1125.99	58.97
Manipur	157.01	4.50	377.42	0.00	287.85	5.57
Meghalaya	501.53	13.56	197.54	1.86	217.65	7.10
Nagaland	41.53	2.99	138.36	6.84	19.6	1.00
Tripura	643.92	21.40	663.44	17.35	1363.62	18.23
Arunachal Pradesh	381.72	1.74	273.07	3.81	232.57	3.47
Mizoram	43.75	1.62	107.87	4.71	809	3.61
Sikkim	19.37	0.15	13.17	0.10	21.74	0.48
Eastern Region						
Bihar	7273.89	0.00	6626.81	0.00	6408.17	101.54
Jharkhand	3126.11	45.00	3543.38	0.00	2824.67	0.00
Orissa	4001.49	75.50	4540.69	20.50	1033.52	91.34
West Bengal	1620.15	0.00	1627.77	0.00	1380.48	0.00
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	111.56	1.06	110.23	0.59	100.39	1.06
Central Region						
Madhya Pradesh	10923.26	94.98	10422.02	120.21	5449.61	149.32
Chhattisgarh	1619.16	17.00	1886.82	0.00	1041.18	36.08
Uttar Pradesh	25412.31	368.92	25561.85	204.37	20709.94	402.53
Uttaranchal	2122.53	34.00	2885.50	0.00	3003.62	25.83
Western Region						
Gujarat	4092.86	31.88	3720.83	666.94	2757.32	20.27
Maharashtra	10584.85	72.28	10425.46	29.15	7719.91	191.31
Daman & Diu	5.73	0.18	1.00	0.07	1	0.04
Goa	119.32	0.47	200.60	0.00	113	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8.55	0.26	7.00	0.11	0	0.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Southern Region						
Andhra Pradesh	6319.71	109.65	7934.49	63.92	5350.81	191.44
Karnataka	7159.16	121.27	6328.81	49.76	4222.01	148.93
Kerala	4791.85	117.72	5413.49	55.26	5368.39	112.21
Tamil Nadu	4654.12	106.70	4361.54	40.29	4082.63	147.94
Lakshadweep	15.67	0.11	7.07	0.08	9.11	0.12
Pondicherry	94.71	1.69	101.56	1.02	99.11	5.37
Not Specified	844.03		826.10		700.27	
All India	118480.45	1422.36	119637.62	1544.38	90899.97	2010.20

Ayurvedic & Homeopathy Courses in Developing Countries

*329. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the developing countries have requested India to start Ayurvedic and Homeopathy courses in their countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote, develop and strengthen the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM & H). The Schemes include financial support for development of ISM & H educational institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, supply of essential drugs of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy to dispensaries in rural and backward areas, supply of medicinal kits, strengthening of State Drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, assistance to drug manufacturing units obtaining GMP certification, support to ISM & H industry for creation of quality control facilities, financial support to Statutory Institutions, Central Research Councils, Educational Institutions, Pharmacopoeial Laboratories, National Medicinal Plants Board and assistance for promotion and propagation of AYUSH system through NGOs.

[English]

Medical Facilities to Diabetic Patients

*330. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the number of diabetic patients;

(b) if so, the details of the causes alongwith the number of patients in the country;

(c) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have conducted any study about diabetes with the assistance of Indian Council of Medical Research;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient medical facilities to diabetic patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) As per information available, the prevalence of diabetes has been increasing over the last two decades. Studies performed in early 1980's suggested an urban prevalence of 3-4%. According to the revised estimates of the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 32 million diabetics in the country. WHO has projected 80 million diabetics in India by 2030.

The epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes particularly in the urban areas of the country is probably because of ageing, unhealty diet, obesity, sedentary life style and better detection facilities.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has conducted several studies over the last 35 years with the assistance of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other Government funding agencies regarding diabetes. The initial study was the pioneering multi-centre study in the early 1970's, which looked at diabetes prevalence in 6 different parts of the country. Since then, other studies have evaluated the prevalence of diabetes in the country. The AIIMS has also conducted several studies looking at various complications of diabetes including those affecting the eyes, kidneys, nerves and heart. Also, work has been done to look at potential causative factors in disease evolution. These efforts have led to better understanding of the disease burden, the profile of the disease in our country as distinct from other parts of the world and also help plan appropriate treatment strategies.

Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. Since diabetes is a life style related disease, it is very important to adopt preventive life style intervention for control of diabetes among children and adults in the country. These interventions are emphasized through information, education & communication activities of the Government including through Central Health Education Bureau.

[Translation]

Streamlining Telephone Inquiry/Complaints Services

*331. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any effective steps to streamline the telephone inquiry service and complaints service in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the telephone inquiry service and complaints service are not effective in most of the cities of the country as a result of which telephone faults are not attended to for a long time;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make the telephone numbers of the said services uniform all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone inquiry service and complaints service are effective in most of the cities of the country and telephone faults are mostly attended to in reasonable time. However in case of Directory Enquiry, sometimes the service gets affected due to certain unavoidable situations.

(c) The telephone numbers of the above services are already uniform all over the country.

(d) Details are given below :-

Name of Service	Telephone Number
Trunk enquiry	181
STD/ISD information	182
National directory enquiry	183
International Trunk enquiry	187
Directory enquiry	197
Telephone complaint booking	198
Automatic change number announcement	1951/1952

Reserved Items in SSI Sector

*332. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain items have been reserved for production under small scale sector;

(b) if so, the number of items reserved till the end of July, 2004;

(c) the number of items dereserved from this category along with dates on which they were dereserved during the last three years; and

(d) the assessment regarding the benefits to the small scale industry sector after deleting several items from the reserved list?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As at the end of July, 2004, 675 items stood reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector.

(c) During the last three years, 141 items (including 4 sub items) have been dereserved from the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small-scale sector. Out of these, one item was dereserved vide Notification S.O. 2 (E) dated 1.1.2001; fourteen items (including two sub items) vide Notification S.O. 603 (E) dated 29.06.2001; Fifty one items (including one sub item) *vide* Notification S.O. 533 (E) dated 20.5.2002 and seventy five items (including one sub item) vide Notification S.O. 649 (E) dated 3.6.2003.

(d) Dereservation has been done over the years after consulting the stakeholders so as to allow greater opportunities to the SSIs for technological upgradation, promotion of exports and achieving economies of scale.

Disposal of Hospital Waste

*333. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Government hospitals in the country are disposing hospital waste especially mercury waste which causes pollution and spread diseases as reported in the 'HINDU' dated July 2, 2004;

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

(c) whether the scientists have developed incinerators to immediately burn hazardous hospital wastes;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to install the incinerators in Government hospitals;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to study the report released by the Toxics Link, a Non-Government Organisation, on disposal of hospital waste;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the immediate steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the situation from further deterioration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (h) Health being a State subject, it is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Government to take all necessary actions through the State Pollution Control Boards in pursuance of the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules as amended in May, 2003. The disposable mercury bearing waste, irrespective of the source of generation containing mercury and mercury compounds equal to or greater than 50 mg. per kilogram is required to be disposed of as per the requirement of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003. Thus, concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Committees are empowered to ensure the compliance of provisions of these rules. In so far as the Central Government hospitals in Delhi are concerned, they follow the guidelines laid down by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The incinerators are used to dispose of the hospital waste material including the hazardous waste, that are required to be disposed of as such, as per the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003. Incinerators have been installed in various hospitals as per their requirements. During 2002-03, 243 incinerators were installed in the hospitals including government hospitals. In addition, there are 69 common bio-medical waste treatment facilities in the country which have incinerators.

The report of the NGO, Toxics Link, titled, "Lurking Menace—Mercury in the health-care sector" is under examination.

[English]

Difficulties Faced by Co-operative Societies

*334. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any exercise to identify the difficulties being faced by Co-operative Societies of the Agro and Rural Industries in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any corrective/ remedical measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof till date?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. No such exercise has been undertaken since there has been very little involvement of cooperative societies in the implementation of various programmes in the Agro and Rural Industries Sector under the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries during the last three years.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), the nodal Agency for cooperative development in the country, under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation which is assisting the development of different co-operative societies in the country has informed that co-operative including those in the Agro and Rural Industries sector are facing problems like lack of Professional management, over staffing, non-availability of schemes for rehabilitation of sick co-operatives, weak financial position, unviable size, lack of support from State Governments etc.

For improving the performance of the cooperatives, a number of remedial measures are being taken which *inter alia* include infusion of funds towards term loans and working capital, technology upgradation, increasing capacity to minimum economic size, etc.

[Translation]

Benefits to Youth under PMRY

*335. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that full benefits of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana have not reached the educated unemployed youth so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that full benefits of this scheme reach the unemployed youths?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was launched on 2nd October, 1993 with the objective to provide employment to the educated unemployed youth. The success of the Scheme led to its continuation in 9th plan period and subsequently in the 10th plan period also. As per the latest reports for the period from 1993-94 to 2003-04, loans have been disbursed to 19.70 lakh educated un-employed youth against the target of 22.40 lakh and generating employment for an estimated 29.55 lakh persons.

Two rounds of evaluation of the Scheme have been conducted for ascertaining the success of the Scheme. As per the first round of evaluation of the PMRY for the Programme years 1993-94 to 1994-95, 15002 units were set up out of the 15,098 cases disbursed (99.3 percent success rate); sanction was 80 percent of target and 83 percent of sanctioned cases were disbursed loans and employment generated was 2.39 per unit. As per the second round of evaluation of the PMRY for the Programme years 1995-96 to 1997-98, sanction was 81.6 percent of target and 74.7 percent of sanctioned cases were disbursed loans and employment generated was 1.94 persons per functional unit. Further, assets have been created in 89.7 percent of the cases disbursed loans. Some of the parameters of the Scheme like activities covered, relaxation in age, educational qualification, family income, constitution of Task Force at Block/Mandal Level etc. were modified on the basis of recommendations of the above evaluation studies and feedback received from the implementing agencies. The third round of evaluation for the Programme years 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 is now in progress.

[English]

New Policy for SSI Sector

*336 DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the small and medium industries need change in the policy regarding infrastructure, financing, advance technology and research etc.;

(b) If so, whether the Government is considering change in the existing policies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is conscious about the needs of the small scale industries, which are fulfilled by various policy measures announced from time to time. Accordingly, in the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Government in August, 2000, measures to improve and facilitate the availability of infrastructure, credit, marketing and technology etc. were announced so as to enhance the domestic and global competitiveness of small scale industries. There is no separate policy for medium industries in this country. The ministry is in the process of formulating a major promotional package for the SSI sector. The details of the package are being worked out.

SAARC External Affairs Ministers' Conference

*337. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC External Affairs Ministers' Conference was held in Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein;

(c) the details of the points raised by the Government in the said conference;

(d) whether there has been a one to one discussion between Indian and Pakistani External Affairs Ministers;

(e) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the SAARC countries are contemplating to prepare its vision 2020; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this vision is likely to strengthen relations between the member countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The 25th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of SAARC was held in Islamabad on July 20-21, 2004.

(b) The agenda discussed issues related to Poverty Alleviation, establishment of a free trade area in SAARC (SAFTA), cooperation in matters relating to terrorism, energy, biotechnology, environment and communications. Discussions were also held on the SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund, towards which India had agreed at the Twelfth Summit in January 2004 to contribute US$ 100 million to be deployed for projects in SAARC countries outside India. India offered additionally to finance feasibility studies for undertaking projects under the Fund. Discussions were also held on terrorism. All SAARC member countries emphasized the need to put an end to the scourge of terrorism and welcomed the offer of Bangladesh to host a Ministerial Meeting on cooperation among SAARC countries on combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

(c) India made the following important proposals for regional cooperation:

(i) Setting up of SAARC Parliamentary Forum to deliberate on issues pertaining to regional cooperation endeavours under SAARC, and offered to host the next meeting of the Forum.

(ii) Establishment of a SAARC High Economic Council formed with the Finance and Commerce Ministers of the SAARC Member Countries to promote ideas and initiatives related to regional economic integration in economic, trade, financial and monetary areas.

(iii) Setting up of a SAARC Infrastructure Fund to fund major infrastructure projects in the region.

(iv) Setting up of National Committees in member countries mandated to monitor and devise programmes to implement the goals of the SAARC Social Charter, as well as consult with each other to promote collaborative Poverty Alleviation Projects, including under the SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund.

(v) As part of the SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS, the Council decided to give a SAARC Youth Award for "Dedicated Community Services in the field of TB and/or HIV/AIDS. India offered to host a meeting this year of experts and community workers, train paramedics from the SAARC countries, and also offered to send medical vans and mobile awareness units to each of the SAARC countries.

The above proposals were endorsed by other SAARC countries.

(d) and (e) On the margins of the SAARC meeting, EAM met Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri, and also called on the Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan.

Issues related to SAARC and the recent developments in bilateral relations were discussed. Both sides reiterated the importance of continuing the Dialogue in an atmosphere free of violence, and to tackling the scourge of terrorism.

(f) and (g) The Report of the Group of Eminent Persons, submitted to the 10th SAARC Summit in Colombo in July, 1998, details a roadmap for achievement of a SAARC Customs Union by 2015, leading to SAARC Economic Union by 2020, together with the creation of a Common Investment Area for facilitating the flow of foreign direct investment.

International AIDS Conference

*338. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether 15th International AIDS Conference was held recently at Bangkok;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed in the Conference;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the decisions taken in that Conference;

(e) whether American and European Drug manufacturing companies have misled the Media and Society during Conference regarding manufacturing of AIDS drugs by Indian Multinational Companies;

(f) if so, whether the Indian Delegation countered their propaganda during the Conference;

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

(h) the names of Indian Multinational Companies manufacturing Drugs for AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (h) The 15th International AIDS Conference was held at Bangkok from 11th to 16th July, 2004. The theme of the International AIDS Conference was "Access for All". Through the many structured and unstructured meetings, it emerged that the focus was on providing access for people in regard to information of HIV/AIDS, as well as access to services for prevention of HIV and services for treatment, care and support of people living with HIV. The Union Health Minister lead an official delegation of 4 officials and additionally some 60 persons were sponsored by UNAIDS. The deliberations in the conference were divided into five thematic tracks :

1. Clinical Research;
2. Treatment & Care;
3. Epidemiology & Prevention;
4. Social & Economic Issues; and
5. Policy & Programme Implementation.

The Main issues discussed in the conference were :

(i) There is a need to simultaneously scale-up prevention strategies along with provisioning access to treatment, care and support.

(ii) There is need to pay equal attention to low HIV prevalence and high HIV prevalence areas.

(iii) We need to combine focussed interventions for high risk groups with appropriate strategies for vulnerable population such as pregnant women and young people.

(iv) We need to build a multi-sectoral response by strengthening collaborations and partnerships with government and with non-government institutions.

(v) We need to position condoms as a key component of our prevention strategy, as condoms have played decisive role in HIV prevention in many societies.

(vi) We need to involve young people, women and People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) in all efforts to respond to the HIV epidemic.

(vii) We need to fight stigma and discrimination against PLHAs by building an enabling environment (legislation etc.).

A special highlight of the 15th International AIDS Conference was the Leadership Programme which brought together leaders from among people living with HIV, males who have sex with males, people who inject drugs, sex workers, women, young people, leaders from AIDS programmes, government, NGOs/CBOs, the private sector, religion, science, uniformed services and the world of work. Leaders from across diverse sectors were committed to bringing about improvement in the quality of life of

those living with HIV/AIDS or affected by it and also to prevent further HIV infections.

The National AIDS Control Programme has a basket of operational strategies for prevention of HIV, coupled with strategies for the care, treatment and support of people living with HIV. Our interventions on prevention focus on :

1. Preventive Interventions for high-risk population through behaviour change communication, counselling and testing condom promotion, and referrals for treatment of sexually transmitted infections. These are implemented through targeted interventions at high risk sites, through an enabling environment fostered through awareness generation, and inter-personal communication;

2. Preventive Interventions for general population through dissemination of information, education and communication across all segments, programmes on safe blood, services for voluntary testing and counselling, reaching out to adolescents and young adults through the School AIDS Education programme and the University Talk AIDS Programme and awareness generation among out of school youth through the Nehru Yuva Kendras;

3. Interventions for low cost care and support through community care centres, installation of services in ante-natal clinics that prevent HIV transmission from the HIV position mother to newborn infants, commonly known as prevention of parent to child transmission, managing the HIV-TB co-infection, treating people living with HIV/AIDS for opportunistic infections, and protecting health care providers with post-exposure prophylaxis;

4. We have recently expanded the agenda on care and support of people living with AIDS (PLHAs) and introduced anti-retroviral treatment across six high prevalence States (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland) in 8 designated government hospitals. From August, 2004, onwards, we will expand the designated government hospitals from 8 to 25. We will include government hospitals in moderate HIV prevalence States like Gujarat and Goa as well as low prevalence States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Anti-retroviral treatment for People Living with HIV/AIDS will help boost their immune systems and restore quality of life, which in turn, will enable them to resume an active life.

Simultaneously, government is fully aware that it is only through prevention that we will achieve zero level growth of HIV/AIDS, as and when succeed in breaking the chain of HIV transmission from high risk groups through the bridge population to the general population. For this reason, we continue to expand access for all to services for prevention of HIV, together with care, treatment and support for people living with AIDS.

As the XV International AIDS Conference began its first day of work, there was a full page advertisement in the daily *Bangkok Post* on Monday 12th July, 2004, headlined "Beware of the hype". The advertisement further said that "HIV patients worldwide deserve safe, effective and abundant treatment options—not false hope and false medicine". The advertisement aimed specifically at the Indian generic manufacturer CIPLA, noted that on May 27, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had delisted two CIPLA drugs because they were not "bio-equivalent". In other words, they did not work in the same way as patented drugs which had been licensed after exhaustive tests for safety and effectiveness.

Government sought detailed information to fully understand the background of the matter. The details received from the UNAIDS indicate that a little known US group, calling itself the AIDS Responsibility Project and headed by a member of the 35 person Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and Chair of its International Subcommittee, has attacked generic drug makers in a full page advertisement on Day 1 of the XV International AIDS Conference, accusing them of exaggerating claims about the costs, safety and effectiveness of their products. Some report that the main function of this organization, the AIDS Responsibility Project, has been lobbying against the use of cheap generic drugs.

The Indian delegation led by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare held a press briefing next day and clarified that the ARV drugs manufactured by Indian companies are of world class quality standards and the allegations levelled against them are false and baseless.

A list of the names of Indian multinationals manufacturers of generic drugs for AIDS is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name of the Indian multinational companies manufacturing drugs for AIDS

Sl. No.	Name of manufacturer	Antiretroviral Drugs
1.	M/s Cipla Ltd. Mumbai	Stavudine, Lamivudine, Zidovudine, Indinavir, Didanosine, Nevirapine & Combinations
2.	M/s Glaxo India Ltd. Mumbi	Lamivudine
3.	M/s Burroughs Wellcom (India) Ltd. Mumbai	Zidovudine
4.	M/s Nicholas Peramal India Ltd. Mumbai	Zalutabine, Saquinavir
5.	M/s Abbotts Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	Ritonavir
6.	M/s Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. Hyderabad	Nevirapine, Lamivudine
7.	M/s Hetero Drugs Ltd. Hyderabad	Indinavir, Lamivudine, Zidovudine
8.	M/s Sun Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Baroda	Lamivudine
9.	M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. New Delhi	Lamivudine, Zidovudine & Combinations
10.	M/s Mepro Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd. Surendra Nagar (Gujarat)	Lamivudime
11.	M/s Ipca Laboratories Ltd. Mumbai	Lamivudine
12.	M/s Cadila Healthcare Ltd. Ahmedabad	Lamivudine
13.	M/s Genix Pharma Ltd. Hyderabad	Lamivudine
14.	M/s Khandelwal Laboratories Ltd. Mumbai	Lamivudine
15.	M/s Lupin Laboratories Ltd. Mumbai	Lamivudine
16.	M/s Infar Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Ahmedabad	Lamivudine
17.	M/s Midhy Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Mumbai	Lamivudine
18.	M/s Liva Pharma Ltd. Mumbai	Lamivudine

Lifting of Sanctions by US

*339. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. has lifted all sanctions and announced economic and military assistance to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether U.S. has not lifted its sanctions against India till now;

(c) if so, whether India has protested to U.S. on this count;

(d) whether Pakistan is continuing to help and assist militants in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the U.S. has been able to pressurize Pakistan to stop helping terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Sanctions imposed after nuclear tests by Pakistan in 1998 have been lifted. However, sanctions imposed after the military takeover in Pakistan in 1999 continue, though in practice, they have been waived annually by the US President since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2004.

In June 2003, the US announced a package of assistance to Pakistan of about $3 billion, divided equally between economic and military assistance spread over five years beginning financial year 2005.

(b) US has lifted all sanctions against India.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) After the November 25, 2003 ceasefire along the International border, the LOC and the AGPL in Jammu & Kashmir, there had been some decline in the level of infiltration till May 2004. Infiltration levels have increased in June and July and Pakistan has so far not taken any credible steps to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism in that country. Recent reports suggest efforts in the context of reviving some training camps and launching pads.

(e) U.S. Government has from time to time spoken, including in public, about the need to end infiltration and to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan. However, infiltration across the border and the line of control has not stopped, and no significant steps have been taken to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism. In recent public statements, US officials have also recognized that infiltration continues and that "all the infrastructure that supports cross-border activities has not been dismantled".

Revamping of Postal Services

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to revamp the postal services network in the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the proposal mooted thereon for the Tenth Plan; and

(c) the steps taken to market financial products such as mutual fund, insurance and home loans through post offices effectively?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The 10th Plan requires the Department to review the existing postal network and undertake opening of new post offices only by redeployment of existing manpower. Accordingly all post offices in the 10th Plan period have been opened only through redeployment of existing manpower. Action has also been initiated to rationalise the postal network without affecting the level of access approved as per existing policy.

Since February 2001 select Mutual Funds and Bonds are being distributed through a network of over 250 identified post offices. The department also retails Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance through out its network. From this year, the Department has initiated the sale of select non-life insurance products through a few post offices, to be progressively extended throughout the country. Home loans are not disbursed through the postal network.

Human Development Report

*341. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Human Development Report 2004 has given India 127th rank out of 177;

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

(c) whether the report has indicated that the performance in education is woefully inadequate;

(d) if so, the reasons for not showing satisfactory performance in the education sector in the country;

(e) the rank of India in the Human Development Report 2002 and 2003;

(f) whether the Government has studied the Report; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observation made in the Report with regard to education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Human Development Report (HDR), 2004 prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ranks India at 127 out of 177 countries in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI). With this ranking India is grouped among the medium human development countries. HDI is a composite index which measures the average achievement in a country in three basic dimensions of human development namely a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The value of India's HDI calculated and published in the various HDRs being brought out by the UNDP since 1990 has, however, shown sustained improvement over the years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Report does not make any such observations. The value of education index which is a composite index of adult literacy and gross enrolment

ratio has shown sustained improvement for India over the years.

(e) India ranked at the same position at 127 out of 175 countries in the HDR for 2003. However, HDR for 2002 ranked India at 124 out of 173 countries.

(f) and (g) The HDR for 2004 has not made any specific observations with regard to education. This report has estimated a composite HDI value of 0.595. This value in turn is based on the life expectancy index value of 0.64, education index of 0.59 and GDP index of 0.55. The value of education index has witnessed sustained improvement over the years. The government is making efforts *inter-alia*, to expand the reach of Primary Education Programmes.

Construction of Roads and Rail Over Bridges in Bihar

2908. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Bihar regarding the construction of 32 roads and rail over bridges in different parts of the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) State Road Construction Department has submitted a list of 15 numbers of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) to be constructed in different parts of State on cost sharing basis with Railways. Out of this, one ROB is under construction and feasibility study for another ROB has been sanctioned. For the remaining 13 numbers of ROBs, the State Road Construction Department, Bihar has been asked to submit the proposals of feasibility study.

[Translation]

Applications for Telephone Connection

2909 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections received from the villages in Vidisha Region of Madhya Pradesh from 2000-2001 to January, 2004;

(b) the number of other villages from which such applications have been received and the number of applications provided telephone connections so far; and

(c) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the remaining applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, 921 applications were received from the villages in Vidisha region of Madhya Pradesh from 2000-2001 to January 2004.

(b) Applications were received from 9705 other villages of Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001 to January 2004 and 119046 applicants in these villages have been provided telephone connections.

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

[English]

Purchase of Coin Box Instrument

2910. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coin box owners are compelled to purchase the coin box instrument from the employees of the BSNL department in Satara District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the coin box owners who purchase coin box instrument from open market are harassed by the employees of BSNL; and

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

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

(b) No such complaint has been received.

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

Reviving CIWTC Limited

2911. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC) in spite of its expected viability has been limping for survival due to apathy on the part of its management;

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

(c) whether significant discriminations exist in the pay scales between the Engineering Group and the Head Office Staff who have also not been receiving their salary for the last five months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has any plans to release funds to liquidate the outstanding salary of five months for the workmen; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the strategy proposed to be adopted to revive the said sick unit?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Government had sanctioned a revival package costing Rs. 139.55 crore. in June, 2001 expecting that the Corporation will turn around in four years time. However, revival plan has not yielded desirable results and the performance indicators reveal that the Corporation is not viable.

(c) and (d) There is no discrimination in the matter of disbursement of salary to different categories of employees. However, there are differences in the pay scales of different categories of employees of the Corporation for the following reasons :-

(i) The officers, Supervisors and other staff posted at head office and in other division/units of the corporation including sub-staff in non industrial establishments are covered under CDA/IDA pay scale of the Central Government.

(ii) All operative and similar categories of employees posted at Rajabagan Dockyard and at other industrial establishments of the Corporation in West Bengal are covered under tripartite Wage Settlement for Central Public Sector Undertakings in West Bengal.

(iii) The pay scale of floating staff, pilotage and conservancy staff at Assam and the employees of Floating Workshop, Pandu, Assam is settled at bipartite level with the representing unions and the management of the Corporation.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Government has decided to provide funds to the Corporation for payment of salary/wages, but it is not contemplating yet another revival plan for CIWTC, as its performance indicators do not warrant so. However, the Ministry of Shipping has approached the State Government of West Bengal to take over the Corporation.

Telephone Connection in Gurgaon

2912. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections in Gurgaon city as on March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2004;

(b) whether consumers have preferred the telephone connections of the private companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the profit earned by BSNL, Gurgaon, during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government proposes to reduce the rent from Rs. 250/- PM to Rs. 100/-PM so as to compete with private companies and cellular companies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, working connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in Gurgoan are given below :-

	Entire Secondary Switching Area	Gurgoan City
As on 31.3.2002	1,12,975	93,176
As on 31.3.2003	1,15,734	94,334
As on 31.3.2004	1,17,255	90,487

(b) and (c) Some customers have taken connections from private operators, perhaps for commercial compulsions and redundancy. However, as seen from the table above, BSNL telephone connections in Gurgaon Secondary Switching are (SSA) have increased during the last three years.

(d) The profit calculations are done at Haryana Telecom Circle level for all of their SSAs (which includes

Gurgaon) however revenue & expenditure figures for Gurgaon SSA during last three years are as under :—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Revenue	Working Expenditure	Capital Expenditure
2001-2002	16169.7	1365.4	4398.3
2002-2003	14854.1	2205.4	4184.6
2003-2004	15489.1	2758.6	2432.1

(e) and (f) Presently, there is no such proposal as BSNL already offers many customer-friendly packages to suit varied calling patterns.

Excess Billing

2913. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumers under Shargol Exchange in Kargil, Ladakh, have been asked to pay amount from minimum of Rs. 10,000/- to maximum of Rs. 75,000/- without STD facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for such high and excessive billing; and

(c) the action, if any, initiated by the Government to resolve this excess billing problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that 129 subscribers under Shargol exchange in Kargil got the bills ranging from Rs. 10000/- to Rs. 75000/- for the billing period (11.7.2003).

(b) This was caused due to a technical fault in the Exchange.

(c) The revised bills have been issued to the subscribers.

Export of Ayurvedic Products

2914. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts are being made to export more Ayurvedic products to Western World especially Europe to earn more foreign exchange; 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) Government have taken a number of initiatives to facilitate export of Ayurvedic products to the countries including to the Western Union countries. As export to the quality conscious Western/European countries pre-supposes assured quality products, Government have developed pharmacopoieal standards for ayurvedic products, besides providing incentives/subsidy for capacity cultivation of medicinal plants/raw drugs. Ayurvedic drug manufacturing units are being offered 25% subsidy to the maximum of Rs. 1 lakh each for participation in international exhibitions/ fairs etc. They are also being provided with financial incentive for modernising their units and complying with the good manufacturing practices. Government also conduct market surveys of medicinal plants/crude drugs from time to time to promote export of ayurvedic/herbal products to different countries including to the E.U. countries. Government also organize an exhibition of ayurvedic products annually during the World Health Assembly at Geneva.

[Translation]

BSNL Facility in Satna

2915. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BSNL facility is available in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of SIM cards provided in Satna district;

(c) the norms prescribed for providing the BSNL SIM cards;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to provide more SIM cards in Satna district;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance WLL facility in rural areas of Satna district; and

(f) if so, by when?

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

(b) As on 31.07.2004, 1706 cellular connections were working in Satna Town.

(c) SIM Cards provisioning is limited by the available capacity. The cards are provided on proof of Identity and address verification of the subscriber on first come first served basis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. BSNL has planned Tarang/WLL service at Amarpatan, Maihar, Nagod and Maghgawan and the same is expected during the current financial year subject to availability of equipment.

[English]

Cadre Strength of CSS

2916. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Director posts held by AIS and Group 'A' officers and by the CSS officers including freshly created 10 posts;

(b) the number of Deputy Secretary posts held by AIS and Group 'A' officers and the CSS Officers including in-situ officers;

(c) whether disparity has arisen among the AIS and Group 'A' officers and the CSS Officers in holding the above said posts;

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

(e) whether it is a fact that 767 in-situ Under Secretaries were also part of the 1400 posts of restructured cadre of CSS; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) As on 1.8.2004, the number of posts of Director held by the officers of AIS and Group 'A' and by the CSS officers is as under :-

(i)	AIS & Group 'A'	—	326
(ii)	CSS	—	119
			(Including 13 equivalent posts)

(b) The number of posts of Deputy Secretary held by the officers of AIS and Group 'A' services and CSS officers including in-situ officers is as under :—

(i)	AIS & Group 'A'	—	122
(ii)	CSS	—	198

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) While making decision on cadre restructuring of CSS, the figure of 767 in-situ Under Secretaries was taken note of. The Cadre strength of CSS in the grade of Under Secretary has been finally fixed at 1400.

Policy for Assisting CGHS Beneficiaries

2917. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate a policy wherein the expenditure incurred by the Hospital on a CGHS beneficiary shall be directly borne by concerned Ministry/Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the case of pensioner CGHS card holder would be settled in the office/Department last served;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to settle the matter in the dispensaries; and

(g) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The medical reimbursement claims of serving employees (CGHS beneficiaries) are already settled by the Department/ Ministry where the employee is serving. However, in the case of pensioner CGHS cardholders, the orders for decentralisation were issued on 14.10.2003 with detailed orders on 6.2.2004, which gave the option to the pensioners for getting their medical claims settled by the Office/Department in which they last served. However, since there was lukewarm response to the decentralisation process from the pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS, the process of the decentralisation has been kept in abeyance *vide* Department of Health's O.M. dated 12.5.2004.

(d) and (e) In view of (a) to (c) above, the medical claims of CGHS Pensioner cardholders would continue to be settled directly by the CGHS Organisation as before.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) In view of (f) above, the question does not arise.

International Criminal Court

2918. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world's first permanent international criminal court has come into existence;

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

(c) the names of the countries which ratified the treaty for setting up of a new court which will have the power to try people accused of violating international humanitarian law;

(d) whether India has also ratified the treaty;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in Rome adopted the Statute of the Court on 17 July 1998. The Rome Statute entered into force on 1st July, 2002. The Court is situated at The Hague, Netherlands.

(c) There are 94 Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The list of Parties, including the signatories, to the Rome Statute is enclosed as statement.

(d) to (f) India is not a Party to the ICC as it has some reservations on preserving the primacy of national judicial process in relation to ICC. There are also questions concerning the relationship between United Nations Security Council and the ICC. The Government is, however, carefully watching the developments and the functioning of the Court.

Statement

Rome statute of the International Criminal Court
Rome, 17 July 1998

PARTICIPANTS

Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a)
1	2	3
Afghanistan		10 Feb 2003 a
Albania	18 July 1998	31 Jan 2003
Algeria	28 Dec 2000	
Andorra	18 Jul 1998	30 Apr 2001
Angola	7 Oct 1998	

1	2	3
Antigua and Barbuda	23 Oct 1998	18 Jun 2001
Argentina	8 Jan 1999	8 Feb 2001
Armenia	1 Oct 1999	
Australia	9 Dec 1998	1 Jul 2002
Austria	7 Oct 1998	28 Dec 2000
Bahamas	29 Dec 2000	
Bahrain	11 Dec 2000	
Bangladesh	16 Sep 1999	
Barbados	8 Sep 2000	10 Dec 2002
Belgium	10 Sep 1998	28 Jun 2000
Belize	5 Apr 2000	5 Apr 2000
Benin	24 Sep 1999	22 Jan 2002
Bolivia	17 Jul 1998	27 Jun 2002
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17 Jul 2000	11 Apr 2002
Botswana	8 Sep 2000	8 Sep 2000
Brazil	7 Feb 2000	20 Jun 2002
Bulgaria	11 Feb 1999	11 Apr 2002
Burkina Faso	30 Nov 1998	16 Apr 2004
Burundi	13 Jan 1999	
Cambodia	23 Oct 2000	11 Apr 2002
Cameroon	17 Jul 1998	
Canada	18 Dec 1998	7 Jul 2000
Cape Verde	28 Dec 2000	
Central African Republic	7 Dec 1999	3 Oct 2001
Chad	20 Oct 1999	
Chile	11 Sep 1998	
Colombia	10 Dec 1998	5 Aug 2002
Comoros	22 Sep 2000	
Congo	17 Jul 1998	3 May 2004
Costa Rica	7 Oct 1998	7 Jun 2001
Cote d'Ivoire	30 Nov 1998	

1	2	3
Croatia	12 Oct 1998	21 May 2001
Cyprus	15 Oct 1998	7 Mar 2002
Czech Republic	13 Apr 1999	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8 Sep 2000	11 Apr 2002
Denmark	25 Sep 1998	21 Jun 2001
Djibouti	7 Oct 1998	5 Nov 2002
Dominica		12 Feb 2001 a
Dominican Republic	8 Sep 2000	
Ecuador	7 Oct 1998	5 Feb 2002
Egypt	26 Dec 2000	
Eritrea	7 Oct 1998	
Estonia	27 Dec 1999	30 Jan 2002
Fiji	29 Nov 1999	29 Nov 1999
Finland	7 Oct 1998	29 Dec 2000
France	18 Jul 1998	9 Jun 2000
Gabon	22 Dec 1998	20 Sep 2000
Gambia	4 Dec 1998	28 Jun 2002
Georgia	18 Jul 1998	5 Sep 2003
Germany	10 Dec 1998	11 Dec 2000
Ghana	18 Jul 1998	20 Dec 1999
Greece	18 Jul 1998	15 May 2002
Guinea	7 Sep 2000	14 Jul 2003
Guinea-Bissau	12 Sep 2000	
Guyana	28 Dec 2000	
Haiti	26 Feb 1999	
Honduras	7 Oct 1998	1 Jul 2002
Hungary	15 Jan 1999	30 Nov 2001
Iceland	26 Aug 1998	25 May 2000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	31 Dec 2000	
Ireland	7 Oct 1998	11 Apr 2002

1	2	3
Israel	31 Dec 2000	
Italy	18 Jul 1998	26 Jul 1999
Jamaica	8 Sep 2000	
Jordan	7 Oct 1998	11 Apr 2002
Kenya	11 Aug 1999	
Kuwait	8 Sep 2000	
Kyrgyzstan	8 Dec 1998	
Latvia	22 Apr 1999	28 Jun 2002
Lesotho	30 Nov 1998	6 Sep 2000
Liberia	17 Jul 1998	
Liechtenstein	18 Jul 1998	2 Oct 2001
Lithuania	10 Dec 1998	12 May 2003
Luxembourg	13 Oct 1998	8 Sep 2000
Madagascar	18 Jul 1998	
Malawi	2 Mar 1999	19 Sep 2002
Mali	17 Jul 1998	16 Aug 2000
Malta	17 Jul 1998	29 Nov 2002
Marshall Islands	6 Sep 2000	7 Dec 2000
Mauritius	11 Nov 1998	5 Mar 2002
Mexico	7 Sep 2000	
Monaco	18 Jul 1998	
Mongolia	29 Dec 2000	11 Apr 2002
Morocco	8 Sep 2000	
Mozambique	28 Dec 2000	
Namibia	27 Oct 1998	25 Jun 2002
Nauru	13 Dec 2000	12 Nov 2001
Netherlands	18 Jul 1998	17 Jul 2001 A
New Zealand	7 Oct 1998	7 Sep 2000
Niger	17 Jul 1998	11 Apr 2002
Nigeria	1 Jun 2000	27 Sep 2001
Norway	28 Aug 1998	16 Feb 2000

1	2	3
Oman	20 Dec 2000	
Panama	18 Jul 1998	21 Mar 2002
Paraguay	7 Oct 1998	14 May 2001
Peru	7 Dec 2000	10 Nov 2001
Philippines	28 Dec 2000	
Poland	9 Apr 1999	12 Nov 2001
Portugal	7 Oct 1998	5 Feb 2002
Republic of Korea	8 Mar 2000	13 Nov 2002
Republic of Moldova	8 Sep 2000	
Romania	7 July 1999	11 Apr 2002
Russian Federation	13 Sep 2000	
Saint Lucia	27 Agu 1999	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		3 Dec 2002 a
Samoa	17 Jul 1998	16 Sep 2002
San Marino	18 Jul 1998	13 May 1999
Sao Tome and Principe	28 Dec 2000	
Senegal	18 Jul 1998	2 Feb 1999
Serbia and Montenegro	19 Dec 2000	6 Sep 2001
Seychelles	28 Dec 2000	
Sierra Leone	17 Oct 1998	15 Sep 2000
Slovakia	23 Dec 1998	11 Apr 2002
Slovenia	7 Oct 1998	31 Dec 2001
Solomon Islands	3 Dec 1998	
South Africa	17 Jul 1998	27 Nov 2000
Spain	18 Jul 1998	24 Oct 2000
Sudan	8 Sep 2000	
Sweden	7 Oct 1998	28 Jun 2001
Switzerland	18 Jul 1998	12 Oct 2001
Syrian Arab Republic	29 Nov 2000	
Tajikistan	30 Nov 1998	5 May 2000
Thailand	2 Oct 2000	

1	2	3
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7 Oct 1998	6 Mar 2002
Timor-Leste		6 Sep 2002 a
Trinidad and Tobago	23 Mar 1999	6 Apr 1999
Uganda	17 Mar 1999	14 Jun 2002
Ukraine	20 Jan 2000	
United Arab Emirates	27 Nov 2000	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 Nov 1998	4 Oct 2001
United Republic of Tanzania	29 Dec 2000	20 Aug 2002
United States of America	31 Dec 2000	
Uruguay	19 Dec 2000	28 Jun 2002
Uzbekistan	29 Dec 2000	
Venezuela	14 Oct 1998	7 Jun 2000
Yemen	28 Dec 2000	
Zambia	17 Jul 1998	13 Nov 2002
Zimbabwe	17 Jul 1998	

Setting up of New Centre for Marine Biotechnology

2919. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a New Centre for Marine Biotechnology at Jamnagar, Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a new Centre for Marine Biotechnology at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

2920. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase prescribed upper limit of providing employment on compassionate ground from 5 percent to 15 percent in accordance with the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Linking Nainital to Agra with NH

2921. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to link Nainital to Agra in Uttar Pradesh with national highway; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Nainital is already linked with Agra through National Highways as follows :-

(i) Nainital to Rampur	—	NH-87
(ii) Rampur to Moradabad	—	NH-24
(iii) Moradabad to Agra	—	NH-93

[English]

Bye-Pass on NH in Assam

2922. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the construction of bye-pass on National Highway No. 52 at Mangoldoi Town in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the traffic problems on the NH-52 at Mangoldoi Town due to the Bailley Bridge;

(d) if so, whether the Government will consider replacing the Bailley Bridge with RCC Bridge during this financial year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Subsoil investigation for the construction of permanent bridge at Mangoldoi is planned during the current year and the actual work is expected to be commenced during 2005-06.

(e) Does not arise.

Allocation for Special Programmes in Orissa

2923. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made by the Union Government to Orissa for special programmes/special schemes including KBK plan up to the financial year 2003-2004, scheme-wise, programme-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the objectives of these special programmes have been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to achieve the short term and long term action plans of KBK areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Prior to 2002-03, Planning Commission was allocating Additional Central Assistance for the KBK districts of Orissa to supplement the efforts of the State Government for the development of these districts. An amount of Rs. 243.95 crore was released from 1998-99 to 2001-02. In order to give focused attention, the Special Plan for the KBK districts has been included as one of the components of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana from the financial year 2002-03. The Plan focuses on tackling the main problems of drought proofing, livelihood support, connectivity, health, education, etc. as per local priorities. Special Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crore during 2002-03 and Rs. 250 crore during 2003-04 was released to the State Government under the Special Plan. Statement indicating the allocations made for the schemes under various sectors during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed.

(b) The objectives of the Special Plan are inherent in the schemes covered under the programme and are being achieved.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to strengthen the support to the area, the Special Central Assistance for the Plan for these districts is now being given as 100 per cent grant and has been enhanced as indicated in reply to part (a) of the question above. In addition, the State Government have conferred higher administrative and financial powers on the Chief Administrator, Special Area Development (KBK) Project and the Deputy Chief Administrators with a

view to avoid procedural delays and improve programme implementation. Further, a district level committee has been constituted for each district to formulate Action Plans as well as review and monitor the schemes.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Sector	Allocation	
		2002-03	2003-04
1.	Agriculture	11.74	15.00
2.	Cooperation	8.96	7.00
3.	Energy	0.00	8.20
4.	Fisheries and Animal Resources Development	3.56	6.00
5.	Forest and Environment	18.15	24.70
6.	Health and Family Welfare	10.00	13.90
7.	Housing and Urban Development	6.00	12.00
8.	Planning and Coordination	12.50	15.10
9.	Panchayati Raj	0.00	15.00
10.	Rural Development	38.00	40.50
11.	ST and SC Development	20.00	21.00
12.	Textiles and Handloom	3.00	1.50
13.	Women and Child Development	33.59	32.20
14.	Water Resources	20.00	21.90
15.	Works	14.50	16.00
	Total	**200.00**	**250.00**

Committee on Poverty and Unemployment

2924. SHRI SUDAM MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission had constituted a Committee for removing poverty and unemployment by 2020;

(b) if so, the names of NGOs included in this Committee;

(c) whether "All India Association for SC/ST & Physically Handicapped Peoples' Upliftment" has been approaching to ascertain some facts on the subject matter;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of poverty and unemployment removed during the last four years and the total amount spent on this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had constituted a Committee on 'India Vision 2020' under the Chairmanship Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Members of the Committee were experts in their individual capacity. No NGOs were included in this Committee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The All India Association for SC/ST & Physically Handicapped People's Upliftment seeks information regarding the work done by the Planning Commission to remove poverty and unemployment by 2020. The Report of the Committee on 'India Vision 2020' was provided to the Association.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The unemployment rate and poverty ratios are estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of large sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The last such Survey was conducted in 1999-2000. On the basis of this Survey, poverty ratio was estimated to be 26.1 percent as against 36 percent in 1993-94. The unemployment rate was 7.32 percent in 1999-00 as against 5.99 percent in 1993-94. The Committee 'India Vision 2020' was supported by the budget of the Planning Commission.

Availing Facilities of CGHS Dispensary

2925. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a CGHS dispensary has been functioning in CBI Colony of the Central Government Housing Complex, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether all Government Employees including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha employees of the said

complex are eligible to avail the benefits of the said dispensary; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to ensure all Government employees avail the facilities of the said dispensary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir. Only an extension centre of CGHS dispensary Number-50 (R.K. Puram III) has been opened in CBI Colony, Vasant Vihar, to provide CGHS facilities exclusively for the beneficiaries of CBI colony as most of the Govt. servants residing in the colony are required to be on tour for long spells and their family members were facing difficulty in getting medical facilities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present there is no Govt. sanction for opening a full-fledged CGHS dispensary at Vasant Vihar and the present facility to the beneficiaries of CBI Colony is through an extension centre only which has been made operational with a limited number of staff withdrawn from CGHS dispensary No. 50 (R.K. Puram III). Therefore, the CGHS beneficiaries residing in nearby colonies cannot be extended medical facilities through the extension centre of CGHS at CBI Colony, Vasant Vihar.

[Translation]

MTNL Trust Line Service

2926. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to initiate the MTNL Trust Line Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this service is likely to be initiated; and

(d) the funds likely to be spent on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Sir, MTNL has already launched MTNL Trust Line Service on 5th August, 2004. The MTNL Trust Line Service is a licensed certifying authority formed as per IT Act, 2000 and CCA guideline to issue/review/remove the digital signature service.

(d) Approximately Rs. 12.5 crores are likely to be spent by MTNL for the service.

[English]

Funds to NGOs Engaged In Health Care Schemes

2927. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government provides funds to the voluntary organizations engaged in Family Welfare Programmes and Rural Health Care Schemes;

(b) if so, the total aid/assistance provided by the Government to different NGOs in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has appointed any agency to monitor proper utilization of funds by these NGOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the NGOs found defaulters; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds so allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Government provides funds to the Voluntary Organizations engaged in Family Welfare Programmes.

(b) The list is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) A panel of evaluation agencies have been approved by the Department of Family Welfare to carry out the appraisal/evaluation of NGOs is enclosed as statement-II. The NGOs are evaluated on completion of 1st year and 3rd year of the project. Under Scheme for Support to Gender Issues (SGI) for which financial assistance was provided by UNFPA, the financial assistance was routed through an identified NGO called

Monitoring NGO while the project was implemented through an Implementing NGO. The Monitoring NGO supervised and monitored the implementation of the project.

(e) and (f) The list of NGOs against whom complaints have recently been received and action taken in this regard is enclosed as statement-III. The NOGs black listed during the last three years is enclosed as statement-IV.

Statement-I

(Amount in Rs.)

S.No.	Name of MNGO	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		Mother NGO scheme			
1.	Ekalavya Memorial League, Prakasam	A.P.	1,000,000.00		978,414.00
2.	Rahul's Med. & Health Services Society, Hyderabad	A.P.	4,000,000.00	3,898,562.00	3,200,000.00
3.	Society for National Integration through Rural Development, Prakasam	A.P.	2,234,000.00		1,936,708.00
4.	St. Peter's Multipurpose Health Workers (Female), Guntur	A.P.		900,000.00	850,000.00
5.	Heads, Anantpur	A.P.	750,000.00	789,649.00	2,689,345.00
6.	Social Action for Social Dev., Hyderabad	A.P.	1,500,000.00		1,440,000.00
7.	Gujarat Voluntary Health Association, Ahmedabad	Gujarat		1,250,000.00	
8.	Centre for Health Education Training & Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), Ahmedabad	Gujarat	876,997.00	676,317.00	1,345,849.00
9.	Family Planning Association of India, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,200,000.00	1,395,562.00	
10.	Samagra Vikas Trust, Amereili	Gujarat	1,000,000.00	2,426,389.00	
		Support to gender issue project			
1.	Visakha Zila Nav Nirman Samiti, Vishakhapatnam	A. P	808,920.00	808,071.00	
2.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Tirupati	A. P	669,600.00	709,753.00	
3.	Deepak Charitable Trust, Vadodara	Gujarat	1,574,034.00	149,957.00	219,396.00

Statement-II

A Panel of Pre-appraisal/Evaluation/Field appraisal under the RCH scheme

1. The Director,
   Indian Institute for Health Management Research,
   1, Prabhu Dayal Marg,
   Sanganer Airport,
   Jaipur.
2. The Director,
   Family Planning Association of India (FPAI),
   Bajaj Bhavan, Nariman Point,
   Mumbai.
3. The Director,
   Nabakrishna Choudhury,
   Centre for Dev. Studies,
   Bhubaneshwar-751 013.
4. The Director,
   NIHFW,
   Munirka, New Delhi.
5. The Chief Executive,
   Voluntary Health Association of India,
   Tong Swasthya Bhavan,
   40, Institutional Area, New Delhi.
6. The Director,
   CINI, Village Daulatpur,
   P.O. Pailan,
   Via Joka, 24 Parganas,
   West Bengal- 743 512.
7. The Director,
   Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & F.W. Trust,
   Amba THURAI R.S.,
   Dindigul Distt., Tamil Nadu-624 302.
8. The Director,
   Om Kailash Tower,
   190-A, Vidhan Sabha Marg,
   Lucknow.

Statement-III

Action taken report against the NGOs

Sl. No.	Name of NGO	Action taken
1.	Godavari Foundation, Jalgaon, Maharashtra	There was a complaint against the MNGO on alleged misuse of funds. The inquiry was conducted by consultant ARC from 29.5.2003 to 30.6.2003. Second inquiry was conducted AC(NGO) with assistance of US(S.I) 12-14 November, 2003. Allegations against the NGOs were not substantiated.
2.	Arthick Atma Nirbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran, Patna, Bihar	A complaint against malpractices committed by the MNGO has been received. Comments of the State Government have been called for. Their reply is awaited.
3.	CHETNA, Rajasthan	As per utilization certificate for the year 2002-03, they have unspent balance of Rs. 1,58,551/-, CHETNA, Rajasthan has not been separately registered entity. Further grant-in-aid has been stopped till they furnished the registration certificate in Rajasthan.
4.	Development Action through self help Network (DARSHAN), Kerala	The NGO was released an amount of Rs. 1,41,400/- for "Day Care Centre". The monitoring reports and visit by UNFPA revealed irregularities in maintenance of accounts and misutilization of funds. Further releases have been stopped and Audit Wing of MOHFW has been requested to audit the accounts of the NGO.

Statement-IV

NGOs blacklisted during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of Organization
1.	Revansidheswar Prasanna Education Society, Bidar, Karnataka.
2.	National Educational Minorities Society, Kothapet, Guntur, A.P.
3.	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
4.	Harijan Pichda Warg Kalyan Samiti, Madyepur, Madhubani, Bihar.
5.	Hast Kala Vikas Kendra, Madheypur, Madhubani, Bihar.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Distribution of Medicines

2928. DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the medicines distributed in Government hospitals free of cost do not reach the needy persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Government to ensure that medicines are distributed in Government Hospitals free of cost should reach to the needy persons. However, in Central Government Hospitals, medicines are distributed free of cost to the patients according to hospital formulary as per existing policy. The life saving medicines, in emergency requirement, are also procured and supplied to the poor and needy patients. Further, assistance for procurement of costly medicines is also provided to the patients of below poverty line out of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi.

[English]

Establishment of Virtual Private Network

2929. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. proposes to establish Virtual Private Network at Chennai and Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether this facility is likely to be extended to other cities also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) BSNL has already established Virtual Private Network (VPN) facilities at Chennai and Madurai. With the 10 node network that BSNL has established, VPN services are available throughout the country.

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

[Translation]

Admission in Government Dental College

2930. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh regarding allowing admission in the 2nd year in the Government Dental College, Raipur; and

(b) if so, the time by which permission for admission is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Dental Council of India have pointed out certain deficiencies in the Government Dental College, Raipur, while considering renewal of permission for second year BDS course have communicated the same to the college authorities for rectification. Renewal of Permission can be considered only upon receipt of the Compliance Report and

recommendation of Dental Council of India based on that Report.

Re-opening of Regional Leprosy Training Institute

2931. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Leprosy Training Institute of the Union Government is located in Raipur;

(b) if so, the reasons for its closure; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to re-open the said Institute?

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

(b) The institute is functioning and has not been closed down.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Hospitals

2932. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up some hospitals in the Central Sector exclusively for women patients in the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the States where these hospitals are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether four such hospitals are proposed to be set up at Mohana, Rajakanika, Dangadi and Munniguda in Orissa;

(d) whether some sub-centres are also proposed to be set up exclusively for women in the State during the Tenth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) At present, there is no proposal to set up either hospital or sub-centre exclusively for women during the 10th Plan.

[Translation]

Religious Places in Pakistan

2933. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some religious places of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains are located in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of such religious places and their location thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has framed any rule for Indians visiting these religious places;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the condition of these religious places and the mechanism in place for their maintenance;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to give the responsibility of maintenance of these places to Indian institutions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (g) Visits of pilgrim groups to a number of religious places located in India and Pakistan are regulated by the bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, signed in September 1974. It outlines the principles for facilitating such visits. In keeping with the provisions of the Protocol, the two sides have agreed to a list of shrines to be visited, and the size of the visiting pilgrim groups. Accordingly, pilgrim groups from India visit shrines such as Panja Sahib (Hasanabdal), Nankana Sahib (Pindi), Shadani Darbar (Hyat Pitafi), etc. that are located in Pakistan.

Under the Protocol, it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government are aware of reports that some of the shrines in Pakistan are not being maintained properly and their sanctity is not being preserved. Government of Pakistan has been appraised of the complaints received from time to time in this regard.

Pre-Paid and Post-Paid Telephone Connections

2934. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pre-paid and post-paid telephone connections of BSNL in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the total number of applicants who have applied for new telephone connections;

(c) the time by which the applicants in waiting list are likely to be given telephone connections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of pre-paid and post-paid Cellular Mobile Telephone Connection of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) district-wise is given in enclosed statement.

(b) As per present policy, BSNL does not maintain waiting list of mobile service in Maharashtra Circle.

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

(d) Cellular capacity of 4.5 lakh lines is being rolled out and capacity will be progressively available to meet demand of the State during the current financial year.

Statement

** Mobile Phones working in Maharashtra circle as on 31-07-2004*

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Pre-paid Connections	No. of Post-paid Connections	Total Working Cellular connections
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	17340	10353	27693
2.	Akola	4413	4422	8835
3.	Washim	947	410	1357
4.	Amravati	4235	4713	8948
5.	Aurangabad	7539	12367	19906
6.	Beed	4475	4556	9031
7.	Bhandara	2455	1714	4169
8.	Gondia	2395	1676	4071
9.	Buldhana	3726	3520	7246
10.	Chandrapur	5615	3665	9280
11.	Dhule	3100	5428	8528
12.	Nandurbar	900	866	1766
13.	Gadchiroli	2695	608	3303
14.	Goa(S)	13388	6159	19547
15.	Goa(N)	17722	4508	22230
16.	Jalgaon	4984	10305	15289
17.	Jalna	4913	2168	7081

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Kalyan	48757	9281	58038
19.	Kolhapur	18100	14135	32235
20.	Latur	5531	6419	11950
21.	Nagpur	20795	20485	41280
22.	Nanded	7550	4860	12410
23.	Nasik	14007	27724	41731
24.	Osmanadad	5852	2026	7878
25.	Parbhani	3470	2944	6414
26.	Hingoli	1290	701	1991
27.	Pune	59866	90005	149871
28.	Raigad	11729	3301	15030
29.	Ratnagiri	8773	1849	10622
30.	Sangli	6146	6365	12511
31.	Satara	5387	6713	12100
32.	Sindhudurg	9148	1496	10644
33.	Solapur	10479	9526	20005
34.	Wardha	4544	3333	7877
35.	Yeotmal	5414	4190	9604
	Total	347680	292791	640471

Golden Quadrilateral Project

2935. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Project is to be continued by the present Government;

(b) if so, the details of action plan and policy proposed to be adopted in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has paid compensation to the farmers for land acquired for National Highway No. 8 between Jaipur-Kishangarh and National Highway No. 69 between Kishangarh-Vijaynagar in Ajmer district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when compensation is likely to be paid to the remaining farmers?

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

(b) The target for substantial completion of the Golden Quadrilateral Project is by December, 2004. The funds have been tied up and the works are being constantly monitored to achieve the target.

(c) and (d) Till date the Competent Authority has determined an award of Rs. 25.52 crores for Jaipur-Kishangarh section on NH-8. The amount has been deposited with the Competent Authority for disbursement. Determination of award of remaining land is likely to be completed by December, 2004. The section between Kishangarh-Vijaynagar falls on NH-79A and NH-79 in Ajmer District and not on NH-69. For this section, till now Competent Authority has determined and award of Rs. 12.66 crores and award for remaining land is likely to be completed by September, 2004.

[English]

Scheme for Family Pension

2936. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for payment of family pension for dependents of Central Government pensioners who suffer from chronic mental disability, disease or impairment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any criteria/conditions have been prescribed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons receiving such a pension at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (d) The family pension shall be payable to the son or daughter of a Government servant for life who is suffering from any disorder or disability of mind (including mentally regarded) or is physically crippled or disabled so as to render him or her unable to earn a living even after attaining the age of twenty-five years, as per the proviso under Rule 54(6) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, subject to the following conditions *viz.*,

(i) if such son or daughter is one among two or more children of the deceased Government servant/pensioner, the family pension shall be initially payable to the minor children in the order of their birth until the last minor child has attained the age of twenty-five years and thereafter the family pension shall be resumed in favour of the son or daughter suffering from disorder or disability of mind or who is physically crippled or disabled;

(ii) family pension to twin children shall be payable in equal shares;

(iii) family pension to such son/daughter shall be paid through a guardian as if he or she were a minor except in the case of physically crippled son/daughter who has attained the age of majority;

(iv) in case of a mentally retarded son or daughter, the family pension shall be payable to a person nominated by the Government servant or the pensioner, as the case may be, and in case no such nomination has been furnished to the Head of Office by such Government servant or pensioner during his lifetime, to the person nominated by the spouse of such Government servant or family pensioner, as the case may be, later on;

(v) before allowing family pension for life to any such son or daughter, the appointing authority shall satisfy that the handicap is of such a nature so as to prevent him or her from earning his or her livelihood and the same shall be evidenced by a certificate obtained from a medical officer not below the rank of a Civil Surgeon setting out, as far as possible, the exact mental or physical condition of the child; and

(vi) such son/daughter or his/her guardian, as the case may be, shall produce every three years a certificate from medical officer not below the rank of a Civil Surgeon to the effect that he or she continues to suffer from disorder or disability of mind or continues to be physically crippled or disabled.

(e) Grant of pension is decentralized and no records in this regard are maintained centrally in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

[Translation]

Bridge Over Rapti River

2937. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of the Bridge over the Rapti river on National Highway No. 28 at Gorakhpur has started; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof and by when the work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The physical progress of the project is 25 percent and the work is targeted to be completed by March 2006.

Filling of Reserved Quota in AIIMS

2938. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise number of doctors and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) whether the reservation quota of SC/ST and OBC has been filled up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the reservation quota would be filled up in the AIIMS?

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 Sabha.

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

2939. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that telephone exchanges in rural areas of Sultanpur district especially Irebhar Telephone Exchange remain out of order and its STD facility is also often remains disrupted;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve working of the said telephone exchanges and by when STD facility is likely to be restored; and

(c) the details of complaints received and redressals made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The telephone exchanges with STD facility in rural areas of Sultanpur district including Kurebhar telephone exchange are working satisfactorily. The details of exchange failure and disruption of STD service in Kurebhar telephone exchange during last one year are as under :-

Sl. No.	Failure		Restoration		Remarks
	Date	Time (Hours)	Date	Time (Hours)	
1.	20.10.03	11.00	20.10.03	18.00	Media failure
2.	24.12.03	10.00	24.12.003	16.00	Media failure
3.	04.02.04	18.00	05.02.04	01.00	Media failure
4.	07.06.04	21.00	08.06.04	10.00	Exchange failure

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

(c) In this regard no complaint was received.

[English]

Work Progress on NH-47

2940. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strip from Thupoly to Kolarcode in Kerala covered under NH-47 is still incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rest of the said National Highway has already neared completion; and

(d) if so, the time by when the said portion of NH-47 is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the construction of Alapuzha Bypass on the NH-47 connecting Thumpoly to Kalarcode. The total length of Alapuzha Bypass is 7.58 km. Phase-I having a length of 3.73 km has been completed. The estimate for Phase-II having a length of 3.85 km has been sanctioned on 20.5.2003 and the work is scheduled to be completed by January, 2006.

Cases of Female Foeticide

2941. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) number of cases of female foeticide or sex selective abortions that have officially been reported or detected during the last five years; and

(b) number of cases in which action has been taken against the doctor/clinic for violating PNDT Act during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Separate figures of female foeticide are not available. A statement showing incidence of foeticide reported during the period 1999-2003 is enclosed.

(b) As per reports received from States and UTs, 415 cases are pending before various Courts against violators of the PNDT Act, out of these 336 are for non-registration of the centre, 12 are for non-maintenance of record; 21 are for communication of sex of the foetus, 12 are for advertisement about facilities of preconception/ pre-natal sex selection; and 34 are in respect of other violations.

Statement

Incidence of female foeticide reported during the year 1999-2003

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	8	0	0	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	1
4.	Bihar	4	1	0	1	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	5	0	9
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	7	0	4	9	1
8.	Haryana	9	13	3	6	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	6	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	2	1
11.	Jharkhand	NA	NA	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	0	1	1	7	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	2	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17	14	7	4	9
15.	Maharashtra	13	41	17	10	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	1	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	3	0	7	10	4
22.	Rajasthan	3	9	8	6	11
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	1	0
27.	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	2	2	20	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	61	91	55	84	52

Inland Waterways in Tamil Nadu

2942. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to start inland waterways between Chennai and other areas within and outside Tamil Nadu both for passenger and goods traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A proposal is being formulated for declaration of Kakinada-Mercaunum canals together with rivers Godavari and Krishna as a National Waterway.

(c) Does not arise.

Filling up of Reserved Quotas for SC/ST

2943. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether instructions have been issued to fill up reserved quotas for SC/ST including back log vacancies in the Central Ministries, Institutions and Central PSUs and per the Common Minimum Programme of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of time bound schedule prescribed for it as per the CMP; and

(c) if not, by which time instructions will be issued by the Government to implement the CMP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) Instructions have been issued to all the Ministries/ Departments, etc. on 5th August, 2004 to launch a Special Recruitment Drive to fill the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in the direct recruitment quota.

(b) The Schedule for the Special Recruitment Drive is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Schedule for special recruitment drive

Sl. No.	Action	Target Date
1.	Issue of Instructions by the Ministries/Departments to all appointing authorities under their charge for conduct of the drive	By 16.8.2004
2.	Collection of information by the Ministries/Departments about backlog reserved vacancies for SCs and STs as on 1.7.2004 in the Ministries/Departments including Attached/Subordinate Offices	By 30.9.2004
3.	Reporting of vacancies to the UPSC/SSC or other concerned recruiting agencies by the concerned Ministries/Departments/appointing authorities	By 1.11.2004
4.	Advertisement by the UPSC/SSC/Other recruiting agencies	By 1.12.2004
5.	Receipt of applications/nominations by the UPSC/SSC/Other recruiting agencies	By 15.1.2005
6.	Holding of interviews/tests etc. by the UPSC/SSC/Other recruiting agencies	By 15.3.2005
7.	Information about the selected candidates by the UPSC/SSC/Other Recruiting Agencies to the concerned Ministry/Department/Office	By 15.4.2005
8.	Issue of offers of appointment to the selected candidates	By 16.5.2005

Bus Service between Amritsar and Nankana Sahib

2944. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has held talks with Pakistan on the possibility of running a bus service between Amritsar and Nankana Sahib to fulfil the long standing demand of Sikhs;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said bus service is likely to run on a regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Plan Allocation for Projects in Gujarat

2945. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

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

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

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

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The total plan expenditure incurred by the Government of Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan was Rs. 24657.98 crore out of which Rs. 24640.74 crore was on developmental projects (economic services and social services), which was 99.93 percent of total expenditure. The expenditure incurred on non-developmental projects (general services) was Rs. 17.24 crore which was 0.07 percent of the total expenditure.

(b) The percentage of Plan allocation spent on developmental projects and non-developmental projects during Annual Plan 2002-03 are 99.98 per cent and 0.02 per cent respectively. During Annual plan 2003-04 (Revised Estimates) the percentage expenditure on developmental and non-developmental projects were 99.96 per cent and 0.04 per cent respectively.

(c) As for as plan expenditure is concerned, there is no substantial increase in non-developmental expenditure during the last three years.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

CGHS Empanelled Private Hospitals

2946. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of CGHS empanelled private hospitals in Kolkata and Delhi;

(b) whether these private Hospitals give admission to only those CGHS beneficiaries who make an advance payment;

(c) if so, the details of MoU signed between various referral Ministries/Departments;

(d) whether the Government has noticed any violations of the said MoU; and

(e) 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) The list of private hospitals/ diagnostic Centres recognised under CGHS Kolkata and CGHS Delhi is given at statement.

(b) and (c) The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by Director (CGHS) on behalf of the President of India and the authorised signatory of the CGHS recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres *inter alia* stipulates that in the case of an emergency, the recognized private hospital shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the CGHS beneficiary and shall provide credit facilities to the concerned patient on the production of a valid CGHS card. The CGHS recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres shall submit their bills for reimbursement as per the CGHS approved ceiling rates for various medical procedures/tests/investigations to the concerned Department in the case of serving employees and to the Office of the concerned Additional Director, CGHS in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

For Non-emergency cases, on production of a valid permission letter from the CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensary, the recognized private hospital/diagnostic centre shall provide credit facility to the CGHS Pensioner cardholders.

(d) Yes, Sir. One complaint was received where the CGHS recognised private hospital had demanded advance payment in an emergency case for admitting the patient in the hospital whereas as per MOA, the hospital should have admitted the patient without demanding any advance.

(e) The concerned Hospital was advised to give credit facility to the beneficiary admitted in emergency as per the terms of the MOA.

Statement

List of the private hospitals and diagnostic centers recognized under CGHS Delhi vide Ministry OM No. Rec-24/ 2001/JD(M)/CGHS/Delhi/CGHS(P) dated 7th September 2001, 6th May 2002, 14th May 2002, 15th March 2002, 2nd August 2002 & 26th August 2002 & Ministry OM No. Rec-24/2001-2002/JD(M)/CGHS/Delhi/CGHS(P) dated 10th January 2003 & 22nd March 2004

S.N	Name of the Hospital	Recognized For
1	2	3
1.	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, New Delhi-60	Cardiology, Cardiac surgery and Diagnostic procedures, Renal procedure, Renal Transplantation,

1	2	3
		Gastroenterology procedures, Liver Transplantation and Genetic Lab procedures
2.	Sunder Lal Jain Hospital, Ashok Vihar Phase-III, New Delhi	General, Specialized Purpose (except Cardiac surgery) and Diagnostic Procedures
3.	Tirath Ram Shah Hospital, Near Tis Hazari, Bottary Lane, Delhi	General Purpose & Diagnostic
4.	Sant Parmanand Hospital, 18, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi	General & Specialized Purpose, Diagnostic except Cardiac Surgery
5.	Jeevan Mala Hospital, 67/1, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-5	General & Specialized Purpose, Diagnostic, except Cardiac surgery
6.	Mohan Eye Institute, 11-B, Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, New Delhi	Specialized Purpose-Ophthalmology
7.	Kesar Hospital, AH-11, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi	Specialized Purpose minimum invasive surgeries (laparoscopic)
8.	Saroj Hospital, Madhuban Chowk, Rohini, Delhi-85	General Purpose, Diagnostic and No Invasive Cardiac procedure
9.	Maharaja Agarsain Hospital, Block-D, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-5	Physiotherapy, Conventional Radiology & Lab
10.	Millennium Hospital, B-1/1, Pusa Road, New Delhi	General and Diagnostic Purpose
11.	R.B. Seth Jessa & Bros. Charitable Hospital, W.E.A, Karol Bagh, New Delhi	General Purpose
12.	Jeewan Nursing Home & Hospital, 2-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi	Gynae & Obstetric and General Surgery only
13.	New Delhi Scan Institute, (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi	CT
14.	North MR Scan Research Institute (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi	MRI
15.	Mahajan Nuclear Medicine & Bone Densitometry Centre (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi	Nuclear medicine & Bone Densitometry
16.	C D Diagnostic, (Sunder Lal Jain Hospital) Ashok Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi	CT
17.	Metro Health Care Centre (Tirath Ram Shah Hospital) Near Tis Hazari, Battary Lane, New Delhi	CT
18.	Sidhartha Diagnostic Centre, Sidharth Cat Scan Specialty, 2169, Shadi Kham Pur, Main Patel Road, West Patal Nagar, New Delhi	USG, CT & Lab
19.	Shalimar Diagnostic Centre, AD-130A Shalimar Bagh, Delhi	Conventional Radiology & Lab

1	2	3
20.	Dr. S. S. Doda Ultra Sound Centre, 23-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi	Conventional Radiology, USG, Mammography, CT & Color Doppler
21.	GMR Institute of Imaging & Research Centre, 35-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi	CT & MRI
22.	North Delhi Path Clinic, Kamla Nagar, 56-A, Kamla Nagar, Delhi	Lab
23.	Dr. Lal Path Lab (P) Ltd., Esky Home, 54, Hanuman Road, New Delhi	Lab
24.	Diwan Chand Satyapal Aggarwal Imaging Research Centre, 10-B, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi	All Radiological Investigations & Nuclear Medicine
25.	Millennium Bone Densitometry & Osteoporosis Research Centre, 47, Pusa Road, New Delhi	Bone Densitometry
26.	Saral Advanced Diagnostic (P) Ltd, E-1073, Saraswati Vihar, Pitam Pura & 2, Shakti Vihar, Pitam Pura, Delhi	Conventional Radiology, USG, CT, MRI & Lab
27.	Dr. Suri Lab Pvt. Ltd., 23-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi	Laboratory Investigation
28.	Dr. Handa's Imaging Centre, 34-B, Pusa Road, New Dehli	X-Ray, OPG, USG, color Doppler, Mammography
29.	Max Medcenter—Nursing Home & Diagnostic, A-2, 3 & 4, Netaji Subash Place, Wazirpur, District Centre, Delhi-32	Diagnostic Purpose
30.	Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, Okhla Road, New Delhi-25	Cardio Vascular Surgery, Investive and Non-invasive Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiology
31.	Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-Mathura Road, New Delhi-44	All Radiological Investigations & Nuclear medicines, Laproscopic surgery, Dialysis, Urology, Organ Transplant (Renal, Liver) Lithotripsy, Joint Replacement, Radiation Therapy, Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Cardio Thoracic, Vascular Surgery
32.	Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, 1, Tuglakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-62	Cardiac Procedures like CAG, CABG, PTCA, EP Study, Cardio Vascular Procedures, MRI, CT. Imaging, Chemotherapy and Cancer Radiation Therapy
33.	Indian Spinal Injury Centre, 50-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	Specialized & Diagnostic (Spinal injuries, Diseases ralatee to Spines and Physiotherapy)
34.	Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute, Press Enclave Marg, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi-17	Specialized Purpose for Liver, Renal & Digestive diseases
35.	R.G. Stone Urological Research Institute, F-7, East of Kailash, New Delhi	Lithotripsy, Endo-Urology surgery, Holmium Laser surgeries and laproscopic surgeries
36.	Malhotra Heart Institute & Medical Research Centre, 14 Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	Specialized purpose-Cardiology, Cardiac & Vascular Surgery & related Diagnostic

1	2	3
37.	North Point Hospital (P) Ltd., S-357, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi	Lithotripsy
38.	The Heart Center, 2, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	Non-Invasive Cardiac Procedures
39.	Center for Sight, A-23, Green Park, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-16	Ophthalmology
40.	Majeeda Hospital, Jamia Hamdard, Hamdard Nagar	Diagnostic Purpose
41.	G.M. Modi Hospital & Research Center for Medical Sciences, Mandir Marg, Near Press Enclave, Saket, New Delhi	General Purpose & Diagnostic Procedures
42.	Orthnova Hospital, C-5/29, S.D.A. Opp. Main IIT Gate, New Delhi-16	Orthopaedic, Trauma & Critical care
43.	Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre, 1/31, Sheikh Sarai, Institutional Area, Phase-II, New Delhi	Ophthalmic Purpose
44.	Precision Dental Care, C-159, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi	Day Care Dental Treatment except Cosmetic Dental Care
45.	Max Medical Centre, N-110, Panchseel Park, New Delhi-17	Conventional Radiology, CT, MRI, Mammography, USG, Echo, Holter, PFT, Audiometry & Speech Therapy, Laboratory Investigation
46.	G.M.R. Institute & MRI Scan Centre, A-13, Green Park, New Delhi	MRI
47.	Organ Imaging Research Centre, A-22, Green Park Main, New Delhi	CT & MRI
48.	Dr. P. Bhasin Path Lab, S-13, Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi	Lab
49.	N.M.C Imaging & Diagnostic Centre (VIMHANS campus) 1, Institutional Area, Nehru Nagar, New Delhi	CT, MRI, Conventional Radiology, USG and Lab
50.	Col. Pant Imaging Center A-22, Green Park, New Delhi	USG, Mammography
51.	Delhi MR & CT Scan Cente (Ashok Hospital), 25A/AB, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi	MRI, CT and USG
52.	Vasant Vision X-Ray & USG Clinic, T-9/4, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi	Conventional Radiology & USG
53.	Speciality Ranbaxy Ltd., C/o. Indian Spinal Injuries Center, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	Lab
54.	Kohli Imaging & Diagnostic Center, 70. Mount Kailash, East of Kailash, New Delhi	Ultrasonography and Color Doppler

1	2	3
55.	Sanghi Medical Center Pvt. Ltd., S-51, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi	Laboratory Investigations
56.	Focus Imaging & Research Center Pvt. Ltd., 47/1-2, Main Yusuf Sarai Market, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi	MRI
57.	Dr. M.L. Aggarwal X-Ray Clinic, A/1/150, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi	X-Ray USG
58.	South Delhi Ultrasound & X-Ray Clinic, A-44, Hauz Khas, New Delhi	X-Ray, OPG, USG, Color Doppler, Mammography
59.	The Clinical Laboratory, E-13/9, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi	Laboratory Investigation
60.	Shri Ram Singh Hospital & Heart Institute, B-25-26-26A, East Krishna Nagar, Delhi	General Purpose only
61.	Anand Hospital, 21 Community Center, Preet Vihar, Delhi	Radiotherapy & Hemodialysis
62.	Dharamshila Cancer Hospital & Research Center, Dharamshila Marg, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi	Cencer Diagnosis, Chemotherapy, Radiation, Palliative Care, Rehabilitation and General Diagnosis Purpose
63.	Gami Diagnostic Center, 3, Gujarat Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi	Laboratory Investigation
64.	Dr. Savita Jain Arun's Imaging Center, D-29, Vivek Vihar, Delhi	Conventional Radiology, USG & Mammography, Color Doppler and ECHO
65.	Dr. Anand Imaging & Neurological Center, F-24, Preet Vihar, Delhi	Conventional Radiology, CT & MRI
66.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital, C-1, Janak Puri, New Delhi	General Purpose, Specialized Purpose & Dialysis, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure, Diagnostic, except Cardiac Surgery
67.	Maharja Agarsain Hospital, Road No-35, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-26	General & Specialized Purpose, Dialysis, Laparoscopic surgeries, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure etc., Diagnostic (Cardiac invasive procedure and cardiac surgery)
68.	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer & Research Centre, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi	Cancer Diagnosis, Cancer Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy
69.	Jaipur Golden Hospital, 2, Institutional Area, Rohini, New Delhi	General/Specialized Purpose (except Cardiac Surgery, including CABG, Angiography and Cardio thoracic surgery) and Diagnostic (except CT)
70.	Brahm Shakti Hospital & Research Center, U-1/78, Budh Vihar, Delhi	General Purpose Treatment
71.	Nasa Scan Center, 38, Pocket-C-9, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi	Lab, X-Ray, USG, Color Doppler, CT except MRI

1	2	3
72.	Ganesh Diagnostic & Imaging Center, 109, Pocket-A-1, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi	X-Ray, USG, CT, MRI
73.	Sachdeva Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd., E-991, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi	X-Ray including special Investigation, USG, Color Doppler, Bone Densitometry
74.	Dr. Chopra's Bone Densitometry Center & Lab, 2, Rajouri Palace, J 1/162, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi	Bone Densitometry
75.	Janta X-Ray Clinic, 4-B/5, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi	Conventional Radiology, CT, MRI, Mammography, USG & Color Doppler, Lab & Bone Densitometry
76.	National CT Scan & Diagnostic Center, 17, N.W.A., Punjabi Bagh, Club Road, New Delhi	Conventional Radiology, CT, Lab & Color Doppler and ECHO
77.	City X-Ray & Scan Center, 4B/7, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi	Conventional Radiology, CT, Mammography, USG & Color Doppler & Lab
78.	Kalyani Hospital (P) Ltd., 354/2, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon	General Purpose & Diagnostic
79.	Dr. Taneja Hospital & Heart Centre, 113-A, New Colony, Gurgaon	General Purpose & Diagnostic
80.	Seetla Hospital & Eye Institute Pvt. Ltd., Near D.S.D College, New Railway Road, Gurgaon	General Purpose
81.	Umkal Hospital & M.P. Heart Research Institute, A-520, Shushant Lok-I, Gurgaon	General Purpose and Diagnostic Procedure
82.	Modern Diagnostic & Research Center, 363/4, New Railway Road, Gurgaon (Jawahar Nagar)	Conventional Radiology, CT & Lab
83.	Uma Sanjeevani Health Centre, 1, Dakshin Marg, DLF City Phase-II, Gurgaon	Diagnostic Purpose (Lab)
84.	Narendra Mohan Hospital, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad	General/Specialized Purpose including Non Invasive Cardiac procedure Cardiac Surgery & Diagnostic
85.	Santosh Medical & Dental College Hospital, 1, Ambedkar Road, Ghaziabad	General Purpose & Diagnostic
86.	Yashoda Hospital & Research Center, III-M, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad	General Purpose & Diagnostic & non invasive cardiology ECHO Color Doppler TMT Ct scan
87.	U.P. Stone and Urology Center, II-A/40, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001	Lithotripsy
88.	Metro Hospital & Heart Institute, X-1, Sector-12, C-94, Sector-11, Noida	Genetal & Specialized Purpose-Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery and Diagnostic Procedures
89.	Kailash Hospital & Research Centre, H-33, Sector-27, Noida	General Purpose & Diagnostic, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure (Cardiac invasive procedure and cardiac surgery#)

1	2	3
90.	NOIDA Medicare Centre, 16-C, Block-E, Sector-30, Noida	General/Specialized Purpose & Diagnostic, Non Invasive Cardiac procedure
91.	Satya Medical Centre, A-98/A, Sector-34. Noida	General Purpose Only
92.	Prakash Hospital, D-12, 21A, 12B, Sector-33, Noida	General Purpose
93.	Noida Diagnostic Center, D-4, Sector No. 20, Noida	Conventional Radiology & Lab
94.	Escorts Hospital & Research Center Ltd., Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad	General/Specialized Purpose and Diagnostic purpose except Cardiac Surgery
95.	Faridabad CT Scan Center, Neelam Chowk, Faridabad	CT

#w.e.f. 22 March, 2004.

List of Private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centers recognized under CGHS Kolkata vide Ministry OM No. S. 11011/33/2001-CGHS Desk-II/ CGHS(P) dated 20th January, 2004

S.No.	Name of the Hospital/Diagnostic Center	Recognized for
1	2	3
1.	Suraksha Hospital (Susruta Clinic & Research Instt. for Advanced Medicine Pvt. Ltd.), JC-16 & 17, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata	Multidisciplinary Specialized Treatment including CT Scan & MRI
2.	Peeless Hospital & B.K. Roy Research Center, 360, Panchasayar, Kolkata	General Purpose treatment and diagnostic procedures except MRI and specialized treatment in Neurosurgery and Cardiothoracic surgery
3.	Ruby General Hospital Ltd., Kasba Golpark, EM Bye Pass, Kolkata	General Purpose/Specialized treatment and Diagnostic Procedures except CT Scan & MRI only
4.	B.M. Birla Heart Research Center, National Library Avenue, Kolkata	Specialized treatment & Diagnostic procedures for cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery
5.	Susrut Eye Foundation & Research Center, HB-36/A/1, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata	Specialized treatment & Diagnostic procedures for Ophthalmology only
6.	Silverline Eye Hospital, 396, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata	Specialized treatment & Diagnostic procedures for Ophthalmology only
7.	Shankernath Dialysis Center & Nursing Home, Swiss Park, Kolkata	Specialized treatment for Dialysis (Haemodialysis) only
8.	Rabindra Nath Tagore International Instt. of Cardiac Sciences, 124, Mukandapur, Near Santoshpur Connector, Kolkata	Specialized treatment & Diagnostic procedures for cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery only
9.	Wockhardt Hospital & Kidney Instt., 111-A, Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata	Specialized treatment & diagnostic procedures for Lithotripsy & Renal Diseases
10.	The Calcutta Medical Research Institute, 7/2, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata	General Purpose Treatment & Diagnostic procedures including MRI & CT Scan only

1	2	3
11.	Behala Balananda Brahmachari Hospital & Research Center, 151 &153, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata	General Purpose treatment & diagnostic procedures
12.	Rama Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan, 99, Sharat Bose Road, Kolkata	General Purpose treatment & Diagnostic procedures including CT Scan only
13.	Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd., 58, Canal Circular Road, Kolkata	General Purpose treatment & Diagnostic Procedures only
14.	AMRI Apollo Hospital, Dhakuria Bridge, Kolkata	General Purpose Treatment & Diagnostic Procedures including MRI only
15.	West Bank Hospital, Andul Road, Howarh, Kolkata	General Purpose treatment & Diagnostic procedures only
16.	Suraksha Diagnostic & Eye Research Pvt. Ltd., Phulbagan, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological Procedures including USG & CT Scan only
17.	Belle Vue Clinic, Brahmachari Road, Kolkata	Pathological Cardiological & Radiological Procedures including CT Scan only
18.	Patho Treat Diagnostic Center & Poly Clinic, Dum Dum Road Kolkata	Pathological Investigations, X-Ray & USG only
19.	Nightingale Diagnostic & Medicare Center Pvt. Ltd., Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including CT Scan only
20.	Clinical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata	Pathological investigations only
21.	Medi Clue Research & Diagnostic, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including USG only
22.	Eater Diagnostic & Medical Center Ltd., Mirza Galib Street, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including CT Scan & MRI only
23.	Reliance Diagnostics, Salt Lake City, Kolkata	Pathological Investigations, X-Ray & USG only
24.	Welkin Medicare Pvt. Ltd., 1699, Garia Station Road, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including USG only
25.	North City Diagnostic & Research Center (P) Ltd., Canal West Road, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including CT Scan & MRI only
26.	Calcutta Heart Research Center, Sharat Bose Road, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including CT Scan only
27.	Swastic Medicare Diagnostic Research Center, 31, Picnic Garden Road, Kalkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including USG only
28.	Maa Durga Diagnostic & Research Instt., CIT Scheme No. VII M, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including USG only
29.	N.G. Medicare & Calcutta Hope, Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata	Pathological Infertility Clinic, Investigations, X-Ray, USG & CT Scan only
30.	Medinova Diagnostic Services Ltd., Sharat Chatterjee Avenue, Kolkata	Pathological & Radiological procedures including CT Scan only
31.	Eastern Medical & Research Instt., Salt Lake City, Kolkata	Pathological Investigations only

Declaration of Guwahati-Nalbari State Highway as NH

2947. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to reduce the distance, Government proposes to declare Guwahati-Nalbari State Highway via Hajo as a National Highway;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Nagaon-Hojai State highway is also proposed to be declared as National Highway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no proposal for declaration of Guwahati-Nalbari State Highway via Hajo as a National Highway.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentive Based Population Control Measures

2948. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to make population control measures incentive based to make them successful;

(b) if so, the scheme prepared by the Government for effective implementation of all Government plans;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the centrally sponsored schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI. M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP, 2000) affirms the commitment of Government of India towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services. However, promotional and motivational measures for adoption of small family norm such as compensation for Sterilization, maternity benefit scheme, Balika Samridhi Yojana, etc. are in operation. Besides, some State Governments also give preference to family welfare acceptors in various developmental schemes.

(c) and (d) The modality in respect of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are worked out by the concerned implementing Ministries/Departments of Central Government. CSSs are implemented eventually by the State Governments/their agencies and monitored by the State Governments and the concerned implementing Ministries/Departments of Central Government. Planning Commission holds the Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) of the Schemes of Ministries/ Departments under the Chairmanship of concerned Members to ensure timely and effective implementation of approved Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sector projects/schemes. Annual plan discussions and mid-term appraisals are also carried out by Planning Commission whereby physical and financial achievements of the schemes are reviewed and corrective actions are taken as and when required. Besides, Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) also undertakes evaluation of selected plans/schemes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes from time to time.

Privatisation of Activities of BSNL

2949. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to privatise certain activities of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the different areas of BSNL identified for privatisation;

(c) the reasons for entrusting these activities to Private Sector; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has no proposal to privatise activities of BSNL.

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

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to NGOs

2950. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the non-governmental organizations engaged in health related programmes in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the amount of funds provided by the Government to each organization during the last two years?

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

Effects of Toxic Substances

2951. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to save the children from the hazardous effects of toxic substances used in paints and computers;

(b) the diseases that are caused by these toxic elements;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to ban these components; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

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

Rise in Psychiatric Patients

2952. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Psychiatric patients is increasing in our country as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 24, 2004;

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

(c) the ratio of men to women patients in detail, State-wise;

(d) whether women patients outnumbered men;

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

(f) the number of hospitals/rehabilitation centers functioning in our country for treatment, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help and cure the suffering patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of persons with mental disorders is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) to (e) Data relating to number of mental patients, State-wise and sex-wise, is not centrally maintained.

(f) There are 37 mental health institutes in the Government sector:- Andhra Pradesh-2; Assam-1; Delhi-1; Gujarat-4; Jammu-2; Jharkhand-2; Karnataka-2; Kerala-3; Madhya Pradesh-2; Maharashtra-4; Nagaland-1; Punjab-1; Rajasthan-1; Tamil Nadu-1; Uttar Pradesh-3; West Bengal-6. There are more than 120 private psychiatric hospitals in the country. There are 50 rehabilitation centers run by NGOs. A number of Government medical colleges have departments of psychiatry.

(g) During the 10th Five Year Plan, the Government has launched National Mental Health Programme in order to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country; to strengthen the Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of medical colleges and to undertake IEC activities and research and training. These measures will result in improvement of mental health services in the country.

[English]

Telephone Connections to Villages

2953. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages provided telephone facility under the Markacho Telephone Exchange of Koderma District in Jharkhand;

(b) whether this exchange has fixed priority areas for providing connections; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing connections in nearby areas like Baijladhab, Bicharia, Padariya, Naitand and Kadodih?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, three Villages *viz.* Jamua, Markacho, Sahganj have been provided telephone facility under the Markacho Telephone Exchange of Koderma District in Jharkhand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The areas are technically non-feasible on wired line as well as on WLL system at present.

Legislation for Organ Transplants

2954. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to introduce "uniform effective legislation" for organ transplants; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to launch awareness campaign nationwide to make people aware about brain death and organ donations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government have enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 for this purpose.

(b) The Government have set up the Organ Retrieval and Banking Organization (ORBO) at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, as a national facility and nodal centre, to facilitate transplant programme in the country with a view to encourage organ donations, fair and equitable distribution of human organs and optimum utilization of human organs. Some non government organizations in different parts of the country are also promoting organ donation.

The ORBO is maintaining the waiting list of terminally ill patients requiring transplants, donor registration, matching of recipients with donor coordination from procurement of organs to transplantation, dissemination of information to all concerned hospitals, organizations and individuals, creating awareness, promotion of organ donation and transplantation activities. A network of fifteen hospitals (Government, Public and Charitable) with ORBO has been formed for smooth functioning and co-ordination for process of organ donation and transplantation in Delhi.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of HP

2955. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh Government had sent four proposals for approval, *viz.*, completion of remaining work of the Ramsila-Bijali-Mahadev Road at Kullu costing Rs. 3.04 crores converting Thiyog-Kotkhair-Hatkoti road to double lane costing Rs. 4.03 crore construction of the Manali By-pass costing Rs. 448.35 lakhs and construction of the Chakki bridge;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken on the said proposals and the reasons for keeping them pending till date; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Ramsila-Bijli Mahadev road at Kullu is a rural road and cannot be sanctioned under Central Road Fund, therefore the proposal has been returned to State PWD. The proposal of converting Thiyog-Kotkhir-Hatkoti road to double lane has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 4.03 crores on 5.1.2004. The proposal for construction of the Manali By-pass has been returned to State PWD on 29.3.2004 since the work was not included in the Annual Plan. The State PWD is in process of acquiring land for construction of Chakki Bridge. After acquisition of land, the estimate for construction of Chakki Bridge will be considered depending upon availability of resources and inter-se-priority of projects.

[English]

Strengthening of SSI

2956. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries have not been able to sustain themselves in foreign markets due to fierce competition; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen them?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Small Scale Industries (SSIs) continue to contribute around 34% of the current exports from the country, which indicated their competitiveness in the foreign markets. The Government has taken several steps to strengthen the SSI sector and to encourage in exports. These includes schemes for assistance on acquiring ISO 9000 certificate, quality awards, export related Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and subsidizing participation in international fairs/exhibitions. Besides it, steps also have been taken to ensure easier access to credit, collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation, improved infrastructure and individual assistance for participation in overseas fairs, study tours and production of overseas publicity materials under SSI-MDA Scheme.

Health Schemes in Tamil Nadu

2957. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Government health schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for more funds form Union Government for better implementation of health schemes and for further extension of the schemes; and

(c) 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) The Government is implementing various disease control programmes for control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health in the entire country including the State of Tamil Nadu. In addition, the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, capacity building for emergency facilities in hospitals located on national highways and diagnostic facilities in Government medical colleges and Drug De-addition programme have also been under implementation in the State.

(b) and (c) No such request has been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu in the Department of Health. However, Planning Commission during 2004-05 received a request from the Tamil Nadu Government to provide an additional central assistance (ACA) of Rs. 4 crore for construction of new library in Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai. As the proposal entailed assistance for construction activity, this request for ACA was not agreed to by the Planning Commission.

Faulty Telephone Services of MTNL

2958. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether the telephone services of MTNL, Delhi have been found to be faulty than that of other telephone services of the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the immediate steps taken by Government to improve the telephone services of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The telephone services of MTNL Delhi are more or less at the similar level than that of other telephone services of the country.

(c) MTNL, Delhi has undertaken the following measures to further improve the telephone services;

(i) Replacement of E-10B technology Switches, by state of art Digital exchanges.

(ii) Replacement of telephone Instruments, which are older than five year or repaired more than two times in a phased manner.

(iii) Rehabilitation of External Plant and reduction of subscriber loop length by planning more remote switch units/Remote Line Units/Concentrated Line Equipments/Digital Loop Concentrator etc.

(iv) Replacement of paper core underground cables by jelly filled cable/optical fibre cable.

(v) Introduction of Wireless technology including Cordect, WLL, PAS.

(vi) MTNL is also providing cellular mobile and WLL technology based services. MTNL has also taken several measures to improve customer satisfaction.

[Translation]

Special Categoty State

2959. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for according special status to a State;

(b) whether the Government proposes to accord special Status to Madhya Pradesh as has been done in the case of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) 'Special category status' has been accorded to some States on the basis of a set of criteria which include: having a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population and limited & weak resource-base as compared to development needs.

(b) No Sir. Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have been accorded special category status because they satisfy all the criteria indicated at (a) above. Orissa State has not been accorded "special category status".

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Madhya Pradesh does not satisfy all the criteria indicated in (a) above.

Conversion of State Highway into National Highway

2960. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to convert the Arrah-Sasaram State Highway into National Highway is pending with the Planning Commission for many years;

(b) whether the rural people of this area have no alternative of this road for transport;

(c) whether this State Highway is in a dilapidated condition and it has not been repaired by the Government for years;

(d) if so, the time by which the Government intends to convert this State Highway into a National Highway; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The proposal for declaration of new National Highways are considered by this Ministry. No such proposal for declaration of Arrah-Sasaram State Road as a National Highway has been received in this Ministry from Government of Bihar after last declaration of new National Highways on 25-2-2004.

(b) and (c) Arrah-Sasaram Road is a State Road and responsibility for its development and maintenance is with the State Government. The subject of an alternative route and its repair does not relate to this Ministry.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for conversion of Arrah-Sasaram State Road into a National Highway.

[English]

VRS in MTNL

2961. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of VRS package for MTNL employees;

(b) the number of employees opted for VRS;

(c) whether due to VRS package MTNL is likely to be more efficient and compete with other players in the field;

(d) the details of financial liabilities on MTNL for payment under VRS; and

(e) extent to which the MTNL is likely to have financial gain after paying all VRS employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, at present no VRS package is being implemented in MTNL.

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

Delinking of Vadinar Area from Port Limits

2962. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any final decision on the long standing request of the Government of Gujarat to delink Vadinar area from the port limits of the Kandla Port Trust and return it to the State Government;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to compensate the State Government of Gujarat for the commercial loss?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Vadinar was included in the limit of Kandla Port after the Government of Gujarat issued notification deleting it from the limit of Minor Port of Salaya, while the Government of India issued notification for its inclusion in the limit of Kandla Port. By the said notifications issued by both the Governments, *i.e.*, Government of India and Government of Gujarat, Kandla Port Trust has been vested with the jurisdiction of Vadinar Port and, thus, is under the administrative control of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Kandla. Since Vadinar is an integral part of the Kandla Port Trust, the request of Government of Gujarat of hand over the Vadinar Port to State Government cannot be agreed to and, therefore, the question of compensation to Government of Gujarat does not arise.

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Hospitals/Dispensaries

2963. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to promote Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic treatment in the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic hospitals/ dispensaries are proposed to be set up in the Central sector;

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

(e) the estimated amount likely to be spent thereon; 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.

(b) Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM & H). The schemes include financial support for development of ISM & H education institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, supply of essential drugs of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy to dispensaries in rural and backward areas, supply of medicinal kits, strengthening of State Drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, assistance to drug manufacturing units obtaining GMP certification, support to ISM & H industry for creation of quality control facilities etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Tenth Five Year Plan provides for establishment of 7 Aurveda, 7 Homoeopathy dispensaries out of which two Ayrveda and two Homoeopathy dispensaries have already been cpened in 2003-2004. An amount of Rs. 7.00 crores has been provided for new dispensaries of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Siddha and Yoga & Naturopathy in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(f) Question does not arise.

Upgradation of Health Services

2964. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for purchase of machinery and essential equipment costing around Rs. 21.45 crores, with financial assistance from Japan's grant in aid, for upgrading Health services in Government medical colleges and Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati into regional referral centre;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been recommended under the grants-in-aid programme for 2004-2005 to the Government of Japan; and

(c) if so, the response of Japan Government's thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal of Maharashtra Government seeking financial assistance of Rs. 21.45 crores from Japan for upgradation of Health Services in Government Medical Colleges and Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Amravati was posed to the Government of Japan on February 21, 2002 for their consideration. This proposal was reiterated to Government of Japan on August 29, 2002 for consideration in Financial year 2004-05.

(c) This proposal continues to be under consideration of Government of Japan.

[Translation]

AIIMS Doctors on Long Leave

2965. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent doctors in AIIMS cannot go on leave from May 15 to July 15, 2004 as reported in the '*Hindustan Dainik*' dated June 12, 2004;

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

(c) the criteria for sanctioning leave;

(d) whether sanctioning long leave is permissible under rule;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken against doctors violating the rule;

(h) whether sufficient doctors are available to attend to the patients during the said period of leave; and

(i) if not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (i) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, is an autonomous body, established under an Act of Parliament. The service under the institute is governed by the Act and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The teaching staff/faculty members are granted summer and winter vacations in two halts *i.e.* from 16th May to 14th June and 16th June to 15th July (summer vacation) and from 14th December to 22nd December and 23rd December to 31st December (winter vacation) each year with the approval of Director AIIMS. The faculty members who are granted vacation in first half, have to report on duty in the second half and vice-versa. Hence, the availability of 50% staff is being ensured in each half of the vacation so that patient care services do not suffer. In exceptional cases, faculty members are granted both halves of vacation with the approval of Director AIIMS. However, the availability of 50% faculty members in each half is ensured. No violation of rules with regard to vacation has been reported so far. Sufficient number of doctors are available in the institute to attend to patients during the period of vacations.

[English]

Unusual Seismic and Tectonic Change

2966. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Indian tectonic plate underwent unusual seismic and tectonic change during the last decade due to which earthquake is occurring frequently in the country;

(b) if so, whether in view of above Government propose to modify earthquake zoning system in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Sir, based on the seismological/geophysical studies, it has been estimated that the Indian plate is moving in North, North-east direction at the rate of 5 cm/year. There is no significant change in the rate of movement of the plate for the last few decades. The movement of Indian plate causes stress accumulation along the Himalayan belt and also in the weak zones within the plate, which gives rise to earthquakes whenever the stress level exceeds the critical levels.

(b) to (d) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the nodal agency for periodical review and updation of seismic zoning map of the country. The seismic zoning map has recently been updated in the year 2002. As per this map, the country has been divided into four seismic zones. Zone-V is considered to be the most severe, while zone-II is the least. The Department of Science & Technology has been supporting several R & D projects to monitor earthquake activity by installing state-of-the-art digital seismographs. The earthquake data plays a very important role in periodical review/updation of the seismic zoning map.

Death of Children Due to Malnutrition

2967. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
SHRI RAMESH BAIS:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that thousands of children died due to malnutrition in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the years 2003 and 2004 till July 15, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government had conducted an inquiry to find out the reasons for the untimely death of children on large scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKHSMI): (a) to (d) The details of number of child deaths due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained. Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death in children but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

[Translation]

BSNL Mobile Service

2968. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular services being provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the frequency of BSNL is very low and the roaming system also fails frequently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to provide better and more reliable services to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Telecon Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the Quality of Services (QOS) performance of all Cellular Operators, including that of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), on quarterly basis. From these monitoring reports, it is seen that Cellular Service of BSNL is generally upto the mark, except for a few deficiencies in some of the QOS parameters such as fault cleared within 24 hours, Call Success Rate (Within Licensee's own network) etc.

(c) The frequency (bandwidth) of BSNL Cellular Services is appropriate and Roaming system is working satisfactorily.

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

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

[English]

Spending on AIDS Campaign

2969. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has failed to control AIDS as reported in the 'Times of India' dated July 17, 2004;

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

(c) whether the number of HIV/AIDS cases in the county has increased in the past few years despite the campaign to check its rising trend;

(d) if so, the steps being taken for proper implementation of the programme; and

(e) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred by NACO during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No Sir, it is not correct to deduce from a press report on the CAGs Report that the National AIDS Control Organization has not fulfilled its mandate.

Government directs and coordinates implementation of a comprehensive national AIDS prevention and control programme as a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme across all States and Union Territories in the country. The First National AIDS Control Project was implemented from 1992-1999, and the current Second National AIDS Control Project is being implemented from 1999 to 2006. Government adopted a National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy and a National Blood Policy in 2002, followed by a detailed Action Plan on Blood Safety in 2003.

The operational strategies for prevention of HIV addressing the needs of high risk groups and vulnerable populations have been installed, and as per resources available, extended and expanded over the years. Accessing the private lives of identified core groups such as sex workers, men having sex with men and injectable drug users is itself a very complex exercise.

Government has institutionalized an annual HIV sentinel surveillance that tracks the trends in progression of the HIV epidemic. The primary data for the sentinel surveillance is also utilized to estimate the numbers of HIV infections across the country. Round 2003 has estimated a fall in the rate of growth of HIV in that for every 100 new HIV infections, we have recorded 4 HIV infections less in 2003 as compared to 2002. The numbers of HIV infections increased by 6.1 lakhs from 2001 to 2002, and by 5.4 lakh from 2002 to 2003.

The fact remains that the comprehensive programme for prevention and control of HIV put in place by government has succeeded in preventing an upsurge in the spread and prevalence of HIV. There are sign of early sero-stabilisation across some groups like ante mothers in Tamilnadu and Manipur.

Finally, the press reporter has not cared to verify the facts about revelation of HIV status. It is true that in the period referred to in the CAG report, the HIV status was not revealed to the HIV positive individual. However, this position has completely changed. The Action Plan on Blood Safety adopted in July 2003 has mandated the revelation of HIV status to the result seeking donor, and this is now being implemented in blood banks and Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres across the country.

In other words, it is now clear that the report in the media has attempted to sensationalise the CAG report which pertained to the period 1998-99.

(e) The amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred by NACO during the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Fiscal Year	Budgetary Provisions		Expenditure incurred
		BE	RE	
1.	2001-2002	210	225	225.00
2.	2002-2003	225	242	242.00
3.	2003-2004	225	225	233.00
4.	2004-2005	259	— (Till July 04)	109.89

[Translation]

Investment of MTNL Funds

2970. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL after its formation invested its funds in the schemes of other departments to increase its earnings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the companies where the MTNL invested its funds and now they are not refunding the amount or the companies have become bankrupt; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to recover its money?

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

(b) The details are as under:

Name of Institutions	Amount and date of Investment	Nature of Investment
M/s ITI Ltd. (A PSU under Ministry of Communications & IT)	Rs. 100 crores on 31-03-2002	8.75% Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares.
M/s Maharashtra Valley Development Corporation (A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)	Rs. 250 crores on 14-05-2002	Secured, Redeemable Bonds, having Interest rate of 11.5% p.a. interest payment is upto date.

(c) and (d) Not applicable as redemption of the investments is not yet due.

[English]

Approval to Jammu and Kashmir Schemes

2971. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had approval project-wise cost of the schemes submitted by Jammu and Kashmir Health Medical Education Department to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

(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) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Evaluation of Reservation Policy

2972. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the success or failure of the existing reservation policy before deciding about the reservation of SCs, STs, OBCs etc. in the Private Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) After implementation of the reservation provisions, representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in

services (excluding Safai Karmacharis) has increased. Representation of SCs and STs in Services has risen from 13.17% and 2.25% as on 1st January, 1965 to 16.52% and 6.46% respectively as on 1st January, 2003.

Repair of National Highways in Assam

2973. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in Assam requiring urgent repair indicating proposal made and sanction granted sector-wise on each highway;

(b) whether the BRO could not make the repair and double laning of NH 52; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Length of National Highways in Assam is 2836 km. Their repair is a continuous process. The works are taken up as per site requirements, keeping in view the inter se priority and overall availability of funds.

Nine proposals amounting to Rs. 31.33 crores have been received so far during 2004-05 from Assam for the repairs and maintenance of National Highways. These proposals are targeted for sanction subject to satisfying their technical parameters and availability of funds. In addition BRO and National Highways Authority of India who undertake the works themselves, have also sanctioned the proposals amounting to Rs. 14.92 crore so far for the repair and maintenance of National Highways in Assam.

(b) and (c) BRO, who have taken over NH-52 from Assam Government in May, 2002 are maintaining this National Highway in traffic worthy condition within available resources. However, no double laning could be done so far because of paucity of funds.

Companies Registered with Technology Parks

2974. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the list of the companies registered with the Software Technology Parks of India;

(b) whether some technology firms have recently been taken off the list of companies registered with the Software Technology Parks of India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 8180 units have been registered under Software Technology Park (STP) scheme as on 31st March 2004. The list of these units is available at website http:/www.stpi.soft.net in pdf format.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Software industry is subject to cyclical variations. There are periods when the mortality rate of new projects tends to be high. Registration under the STPI scheme does not confer any pre-emptive right on the unit. However, an intensive review of non-operational units, which were registered up to March, 2000 and have since completed over 3 years, has been carried out and STPI has cancelled the registration of 2803 units.

[Translation]

Production of Electricity by R.A.P.S.

2975. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rate of 279.79 paise per unit effective from January 1, 2004 has been fixed for units 2, 3 and 4 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station by the Department of Atomic Energy;

(b) if so, whether the Government has justified the increase in the rates electricity despite the fact that the unit has remained closed for nearly four years;

(c) whether any meeting was held between Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Rajasthan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the current tariff is further reduced to 264.49 paise per unit.

(b) There are 4 units at RAPS in operation. Units 2, 3 and 4 have operated well in last four years. Unit 1 (RAPS-1) was shut down on 1.5.2002 for limited safety upgrades. These have been completed and the unit reconnected to the grid on 8.2.2004.

(c) to (e) During the meeting with the Ministry of Power, CEA and DAE, the following was agreed:

1. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (RRVPNL) had surrendered their share of power in the year 2003. They will now take their share of power as allocated by Ministry of Power.

2. The pooled tariff of unit 2, 3 & 4, as notified by DAE will be applicable.

[English]

Life of Motor Vehicles

2976. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed the period for which motor vehicles/other vehicles can ply on the roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to scrap old cars; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Permission for CBI Enquiry

2977. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which UP State Government granted permission for conducting CBI enquiry under section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 during the period January 1, 2003 to May 31, 2003;

(b) whether the Secretary (coordination public grievances), Government of India informed the Chief Secretary, Government of UP on October 1, 2003 regarding closure of a case of bungling to the tune of Rs. 5,000/- crore without conducting any formal inquiry into the matter;

(c) if so, the time by which a CBI inquiry is likely to be instituted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has received a letter from an MP for CBI inquiry into the matter;

(f) if so, the action taken thereon;

(g) whether the progress report will be presented on the Table of the House; and

(h) if so, by when it is likely to be presented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) During the period from 1.1.2003 to 31.5.2003, Government of UP has issued consent for conducting CBI inquiry u/s 6 of DSPE Act 1946 in 3 cases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A letter in this regard from Hon'ble M. P. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma has been received which has been replied to.

(g) and (h) Does not arise, in view of reply to parts (b), (c) and (d).

Theft of KVPs and NSCs

2978. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government the theft of Kisan Vikas Patras (KVPs) and National Saving Certificates (NSCs) from the Rail wagons passing through Nasik as reported in the Hindi daily *Hindustan* dated July 7, 2004;

(b) if so, the names of places wherein such incidents have been reported and the number of persons found involved in such cases;

(c) the series of the KVPs and NSCs, stolen and the names of places alongwith the number of series of the KVPs and NSCs stolen;

(d) the total value of KVPs and NSCs stolen and the amount of fake payments made in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found involved in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No instance of theft of Kisan Vikas Patras (KVPs) and National Saving Certificates (NSCs) from the Rail wagons passing through Nasik is known. However, cases of theft of such certificates from wagons while in transit between India Security Press (ISP), Nasik to various Circle Stamp Depots (CSDs) of the Department during the period from 1994 to 1999 have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Names of places where such incidents occurred and number of persons found involved are not known as they were stolen by unknown miscreants from the custody of the Railways while in transit before their delivery to the Department of Posts. These incidents came to light at the time of taking delivery by the Department from the Railways. The number and series of such stolen certificates, available, are given in statement.

(d) Total face value of the stolen certificates is Rs. 410.18 crores (Rs. Four hundred ten crore eighteen lakhs only) out of which KVPs of total value of Rs. 12,34,57,602/- (Rs. Twelve crores thirty four lakhs fifty seven thousand six hundred and two only) and NSCs of total value of Rs. 19,03,000/- (Rs. Nineteen lakhs three thousand only) have been fraudulently paid.

(e) The CBI and State police have registered cases against persons allegedly involved in fraudulent encashment of these certificates. Disciplinary action has been initiated against departmental employees for lapses on their part.

Statement

List of stolen KVPs and NSCs during 1991-1999

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Class of Certificate	Series No.	Sl. No.	Total No. of Certificate	Denomination
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1. Assam	NSC	(i) 17 CC	174001-175000	2000	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	185001-186000		
	2.	NSC	(i) 34 CC	125001-125100	2397	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	125201-125303		
			(iii)	125320-125799		
			(iv)	125801-127000		
			(v)	151487-152000		
	3.		(i) 30 CC	681689	170	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	681801-681893		
			(iii)	689819-689890		
			(iv)	700106, 700116,		
				700135, 700154		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	4. KVP		(i) 35 AA	605001-606000	6200	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	609901-610000		
			(iii)	610901-611000		
			(iv)	613001-615000		
			(v)	619001-621000		
			(vi)	629001-630000		
	5. KVP		(i) 38 AA	680001-681000	21005	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	682001-686000		
			(iii)	688001-689005		
			(iv)	690001-691000		
			(v)	694001-706000		
			(vi)	708001-710000		
	6. KVP		(i) 29 BB	723194	948	Rs. 5000/-
			(ii)	725001-725099		
			(iii)	725101-725703		
			(iv)	730080-730081		
			(v)	730126-730300		
			(vi)	730801-730864		
			(vii)	740301		
			(viii)	753670-753672		
	7. KVP		(i) 50 AA	846005	1204	Rs. 1000/-
			(ii)	846097-847000		
			(iii)	853001-853297		
			(iv)	912509-912510		
	8. KVP		(i) 34 CC	570101-570182	593	Rs. 10,000/-
			(ii)	579401-579445		
			(iii)	579495		
			(iv)	579525-579700		
			(v)	579702-579990		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	1. Bihar	6 NSC	16 CC	380001-381000	2000	Rs. 1000/-
		6 NSC		389001-390000		
	2.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	21 BB	014102-014300	795	Rs. 5000/-
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		014405-015000		
	3.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	20CC	386080-386350	385	RS. 10000/-
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		391001-391114		
	4.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	35 AA	729882-729901	1387	Rs. 1000/-
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		729991-730000		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		740001-741000		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		759301-754557		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		759901-760000		
	5.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	31 BB	006001-008000	8900	Rs. 5000/-
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		010001-016000		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		033101-034000		
	6.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	34 BB	574001-574031	286	Rs. 5000/-
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		574034-574036		
	7.	$5^1/_2$ KVP		574047		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		574086-574200		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		574241-574242		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		574301-574373		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619037		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619122-619132		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619135-619143		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619146-619175		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619274, 619296		
		$5^1/_2$ KVP		619301-619308		
	8.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	22 EE	699111-699300	190	Rs. 500/-
	9.	6 NSC	32 CC	070001-070300	463	Rs.1000/-
				049099		
				049118-049200		
				049201-049277		
				139044-139045		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	10.	6 NSC	22 BB	480001-480213	219	Rs. 500/-
				480244-480249		
	11.	6 NSC	22 BB	000240	7001	Rs. 500/-
				005001-007000		
				013001-015000		
				021000-022000		
				023001-024000		
				027001-028000		
	12.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	57 BB	374669-374700	181	Rs. 5000/-
				374701-374746		
				374780-374782		
				374901-375000		
	13.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	56 CC	882001-884000	28200	Rs. 10,000/-
				885001-889000		
				892001-893000		
				893001-894000		
				896001-904000		
				906000-912000		
				949001-950000		
				955001-958000		
	14.	$5^1/_2$ KVP	45 CC	118906	2240	Rs.10,000/-
				163301-163990		
				173001-173775		
				173795-173982		
				180052-180133		
				180197-180200		
				180201-180700		
3.	1. Delhi	KVP	27 CC	816914-816934	22	Rs. 10,000/-
				816949		
	2.	KVP	30 BB	365741-365744	6	Rs. 5,000/-
				394851-394853		
	3.	KVP	41 CC	943286-943287	2	Rs. 10,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	1. Haryana	NSC	14 EE	488001-492000	10000	Rs.10,000/-
		NSC	14 EE	498001-500000		
		NSC	14 EE	502001-506000		
	2.	NSC	21 DD	687296-687341	46	Rs. 5,000/-
	3.	KVP	64 AA	751001-752000	29,997	Rs. 1,000/-
				754001-767000		
				770001-772000		
				777001-782000		
				784001-787000		
				787001-787209		
				787213-788000		
				791001-792000		
				794001-795000		
				799001-800000		
				774001-776000		
5.	Himachal Pradesh	KVP	45 BB	786001-786006	6	Rs. 5,000/-
			51 AA	366013	1	Rs. 1,000/-
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	KVP	57 AA	168288-168292	421	Rs. 1,000/-
				168355-168357		
				168417-168600		
				168628-168673		
				168808-168828		
				168839-169000		
7.	Madhya Pradesh	NSC	28 CC	262001	23	Rs. 1000/-
				262005-262023		
				262101		
				262299-262300		
8.	Punjab	KVP	58 AA	810501-811000	1500	Rs. 1000/-
				818001-819000		
			57 BB	032801-032900	5000	Rs. 100/-
9.	Tamilnadu	KVP	41 BB	674992-675000	9	Rs. 5000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Uttar Pradesh	KVP	03 GG	160001-180000 094801,095000, 096001, 096299-096300, 096672-096673, 096699, 096706, 096847-096859, 096891-096901, 096908-096916 096999-097000, 133001-133008, 133696, 135114, 135140-135145, 135295, 135325-135327, 135401, 135468-135476, 135601-135642, 135782, 134924-134933, 134984-135000, 099007-099052, 099603, 099728, 099939, 099982-099996, 099998,1000000, 090450,090476, 090904-090908, 090995, 090999, 090621, 087102-087105, 083043, 083099,	20297	Rs. 50000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				083146, 083171, 084614, 084856, 082824, 082993, 083000, 089000, 080144, 080200, 080301, 080393-080400, 127971, 155007-155008, 155010-155012, 155072-155075, 155119, 155162, 155205, 155277, 155287, 155548, 155801, 155891, 155892, 155939-155941, 132801-132815, 132925, 093307-093309, 093400-093531, 093646-093647, 092133, 092946, 092950, 089136-089138, 089998		
		28 CC		290001-291000 296001-297000 300001-301000 303001-304000 314001-315000 356001-357000	6170	Rs. 10000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				324101-324200		
				324030-324099		
			43 CC	882952-882972	60	
				888801-888838		
				896200		
			31 CC	350301	6	
				350475-350479		
			43 BB	555999	1	Rs. 5000/-
			32 BB	105801-106000	201	
				794997		
			67 AA	360001-360222	222	Rs. 1000/-
			51 AA	786836	1060	
				775001-775056		
				775518,		
				770906		
				761391		
				839001-840000		
			52 AA	201001-201100	491	
				224501-224886		
				204001		
				204242-204244		
				204601		
			28 EE	959812-960000	189	Rs. 500/-
			22 EE	961001-961107	107	
		NSC	18 BB	728001-729000	6011	Rs. 500/-
				738001-742000		
				759001-760000		
				729401-729600		
				729779-729974		
				739386-740000		
11.	West Bengal	NSC	19 EE	080001-120000	40000	Rs. 10,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		KVP	46 CC	840001-920000	102294	Rs. 10,000/-
				960001-961047		
				961051-965000		
				970001-971736		
				976001-977000		
				971738-975000		
				980001-985000		
				990001-991000		
				991701-991999		
				992001-992998		
				993000		
				994001-997000		
				986001-987000		
			44 BB	641001-645000	11005	Rs. 5,000/-
				646001-650000		
				655001-656000		
				662001-664000		
				651296-651300		
			56 AA	080001-120000	40000	Rs. 1,000/-
	NSC		32 CC	963001-964000	1007	Rs. 1,000/-
				965229-965234		
				965290		

Inclusion of Environmental Sciences in Civil Services Examination

2979. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include Environmental Sciences in the list of optional subjects for the main Civil Services and other examinations conducted by the UPSC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to include Environmental Sciences in the list of optional subjects for the Civil Services Examination.

(c) The UPSC constitutes Experts Committees from time to time to consider requests for inclusion of optional subjects. The decision to include an optional subject is taken by the Government after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the views of the UPSC thereon. No recommendation to

include Environmental Sciences as an optional subject for the CSE has been received by Government from the UPSC.

Medical Entrance Examinations

2980. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether students seeking admission in medical diploma and degree courses have to apply for 8 to 10 entrance examinations;

(b) if so, whether the students belonging to lower/ middle classes have to spend a lot of money for applying for these entrance examinations;

(c) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to minimize the expenditure being incurred by students on this count;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to fix the minimum price of the entrance examination forms; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Presently, admission to medical courses in the Government Medical Colleges are made on the basis of 15% under-graduate seats and 25% post-graduate degree/diploma seats, to be filled on All India basis through the All India Entrance Examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education and All India Institute of Medical Sciences respectively. Each State Government is also conducting Common Entrance Test for filling up the seats in Medical Courses in the Government colleges in the State, other than those filled up through the All India Entrance Examinations, and also the quota of seats in private medical colleges as fixed by the respective State Government for filling up by the State Agency.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, taking note of the hardships being faced by the students on account of multiplicity of entrance examinations for medical courses being held by each individual colleges, have directed by a judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education, that the Management of the private medical institutions could select students in respect of their quota of seats, either on the basis of Common Entrance Test conducted by the State on the basis of a common entrance test to be conducted by an association of all medical colleges in that State. If any professional college choose not to admit from the common entrance test conducted by the association, then that college must necessarily admit students from the common entrance test conducted by the State.

The Central Government have not issued any separate guidelines with regard to admission and charging of fee for entrance examination relating thereto as the matter of admission to Medical Courses falls under the purview of the State Government/Institutions.

Monthly Income Saving Scheme Scam

2981. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any recently reported scam involving several lakhs of rupees of post office subscribers in the name of monthly-income-saving-scheme in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted inquiry into the aforesaid matter and the follow up action taken against persons found to be involved in the case;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any policy to check the recurrence of such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Recently some cases of fraud in Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) accounts standing at Krishna Nagar Head Post Office, Delhi have come to notice. Some SAS agents have allegedly defrauded an amount of Rs. 24,93,501/- (Rs. Twenty four lakhs ninety three thousands five hundred one only) from the MIS Accounts of certain depositors. The Police have registered cases against them.

(c) The Department has also taken up internal investigation. Four departmental officials found responsible for certain lapses have been placed under suspension.

(d) and (e) Instructions have been issued that no amount should permitted to be withdrawn without proper checking, in particular, in cases of premature closure and transfer of such amounts to Savings Bank Accounts.

Health Related Programmes for Women and Children

2982. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has organized several health related programmmes including traditional indigenous system of medicines for better upkeep of health of women and children during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on such programmes alongwith the number of persons benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Maternal Health and Child Health programmes are integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme aimed at bringing down the maternal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and improving health status of women and children. Under the RCH Programme, which is under implementation in all States/Union Territories of the country, a number of interventions are being implemented. These are:

For Mothers

1. Essential obstetric care including antenatal check-up, safe delivery services and post natal care.
2. Emergency obstetric care.
3. Provision of contractual staff like Laboratory Technician, Public Health Nurses and additional Auxillary Nurse and Midwife (ANMs).
4. Hiring of Anesthetists and Safe Motherhood consultants for provision of emergency obstetric care and safe abortion services, etc.
5. Provision of drugs and equipment at sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres/ first referral units.
6. A scheme for 24 hour delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.
7. Provision of funds for Referral transport for pregnant women belonging to indigent families, through Panchayats.
8. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.
9. Prevention, management and control of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI)/Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).
10. Intensification of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programme for Maternal and Child Health through the mass media as also decentralized local specific activities at the grassroots level.
11. Involvement of NGOs in awareness generation and service delivery where government services are not adequate.
12. Training of medical/paramedical and other services providers.
13. National Maternity Benefit Scheme.
14. Training of Dais.
15. RCH Camps in remote and underutilized Primary Health Centres particularly in EAG States.

For Children

1. Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases.
2. Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal disease.
3. Control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections.
4. Eradication of polio.
5. Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.
6. New born care.

Traditional/Indigenous Systems of Medicine

Government of India has announced National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy in the year 2002 which envisages health care programmes for the society and also betterment of women and children through Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Yoga & Naturopathy and Homeopathy (AYUSH).

1. Under Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programme, 7 Ayurvedic drugs have been introduced in 9 States *i.g.*, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. 5 Unani drugs have been introduced in 4 cities *i.e.* Delhi, Aligarh, Lucknow and Hyderabad.

2. Pilot Scheme on "Home remedies Kit" based on Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy medicines, for supply of drugs to rural areas/ villages have been introduced in 100 villages of 21 States for 15 common ailments which includes Mother & Child Health.

(c) A statement showing the expenditure incurred under the RCH Programme-State wise during the last 3 years is enclosed. The information on actual numbers of women and children benefited during the last three years in not available.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	2001-2002 Expenditure	2002-03 Expenditure	2003-04 Expenditure
1	2	3	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1681.82	2043.85	2274.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	215.33	160.03	155.95
3.	Assam	868.6	1275.98	652.65
4.	Bihar	1299.04	1776.14	346.33
5.	Jharkhand	323.64	356.87	31.78
6.	Goa	17.36	51.16	3.45
7.	Gujarat	1903.64	1621.16	636.45
8.	Haryana	1000.48	1196.88	720.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	306.85	365.65	102.56
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	600.9	215.15	221.79
11.	Karnataka	1460.17	1981.92	928.72
12.	Kerala	1019.48	1251.05	664.56
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1294.21	1679.66	861.65
14.	Chattisgarh	278.42	379.06	796.00
15.	Maharashtra	1117.22	2318.96	933.89
16.	Manipur	1215.87	573.13	224.21
17.	Meghalaya	155.43	139.28	34.74
18.	Mizoram	728.79	415.55	294.9
19.	Nagaland	172.48	123.29	8.94
20.	Orissa	452.99	1423.76	212.56
21.	Punjab	770.32	628.29	260.06
22.	Rajasthan	1423.49	1688.52	2284.37

1	2	3	3	4
23.	Sikkim	28.54	72	97.58
24.	Tamilnadu	713.13	1953.92	401.35
25.	Tripura	155.44	88.22	3.65
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5551.01	7806.11	1987.22
27.	Uttaranchal	132.74	332.38	406.59
28.	West Bengal	1554.47	2063.17	1223.99
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	43.47	17.66	0.15
30.	Chandigarh	21.57	27.82	12.84
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.69	9.31	13.79
32.	Daman and Diu	3.22	11.59	4.60
33.	Delhi	339.57	449	40.29
34.	Lakshadweep	9.17	9.43	4.98
35	Pondicherry	46.23	47.29	13.70
	Total	26911.78	34553.24	16861.09

Figures are provisional as on 12/08/2004.

[English]

Pending CBI Cases

2983. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI);

(b) the number of pending cases upto 5 years, upto 10 years and above, State-wise;

(c) the reasons of inordinate delay in submission of final reports;

(d) whether there is shortage of adequate efficient staff in the organisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the measures proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) Total cases pending under investigation as on 31.7.2004 are 1555.

(b) Out of these 1555 cases, 1530 cases are pending upto 5 years, 23 cases are pending for more than 5 years but less than 10 years and 2 cases are pending for more than 10 years. The State-wise categorization of pending cases in not possible since most of the cases are having interstate/international ramifications.

(c) The main reasons for delay in investigation in some cases are as under :

> Delay in getting witnesses.

> Delay in getting documents.

> Investigation in different States.

> Investigation in foreign countries.

> Delay in issuance and execution of Letters of Rogatory.

> Delay due to extensive field investigation.

> Stays granted by the Court on petitions filed by the accused.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Breakwater Facility

2984. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds for setting up of a Break Water Facility or for a landing jetty on the Southern side of Minicoy, Amine, Kavaratti and Agatti;

(b) if so, by when the respective works for the implementation of the projects were started and the time frame by which the projects were to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay in the completion of the said projects; and

(d) the present schedule for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no scheme for setting up of Breakwater facility or for a landing jetty on the Southern side of Minicoy, Amine, Kavaratti and Agatti. However, the Government has sanctioned schemes for setting up Eastern Side Embarkation facilities at Minicoy, Amini, Kavaratti and Agatti by providing jetties with Mooring Dolphins at a total cost of Rs. 81.29 crores.

(b) to (d) The projects were sanctioned in December, 2003 and the scheduled date of completion is March, 2007.

Projects Under CRF

2985. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:
SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN:

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

(a) the details of projects started under the Central Road Fund during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated and disbursed, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects completed so far, State-wise; and

(d) the details of pending projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Detailed statement is enclosed.

Statement

Details of projects under Central Road Fund during the last three years

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S.No.	Name of State	Project under Central Road Fund				Fund	
		Started		Completed so far (Nos.)	Pending for sanction (Nos.)	Accrual (Amount)	Release (Amount)
		Nos.	Amount				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117	391.00	78	0	239.41	239.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	62.60	5	32	31.37	23.50
3.	Assam	27	52.42	9	0	44.57	54.62
4.	Bihar	33	66.33	11	0	84.51	38.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	75.39	13	0	60.63	66.92
6.	Goa	4	7.61	2	1	11.91	2.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	370	269.57	338	10	195.80	159.95
8.	Haryana	43	115.61	33	2	101.36	75.53
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18	48.85	6	11	31.13	22.14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	107.96	8	32	89.15	41.82
11.	Jharkhand	7	48.98	1	0	45.25	15.11
12.	Karnataka	294	209.68	208	312	168.74	143.41
13.	Kerala	13	83.43	3	14	79.54	26.24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15	45.71	0	0	183.85	132.29
15.	Maharashtra	195	454.11	24	70	303.46	205.01
16.	Manipur	5	14.02	0	6	9.25	5.21
17.	Meghalaya	10	21.57	3	3	12.59	13.58
18.	Mizoram	23	18.17	6	0	8.54	9.54
19.	Nagaland	5	12.11	0	2	7.10	7.17
20.	Orissa	101	98.89	68	8	85.74	56.30
21.	Punjab	62	127.76	44	40	120.07	93.05
22.	Rajasthan	218	317.78	172	0	223.57	197.11
23.	Sikkim	2	4.77	0	1	3.16	2.91
24.	Tamil Nadu	442	306.46	250	0	196.11	164.76
25.	Tripura	6	13.22	0	0	5.58	4.64
26.	Uttaranchal	23	29.79	16	72	29.16	20.17
27.	Uttar Pradesh	29	183.41	11	13	267.41	121.98
28.	West Bengal	10	121.92	6	2	108.16	67.57
29.	Chandigarh	6	11.55	4	2	6.80	5.07
30.	Delhi	5	19.36	1	5	80.83	8.16
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	1.77	6	0	3.44	0.81
32.	Pondicherry	2	4.69	1	0	6.57	3.28
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	7.58	0	0	5.44	0.00
34.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	2.39	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0.18	0.00
	Total	2163	3354.07	1327	638	2852.77	2028.84

Growth in Telephony Services

2986. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscriber base for telephony services continued to maintain its general growth during the year 2003-2004;

(b) whether the total number of mobile subscribers have risen to 3.5 crores as against the total number of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.28 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

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

(b) The total number of mobile subscribers has become 3.77 crores as against total numbers of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.3 crores on 30-06-2004.

(c) This is a general trend experienced all over the world that mobile subscribers base has increased much faster than fixed subscribers base. As per current Unified Access Service Licensing (UASL) regime, Telecom Operators are allowed to provide telephone connections on any media *i.e.* landline or WLL or Cellular. But more and more customers are preferring mobile telephone connection over fixed telephone connection because of ease in mobility, lesser fault occurrence and liberty to change service provider easily. As per the current trend, the number of mobile subscribers are likely to overtake the fixed phone subscribers by the end of the current year.

Establishment of Additional Health Sub-Centres

2987. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the establishment of additional health sub-centres;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State for the establishment of additional health sub-centres; and

(d) the number of additional health sub-centres proposed to be opened in Maharashtra and Bihar?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The number of new Sub-centres to be opened in Maharashtra and Bihar is 808 and 1210 respectively.

Statement

New sub-centres to be funded by Government of India during X plan

Sl. No.	States/UTs	New Sub-centres to for be established based on the norms as per the census data 1991	Funds released for establishment of new sub-centres
1.	Bihar	1210	12100000
2.	Chattisgarh	874	8740000
3.	Haryana	183	1830000
4.	Maharashtra	808	8080000
5.	Meghalaya	51	510000
6.	Nagaland	23	230000
7.	Orissa	447	4470000
8.	Punjab	6	60000
9.	Rajasthan	*461	*4610000
10.	Tripura	40	400000
11.	Uttaranchal	240	2400000
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1944	19440000
13.	West Bengal	2230	22300000
14.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	40000
15.	Delhi	148	1480000
	Total	8669	86690000

*For desert areas of Rajasthan.

Development of Minor/Major Ports in Karnataka

2988. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has requested to allow private participation in the development of minor/major ports in the State;

(b) if so, the details of private and Government investment in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government would extend financial assistance to develop ports in Karnataka to make them commercially viable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The ports other than major ports are under the administrative control of the State Governments concerned who are also competent to allow private sector participation in development of these ports. No request has been received from the Government of Karnataka to allow private participation for the development of minor ports in Karnataka. Further, at present there is no scheme for extending financial assistance to develop minor ports in any State.

So far as major ports are concerned, there is one major port in Karnataka *viz.* New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT). The Govt. of Karnataka has requested for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. (NPCL) and New Mangalore Port Trust for construction of a captive coal jetty at New Mangalore Port by NPCL. The MOU between NMPT and M/s. NPCL is yet to be finalised.

Waiting List for Landline and Mobile Phone Connections

2989. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
MOHD. MUKEEM:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ:

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

(a) the number of landline and mobile phone consumers as on July 31, 2004 in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) the waiting list of the consumers for the landline and mobile phones as on July 31, 2004 in the aforesaid districts; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and for making connections available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The district wise details of landline consumers and waiting list as on July 31, 2004 in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) are given in statement I, II & IIII respectively. The Total No. of Mobile phone consumers in these States are as given below:

(i)	Andhra Pradesh	594557
(ii)	Uttar Pradesh (East)	431057
(iii)	Uttar Pradesh (West)	326536

No waiting list is being maintained for mobile consumers.

(c) BSNL has planned the deployment of wireless based systems (CDMA and Cordect) on a large scale to clear waiting for basic phones since most of the waiting list in the far flung rural areas. BSNL plans to provide a total of 100 Lakh connections including mobile phones during the year 2004-05. The targets for provision of telephones (including mobile phones) in the three circles are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	UP (East)	UP (West)
639700 Lines	596600 Lines	362500 Lines

Statement-I

District-wise no. of landline consumers and waiting list in Andhra Pradesh as on 31.07.04

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Consumers	Waiting list
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	68317	1422
2.	Ananthapur	100644	842

1	2	3	4
3.	Chittoor	140073	867
4.	Cuddapah	94827	875
5.	East Godavari	207349	1291
6.	Guntur	210625	2386
7.	Hyderabad	409271	8826
8.	Karimnagar	128989	6314
9.	Khammam	85750	1751
10.	Drishna	218029	1321
11.	Kurnool	104355	790
12.	Mahaboobnagar	86539	2365
13.	Medak	76946	2919
14.	Nalgonda	111340	1583
15.	Nellore	110618	877
16.	Nizamabad	94409	330
17.	Prakasham	100230	2522
18.	Rangareddy	252049	1279
19.	Srikakulam	51215	377
20.	Visakhapatnam	152849	1154
21.	Vizianagaram	49366	83
22.	Warangal	98608	3110
23.	West Godavari	198063	997
		3150461	44281

Statement-II

District-wise No. of landline consumers and waiting list in U.P. (East) as on 31.07.04

S.No.	District	No. of Consumers	W/L
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad and		
2.	Kaushambi	110183	1603
3.	Azamgarh	47601	5174
4.	Barabanki	32998	3324
5.	Ballia	26584	1547
6.	Banda	15779	1051
7.	Chitrakoot	5974	468
8.	Bahraich	21513	0
9.	Shrawasti	2418	0
10.	Basti	15264	1033
11.	Sant Kabir Nagar	5738	733
12.	Siddarth Nagar	10117	1040
13.	Deoria	21404	6062
14.	Kushi Nagar	15272	5840
15.	Etawah and	30955	65
16.	Auraiya		
17.	Farrukhabad	24755	2121
18.	Kannauj	14609	1683
19.	Fatehpur	19932	1555
20.	Faizabad and	44170	4489
21.	Ambedkar Nagar		
22.	Balrampur	8228	1618
23.	Gonda	22594	1840
24.	Gorakhpur	74784	3061
25.	Maharajganj	11767	801
26.	Ghazipur	19062	5851
27.	Hardoi	22756	1957
28.	Hamirpur	13986	155
29.	Mahoba	6010	122
30.	Jhansi	43134	172

1	2	3	4
31.	Lalitpur	9569	30
32.	Jaunpur	34173	11423
33.	Kanpur	184999	1672
34.	Kanpur Dehat	11476	1352
35.	Lakhimpur	31812	924
36.	Lucknow	244557	3669
37.	Mau	32714	594
38.	Mainpuri	26540	2643
39.	Mirzapur	25653	1314
40.	Sonebhadra	24731	1470
41.	Jalaun	20416	1606
42.	Pratapgarh	25208	2426
43.	Rai Bareilly	29758	1104
44.	Shahjahanpur	30142	1038
45.	Sitapur	31984	2200
46.	Sultanpur	37107	4703
47.	Unnao	28701	1918
48.	Chandauli	13177	2390
49.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	18755	2410
50.	Varanasi	98652	3478
	Total	1647711	101729

Statement-III

District-wise No. of landline consumers and waiting list in U.P. (West) as on 31.07.04

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Consumers	Waiting list
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	116013	3733
2.	Firozabad	19314	1436
3.	Aliganj	51047	2229
4.	Hathras	15243	802
5.	Badaun	27898	78
6.	Bareilly	69046	1039
7.	Bijnore	62150	2379
8.	Bulandsahar	50346	10782
9.	Etah	27655	3722
10.	GB Nagar	108952	254
11.	Ghaziabad	195042	4518
12.	Mathura	59148	922
13.	Meerut	100654	3809
14.	Baghpat	22394	1971
15.	Moradabad	72297	145
16.	J.P. Nagar	22019	163
17.	Muzaffarnagar	80958	3380
18.	Pilibhit	17440	139
19.	Rampur	31001	167
20.	Saharanpur	74373	4830
	Total	1222990	46498

Dereserved Items in SSI Sector

2990. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has dereserved more items from the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details and the impact of the said move on the growth of SSI;

(c) whether there is inordinate delay in releasing credit by Banks to SSI units; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to release the sanctioned credit to the SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In the Union Budget for 2004-2005 presented in Parliament on 8th July, 2004, the Government has proposed dereservation of 85 items. As per the procedure, items to be reserved are identified in consultation with the stakeholders.

Dereservation of certain items has been done over the years after consulting the stakeholders so as to allow greater opportunities to the SSIs for technological upgradation, promotion of exports and achieving economies of scale.

(c) and (d) Cases of delay in release of credit to the SSI sector have come to the notice of the Government. The matter has been reviewed and a time-frame has been fixed for disposal of loan applications by the banks, which is a maximum of 2 weeks for loans upto Rs. 25,000 and 4 weeks for loans upto Rs. 5 lakh provided the loan applications are complete in all respects and accompanied by a check list. The Reserve Bank of India has instructed the banks to adhere to these norms.

[Translation]

Faulty Telephone Service in Maharashtra

2991. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of incidents of frequent telephone disorder has increased in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether quick action is not being taken in regard to the complaints despite repeated requests;

(c) whether there is any special cell for filing complaints in case the breakdown of telephone service is not restored within two or three days;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of subscribers of the landline telephone service are opting for disconnection due to unsatisfactory service being provided by the M.T.N.L. and V.S.N.L.;

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to keep a separate record for not taking any action in regard to the complaints within two or three days and to punish the officials found guilty; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In case of delay in restoration of faults, the subscriber can approach to field officers and other senior officers at Head office. Also a Toll Free No. 1094 is functioning in Maharashtra Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) at circle level for this purpose.

(e) Yes, Sir. Some land line telephones have been disconnected due to unsatisfactory service also. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) does not provide landline telephone service.

(f) and (g) Faults pending for more than two to three days are monitored by senior officers and remedial action taken. Action is also taken against erring officials found guilty of delay in restoration.

[English]

Ban on Recruitment

2992. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-filling up of vacant vacancies and abolition of 2/3 direct recruitment of vacancies exist in various Central Government Departments;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to withdraw these measures in view of the rising unemployment of the educated youth in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposed to make right of employment as a fundamental right;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) As per DOPT O.M. dated 16.5.2001, while 2/3 direct recruitment vacancies are to be abolished in various Central Government Departments, the remaining 1/3 vacancies can still be filled up.

(b) No, Sir, so far there is no proposal in the Government to withdraw these measures.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) Mainly on account of resource constraints.

[Translation]

Growth Rate in Telecome Sector

2993. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether the annual growth rate in the telecommunication sector has increased constantly during the previous year;

(b) if so, the average annual growth rate during the last three years;

(c) whether the annual growth rate has been minimum in various States of the country;

(d) if so, the States in which annual growth rate has been maximum; and

(e) the States where annual growth rate has been minimum and the growth rate estimated in the backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam?

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

(b) The Average growth rate of telephone connections in whole country during the last three years is 28.52%.

(c) There are certain States where the growth rate has been lesser than the average growth rate of country.

(d) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced highest annual growth rate are Punjab, Delhi and Mumbai.

(e) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced lowest growth rate are Assam, Andaman and Nicobar and North East-I & II.

Government owned PSU-BSNL has planned to provide 4.38 lakh, 9.5 lakh, 2.14 lakh, 0.1 lakh, 1.17 lakh and 0.23 lakh telephone connections in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar, North East-I and North East-II respectively in year 2004-05. In addition, Private Operators would also provide telephone connections in these States which is expected to enhance the growth rate in these States.

[English]

Dental Medical Colleges/Hospitals

2994. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of Dental Hospitals in the country, State-wise;

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Government to provide facilities to dental patients in the Government Hospitals;

(d) whether the Government has plan to establish more Dental Medical Colleges and Hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, Central Government is not maintaining any data on availability of hospitals in the country. However, Central Government have been permitting establishment of new

medical and dental colleges under the provisions of IMC Act and Dentists Act. Each and every medical college is to have its own hospital for training of students. However, in case of dental colleges attachment of other hospital is permissible under the Regulations framed under the Dentists Act. State-wise number of medical & dental colleges in the country is given in statement.

(c) Health being a State subject it is for the State Government concerned to provide health care facilities including dental care, to the people as per their need.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no such plan. However, the Central Government has been permitting establishment of new dental colleges under the provisions of the Dentists Act and the Regulations made thereunder. Those who fulfil the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations can seek the permission of the Central Government.

Statement

State-wise number of Medical and Dental colleges in the Country as on 16.8.2004

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Medical Colleges	Number of Dental Colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	16
2.	Assam	3	1
3.	Bihar	8	7
4.	Chandigarh	1	–
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	2
6.	Delhi	5	1
7.	Goa	1	1
8.	Gujarat	14	5
9.	Haryana	3	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	5
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1
12.	Jharkhand	3	–
13.	Karnataka	31	42
14.	Kerala	14	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	6
16.	Maharashtra	38	23
17.	Manipur	1	–
18.	Orissa	3	2
19.	Pondicherry	5	1
20.	Punjab	6	11
21.	Rajasthan	8	8
22.	Sikkim	1	–
23.	Tamilnadu	19	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12	20
25.	Uttaranchal	2	1
26.	West Bengal	9	3
	Total	229	187

Bye-Passes on National Highways in Kerala

2995. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for early construction of Bye-passes on National Highways in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala vide letter dated 20.7.2004 has submitted a proposal for construction of 11 bye-passes on National Highways in Kerala. The details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Bypass	NH No.	Total Length (km)	Status
1.	Kozhikode Bypass	17	28.124	Land acquistion completed. Construction completed in 7.254 km and in progress in another 6.37 km
2.	Kollam Bypass	47	13.14	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 4.78 km
3.	Alappuzha Bypass	47	7.58	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 3.73 km and in progress in balance portion
4.	Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyatinkara Bypass	47	44.253	Land acquisition completed in 25.90 km and in progress in 5.47 km. Construction completed in 22.633 km
5.	Thalassery-Mahe Bypass	17	18.03	Land acquisition completed in 9.142 km. Construction not taken up
6.	Koilandy deviation Bypass	17	11.213	Land acquisition completed. Construction not taken up
7.	Thripunithra Bypass	49	9.00	Land acquisition in 3.75 km in progress. Construction not taken up
8.	Muvattupuzha Bypass	49	4.58	Not taken up
9.	Kothamangalam Bypass	49	3.15	Not taken up
10.	Aattingal Bypass	47	—	Not taken up
11.	Kodungallur Bypass	17	—	Not taken up

Reopening of Passport Office in Amritsar

2996. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received about reopening of passport office in Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. The representations have been received from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Avtar Henry, Minister in Punjab Government for the reopening of Passport Application Collection Centre at Amritsar.

(c) Although the Passport Application Collection Centre has been closed, the District Passport Cell in Amritsar is fully functional. The details are given in the statement.

Statement

There is no Passport Office in Amritsar. However, a Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC), which is

manned by staff deputed from the Passport Office, Jalandhar, was functioning in Amritsar for the past nine years. The PACC in Amritsar was opened in June 1995. However, it was closed in July 2004 since the District Passport Cell (DPC) had already been set up at Amritsar as part of the decentralisation scheme for the receipt of passport applications at the District level introduced in various States in 2002 as per the recommendations made by the Committee for Review of the Passport Issuance System in 2001. Under the Decentralisation Scheme, passport applications are received at district headquarters in the DPCs set up in the office of the District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police as per discretion/decision of the State Government. The idea behind decentralisation scheme was to take the passport services closer to the doorsteps of passport seeking public who do not have to travel long distances to visit the Passport Offices to deposit their applications. Instead the applicants can deposit their applications in their own districts.

2. The PACCs were set up several years back with a view to providing some passport services to cover the areas from where a substantial number of Passport applications were received yet they did not merit opening a full-fledged Passport Office. There are 15 PACCs all over India compared more than 400 DPCs which have been set up since 2002 covering more than 50% districts all over India.

3. The PACCs receive the passport applications and forward the same to the Passport Offices concerned under whose jurisdiction they function. The Passport Offices send the requests for police verification in respect of the applicant and after receipt of the same they process the application and issue the passports. As against this, the DPCs receive the passport applications and after scrutinizing them and having the police verification in respect of applicant carried out, forward the applications to the concerned Passport Office for further processing and issuance of passports. Thus, in case of DPCs, the time in sending the requests for police verification and their receipt is eliminated which would lead to speedier issuance of passports.

4. As regards staffing of PACC and DPC, PACC at Amritsar was functioning with only one staff member who was deputed from Passport Office, Jalandhar. Compared to this, five staff members have been deputed by the district authorities to work in the DPC at Amritsar.

5. The closure of the PACCs was done on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. This was due to the reason that the DPC and PACC at Amritsar were functioning in the same premises in the office of Deputy Commissioner and consequently the district authorities were not able to popularise the DPC scheme.

6. The DPC scheme has been quite successful in Punjab and almost 21% applications have been received through DPCs in 2003.

7. With the popularization of the District Passport Cells, PACCs have become redundant. The decision to close a PACC is not a sudden decision. It is carried out only in those cases where the DPC is fully functional as an alternative option. Infact, in most cases where the PACCs were closed, they were done so only after the DPC was operational and well-established. The PACCs at three other locations have also been closed in pursuance of the above policy.

8. The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs has emphasised that the Decentralisation Scheme should be encouraged and enough publicity should be given to the DPCs. The Deputy Commissioner Amritsar has given wide publicity to increase awareness of the DPC among the public. Necessary instructions have been given to PO, Jalandhar to closely monitor the working of the DPC, Amritsar.

9. As part of Decentralisation Scheme, the Government disburses an amount of Rs. 200 to State Governments for each application received, processed and forwarded along with Policy Verification Reports (PVRs) to Passport Offices through District Passport Cells.

[Translation]

Special Cell for PMRY

2997. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate or special cell is operational to supervise the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojaha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PMRY has been reviewed recently;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved under this scheme;

(e) whether any suggestions have been received for modifications in the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries is monitoring the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) at the Central Level.

(c) Yes, Sir Secretary (SSI & ARI) reviewed the implementation of the Scheme on 10th March, 2004 and on 28th May, 2004.

(d) As per the latest reports received from the Reserve Bank of India for the period from 1993-94 to 2003-04, loans have been disbursed to 19.70 lakh educated unemployed youth against target of 22.40 lakh, generating employment for an estimated 29.55 lakh persons.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Some of the parameters of the Scheme like activities covered, relaxation in age, educational qualification, family income, constitution of Task Force at Block/Mandal level etc. have been modified based on the feedback received from the implementing agencies and recommendations contained in the 'Evaluation Studies' on the PMRY.

[English]

Extradition of 1993 Bomb Blasts Accused

2998. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has received a shot in the arm in the extradition of 1993-Mumbai bomb blasts accused Abu Salem and Monica Bedi from Portugal;

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

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to get them extradited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) In the extradition case of Abu Salem and Monica Bedi, the CBI achieved success to the extent the High Court of Portugal passed orders of extradition in the case of Abu Salem on 14.7.2004 and Manica Bedi on 26.11.2003. But both the accused had appealed against the extradition orders in the Supreme Court of Portugal. The matter is subjudice. The CBI is pursuing the extradition cases in the Supreme Court of Portugal.

Blacklisted CGHS Chemists

2999. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some authorized chemists of CGHS have been blacklisted in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations/complaints where some senior officials of Ministry of Health connived with blacklisted chemists and supplied medicines to CGHS dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, M/s. Rishab Enterprises, New Delhi and M/s. Oberoi Medical & General Stores, Karol Bagh were blacklisted during the year 2002.

(c) to (e) A complaint has been received that the names of the partners in M/s Bantham is similar to the names of partners in M/s Rishab Enterprises (who stands blacklisted). Director, CGHS has been asked to furnish a report on the said complaint within one month.

[Translation]

Toll Tax

3000. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) the number of places throughout the country where toll tax is being charged on the National Highways at present;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount collected as toll tax from the National Highways so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The users' fee (toll) is collected on 23 sections of the National Highways. The details in respect of bridges and other projects are being collected.

(c) The total amount of users' fee (toll) collected by the Government of India so far since 1976-77 till July, 2004 is Rs 892.39 Crore. In addition, National Highways Authority of India has collected Rs 966.66 Crore as Users' fees up to June, 2004, on the National Highways entrusted to them.

[English]

Progress of Harihar-Belagum Bye-Pass

3001. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four/six laning of NH-4 (Harihar-Belagum Bye-pass from 282-515 kms.) in Karnataka, NHAI, Piu-Dharwad is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work is going on as per schedule and likely to be completed in stipulated time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The works of four/six laning of NH-4 (Harihar-Belagum Bye-pass from km. 282-km. 515) have been awarded in four packages of length varying from 18 to 64 Kms at a cost of Rs. 687.05 crore. The target for substantial completion is by December 2004. There are some delays due to delay in land acquisitions, non-availability of aggregates, delay in approval of ROB drawings from Railways.

Telephone Connections under Discretionary Quota

3002. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from Andhra Pradesh for telephone connections under the discretionary quota as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections provided so far, district-wise;

(c) the number of applications lying pending, district-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, the district-wise details of applications received from Andhra Pradesh for telephone connections under discretionary quota from 1.1.2002 to 31.7.2004, the number of connections provided so far and the applications lying pending are given in statement.

(d) The connections are pending due to areas being technically non-feasible.

(e) The remaining applications are likely to be cleared by 31.12.2004 progressively.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Application received	Connections Provided so far	Application pending as on date	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Adilabad	50	50	0	
2.	Ananthapur	29	19	0	10 sanctions cancelled.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chittoor	185	170	1*	14 sanctions cancelled.
4.	Cuddapah	31	30	0	1 sanction cancelled.
5.	East Godavari	32	16	0	16 sanctions cancelled.
6.	Guntur	292	278	0	14 sanctions cancelled.
7.	Hyderabad Rangareddy	252	236	0	16 sanctions cancelled.
8.	Karimnagar	80	79	0	1 sanction cancelled.
9.	Khammam	52	44	0	8 sanctions cancelled.
10.	Krishna	423	406	0	17 sanctions cancelled.
11.	Kurnool	2	2	0	
12.	Mahaboobnagar	10	10	0	
13.	Medak	262	217	37*	8 sanctions cancelled.
14.	Nalgonda	9	6	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
15.	Nellore	149	135	0	14 sanctions cancelled.
16.	Nizamabad	143	116	0	27 sanctions cancelled.
17.	Prakasham	266	242	0	24 sanctions cancelled.
18.	Srikakulam	405	358	0	47 sanctions cancelled.
19.	Visakhapatnam	28	28	0	
20.	Vizianagram	34	31	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
21.	Warangal	40	37	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
22.	West Godavari	38	37	0	1 sanction cancelled.

*These are sanctioned during 2004.

Problems of Khadi and Village Industries

3003. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has stopped Budgetary support grants, interest free loans and rebate to Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Kahdi and Village Industries is now facing a serious crisis resulting in closure of units and massive unemployment;

(d) whether the Government is considering any new policy to revive and revitalise the Khadi and Village Industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As far as Budgetary support grants and Rebate are concerned, these continue as usual. However, allocation under loan heads has been reduced. Upto 1995, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) used to provide interest free loans for financing Khadi Programme and loans at the rate of 4 percent for financing village

industries programme. However, with the expansion of Khadi and Village Industries Programme, arrangements for mobilization of institutional finance were made under Interest Subsidy Eligibility Scheme (ISEC). Under this scheme, Khadi institutions as well as V.I. institutions/State Boards were issued Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate entitling them to bear interest @ 4% while the difference between the actual rate of interest charged by the bank and 4% is borne by KVIC as Interest Subsidy. The objective behind this effort was to augment flow of institutional finance. With the Implementation of Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), entrepreneurs are provided assistance in the form of margin money, which is a one time grant and the required loans are provided by banks. ISEC, however, continues for Khadi institutions.

(c) No, Sir. With the support to Khadi and Village Industries sector through Rebate, Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), the production and employment has been increasing over the past three years. The production and Employment during the last three years is shown below :

(Value: Rs. in Crores and Emp. in lakh persons)

Year	Production				Employment		
	Khadi		V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
	Quantity (Mill. Sq. Mtrs.)	Value	Value	Value			
2001-02	58.90	416.69	7140.52	7557.21	8.48	54.16	62.64
2002-03	62.03	443.07	8126.30	8569.37	8.58	57.87	66.45
2003-04 (P)	63.27	451.93	9263.98	9715.91	8.61	62.57	71.18

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has identified certain important areas for promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in the country. The NCMP, *inter alia*, states that there would be a revamp of the functioning of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and new programmes would be launched for the modernization of traditional industries like coir, pottery, cottage industries. In view of this, the Government has proposed to set up a fund for the regeneration of traditional industries like coir, handloom, handicrafts, etc. A fund, with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crores has been set up. The details, including mechanism for utilization of the fund are being worked out in consultation with the Administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned.

[Translation]

Permission for Treatment under Specialist Doctors

3004. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beneficiaries of Central Government Health Scheme who are undergoing treatment for chronic diseases under the observation of a specialist doctor in a referral Government Hospital for a long time have to take permission of their respective CGHS dispensary, every time, for continuing their treatment after a specified period of treatment by Specialist doctor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the regular treatment of specialist doctor cannot be changed or stopped against the will of the patient unless the specialist himself feels that further treatment is not needed; and

(d) if so, the reasons for compelling the patients to go, through such complex process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) CGHS beneficiaries who are already taking specialised treatment in a referral Govt. Hospital are not required to take permission of the CGHS dispensary for continuing their treatment in the Govt. Hospital. As medicines are issued to the beneficiaries only on the basis of valid prescriptions, the CGHS beneficiaries are advised to obtain fresh opinion/

renewal of their prescription from the treating Govt. specialist after completion of the duration for which the earlier treatment had been advised by the Govt. doctor.

(c) and (d) Specialised medical treatment of the CGHS beneficiary is based only on the advice of the Govt. specialist doctor. The Government Specialist periodically reviews the patient and based on the clinical condition, the specialist may advise changes in the prescription/course of treatment which is in the overall interest of the health of the patient. However, there is no compulsion for the CGHS beneficiaries to take the advice of the Govt. specialist doctor.

[English]

Bridges on NH in Karnataka

3005. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the bridges which are in poor condition on National Highways in Karnataka;

(b) the names of the bridges which have not been undertaken for repair so far;

(c) the year-wise plan of reconstruction of these bridges undertaken during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the names of such damaged bridges which have been reconstructed/repaired so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) All the bridges on National Highways in Karnataka are being kept in traffic worthy condition. However, there are some narrow & old bridges, which are being rehabilitated/reconstructed in a phased manner. The list of bridges proposed to be reconstructed/ widened/rehabilitated during the Annual Plan 2004-05 is given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) List of bridges sanctioned during the last three years and till date is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	NH No.	Names of Bridges included in the Annual Plan 2004-05
1	2	3
MAJOR BRIDGE		
Reconstruction/Widening		
1.	207	Bridge at km 17 & 103
Rehabilitation		
2.	17	Sharavati Bridge
3.	17	Kali Bridge at km 102.5
4.	63	Bridge at km 312
5.	48	Bridge at Sakeleshpur
MINOR BRIDGE		
Reconstruction/Widening		
6.	13	Bridge at km 42/1, 52/1, 64/1, 65/1, 34/1, 72/1, 85/1, 118/2, 122/1 and 168/1
7.	13	Bridge at km 426.00 and 448.00
8.	13	Bridge at km 503.10 and 522.30
9.	17	Bridge at km 107.00, 135.65, 141.44 and 164.80

1	2	3
10.	17	Bridge at km 167.4, 171.2, 173 and 178.5
11.	9	Bridge at Km 415/1
12.	48	Bridge at km 309/0
13.	63	Flyover bridge at km 182 near Holkote
14.	63	Bridge at km 191.60 and 193.950
15.	63	Bridge at km 196/1 and 198/1
16.	63	Bridge at km 361/25 and 366/05
17.	207	Bridge at km 104/05 and 58/862
18.	207	Bridge at km 66/4 and 70/3
19.	207	Bridge at km 126/7 and 135/75
20.	209	Bridge at km 299/1, 247/1, 301/3 and 306/1
21.	209	Bridge at km 364 and 366
22.	209	Bridge at km 400/3, 417/2 and 421/2
23.	209	Bridge at km 379/1, 394/1 and 400/3
24.	212	Bridge at km 173/2 and 167/2
25.	63	Bridge at km 205/1
26.	13	Bridge at km 714
27.	13	Bridge at km 115/1
28.	4 MKB	Bridge at km 250, 308, 309 and 315
29.	4 MKB	Bridge at km 256/1, 256/2, 251/1, 270/1 and 272/1
30.	218	Bridge at km 8, 9 and 10
31.	218	Bridge at km 129, 132 and 139

Statement-II

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of sanctioned bridge	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
2001-02			
1.	206	Mavinahalla Bridge at km. 341	84.65
2.	13	Tripple Box Cell bridge at Km. 133/2-4	29.02
3.	218	Minor bridge at Km. 5/700, 18/500 and 20/500	83.68
4.	206	Bridge at Km. 48.50	74.64

1	2	3	4
5.	9	Bridges No. 354/1, 357/1, 372/1, 374/1, 386/1 & 396/1	85.07
6.	48	Special repair of bridge Hemavati river at Km. 223	6.00
7.	209	Special repair of bridge at Km. 274	12.66
8.	218	Minor bridge at Km. 112	23.79
9.	17	Special repair of Kulur bridge at Km. 368.54 and 368/60	20.56
10.	48	Special repair of Nethravathi bridge at Km 327	12.17
2002-03			
1.	63	Bridge at Km. 349.10	155.02
2.	17	Tripple Box Cell bridges at Km. 189.15, 189.24, 189.3 and 189.45.	132.24
3.	17	Mavinahole bridge at Km. 99.143	11.83
4.	206	Tripple Box Cell bridges at Km. 336	36.83
5.	63	Minor bridge at Km 134 & 140	94.85
6.	13	Bridge at Km. 431.175	46.88
7.	13	Minor bridge at Km 482.400	90.37
8.	17	Bridge at Km. 241 to 350	160.00
9.	13	Don bridge at Km. 109/5	271.53
2003-04			
1.	13	Bridge at Km. 497.800	185.24
2.	63	Bridge at Km. 189.600	57.12
3.	209	Bridge at Km. 415.08	34.96
4.	17	Single Box Cell bridge near Betkuli	144.25
5.	17	Minor bridge No. 219/2	17.16
6.	63	Minor bridge No. 10/3, 11/3 and 12/3	61.78
7.	13	Tripple Box Cell bridge at Km. 171.50	98.98
2004-05			
1.	63	Minor bridge at Km. 197.830	42.72
2.	209	Minor bridge at Km. 363/780 & 365/395	74.12
3.	209	Minor bridge at Km. 420.100	37.07
4.	48	Bridge at Km. 308.87	115.71
5.	13	Bridge No. 34/1 & 42/1	53.86

Growth in Telephony Services

2986. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscriber base for telephony services continued to maintain its general growth during the year 2003-2004;

(b) whether the total number of mobile subscribers have risen to 3.5 crores as against the total number of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.28 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

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

(b) The total number of mobile subscribers has become 3.77 crores as against total numbers of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.3 crores on 30-06-2004.

(c) This is a general trend experienced all over the world that mobile subscribers base has increased much faster than fixed subscribers base. As per current Unified Access Service Licensing (UASL) regime, Telecom Operators are allowed to provide telephone connections on any media *i.e.* landline or WLL or Cellular. But more and more customers are preferring mobile telephone connection over fixed telephone connection because of ease in mobility, lesser fault occurrence and liberty to change service provider easily. As per the current trend, the number of mobile subscribers are likely to overtake the fixed phone subscribers by the end of the current year.

Establishment of Additional Health Sub-Centres

2987. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA [redacted]SUL:

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

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the establishment of additional health sub-centres;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State for the establishment of additional health sub-centres; and

(d) the number of additional health sub-centres proposed to be opened in Maharashtra and Bihar?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The number of new Sub-centres to be opened in Maharashtra and Bihar is 808 and 1210 respectively.

Statement

New sub-centres to be funded by Government of India during X plan

Sl. No.	States/UTs	New Sub-centres to for be established based on the norms as per the census data 1991	Funds released for establishment of new sub-centres
1.	Bihar	1210	12100000
2.	Chattisgarh	874	8740000
3.	Haryana	183	1830000
4.	Maharashtra	808	8080000
5.	Meghalaya	51	510000
6.	Nagaland	23	230000
7.	Orissa	447	4470000
8.	Punjab	6	60000
9.	Rajasthan	*461	*4610000
10.	Tripura	40	400000
11.	Uttaranchal	240	2400000
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1944	19440000
13.	West Bengal	2230	22300000
14.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	40000
15.	Delhi	148	1480000
	Total	8669	86690000

*For desert areas of Rajasthan.

Development of Minor/Major Ports in Karnataka

2988. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has requested to allow private participation in the development of minor/major ports in the State;

(b) if so, the details of private and Government investment in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government would extend financial assistance to develop ports in Karnataka to make them commercially viable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The ports other than major ports are under the administrative control of the State Governments concerned who are also competent to allow private sector participation in development of these ports. No request has been received from the Government of Karnataka to allow private participation for the development of minor ports in Karnataka. Further, at present there is no scheme for extending financial assistance to develop minor ports in any State.

So far as major ports are concerned, there is one major port in Karnataka *viz.* New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT). The Govt. of Karnataka has requested for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. (NPCL) and New Mangalore Port Trust for construction of a captive coal jetty at New Mangalore Port by NPCL. The MOU between NMPT and M/s. NPCL is yet to be finalised.

Waiting List for Landline and Mobile Phone Connections

2989. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
MOHD. MUKEEM:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ:

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

(a) the number of landline and mobile phone consumers as on July 31, 2004 in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) the waiting list of the consumers for the landline and mobile phones as on July 31, 2004 in the aforesaid districts; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and for making connections available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The district wise details of landline consumers and waiting list as on July 31, 2004 in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) are given in statement I, II & IIII respectively. The Total No. of Mobile phone consumers in these States are as given below:

(i)	Andhra Pradesh	594557
(ii)	Uttar Pradesh (East)	431057
(iii)	Uttar Pradesh (West)	326536

No waiting list is being maintained for mobile consumers.

(c) BSNL has planned the deployment of wireless based systems (CDMA and Cordect) on a large scale to clear waiting for basic phones since most of the waiting list in the far flung rural areas. BSNL plans to provide a total of 100 Lakh connections including mobile phones during the year 2004-05. The targets for provision of telephones (including mobile phones) in the three circles are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	UP (East)	UP (West)
639700 Lines	596600 Lines	362500 Lines

Statement-I

District-wise no. of landline consumers and waiting list in Andhra Pradesh as on 31.07.04

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Consumers	Waiting list
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	68317	1422
2.	Ananthapur	100644	842

1	2	3	4
3.	Chittoor	140073	867
4.	Cuddapah	94827	875
5.	East Godavari	207349	1291
6.	Guntur	210625	2386
7.	Hyderabad	409271	8826
8.	Karimnagar	128989	6314
9.	Khammam	85750	1751
10.	Drishna	218029	1321
11.	Kurnool	104355	790
12.	Mahaboobnagar	86539	2365
13.	Medak	76946	2919
14.	Nalgonda	111340	1583
15.	Nellore	110618	877
16.	Nizamabad	94409	330
17.	Prakasham	100230	2522
18.	Rangareddy	252049	1279
19.	Srikakulam	51215	377
20.	Visakhapatnam	152849	1154
21.	Vizianagaram	49366	83
22.	Warangal	98608	3110
23.	West Godavari	198063	997
		3150461	44281

Statement-II

District-wise No. of landline consumers and waiting list in U.P. (East) as on 31.07.04

S.No.	District	No. of Consumers	W/L
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad and		
2.	Kaushambi	110183	1603
3.	Azamgarh	47601	5174
4.	Barabanki	32998	3324
5.	Ballia	26584	1547
6.	Banda	15779	1051
7.	Chitrakoot	5974	468
8.	Bahraich	21513	0
9.	Shrawasti	2418	0
10.	Basti	15264	1033
11.	Sant Kabir Nagar	5738	733
12.	Siddarth Nagar	10117	1040
13.	Deoria	21404	6062
14.	Kushi Nagar	15272	5840
15.	Etawah and	30955	65
16.	Auraiya		
17.	Farrukhabad	24755	2121
18.	Kannauj	14609	1683
19.	Fatehpur	19932	1555
20.	Faizabad and	44170	4489
21.	Ambedkar Nagar		
22.	Balrampur	8228	1618
23.	Gonda	22594	1840
24.	Gorakhpur	74784	3061
25.	Maharajganj	11767	801
26.	Ghazipur	19062	5851
27.	Hardoi	22756	1957
28.	Hamirpur	13986	155
29.	Mahoba	6010	122
30.	Jhansi	43134	172

1	2	3	4
31.	Lalitpur	9569	30
32.	Jaunpur	34173	11423
33.	Kanpur	184999	1672
34.	Kanpur Dehat	11476	1352
35.	Lakhimpur	31812	924
36.	Lucknow	244557	3669
37.	Mau	32714	594
38.	Mainpuri	26540	2643
39.	Mirzapur	25653	1314
40.	Sonebhadra	24731	1470
41.	Jalaun	20416	1606
42.	Pratapgarh	25208	2426
43.	Rai Bareilly	29758	1104
44.	Shahjahanpur	30142	1038
45.	Sitapur	31984	2200
46.	Sultanpur	37107	4703
47.	Unnao	28701	1918
48.	Chandauli	13177	2390
49.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	18755	2410
50.	Varanasi	98652	3478
	Total	1647711	101729

Statement-III

District-wise No. of landline consumers and waiting list in U.P. (West) as on 31.07.04

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Consumers	Waiting list
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	116013	3733
2.	Firozabad	19314	1436
3.	Aliganj	51047	2229
4.	Hathras	15243	802
5.	Badaun	27898	78
6.	Bareilly	69046	1039
7.	Bijnore	62150	2379
8.	Bulandsahar	50346	10782
9.	Etah	27655	3722
10.	GB Nagar	108952	254
11.	Ghaziabad	195042	4518
12.	Mathura	59148	922
13.	Meerut	100654	3809
14.	Baghpat	22394	1971
15.	Moradabad	72297	145
16.	J.P. Nagar	22019	163
17.	Muzaffarnagar	80958	3380
18.	Pilibhit	17440	139
19.	Rampur	31001	167
20.	Saharanpur	74373	4830
	Total	1222990	46498

Dereserved Items in SSI Sector

2990. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has dereserved more items from the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details and the impact of the said move on the growth of SSI;

(c) whether there is inordinate delay in releasing credit by Banks to SSI units; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to release the sanctioned credit to the SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In the Union Budget for 2004-2005 presented in Parliament on 8th July, 2004, the Government has proposed dereservation of 85 items. As per the procedure, items to be reserved are identified in consultation with the stakeholders.

Dereservation of certain items has been done over the years after consulting the stakeholders so as to allow greater opportunities to the SSIs for technological upgradation, promotion of exports and achieving economies of scale.

(c) and (d) Cases of delay in release of credit to the SSI sector have come to the notice of the Government. The matter has been reviewed and a time-frame has been fixed for disposal of loan applications by the banks, which is a maximum of 2 weeks for loans upto Rs. 25,000 and 4 weeks for loans upto Rs. 5 lakh provided the loan applications are complete in all respects and accompanied by a check list. The Reserve Bank of India has instructed the banks to adhere to these norms.

[Translation]

Faulty Telephone Service in Maharashtra

2991. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of incidents of frequent telephone disorder has increased in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether quick action is not being taken in regard to the complaints despite repeated requests;

(c) whether there is any special cell for filing complaints in case the breakdown of telephone service is not restored within two or three days;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of subscribers of the landline telephone service are opting for disconnection due to unsatisfactory service being provided by the M.T.N.L. and V.S.N.L.;

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to keep a separate record for not taking any action in regard to the complaints within two or three days and to punish the officials found guilty; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In case of delay in restoration of faults, the subscriber can approach to field officers and other senior officers at Head office. Also a Toll Free No. 1094 is functioning in Maharashtra Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) at circle level for this purpose.

(e) Yes, Sir. Some land line telephones have been disconnected due to unsatisfactory service also. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) does not provide landline telephone service.

(f) and (g) Faults pending for more than two to three days are monitored by senior officers and remedial action taken. Action is also taken against erring officials found guilty of delay in restoration.

[English]

Ban on Recruitment

2992. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-filling up of vacant vacancies and abolition of 2/3 direct recruitment of vacancies exist in various Central Government Departments;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to withdraw these measures in view of the rising unemployment of the educated youth in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposed to make right of employment as a fundamental right;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) As per DOPT O.M. dated 16.5.2001, while 2/3 direct recruitment vacancies are to be abolished in various Central Government Departments, the remaining 1/3 vacancies can still be filled up.

(b) No, Sir, so far there is no proposal in the Government to withdraw these measures.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) Mainly on account of resource constraints.

[Translation]

Growth Rate in Telecome Sector

2993. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether the annual growth rate in the telecommunication sector has increased constantly during the previous year;

(b) if so, the average annual growth rate during the last three years;

(c) whether the annual growth rate has been minimum in various States of the country;

(d) if so, the States in which annual growth rate has been maximum; and

(e) the States where annual growth rate has been minimum and the growth rate estimated in the backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam?

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

(b) The Average growth rate of telephone connections in whole country during the last three years is 28.52%.

(c) There are certain States where the growth rate has been lesser than the average growth rate of country.

(d) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced highest annual growth rate are Punjab, Delhi and Mumbai.

(e) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced lowest growth rate are Assam, Andaman and Nicobar and North East-I & II.

Government owned PSU-BSNL has planned to provide 4.38 lakh, 9.5 lakh, 2.14 lakh, 0.1 lakh, 1.17 lakh and 0.23 lakh telephone connections in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar, North East-I and North East-II respectively in year 2004-05. In addition, Private Operators would also provide telephone connections in these States which is expected to enhance the growth rate in these States.

[English]

Dental Medical Colleges/Hospitals

2994. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of Dental Hospitals in the country, State-wise;

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Government to provide facilities to dental patients in the Government Hospitals;

(d) whether the Government has plan to establish more Dental Medical Colleges and Hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, Central Government is not maintaining any data on availability of hospitals in the country. However, Central Government have been permitting establishment of new

medical and dental colleges under the provisions of IMC Act and Dentists Act. Each and every medical college is to have its own hospital for training of students. However, in case of dental colleges attachment of other hospital is permissible under the Regulations framed under the Dentists Act. State-wise number of medical & dental colleges in the country is given in statement.

(c) Health being a State subject it is for the State Government concerned to provide health care facilities including dental care, to the people as per their need.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no such plan. However, the Central Government has been permitting establishment of new dental colleges under the provisions of the Dentists Act and the Regulations made thereunder. Those who fulfil the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations can seek the permission of the Central Government.

Statement

State-wise number of Medical and Dental colleges in the Country as on 16.8.2004

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Medical Colleges	Number of Dental Colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	16
2.	Assam	3	1
3.	Bihar	8	7
4.	Chandigarh	1	–
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	2
6.	Delhi	5	1
7.	Goa	1	1
8.	Gujarat	14	5
9.	Haryana	3	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	5
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1
12.	Jharkhand	3	–
13.	Karnataka	31	42
14.	Kerala	14	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	6
16.	Maharashtra	38	23
17.	Manipur	1	–
18.	Orissa	3	2
19.	Pondicherry	5	1
20.	Punjab	6	11
21.	Rajasthan	8	8
22.	Sikkim	1	–
23.	Tamilnadu	19	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12	20
25.	Uttaranchal	2	1
26.	West Bengal	9	3
	Total	229	187

Bye-Passes on National Highways in Kerala

2995. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for early construction of Bye-passes on National Highways in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala vide letter dated 20.7.2004 has submitted a proposal for construction of 11 bye-passes on National Highways in Kerala. The details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Bypass	NH No.	Total Length (km)	Status
1.	Kozhikode Bypass	17	26.124	Land acquistion completed. Construction completed in 7.254 km and in progress in another 6.37 km
2.	Kollam Bypass	47	13.14	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 4.78 km
3.	Alappuzha Bypass	47	7.58	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 3.73 km and in progress in balance portion
4.	Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyatinkara Bypass	47	44.253	Land acquisition completed in 25.90 km and in progress in 5.47 km. Construction completed in 22.633 km
5.	Thalassery-Mahe Bypass	17	18.03	Land acquisition completed in 9.142 km. Construction not taken up
6.	Koilandy deviation Bypass	17	11.213	Land acquisition completed. Construction not taken up
7.	Thripunithra Bypass	49	9.00	Land acquisition in 3.75 km in progress. Construction not taken up
8.	Muvattupuzha Bypass	49	4.58	Not taken up
9.	Kothamangalam Bypass	49	3.15	Not taken up
10.	Aattingal Bypass	47	—	Not taken up
11.	Kodungallur Bypass	17	—	Not taken up

Reopening of Passport Office in Amritsar

2996. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received about reopening of passport office in Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. The representations have been received from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Avtar Henry, Minister in Punjab Government for the reopening of Passport Application Collection Centre at Amritsar.

(c) Although the Passport Application Collection Centre has been closed, the District Passport Cell in Amritsar is fully functional. The details are given in the statement.

Statement

There is no Passport Office in Amritsar. However, a Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC), which is

manned by staff deputed from the Passport Office, Jalandhar, was functioning in Amritsar for the past nine years. The PACC in Amritsar was opened in June 1995. However, it was closed in July 2004 since the District Passport Cell (DPC) had already been set up at Amritsar as part of the decentralisation scheme for the receipt of passport applications at the District level introduced in various States in 2002 as per the recommendations made by the Committee for Review of the Passport Issuance System in 2001. Under the Decentralisation Scheme, passport applications are received at district headquarters in the DPCs set up in the office of the District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police as per discretion/decision of the State Government. The idea behind decentralisation scheme was to take the passport services closer to the doorsteps of passport seeking public who do not have to travel long distances to visit the Passport Offices to deposit their applications. Instead the applicants can deposit their applications in their own districts.

2. The PACCs were set up several years back with a view to providing some passport services to cover the areas from where a substantial number of Passport applications were received yet they did not merit opening a full-fledged Passport Office. There are 15 PACCs all over India compared more than 400 DPCs which have been set up since 2002 covering more than 50% districts all over India.

3. The PACCs receive the passport applications and forward the same to the Passport Offices concerned under whose jurisdiction they function. The Passport Offices send the requests for police verification in respect of the applicant and after receipt of the same they process the application and issue the passports. As against this, the DPCs receive the passport applications and after scrutinizing them and having the police verification in respect of applicant carried out, forward the applications to the concerned Passport Office for further processing and issuance of passports. Thus, in case of DPCs, the time in sending the requests for police verification and their receipt is eliminated which would lead to speedier issuance of passports.

4. As regards staffing of PACC and DPC, PACC at Amritsar was functioning with only one staff member who was deputed from Passport Office, Jalandhar. Compared to this, five staff members have been deputed by the district authorities to work in the DPC at Amritsar.

5. The closure of the PACCs was done on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. This was due to the reason that the DPC and PACC at Amritsar were functioning in the same premises in the office of Deputy Commissioner and consequently the district authorities were not able to popularise the DPC scheme.

6. The DPC scheme has been quite successful in Punjab and almost 21% applications have been received through DPCs in 2003.

7. With the popularization of the District Passport Cells, PACCs have become redundant. The decision to close a PACC is not a sudden decision. It is carried out only in those cases where the DPC is fully functional as an alternative option. Infact, in most cases where the PACCs were closed, they were done so only after the DPC was operational and well-established. The PACCs at three other locations have also been closed in pursuance of the above policy.

8. The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs has emphasised that the Decentralisation Scheme should be encouraged and enough publicity should be given to the DPCs. The Deputy Commissioner Amritsar has given wide publicity to increase awareness of the DPC among the public. Necessary instructions have been given to PO, Jalandhar to closely monitor the working of the DPC, Amritsar.

9. As part of Decentralisation Scheme, the Government disburses an amount of Rs. 200 to State Governments for each application received, processed and forwarded along with Policy Verification Reports (PVRs) to Passport Offices through District Passport Cells.

[Translation]

Special Cell for PMRY

2997. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate or special cell is operational to supervise the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojaha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PMRY has been reviewed recently;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved under this scheme;

(e) whether any suggestions have been received for modifications in the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries is monitoring the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) at the Central Level.

(c) Yes, Sir Secretary (SSI & ARI) reviewed the implementation of the Scheme on 10th March, 2004 and on 28th May, 2004.

(d) As per the latest reports received from the Reserve Bank of India for the period from 1993-94 to 2003-04, loans have been disbursed to 19.70 lakh educated unemployed youth against target of 22.40 lakh, generating employment for an estimated 29.55 lakh persons.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Some of the parameters of the Scheme like activities covered, relaxation in age, educational qualification, family income, constitution of Task Force at Block/Mandal level etc. have been modified based on the feedback received from the implementing agencies and recommendations contained in the 'Evaluation Studies' on the PMRY.

[English]

Extradition of 1993 Bomb Blasts Accused

2998. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has received a shot in the arm in the extradition of 1993-Mumbai bomb blasts accused Abu Salem and Monica Bedi from Portugal;

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

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to get them extradited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) In the extradition case of Abu Salem and Monica Bedi, the CBI achieved success to the extent the High Court of Portugal passed orders of extradition in the case of Abu Salem on 14.7.2004 and Manica Bedi on 26.11.2003. But both the accused had appealed against the extradition orders in the Supreme Court of Portugal. The matter is subjudice. The CBI is pursuing the extradition cases in the Supreme Court of Portugal.

Blacklisted CGHS Chemists

2999. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some authorized chemists of CGHS have been blacklisted in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations/complaints where some senior officials of Ministry of Health connived with blacklisted chemists and supplied medicines to CGHS dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, M/s. Rishab Enterprises, New Delhi and M/s. Oberoi Medical & General Stores, Karol Bagh were blacklisted during the year 2002.

(c) to (e) A complaint has been received that the names of the partners in M/s Bantham is similar to the names of partners in M/s Rishab Enterprises (who stands blacklisted). Director, CGHS has been asked to furnish a report on the said complaint within one month.

[Translation]

Toll Tax

3000. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) the number of places throughout the country where toll tax is being charged on the National Highways at present;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount collected as toll tax from the National Highways so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The users' fee (toll) is collected on 23 sections of the National Highways. The details in respect of bridges and other projects are being collected.

(c) The total amount of users' fee (toll) collected by the Government of India so far since 1976-77 till July, 2004 is Rs 892.39 Crore. In addition, National Highways Authority of India has collected Rs 966.66 Crore as Users' fees up to June, 2004, on the National Highways entrusted to them.

[English]

Progress of Harihar-Belagum Bye-Pass

3001. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four/six laning of NH-4 (Harihar-Belagum Bye-pass from 282-515 kms.) in Karnataka, NHAI, Piu-Dharwad is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work is going on as per schedule and likely to be completed in stipulated time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The works of four/six laning of NH-4 (Harihar-Belagum Bye-pass from km. 282-km. 515) have been awarded in four packages of length varying from 18 to 64 Kms at a cost of Rs. 687.05 crore. The target for substantial completion is by December 2004. There are some delays due to delay in land acquisitions, non-availability of aggregates, delay in approval of ROB drawings from Railways.

Telephone Connections under Discretionary Quota

3002. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from Andhra Pradesh for telephone connections under the discretionary quota as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections provided so far, district-wise;

(c) the number of applications lying pending, district-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, the district-wise details of applications received from Andhra Pradesh for telephone connections under discretionary quota from 1.1.2002 to 31.7.2004, the number of connections provided so far and the applications lying pending are given in statement.

(d) The connections are pending due to areas being technically non-feasible.

(e) The remaining applications are likely to be cleared by 31.12.2004 progressively.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Application received	Connections Provided so far	Application pending as on date	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Adilabad	50	50	0	
2.	Ananthapur	29	19	0	10 sanctions cancelled.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chittoor	185	170	1*	14 sanctions cancelled.
4.	Cuddapah	31	30	0	1 sanction cancelled.
5.	East Godavari	32	16	0	16 sanctions cancelled.
6.	Guntur	292	278	0	14 sanctions cancelled.
7.	Hyderabad Rangareddy	252	236	0	16 sanctions cancelled.
8.	Karimnagar	80	79	0	1 sanction cancelled.
9.	Khammam	52	44	0	8 sanctions cancelled.
10.	Krishna	423	406	0	17 sanctions cancelled.
11.	Kurnool	2	2	0	
12.	Mahaboobnagar	10	10	0	
13.	Medak	262	217	37*	8 sanctions cancelled.
14.	Nalgonda	9	6	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
15.	Nellore	149	135	0	14 sanctions cancelled.
16.	Nizamabad	143	116	0	27 sanctions cancelled.
17.	Prakasham	266	242	0	24 sanctions cancelled.
18.	Srikakulam	405	358	0	47 sanctions cancelled.
19.	Visakhapatnam	28	28	0	
20.	Vizianagram	34	31	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
21.	Warangal	40	37	0	3 sanctions cancelled.
22.	West Godavari	38	37	0	1 sanction cancelled.

*These are sanctioned during 2004.

Problems of Khadi and Village Industries

3003. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has stopped Budgetary support grants, interest free loans and rebate to Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Kahdi and Village Industries is now facing a serious crisis resulting in closure of units and massive unemployment;

(d) whether the Government is considering any new policy to revive and revitalise the Khadi and Village Industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As far as Budgetary support grants and Rebate are concerned, these continue as usual. However, allocation under loan heads has been reduced. Upto 1995, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) used to provide interest free loans for financing Khadi Programme and loans at the rate of 4 percent for financing village

industries programme. However, with the expansion of Khadi and Village Industries Programme, arrangements for mobilization of institutional finance were made under Interest Subsidy Eligibility Scheme (ISEC). Under this scheme, Khadi institutions as well as V.I. institutions/State Boards were issued Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate entitling them to bear interest @ 4% while the difference between the actual rate of interest charged by the bank and 4% is borne by KVIC as Interest Subsidy. The objective behind this effort was to augment flow of institutional finance. With the Implementation of Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), entrepreneurs are provided assistance in the form of margin money, which is a one time grant and the required loans are provided by banks. ISEC, however, continues for Khadi institutions.

(c) No, Sir. With the support to Khadi and Village Industries sector through Rebate, Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), the production and employment has been increasing over the past three years. The production and Employment during the last three years is shown below :

(Value: Rs. in Crores and Emp. in lakh persons)

Year	Production				Employment		
	Khadi		V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
	Quantity (Mill. Sq. Mtrs.)	Value	Value	Value			
2001-02	58.90	416.69	7140.52	7557.21	8.48	54.16	62.64
2002-03	62.03	443.07	8126.30	8569.37	8.58	57.87	66.45
2003-04 (P)	63.27	451.93	9263.98	9715.91	8.61	62.57	71.18

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has identified certain important areas for promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in the country. The NCMP, *inter alia*, states that there would be a revamp of the functioning of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and new programmes would be launched for the modernization of traditional industries like coir, pottery, cottage industries. In view of this, the Government has proposed to set up a fund for the regeneration of traditional industries like coir, handloom, handicrafts, etc. A fund, with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crores has been set up. The details, including mechanism for utilization of the fund are being worked out in consultation with the Administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned.

[Translation]

Permission for Treatment under Specialist Doctors

3004. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beneficiaries of Central Government Health Scheme who are undergoing treatment for chronic diseases under the observation of a specialist doctor in a referral Government Hospital for a long time have to take permission of their respective CGHS dispensary, every time, for continuing their treatment after a specified period of treatment by Specialist doctor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the regular treatment of specialist doctor cannot be changed or stopped against the will of the patient unless the specialist himself feels that further treatment is not needed; and

(d) if so, the reasons for compelling the patients to go, through such complex process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) CGHS beneficiaries who are already taking specialised treatment in a referral Govt. Hospital are not required to take permission of the CGHS dispensary for continuing their treatment in the Govt. Hospital. As medicines are issued to the beneficiaries only on the basis of valid prescriptions, the CGHS beneficiaries are advised to obtain fresh opinion/

renewal of their prescription from the treating Govt. specialist after completion of the duration for which the earlier treatment had been advised by the Govt. doctor.

(c) and (d) Specialised medical treatment of the CGHS beneficiary is based only on the advice of the Govt. specialist doctor. The Government Specialist periodically reviews the patient and based on the clinical condition, the specialist may advise changes in the prescription/course of treatment which is in the overall interest of the health of the patient. However, there is no compulsion for the CGHS beneficiaries to take the advice of the Govt. specialist doctor.

[English]

Bridges on NH in Karnataka

3005. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the bridges which are in poor condition on National Highways in Karnataka;

(b) the names of the bridges which have not been undertaken for repair so far;

(c) the year-wise plan of reconstruction of these bridges undertaken during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the names of such damaged bridges which have been reconstructed/repaired so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) All the bridges on National Highways in Karnataka are being kept in traffic worthy condition. However, there are some narrow & old bridges, which are being rehabilitated/reconstructed in a phased manner. The list of bridges proposed to be reconstructed/ widened/rehabilitated during the Annual Plan 2004-05 is given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) List of bridges sanctioned during the last three years and till date is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	NH No.	Names of Bridges included in the Annual Plan 2004-05
1	2	3
MAJOR BRIDGE		
Reconstruction/Widening		
1.	207	Bridge at km 17 & 103
Rehabilitation		
2.	17	Sharavati Bridge
3.	17	Kali Bridge at km 102.5
4.	63	Bridge at km 312
5.	48	Bridge at Sakeleshpur
MINOR BRIDGE		
Reconstruction/Widening		
6.	13	Bridge at km 42/1, 52/1, 64/1, 65/1, 34/1, 72/1, 85/1, 118/2, 122/1 and 168/1
7.	13	Bridge at km 426.00 and 448.00
8.	13	Bridge at km 503.10 and 522.30
9.	17	Bridge at km 107.00, 135.65, 141.44 and 164.80

1	2	3
10.	17	Bridge at km 167.4, 171.2, 173 and 178.5
11.	9	Bridge at Km 415/1
12.	48	Bridge at km 309/0
13.	63	Flyover bridge at km 182 near Holkote
14.	63	Bridge at km 191.60 and 193.950
15.	63	Bridge at km 196/1 and 198/1
16.	63	Bridge at km 361/25 and 366/05
17.	207	Bridge at km 104/05 and 58/862
18.	207	Bridge at km 66/4 and 70/3
19.	207	Bridge at km 126/7 and 135/75
20.	209	Bridge at km 299/1, 247/1, 301/3 and 306/1
21.	209	Bridge at km 364 and 366
22.	209	Bridge at km 400/3, 417/2 and 421/2
23.	209	Bridge at km 379/1, 394/1 and 400/3
24.	212	Bridge at km 173/2 and 167/2
25.	63	Bridge at km 205/1
26.	13	Bridge at km 714
27.	13	Bridge at km 115/1
28.	4 MKB	Bridge at km 250, 308, 309 and 315
29.	4 MKB	Bridge at km 256/1, 256/2, 251/1, 270/1 and 272/1
30.	218	Bridge at km 8, 9 and 10
31.	218	Bridge at km 129, 132 and 139

Statement-II

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of sanctioned bridge	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
2001-02			
1.	206	Mavinahalla Bridge at km. 341	84.65
2.	13	Tripple Box Cell bridge at Km. 133/2-4	29.02
3.	218	Minor bridge at Km. 5/700, 18/500 and 20/500	83.68
4.	206	Bridge at Km. 48.50	74.64

1	2	3	4
5.	9	Bridges No. 354/1, 357/1, 372/1, 374/1, 386/1 & 396/1	85.07
6.	48	Special repair of bridge Hemavati river at Km. 223	6.00
7.	209	Special repair of bridge at Km. 274	12.66
8.	218	Minor bridge at Km. 112	23.79
9.	17	Special repair of Kulur bridge at Km. 368.54 and 368/60	20.56
10.	48	Special repair of Nethravathi bridge at Km 327	12.17
2002-03			
1.	63	Bridge at Km. 349.10	155.02
2.	17	Tripple Box Cell bridges at Km. 189.15, 189.24, 189.3 and 189.45.	132.24
3.	17	Mavinahole bridge at Km. 99.143	11.83
4.	206	Tripple Box Cell bridges at Km. 336	36.83
5.	63	Minor bridge at Km 134 & 140	94.85
6.	13	Bridge at Km. 431.175	46.88
7.	13	Minor bridge at Km 482.400	90.37
8.	17	Bridge at Km. 241 to 350	160.00
9.	13	Don bridge at Km. 109/5	271.53
2003-04			
1.	13	Bridge at Km. 497.800	185.24
2.	63	Bridge at Km. 189.600	57.12
3.	209	Bridge at Km. 415.08	34.96
4.	17	Single Box Cell bridge near Betkuli	144.25
5.	17	Minor bridge No. 219/2	17.16
6.	63	Minor bridge No. 10/3, 11/3 and 12/3	61.78
7.	13	Tripple Box Cell bridge at Km. 171.50	98.98
2004-05			
1.	63	Minor bridge at Km. 197.830	42.72
2.	209	Minor bridge at Km. 363/780 & 365/395	74.12
3.	209	Minor bridge at Km. 420.100	37.07
4.	48	Bridge at Km. 308.87	115.71
5.	13	Bridge No. 34/1 & 42/1	53.86

Revision of Call Rate/Pulse Rate

3006. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has revised the call rate and pulse-rate and launched three additional basic plans for ISDN customers with effect from January 1, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the new tariff and the plans; and

(c) the manner in which the revised rates compare with those charged by private operators?

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

(b) The details are given the Statement enclosed.

(c) Tariffs are competitive and based on market perception.

Statement

ISDN TARIFF

ISDN Terminals	Plan-1	Plan-2	Plan-3	Plan-4
1	2	3	4	5
Installation and testing charges for ISDN terminals will not be levied in case \such equipment is purchased and installed by the subscriber on its own**				
Ordinary ISDN Phone	Rs. 275/-(one time charge)	Rs. 275/-(one time charge)	Rs. 275/-(one time charge)	Rs. 275/- (one time charge)
ISDN PC Card	Rs. 400/- (one time charge)	Rs. 400/-(one time charge)	Rs. 400/-(one time charge)	Rs. 400/-(one time charge)
ISDN Feature Phone	Rs.550/-(one time charge)	Rs.550/- (one time charge)	Rs. 550/-(one time charge)	Rs. 550/- (one time charge)
Terminal Adopter	Rs. 475/-(one time charge)	Rs. 475/-(one time charge)	Rs. 475/-(one time charge)	Rs. 475/- (one time charge)
ISDN PBX per port	Rs. 800/-(one time charge)	Rs. 800/-(one time charge)	Rs. 800/-(one time charge)	Rs.800/- (one time charge)
G4 Fax Terminal	Rs. 6000/- (one time charge)	Rs. 6000/- (one time charge)	Rs.6000/- (one time charge)	Rs.6000/- (one time charge)
Videophone	Rs. 1350/- (one time charge)	Rs. 1350/- (one time charge)	Rs. 1350/- (one time charge)	Rs.1350/- (one time charge)
Monthly Rental for ISDN Equipment (optional)				
Note: These Rates for monthly rental for individual ISDN equipment are valid only if the equipment is hired from BSNL.				

1	2	3	4	5
Ordinary ISDN Phone	Rs. 550/- per month	Rs. 550/- per month	Rs.550/- per month	Rs.550/- per month
Registration fee (ISDN BRA)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Initial deposit	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 5000/-
The one time NT charges (will be payable by the subscriber at the time of booking)	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 2000/-
Monthly Rental for Access for BRA	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 3300/-
Usage Charges				
Monthly free calls	60	Nil	1200	3600
Unit call charges beyond free calls	61-300 Rs. 0.80 above 300 Rs. 1.20	Rs. 1.10	Rs.1.10	Rs.1.00
Installation and Testing Charges				
Wiring Charges upto NTI for Basic Rate Access (BRA) In cases Subscriber provides on its own the initial wiring, a further rebate of Rs. 250/- will be admissible in case of PSTN DELs.**	Rs. 300/-** (One time charge)	Rs.300/-** (One time charge)	Rs.300/-** (One time charge)	Rs.300/-** (One time charge)
Subscriber Interface Bus	Rs. 500/-(one time charge)	Rs.500/-(one time charge)	Rs. 500/-(one time charge)	Rs. 500/-(one time charge)
ISDN PC Card	Rs. 800 per month	Rs. 800 per month	Rs.800 per month	Rs. 800 per month
ISDN Feature Phone	Rs.1100/- per month	Rs.1100/- per month	Rs.1100/-per month	Rs. 1100/-per month
Terminal Adopter	Rs. 950/- per month	Rs. 950/- per month	Rs. 950/- per month	950/- per month
ISDN PBX per port	Rs. 1600/- per month	Rs. 1600/- per month	Rs. 1600/- per month	Rs. 1600/- per month
G4 Fax Terminal	Rs. 12000/- per month	Rs.12000/- per month	Rs.12000/- per month	Rs.12000/- per month
Videophone	Rs. 2700/- per month	Rs. 2700/- per month	Rs. 2700/- per month	Rs.2700- per month
All Phone plus services (Value added services) as technically available in the ISDN line services will be given free of cost.				

[English]

Expenditure on Treatment of Fatal Diseases

3007. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of fatal diseases and the diseases-wise estimated expenditure of medical treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) the names of the Government agencies providing grants for the treatment of common people infected by such diseases and the conditions of eligibility for grants and the procedure thereof; and

(c) the details of grants provided for the treatment of these diseases to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other Government medical centers, State-wise during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information received from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, it attends to all type of patients in the OPD/emergency and speciality clinics, being a super speciality referral hospital. A large number of seriously ill patients report to the hospital. No disease-wise expenditure incurred is maintained in the institute.

(b) and (c) There are two schemes under which financial assistance is provided to poorer sections as under:-

(1) Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

Under this scheme financial assistance is granted to the poor and the needy patients to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases. The diseases for which grants are sanctioned are heart ailments, kideny transplant, hip & knee replacement, cancer, AIDS, hepatitis, eye, tumour, etc. The grant is sanctioned as a one time grant and is released to Medical Superintendent of the hospital where patient is taking treatment upto a maximum of Rs. 20,000/-.

(2) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the patients living below poverty line suffering from major life threatening diseases to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality hospitals/institutes or other government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of one time grant to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being taken. An advance of Rs. 10 lakhs has been kept with the Medical Superintendents of AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC & Smt. S. K. Hospital, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh JIPMER, Pondicherry, NIMHANS, Bangalore, CNCI, Kolkata, SGPGIMS Lucknow, Gandhiji Memorial & Associated Hospitals (KGMC), Lucknow and CIP, Ranchi to enable sanction of an amount upto Rs. 50,000/- in each deserving case reporting for treatment in the respective hospital/institute.

In addition, Central Government gives 50% contribution to the State Govts. for their State Illness Fund subject to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 crores in respect of largest States and Rs. 2.00 crores in respect of other States.

The detail of the Revolving fund to the hospital/ institute for the year 2003-04 is as under:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
NIMHANS, Bangalore	30.00
AIIMS, New Delhi	40.00
CNCI, Kolkata	8.00
JIPMER, Pondicherry	8.00

[English]

Recognised Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

3008. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the private hospitals/nursing homes recognized by the Government for treatment of its employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that these hospitals have been found to be involved in fraudulent practices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these hospitals have been blacklisted by the CGHS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Department of Health have issued various O.Ms recognising nearly 700 private hospitals/diagnostic centres under CGHS in 18 CGHS-covered cities. These O.Ms have already been circulated to the various Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India.

(b) and (c) There have been some complaints relating to the hospital bill of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS Hyderabad and the CBI is investigating the matter. In respect of private hospitals in certain other CGHS cities, preliminary enquiry has been initiated. The details of irregularities found in some of the CGHS recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres are given at statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

List of Hospitals/diagnostic centres where irregularities found

S.No.	Name of the Hospital/ diagnostic Centre	Action Taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4
		Hyderabad	
1.	Aware Hospital	Referral of CGHS beneficiaries stopped to this Hospital and show cause notice issued	
2.	Shravan Hospital	-do-	
3.	Smt. Bhagwan Devi Hospitals	-do-	
4.	Konark Diagnostic Centre	-do-	
5.	Medicity Hospital	Referral of CGHS beneficiaries stopped to this Hospital	As per Hon'ble High Court Order dated 21.1.04 operation of order of stoppage of referral has been suspended.
6.	Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital	-do-	-do-
7.	CDR Hospital	-do-	-do-
8.	Apollo Hospital	-do-	-do-
9.	M/s Hyderabad Nursing Home	Show cause notice as to why the hospital should not be de-recognised was issued.	
10.	Kailash Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Centre	-do-	
11.	M/s Kaminani Hospital	-do-	
12.	M/s Nikhil Multi Speciality Hospital	-do-	
13.	M/s Medwin Hospital	-do-	

1	2	3	4
		Meerut	
1.	The Yashlok Hospital & Nursing Home	Referral of CGHS beneficiaries stopped and show cause notice issued	
2.	Tulsi Hospital	-do-	
3.	Madhu Nursing Home	-do-	
		Pune	
1.	N.M. Wadia Hospital	Referral of CGHS beneficiaries stopped and show cause notice issued	
2.	Grant medical Foundation Ruby Hall Clinic	-do-	
3.	Poona Hospital and Research Centre	-do-	After review referral of CGHS beneficiaries has been restored
4.	Deendayal Memorial Hospital	-do-	-do-

Shortage of Cables

3009. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the severe shortage of cables and some other materials for installation of new telephone connections by BSNL in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Due to litigation in the cable tender for 2003-2004, there was delay in the finalization of cable tender and allotment of cable to circles. After finalization of cable tender 94.992 LCKM of PIJF cable was ordered and allotted to various circles in March, 2004 which is being supplied progressively, and likely to be completed by October, 2004.

(c) During 2004-2005 BSNL is in process of procurement of 25.008 LCKM of PIJF cable.

Accident of Saras

3010. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saras met with an accident during its a test flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to this accident the 'Saras' project would be delayed; and

(d) if so, the time by which Saras will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Saras did not meet with an accident, but there was a minor incident during the third test flight on 19th July 2004.

(b) The Saras aircraft after touch down veered to one side of the runway and then to the other. One of the main wheels went off the runway before the aircraft was controlled and brought back on to the runway and stopped.

(c) and (d) After any incident, even minor, the aircraft has to be thoroughly examined for continued air-worthiness and the reason for the incident ascertained and remedial action to be taken to prevent its recurrence. All the requirements for commencing the flight testing have been completed. Following a few taxi trials, flight test is expected to resume in the third week of the August, 2004.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Centres

3011. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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-child welfare from various State Governments particularly from Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount allocated by the Union Government for the maintenance of the Family Welfare Centres during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(e) the amount spent by each State, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of Family Welfare Centres functioning in the rural areas of the country is 5435. However, the scheme of the Rural Family Welfare Centres has been transferred to State Governments w.e.f. 1.4.2004, in lieu of the Centre taking over the entire Sub-centres Scheme. The number of Rural and Urban Family Welfare Centres, at State-wise is at statement-I.

(b) and (c) No specific proposal has been received for opening of Family Welfare Centres for mother-child welfare.

(d) and (e) The details of the grant-in-aid released to various States for maintenance of Urban Family Welfare Centres and Rural Family Welfare Centres and expenditure reported by the States, have been given at statement-II & III respectively.

Statement-I

Family Welfare Centres functioning in the country

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Urban Family Welfare Centres	Rural Family Welfare Centres
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131	420
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	0
3.	Assam	10	146
4.	Bihar	26	587
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	0
6.	Goa	0	13
7.	Gujarat	113	251
8.	Haryana	19	93
9.	Himachal Pradesh	89	77
10.	Jharkhand	16	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	82
12.	Karnataka	87	269
13.	Kerala	0	163
14.	Madhya Pradesh	55	460
15.	Maharashtra	74	428
16.	Manipur	2	31
17.	Meghalaya	1	23
18.	Mizoram	1	14
19.	Nagaland	0	7
20.	Orissa	10	314
21.	Punjab	23	129
22.	Rajasthan	61	232
23.	Sikkim	1	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	65	383

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	9	35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	78	907
27.	Uttaranchal	3	0
28.	West Bengal	111	335
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0
33.	Delhi	69	8
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	12
36.	Central Sector	0	0
	Total	1083	5435

Statement-II

Release and expenditure under Urban Family Welfare Centres during 2001-2002 to 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Urban F.W. Centres					
		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Releases	Reported Expenditure	Releases	Reported Expenditure	Releases	Reported Expenditure
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	302.00	644.80	518.63	664.69	630.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	82.00	21.14	28.02		46.40	26.01
3.	Assam	100.00	100.54	56.00	115.96	59.20	105.50
4.	Bihar	85.15		134.13		185.00	
5.	Chhattisgarh	29.55		46.50		65.00	
6.	Goa						35.94
7.	Gujarat	354.00	409.02	536.52	831.31	725.00	
8.	Haryana	48.00	1.15	62.59	1.15	100.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	102.00	470.88	152.01	284.57	210.00	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.00	25.06	31.30	25.67	45.00	30.38
11.	Jharkhand	42.85		76.90		95.00	
12.	Karnataka	280.00	548.51	411.33	564.54	565.00	
13.	Kerala						

1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	175.45	480.28	158.16	614.87	355.00	596.40
15.	Maharashtra	205.00		308.50		425.00	
16.	Manipur	35.00	19.44	15.88	0.17	18.00	
17.	Meghalaya	21.00	7.54	7.88	6.98	8.80	6.16
18.	Mizoram	21.00	15.46	7.13	12.79	8.80	3.32
19.	Nagaland						
20.	Orissa	34.00		52.76		70.00	
21.	Punjab	74.00	76.81	30.00		145.00	71.28
22.	Rajasthan	157.00	437.83	241.43	465.24	330.00	488.05
23.	Sikkim	21.00	33.58	8.00	13.54	6.60	17.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	122.00		178.84		255.00	
25.	Tripura	70.00	3.31	36.00		35.00	6.19
26.	Uttar Pradesh	320.58		464.08		630.00	
27.	Uttaranchal	12.42	84.21	18.78	100.82	25.00	
28.	West Bengal	379.00	94.94	572.29	252.18	785.00	
29.	Delhi	350.00	576.52		175.00	365.69	161.85
30.	Pondicherry	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Grand Total	3445.00	4051.02	4153.66	4129.48	6188.49	154.46

Other States have not reported the Expenditure.

Statement-III

Releases and expenditure for Rural Family Welfare Centres during 2001-2002

Sl. No.	Name of States/UT	Rural F.W. Centres	
		Releases	Reported Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3135.00	6522.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam	2315.00	
4.	Bihar	2981.00	
5.	Chhatisgarh	1381.00	
6.	Goa	95.00	
7.	Gujarat	1875.00	
8.	Haryana	693.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	574.00	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	612.00	

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	1404.00	
12.	Karnataka	2008.00	3605.46
13.	Kerala	1216.00	5832.16
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2054.00	
15.	Maharashtra	3196.00	5183.65
16.	Manipur	492.00	
17.	Meghalaya	365.00	
18.	Mizoram	223.00	
19.	Nagaland	112.00	
20.	Orissa	2344.00	1832.08
21.	Punjab	962.00	982.18
22.	Rajasthan	1733.00	1342.00
23.	Sikkim	238.00	367.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	2860.00	3078.81
25.	Tripura	555.00	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6185.00	7032.36
27.	Uttaranchal	590.00	
28.	West Bengal	2502.00	4337.59
29.	Delhi	80.00	3.74
30.	Pondicherry	120.00	
	Total	42900.00	40115.19

Other States have not reported the expenditure

LTC by Air

3012. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind permiting Group A and B Government servants to travel on LTC by Air on Delhi-Srinagar sector when Srinagar is a violence prone area;

(b) whether Jammu is connected with important places in India with superfast trains;

(c) if so, the reasons for not restricting this facility only to Jammu-Srinagar sector;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend LTC facility to other sectors also by air; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) With a view to promote tourism in the Kashmir Valley, all Group A and Group B Government servants have been permitted to travel on LTC by Air Economy (Y) Class, in national Carrier between New Delhi and Srinagar for a period of 2 years, even when Jammu has good railway connectivity with major cities/town of India. The security arrangements made by the State Government for the safety of the tourists are available to the Central Government servants visiting Srinagar on LTC.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Telecom Services in Himachal Pradesh

3013. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom services is not functioning perfectly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of telecom services in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of complaints received in the State during the last one year and till date in various exchanges; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the telecom services in the State?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, telecom services in Himachal Pradesh are working satisfactorily. However, sometimes the services get affected due to inclement weather like land-sides, storms and cloud burst etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Targets are fixed every year regarding performance parameters like fault rate, fault clearance, call completion rate etc. and achievements in this regard are monitored on quarterly basis.

(e) total number of complaints received in all exchanges in Himachal Pradesh are-

(i) During year 2003-04 = 606097

(ii) From 1.4.2004 to 31.7.2004 = 206395

(f) The following steps are being taken to improve telecom services:—

— Conversion of all SBM switches into RSUs (Remote Switching Units) and 256 Port RAX into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges) progressively.

— Augmentation of transmission media and provision of transmission ring for better connectivity.

— Creation of poleless network.

— Fault booking at SDCC through IVRS.

[English]

Extradition Treaty between India and Portugal

3014. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Portugal have decided to enter into an extradition treaty between them;

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

(c) the time by when the treaty is likely to be signed; and

(d) the extent to which the said treaty will prove helpful in extraditing certain accused to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. The drafts of the proposed extradition treaty have been exchanged by both sides.

(c) Conclusion of an extradition treaty involves detailed negotiations on legal and procedural issues. These negotiations are yet to commence with Portugal, and hence, it would not be possible to indicate a specific time frame in this regard.

(d) The proposed treaty will provide a legal framework for seeking the extradition of fugitive offenders who are charged with extraditable offences.

Reduction in Annual Plan

3015. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have cut down their Annual Plan during the last three years alongwith the size of the cut stating original plan and the reduced amount;

(b) the reasons for reduction in the Annual Plan;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been reducing its Annual Plan during the last three years and the amount of Central Plan fund not utilised by the Government of Gujarat meant to implement the Annual Plan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount of Annual Plan not utilised by the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The names of the States which have cut down their Annual Plan during the last three years *i.e.*, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, including the size of the cut, original and Revised outlays are given in attached Statement-I, II, & III.

(b) The main reason for reduction in the size of the Plan is the inability of the States to mobilise resources as anticipated.

(c) The size of the Annual Plan of the State Government of Gujarat had been reduced from the originally approved outlays at the revision stage in the year 2001-02 and 2003-04. Central Plan funds are utilized for implementation of the Central Government Plan, and not for implementation of the Annual Plans of States.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Annual Plan Outlays of States for 2001-02

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan-2001-02		
		Originally Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Amount of reduction in Revised Outlays
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8,378.00	7,816.48	561.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	661.00	660.91	0.09
3.	Gujarat	7,267.85	6,500.00	767.85
4.	Haryana	2,150.00	1,814.17	335.83
5.	Karnataka	8,941.56	7,903.79	1037.77
6.	Kerala	3,015.00	2,260.00	755.00
7.	Manipur	520.00	352.68	167.32
8.	Meghalaya	487.00	472.82	14.18
9.	Orissa	3,000.00	2,300.00	700.00
10.	Rajasthan	5,031.00	4,642.35	388.65
11.	Tamil Nadu	6,040.00	5,200.00	840.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	8,400.00	4,872.77	3527.23
13.	West Bengal	7,186.13	5,693.31	1492.82
	Total	61077.54	50489.28	10588.26

Statement-II

Annual Plan Outlays of States for 2002-03

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Sates/UTs	Annual Plan-2002-03		
		Originally Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Amount of reduction in Revised Outlays
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10,100.00	8,553.19	1546.81
2.	Bihar	2,964.40	2,314.00	650.40
3.	Haryana	2,034.00	1,819.19	214.81

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Karnataka	8,610.61	8,420.63	189.98
5.	Kerala	4,026.00	3,425.00	601.00
6.	Meghalaya	545.00	480.43	64.57
7.	Orissa	3,100.00	2,550.00	550.00
8.	Rajasthan	5,160.00	4,370.78	789.22
9.	Uttar Pradesh	7,250.00	6,393.31	856.69
10.	West Bengal	6,307.00	3,682.50	2624.50
	Total	50097.01	42009.03	8087.98

Statement-III

Annual Plan Outlays of States for 2003-04

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan-2003-04		
		Originally Approval Outlay	Revised Outlay	Amount of reduction in Revised Outlay
1	2	3	4	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10,970.46	10,028.00	942.45
2.	Bihar	3,320.00	2,642.00	678.00
3.	Goa	649.99	619.20	30.94
4.	Gujarat	7,860.00	6,740.00	1120.00
5.	Haryana	2,068.00	1,850.00	218.00
6.	Kerala	4,430.00	3,796.23	633.77
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5,703.00	5,076.04	626.96
8.	Maharashtra	12.050.00	10,500.00	1550.00
9.	Meghalaya	555.00	536.00	16.65
10.	Nagaland	500.00	504.00	0.34
11.	Orissa	3,200.00	2,714.50	485.50
12.	Punjab	2,822.00	2,333.88	488.12

1	2	3	4	6
13.	Tripura	650.00	622.03	27.97
14.	Uttar Pradesh	7,728.00	7,257.72	470.28
15.	West Bengal	3,894.00	3,065.28	828.72
	Total	66400.45	58284.88	8117.71

Introduction of Post based Roster

3016. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has introduced post based roster in place of the vacant based roster with effect from 01.07.1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the norms prescribed by the Ministry in respect of all categories of posts;

(d) whether the Government proposes to withdraw DOPT circulars dated 02.07.1997 and 13.08.1997 regarding the rosters; and

(e) if so, the details and reasons therefor and the reasons for delay in this regard?

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

(b) To implement the Supreme Court judgement dated 10th February, 1995 in the case of R.K. Sabharwal versus State of Punjab.

(c) The norms for determining reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes have been given in the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Telephone Connections in Arunachal Pradesh

3017. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target set to provide telephones in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years and till date, district-wise/year-wise;

(b) the details of telephones provided in rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh during this period district-wise/year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Separate targets for provision of new connections in rural areas were not set. However, the overall targets set for the State of Arunachal Pradesh have been achieved. The wired line targets and achievements for Arunachal Pradesh for last three years are as under:

Year	Target	Achievement
2001-02	6300	8119
2002-03	4600	5474
2003-04	1400	3681

(b) The details of Telephone provided in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh for the last three years and till date, district-wise/year-wise are furnished statement enclosed.

(c) A total of 4500 lines capacity of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) has been installed in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh with 8 Nos. of BTS till now. Further MSC based WLL system of 7250 capacity is planned for

the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the current year.

During the current year 0.030 LCKM of cable has been allotted to Arunachal Pradesh to clear the waiting list.

With the above mentioned expansion Programme of WLL and with the allotted cable the telephone demand in the rural area of Arunachal Pradesh is likely to be covered.

Statement

Telephones provided in the Rural Areas of Arunachal Pradesh

S.No.	Name of Distt.	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	1.4.2004. to 1.7.2004
1.	Tawang	335	396	73	122
2.	West Kameng	430	188	333	49
3.	East Kameng	425	309	189	51
4.	Papumpare	513	248	109	0
5.	East Siang	261	64	31	1
6.	West Siang	586	170	160	0
7.	Upper Siang	20	141	356	53
8.	Upper Subansiri	364	207	227	2
9.	Lower Subansiri	457	228	443	65
10.	Lohit	442	960	110	28
11.	Dibang Valley	139	270	228	2
12.	Changlong	602	420	153	72
13.	Tirap	197	195	66	5
14.	Kurungkumey	51	20	10	6
	Total	4822	3819	2488	456

Protection of Small Scale Industries

3018. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to protect small scale industries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government with regard to imposition of excise duty upon some of goods which will affect the small scale sector;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up single window system to gear up the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units have been exempted from payment of excise duty upto first clearances of Rs. 1 crore, provided they do not avail the credit of duty paid on the inputs. In case, SSI units avail

such credit they have to pay excise duty at concessional; rate of 60% of normal duty on their first clearances of Rs. 1 crore.

(c) and (d) To enable the SSI borrowers to get both term loan and working capital through a Single Window, all the Public Sector banks have enhanced the Composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh. Many State Governments also have a Single Window System for expediting the process of clearance and approvals from various Departments/Boards/Corporations in implementation of projects.

[Translation]

Meghdoot Cards

3019. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose behind printing of 'Meghdoot Cards' by the Government and not distributing them by all post offices in the country;

(b) the number of ordinary and 'Meghdoot Cards' printed and distributed separately during the year 2003-2004;

(c) the reasons of the difference between these two cards and the reasons for not providing such cards in rural areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to check and rectify such unwanted system which goes against public interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Meghdoot Postcard is one of the premium products introduced by the Department of Posts in September, 2002. The distinctive feature of the Meghdoot postcard is that the space on the left half of the address side of the postcard is used as a media vehicle for carrying advertisements for marketing of products and services or propagation of messages by the advertisers in rural as well as urban areas.

The purpose of printing of Meghdoot Postcard is to generate additional revenue for the Department. The Department gets Rs. 2/- each Meghdoot Postcards because of the advertisement it carries (minimum order quantity is 1 lakh card). This enables the Department to sell Meghdoot Postcard at a lower price of Re. 0.25. Since advertising is always directed at some target audience, the advertiser can indicate the area of distribution of Meghdoot Postcards. Therefore, such cards are available mostly in the areas indicated by the advertisers. This may include rural areas also. Till now orders have been received from advertisers located in various States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and MP. The Department has succeeded in generating advertising revenue of Rs. 2.19 crore since introduction of this product in 2002.

(b) Ordinary Post Cards printed and distributed during the financial year 2003-04—2054.51 lakh.

Meghdoot Post Cards printed and distributed during the financial year 2003-04—70.35 lakh.

(c) Meghdoot Post Card carries a sponsored message or an advertisement on the left half of the address side of the postcard. Meghdoot Post Card is printed only on receipt of orders from advertisers. Their quality, therefore, is limited to the orders receive. The ordinary post card printed by the Department is as per annual forecast of the Department and is one of the traditional mail products of the Department of Posts.

The advertiser is allowed to indicate the area (s) of distribution of the Meghdoot Post Card (which May include rural areas) and, therefore, the availability of such cards is mostly in the areas indicated by the advertiser, whereas ordinary post cards are provided from Post Offices all over India.

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

Conversion of Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory

3020. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert the Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (CIPL), Ghaziabad into an autonomous body like Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPU);

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

(c) whether interests of employees working in CIPL are likely to suffer after it is converted into commission; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Formation of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and using the existing facilities of Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (CIPL), Ghaziabad for this purpose, is under consideration of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and no final decision has been taken as yet.

Loans for Integrated Disease Inspection Project

3021. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered to provide loan to India for integrated Diseases Inspection Project;

(b) if so, the amount of loan and the names of the diseases for which the loan has been sanctioned;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Diseases Inspection Unit; 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. A soft credit of US$ 68 million has been offered by International Development Association of the World Bank for Integrated Disease Surveillance Project proposed to be implemented during 2004-2009. The Project would undertake surveillance for Malaria, Typhoid, Cholera, Polio, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Measles, Plague and other unusual syndromes. The Project would also cover road traffic accidents, water and air quality and risk factors for non-communicable diseases including heart diseases, diabetes, cancers.

(c) and (d) The Project would be monitored by Central Disease Surveillance Committee and implemented by Central Disease Surveillance Unit under the Department of Health.

Accidents on NH-10

3022. SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of road accidents taking place at Fatehabad Road, Railway Crossing in Sirsa on NH-10 and the traffic rush on it;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct a bridge at this place;

(d) if so, by when the work is likely to be started and the time likely to be taken in its completion;

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(f) in case the Government is not considering such a proposal, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) It is proposed to constructed a rail over bridge at this place to check accident and traffic congestion.

(d) and (e) After approval of profile sketch by Railways, General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) is required to be prepared. State Government have been asked to submit the estimate for constancy for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). It is premature at this stage to indicate the date of start, time for completion and expenditure likely to be incurred on the project.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of National Highways

3023. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop Hazaribagh-Chatra-Via-Katkamsandi-Gidhaur and Barkatha to Koderma via Jainagar as National Highway; and

(b) if so, the time by when the work is likely to begin?

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

(b) Does not arise.

AIDS/HIV affected Children

3024. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
DR. P.P. KOYA:

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

(a) whether the children affected by HIV/AIDS in India are facing Discrimination as reported in the *Asian Age* dated August 3, 2004;

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

(c) the details of medical care given to AIDS/HIV affected children;

(d) the causes of children being affected by AIDS/HIV;

(e) whether there is any Government policy to help the AIDS/HIV affected children;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Human Rights Watch and other NGOs have given any suggestions to control the problem; and

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Sir, the Asian Age in its report dated 29th July, 2004, has reported that children are being turned away from schools, clinics and orphanages on account of their HIV status. It is a general observation possibly by a person contacted by the news reporter, without any specific detail of the school, clinic or orphanage, where this is happening.

The National AIDS Control Policy clearly envisages that there will be no stigma and discrimination with persons affected by HIV/AIDS NACO is implementing a Comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme in all the States and UTs in the country. Information as well as services for prevention, treatment, care and support are being widely disseminated.

(c) All AIDS cases including children below 15 years of age coming to the public sector hospitals are provided following services.

1. management of opportunistic infections at district hospitals and Sexually Transmitted Diseases at STI Clinics.
2. In all Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres, both the mother and the new born babies are provided single dose of Nevirapine for prevention of HIV transmission from infected mothers to new born babies.
3. Regular Antiretroviral Therapy for children eligible for Antiretroviral Therapy attending eight identified ART centres in the public sector hospitals.

(d) In the absence of any preventive intervention, there is a likelihood of HIV transmission from HIV infected mother to children to the extent of 30%. However children can also get HIV infection by infected blood transfusion, infected needles, syringes and sexual abuse.

(e) and (f) The Government of India HIV Policy clearly indicates the HIV positive children should not be discriminated at home, in the community, at school and other social gatherings. The community Care Centres established under the programme for people living with HIV/AIDS also provide holistic care for the HIV/AIDS affected children.

The street children are identified as one of the vulnerable groups and are given priority for inclusion under Targeted Intervention Projects implemented through voluntary organizations. 25 Targeted Interventions are currently providing services specially for street children in the different parts of the country;

(g) and (h) Other than above, there is no specific suggestions received by the Govt. of India from such organization on this issue.

[Translation]

Expansion of Health Services in AIIMS

3025. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the pending proposals for expansion of health services in AIIMS;

(b) the reasons for its pendency;

(c) whether a meeting of the committee on the matter would be held immediately to discuss the expansion proposal of health services in AIIMS;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the action proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for not convening the meeting of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Two projects, namely, Jai Prakash Trauma Centre at Raj Nagar land of AIIMS and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Indian Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS are in the process of completion. The buildings of the two projects are almost complete and required infrastructure facilities need to be added. There are some time and cost overruns in these projects for which necessary clearances are being taken. In addition to the above, one project for construction of a Centre for Dental Education and Research has been approved.

[English]

Delay in disbursing Retirement Pensionery dues

3026. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government from the employees of BSNL regarding facing of problems in getting their retirement pensionery dues at the time of retirement;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of officers and staff of BSNL and MTNL retired between January 1 and June 30, 2004 and the dates on which payments were made to them;

(d) whether the Government proposes to fix responsibility for the delay in the payment and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to all administrative delays to ensure timely payment to the retiring officials in future?

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

Upgradation of Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital

3027. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether a proposal for upgradation of Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital in Cama and J.J. Hospital, Mumbai, with Japan's grant-in-aid was submitted by Government of Maharashtra in 2002, in view of withdrawal of sanctions imposed by Japan in 1998;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has cleared the projects so as to pave the way for Japan to complete the projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Project for Improvement of Medical Services for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama and Albless Hospital, Mumbai was posed to Government of Japan in April, 1997. The total Project cost was 1380 million (Rs. 59 crores approx). A Basic Design Study on the Project was carried out by a Japanese Team in April, 1998. The Basic Design study Mission had finalized the list of equipment to be procured under the grant. However, before the project could be processed further, Government of Japan imposed economic measures against India following the Pokhran-II and the project was suspended.

With the economic measures lifted in October, 2001, Government of Japan indicated to resume the grant aid programme in 2003. A Basic Design Study was conducted by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in January-March 2003 for the Project. The Exchange of Notes for the project signifying its clearance was signed on 28.8.2003.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

3028. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the number of post offices functioning in the rural areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages in the said States where the post office facility has not been provided as yet; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to open post offices in such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices functioning in the rural areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra, district-wise are given in the Statement-I and II.

(b) The number of villages in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, in which post offices are not available are 9904 and 24,943 respectively. However, postal facilities for delivery, collection of mail and sale of stamps and postal stationery is provided to all villages.

(c) Post offices are opened in Gram panchayat villages, on their fulfilling of population, distance and financial norms, subject to availability of resources. The norms are given in statement-III.

Statement-I

District-wise information of Post Offices functioning in rural areas of Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of districts	Total number of rural Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	371
2.	Banaskantha	396
3.	Gandhinagar	99
4.	Mahesana	356
5.	Patan	241
6.	Sabarkantha	566
7.	Amreli	336
8.	Bhavnagar	367
9.	Jamnagar	340
10.	Junagadh	357
11.	Kutch	474
12	Porbandar	146
13.	Rajkot	448
14.	Surendranagar	312
15.	Anand	210
16.	Bharuch	378
17.	Dahod	286
18.	Dang	56
19.	Kheda	357
20.	Narmada	123
21.	Navsari	267
22.	Panchmahal	268
23.	Surat	578
24.	Vadodara	503
25.	Valsad	205
	Total	8190

Statement-II

District-wise information of Post Office functioning in rural areas of Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of district	Total number of rural Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Aurangabad	299
2.	Jalna	186
3.	Beed	308
4.	Dhule	243
5.	Nadurbar	193
6.	Nasik	596
7.	Nanded	439
8.	Parbhani	165
9.	Hingoli	118
10.	Latur	271
11.	Jalgaon	483
12.	Osmanabad	273
13.	Ratnagiri	661
14.	Kolhapur	509
15.	Sangli	385
16.	Sindhudurg	364
17.	Thane	347
18.	Raigad	402
19.	Mumbai	0
20.	Satara	624
21.	Solapur	482
22.	Ahmednagar	606
23.	Pune	614
24.	Akola	216
25.	Washim	159
26.	Amravati	417
27.	Buldana	335
28.	Bhandara	172
29.	Gondia	123
30.	Chandrapur	327
31.	Gadchiroli	198
32.	Nagpur	263
33.	Wardha	166
34.	Yeotmal	350
	Total	11294

Statement-III

Norms for opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2. Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can

be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 % of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is

Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Popularity of ISM

3029. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreigners are flocking to India for effective medical treatment as reported in the "Evening Dainik Anghad" dated July 10, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to make Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) more popular and attractive for foreigners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A substantial number of foreigners are coming to India to avail of quality medical treatment at a cost much lower than that of other countries of the World, particularly in the field of cardiology, cardiac surgery, joint replacement, ophthalmology, pathology and Indian Systems of Medicines etc.

(c) and (d) The National Health Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, 2002 inter-alia provides for creation of awareness about the strength of these systems within India and abroad. Accordingly, Government of India have introduced a Central Sector Scheme which provides for exchange of experts, incentive for participation of ISM drug manufactures in fairs/ exhibitions abroad, holding of international exhibitions and conference etc.

Opening of Post Offices

3030. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) the total number of post offices opened in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra during the last two years and till date, district-wise;

(b) the total number of post offices opened in the country during the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals lying pending for opening of new post offices in the States and the time by which these post offices are likely to be opened; and

(d) the number of post offices in the States upgraded during the last three financial years alongwith the names of those likely to be upgraded during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) District-wise details of post offices opened in U.P., Bihar and Maharashtra in the last 2 years is given in Statement-I.

(b) 941 post offices were opened in the country during the last three years.

(c) There are 182 proposals under examination for opening subject to fulfilment of the three norms and availability of resources. (Norms are given in Statement-II).

(d) 130 post offices were upgraded in these States during the last three financial years. Upgradation of post offices is subject to fulfilment of norms relating to income and workload. Hence, it would be difficult at this juncture to estimate the number of post offices that can be upgraded in the next three years.

Statement-I

District-wise details of post offices opened in U.P. Bihar and Maharashtra in the last 2 years

Sl. No.	District	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4
	Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Etawah	1	-
2.	Jhansi	1	-
3.	Etah	-	1
4.	Aligarh	-	1
5.	Agra	-	1
6.	Ghazipur	1	-
7.	Jaunpur	1	-
8.	Allahabad	-	2
9.	Chandauli	-	1
10.	Varanasi	1	-
11	Saharanpur	1	-
12.	Pilibhit	1	-
13.	Kheri	1	1
14.	Hardoi	1	-
15.	Bareilly	-	1
16.	Shahjahanpur	-	1
17.	Basti	1	2
18.	Gorakhpur	2	1
19.	Bahraich	1	-
20.	Mau	1	-
21.	Kushinagar	-	1
22.	Ballia	-	2
23.	Kanpur (M)	2	1
24.	Chitrakoot	-	1
25.	Fatehgarh	-	1
26.	Ambedkarnagar	1	-
27.	Sitapur	1	-
28.	Barabanki	-	1
29.	Sultanpur	-	1
	Total	18	20
	Bihar		
1.	Khagaria	1	1
2.	Dharbanga	1	1

1	2	3	4
3.	Sitamarhi	2	-
4.	Muzaffarpur	2	1
5.	Saran	3	-
6.	Rohtas	1	1
7.	Nalanda	1	1
8.	Lakhisarai	1	1
9.	Banka	1	1
10.	Jamui	2	2
11.	Patna	-	1
12.	Kaimur	-	2
13.	Sheikhpura	-	2
14.	Munger	-	1
15.	Siwan	-	1
	Total	15	16
	Maharashtra		
1.	Aurangabad	1	1
2.	Beed	2	0
3.	Dhule	0	2
4.	Nandurbar	1	0
5.	Nasik	2	1
6.	Nanded	1	1
7.	Jalgaon	2	1
8.	Osmanabad	1	1
9.	Ratnagiri	2	1
10.	Kolhapur	2	1
11.	Sangli	1	0
12.	Thane	3	3
13.	Raigad	2	1
14.	Mumbai	1	0
15.	Satara	1	2
16.	Solapur	1	1
17.	Ahmednagar	2	3
18.	Pune	3	2
19.	Akola	1	0
20.	Amravati	2	1
21.	Buldana	1	2
22.	Gondia	0	1
23.	Gadohiroli	1	1
24.	Nagpur	3	0
25.	Yeotmal	0	1
	Total	36	27

Statement-II

Norms for opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^1/_3$% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15 % of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The Minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five house per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible of further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

[English]

Six Laning of NH-24

3031. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to make NH-24 a six lane highway;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the project;

(c) the portion of the NH likely to be made six lane during 2004-05 financial year; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway No. 24 extends from Delhi to Lucknow and has a length of 499 Kms. Only 5 Kms. portion of this National Highways falling in Delhi has been identified for widening to six/eight lane.

(b) No amount has been sanctioned so far.

(c) No portion of this NH is likely to be made six lane during the financial year 2004-2005.

(d) The Detailed Project Report for the work has been prepared.

Increase in Demand of Cell Phones

3032. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY:

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

(a) whether due to an increase in the demand of Cell Phones, the demand of land line telephones has considerably come down;

(b) if so, the percentage of decrease in the demand of land line telephones in the country during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the working of Indian Telephone Industries in different States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make maximum utilization of manpower in it;

(e) the comparative data of income of BSNL, MTNL and Videsh Sanchar Nigam through mobile service and fixed telephone service during the last two year; and

(f) the details of the policy formulated by the Government to boost the declining popularity of land line service?

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

(b) Details of demand of landline telephone in BSNL and MTNL during the last three years is as under:

Year	BSNL	MTNL	
	%age change in demand over the previous Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2001-02	12.50%	(–) 3.04%	3.55%
2002-03	6.80%	(–) 16.62%	0.61%
2003-04	(–) 0.09%	(–) 5.67%	(–) 1.54 %

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has been reviewing performance of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) regularly. The Government has announced a revival package of Rs. 508 crore for the revival of ITI in the Budget Session 2004-05 of the Parliament. BSNL has placed purchase order for one million line of GSM equipment on ITI.

(e) The details of income of BSNL and MTNL through Mobile services and Fixed telephone service during the last two years are as under:

(Figures in crores of rupees)

BSNL	2002-03	2003-04
Mobile Services	192.03	2066.76
Fixed Telephones	22102.30	24101.51
Total	22294.33	26168.29

*BSNL Mobile services started during October, 2002.

(Figures in crores of rupees)

MTNL	2002-03	2003-04
Mobile Services	169.30	186.98
Fixed Telephones	5637.22	6182.61
Total	5806.52	6369.59

Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) does not provide landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) or Mobile Services to customers.

(f) Choice of telephone service is left to consumers. The Government is following the policy of technology neutrality.

Mobile Connectivity on National Highways

3033. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to make available BSNL mobile connectivity on National Highways connecting four Metropolitan cities under the Pradhan Mantri Golden Quadrilateral Projects;

(b) whether the Government has shortlisted the areas having no connectivity on these highways;

(c) whether facility of location display on mobile would be made available for travellers travelling on this Golden Quadrilateral highways; 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 a policy BSNL proposes to cover all National Highways. It has already provided Mobile Service (Cell One) on major of all National highways of the country including Pradhan Mantri Golden Quadrilateral Projects.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The name of the important nearby town where cellular equipment is installed is displayed indicating approximate location to the travellers.

Express Way in T.N.

3034. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a four lane express way is being built in the middle of Maduranthagam town in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people of Maduranthagam have demanded a slight modification in the laying of the proposed express way; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The bypass to Maduranthagam town is being four laned.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A trumpet interchange is being constructed at km. 80/500 at the beginning of Maduranthagam bypass to facilitate safe entry to and from Maduranthagam Town to NH 45. One representation from residents was received to construct underpass in place of trumpet interchange which was not agreed to for safety reasons.

Heart Institute in Safdurjung Hospital

3035. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to set up a Heart Institute in Safdarjunt Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Full-fledged Departments of Cardiology and Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery are functioning in Safdarjung Hospital along with a cardiac Cath Lab. Upgradation of these Departments is an ongoing process. However, there was no proposal for establishing a Heart Institute in the Safdarjung Hospital.

Setting up Yoga Centres

3036. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a lone Yoga Centre located at Ashoka Road, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its achievements;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up such Yoga center in different parts of Delhi to cure diseases like diabetes, heart, BP etc.; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has set up an autonomous body in the name of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga at Ashoka Road in New Delhi to develop, promote and propagate Yoga and to serve as a model Yoga Institute. The institute has been conducting Yoga classes for out-patients/ Sadhaks (healthy individuals), treating out-door patients through Yoga therapy, conducting one year Diploma Course in Yoga, participating in health melas in India and abroad besides organizing health camps.

(c) and (d) The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, New Delhi, an autonomous body under this Ministry has a scheme for providing grant-in-aid to Yoga centres. However, "Public Health, hospitals and dispensaries" being in the State list vide entry No. 6 of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution, it for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to consider proposals to set up Yoga centres in different parts of Delhi to cure diseases like diabetes, High BP etc.

[Translation]

Four/Six Lanings of National Highways Nos. 8 and 69

3037. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when the conversion of National Highways Nos. 8 and 69 in Rajasthan into 4 or 6 lanes would be completed under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) the amount utilized in the construction of National Highways passing through Rajasthan under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(c) whether any request was made by the villagers for leaving passages for cattle and paths in order to provide free passages for easy movement at various places between Jaipur-Kishangarh and Kishangarh-Vijaynagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the places where the request for free passages have been accepted;

(f) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Golden Quadrilateral in the state of Rajasthan comprises of sections of National Highways (NH) 8, NH-76, NH-79 and NH-79 A and is targeted to be substantially completed by December, 2004. NH-69 is not a part of Golden Quadrilateral.

(b) The amount utilized is Rs. 2307.11 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) 11 number of requests/representations were received in this regard, out of which underpasses at 4 locations namely Dantari, Nauharia, Srinagar and village Baral II have been provided.

Posts and Telegram Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

3038. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such Gram-panchayats where postal and telegram facilities is not available;

(b) the number of Panchayat communication service and telegram offices set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the time-bound programme prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Postal facilities for delivery, collection of mails and sale of stamps and postal stationery are available to all Gram Panchayats in the country. However, there are still 6278 number of Gram Panchayats, which do not have post offices.

There are 1269 Gram-panchayats where telegram facilities are not available.

(b) No panchayat communication service and telegraph offices have been set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years.

(c) Post offices are opened in Gram Panchayat villages subject to fulfillment of population, distance and financial norms laid down by the Department and subject to availability of resources. Opening of post offices is an ongoing activity.

As regards telegram facilities, the public in villages is preferring telephone services, and there is no demand for telegraph offices.

Reserved Quota in MTNL

3039. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) category-wise total number of employees in the Mahanager Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) the number of SC/ST and OBC employees out of them in A, B, C, and D categories in MTNL;

(c) whether the reserved quota of SC/ST and OBC has been completely filled up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be filled up completely; and

(f) the details thereof?

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

[English]

Internet Exchanges in Gujarat

3040. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received any request for setting up of an internet exchange in Ahmedabad and Ghandhinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) A group of 12 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) has submitted a proposal for setting up of a mini National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) at Ahmedabad. The Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat has proposed the establishment of a NIXI hub within the State of Gujarat to meet the needs of the ISPs of the State.

(c) NIXI has operationalised all its four Internet exchange nodes at Noida (Delhi), Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The issues underlying the establishment of NIXI hubs in other cities to address the specific needs of smaller ISPs have been identified.

Defaulters in MTNL/BSNL

3041. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulters in MTNL/BSNL;

(b) the total outstanding dues which are to be recovered from them as on date;

(c) the loss suffered as on date as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues;

(e) whether there is any proposal to provide new facilities on the lines of mobile phones on the basic telephones to attract more customers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of defaulter in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 30.6.2004 is 12147125.

(b) The total outstanding dues as on 30.6.2004 in case of MTNL is Rs. 1147.63 crore and in case of BSNL, it is 3056 crore.

(c) Recovery of outstanding dues is a continuous process and these dues cannot be taken as a loss. Moreover, the outstanding figures include current bills issued also, which get recovered in due course. If we compare commulative outstanding with the cumulative amount billed for during a year, it works out to be less than 3%. However, the loss suffered during 2003-04 in MTNL and BSNL by way of write-off is Rs. 0.64 crore and Rs. 28.07 crore respectively, which is less than 1% of their annual revenue.

(d) Following steps are taken to recover the dues from the subscribers:

The defaulting phones are disconnected; registered notices are issued; disconnection of other working phones of the defaulters is resorted to; adjustments of deposit is done; Outstanding Pursuit Cells, Liquidation Boards and High Power Committees facilities liquidation of dues; disputed cases are referred to arbitrators under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; and where necessary, legal action is also initiated for recovery of the dues.

(e) and (f) In order to retain/attract fixed line customers, MTNL and BSNL have initiated new value added services (Voice based) Like News, Astrology, Sports updates. Contests, Broadband internet service, voice mail, SMS (Short Message Service) facility etc.

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

[Translation]

Waiting List in Jammu and Kashmir

3042. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the waiting list for telephone connections in important towns, district headquarters and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir as on July 31, 2004;

(b) the details of sanctioned telephone connections during the last three years in the important town/cities/ district headquarters and rural of Jammu and Kashmir and the investment thereon;

(c) the details of achievements of telecom projects in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years and the provision of the fund to the State during the same period;

(d) the outstanding achievements in the field of communication in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years; and

(e) the details of new proposals approved/being considered by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total waiting list for telephone connections as one 31.07.04 in Jammu and Kashmir is 42179.

(b) The number of sanctioned telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir and the investment on capital works during the last three years are furnished below:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Connections (no. of lines)	49278	41266	64673
Investment (in crores of Rs.)	117.255	110.529	82.999

(c) The details of achievements under various telecom projects during the last two years in Jammu and Kashmir Circle are furnished below:

Name of projects	Achievement during 2002-03	Achievement during 2003-04
Mobile connections	—	40100
Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections	3247	3872
Wired connections	38019	20701
New Exchanges	13	01
New VPTs (Village Public Telephones)	177	537
VPTs replaced by WLL	208	385
OFC Laid (Route Kilometers)	730	270.138
M/W (Route Kilometers)	285	35
Internet Nodes	07	—

The funds allocated in the State for capital works during the last two years are as under:

Year	Amount
2002-03	Rs. 125.74 Crores
2003-04	Rs. 111.55 Crores

(d) The outstanding achievements in the filed of telecommunication in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years are given below:

	Outstanding Achievement during 2002-03	Outstanding Achievement during 2003-04
Switching capacity for mobile connections	—	37200
Mobile connections provided		40100
Switching capacity for WLL connections	7500	2000
WLL connections provided	3247	3872

(e) The details of new proposals planned during 2004-05 for Jammu and Kashmir Circle are given below:

WLL Connections	—	43000 Lines
Cellular Mobile Connections	—	50000 Lines
Wireline Connections	—	10,000 Lines
Optical Fibre Cable	—	400 Route Kilometers
Village Public Telephones	—	1234 Nos.

[English]

IIDCs in SSI

3043. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDCs) functioning at present in the Country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to set up more IID Centres in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount of funds likely to be spent thereon;

(f) the package given to each state and particularly Gujarat to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance the competitiveness both domestically and globally; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to develop infrastructure for the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Statement showing state-wise details of 27 Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Centres, which are functional/operational in country, is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of the IID Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territories are required to select appropriate sites for setting up IID Centres, prepare projects reports and submit these to small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for techno-economic appraisal. On the basis of the appraisal report of SIDBI, the Central Government sanctions the setting up of IID Centres.

(f) While development of SSI is primarily the responsibility of the state/UT Government, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performance and enhance their competitiveness both domestically and globally by implementing various schemes including those for enhanced fiscal and credit support, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing entrepreneurial development etc. The scheme/programmes for the promotion of Small Scale Sector are uniformally implemented across the country including Gujarat.

(g) The Government has amended the IID Scheme to progressively cover the entire country with 50% reservation for rural areas. The funding pattern for the Scheme has also been suitably modified to enhance the quantum of central grant from 40% to 80% in respect of North-Eastern Region (including Sikkim), Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir), Himachal Pradesh and Uttranchal.

Statement

S.No.	State	Location of the project	No. of units set up
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Village Nandial, Distt. Mandal Kurnool	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Village Gajularamaram, Distt. Rangareddy	60
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Village Tada, Distt Nellore	5
4.	Assam	Demow, Distt. Sibsagar	1
5.	Haryana	Village Manakpur, Distt. Yamuna Nagar	115

1	2	3	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Village Gwalthai, Distt. Bilaspur	2
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Village Batal Ballain, Distt. Udhampur	23
8.	Karnataka	Village Kanbargi, Distt. Belgaum	489
9.	Karnataka	Malur, Distt. Kolar	7
10.	Kerala	Kazhakuttam, Distt. Trivendrum	23
11.	Kerala	Irankoli and Kathipur, Distt. Kannur	15
12.	Kerala	Mazhuvannur Distt. Ernakulam	8
13.	Kerala	Seethangole Distt. Kasargod	11
14.	Kerala	Kakknacherry, Distt. Malapuram	15
15.	Kerala	Meenangadi, Distt. Wayanad	1
16.	Maharashtra	Ghatodi Pusad, Distt. Yeotmal	2
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Jaggakhedi, Distt. Mandsour	10
18.	Orissa	Mukandaprasad Distt. Khurda	4
19.	Orissa	Pittamahal, Distt. Rayagada	1
20.	Rajasthan	Sangaria, Distt. Jodhpur	325
21.	Rajasthan	Gogelao, Distt. Nagaur	13
22.	Rajasthan	Niwai, Distt. Tonk	24
23.	Rajasthan	Kaladwas, Distt. Udaipur	75
24.	Rajasthan	Hindaun City, Distt. Karauli	5
25.	Tamil Nadu	Urangampathy Distt. Madurai	69
26.	Tamil Nadu	Thirumudivakkam, Distt. Kanchipuram	71
27.	Tamil Nadu	Vichoor, Distt. Thiruvellore	11

Recruitment of Hockey players in BSNL

3044. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL does not recruit hockey players as sports persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken by the BSNL in this regard?

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

(b) BSNL has been concentrating on 5 team games *viz.* Cricket, Basketball, Kho-kho, Kabaddi and Volleyball in the beginning.

(c) Once national level teams are built up in the selected 5 team games, the recruitment scheme can be reviewed to consider inclusion of other team games like Hockey.

Revamp of Telecom Policy

3045. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the Telecom Policy, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives behind it;

(c) the salient features of the new Telecom Policy; and

(d) the time by which the said revamp is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) In the context of unprecedented growth in tele-density, technology changes and issues of digital divide, the Government feels that there is need for revamping the New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP' 99). However, no time frame has been fixed at this stage.

Organ Retrieval and Banking Organizations

3046. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Organ Retrieval and Banking Orgnisations operating in the country; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of these banks;

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

(d) the number of heart transplant patients waiting for organs at present;

(e) whether all State Government Hospitals are capable of conducting heart transplants;

(f) if not, the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the details of the number of Government hospitals having well trained surgeons on duty who can perform these transplants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The requisite details regarding number of Organ retrieval and Banking Organisations operating the country, State-wise; are not being kept centrally. In so far as Union territories are concerned, there is one Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation under All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) In so far as Union Territories are concerned, two centers only, namely, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Escort Heart Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi are registered for the purpose of heart transplantation under the said Act. Escort Heart Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi have not yet started heart transplantation. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi have intimated that there may be twenty to twenty five patients awaiting heart transplantation at AIIMS, New Delhi. The information about patients waiting for heart transplants in States is not being maintained centrally.

(e) to (g) Because of the very nature of the highest degree of superspecialisation needed for performing heart transplantation, all State Government hospitals cannot be expected to be capable of conducting heart transplants. AIIMS has got well trained surgeons to perform heart transplantation. As stated above, no other hospital under Government of India is having the facility of heart transplantation at present.

Impact of Structural Reforms on SSI Sector

3047. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of structural reforms on the Small Scale Industries Sector;

(b) whether Small Scale Industry Sector has suffered due to opening up of the economy;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide preferential opportunity in order to extend investment limit for SSI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) While structural reforms leading to opening up of the economy have exposed the small scale industries (SSI) sector to greater competition, the Government has a aimed at protecting the SSIs from their adverse impact by bringing out a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30th August, 2000 which contains provisions to strengthen small scale industry sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The support measures, *inter alia*, include easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan, capital subsidy for technological up-gradation and improved infrastructure. The timely support measures have helped the SSI sector to gain resilience to withstand the pressure of fast changing economic scenario.

(d) and (e) In order to enable the hi-tech and export oriented units to face the market competition, the investment ceiling in plant and machinery for items reserved for manufacture in SSI Sector in the field of knitwear, hand-tools, drugs and pharmaceuticals and stationery has been raised from Rs. 1 crore to 5 crore. In case of items reserved for manufacture in sports goods sector, draft notification for raising the investment ceiling from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore has been laid on the table of the House in July, 2002, as per the prescribed procedure.

Setting up of Medical Colleges

3048. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of North Eastern States, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for setting up of Medical Colleges in their respective States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) During the year 2003, proposals were received from Government of Tamilnadu for permission to start new medical colleges at Asaripallam, Vellore and Theni. While permission of Central Government has been granted on 28.7.2004 for establishment of a medical college at Asaripallam, the proposal of establishment of new medical college at Vellore was disapproved on 16.7.2004 as requisite facilities were not available. With regard to medical college of Theni, the proposal was not meeting the minimum eligibility requirement and, therefore, was returned as incomplete on 15.10.2003. No proposal was, however, received from Government of North Eastern States, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for setting up of new medical colleges during the said period. Further, no proposal has been received till date from these State Government during 2004.

Upgrading Primary Health Care in AP

3049. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether A.P. Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government for financial and technical assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany for upgradation of Primary Health Care for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which said proposal will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A project proposal for Up-gradation of leftover Hospitals and balance Primary Health Centres in Andhra Pradesh, with a cost of Rs. 220 crores, was forwarded to German Government on 5.6.2002 for consideration under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation. During the Indo-German Annual Consultations—2003 held on 17-18th June, 2003, the German side had indicated that they were not in favour to take up this proposal.

Use of Hub Ports by India

3050. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India uses ports of neighbouring countries for transhipment purposes;

(b) if so, the names of the hub ports of such countries that are being used; and

(c) the extent to which such transhipment has increased the shipping cost of Indian cargo?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) About half of the Indian containers carrying import/export cargo to/from India are transshipped at neighbouring foreign ports, such as Colombo, Singapore, Dubai, Salalah Port Kelang etc.

(c) On each container transshipped at foreign port, the charges for one operation of loading and unloading are incurred extra in foreign exchange. In addition, because of detour involved in transportation by ship, extra time and cost is involved. The exact increase in the shipping cost cannot be quantified.

Inclusion of Jyoti Gram Yojana under MPLADS

3051. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the MINISTER of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for the inclusion of "Jyoti Gram Yojana" under MPLADS funds; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government of Gujarat sought clarification on contribution from Members of Parliament from their MPLADS funds in the Jyoti Gram Yojana on behalf of villages in their constituencies.

(b) The objective of the Jyoti Gram Yojana is to create basic infrastructure facilities for 24 hours power supply to villages. Item No. 19 in the Appendix 1 of the Guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme permits provision of civic amenities like electricity in slum areas of cities, towns and villages and in scheduled cast and scheduled tribe habitation. However, substitution of public or community contribution with MPLADS funds in any Central/State programme which includes a component of such contribution is not permissible under the existing policy of the Government of India. This has been informed to the Government of Gujarat on 1st March, 2004.

Length of National Highways

3052. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in the country and the share of Punjab therein;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing length of highways in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The total length of National Highways in the country is 65569 kms, out of which 1557 kms are in Punjab.

(b) No, Madam. At present new National Highways are not being declared.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Road Construction proposals from State Governments

3053. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals pertaining to road construction works from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan State Governments for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved therein, State-wise;

(c) the latest position of these proposals and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the State-wise details of the amount allocated to various States by the Ministry under the above head during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Proposals received for construction of National Highways under National Highways (Original) *i.e.* NH (O) works from the states of Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are as follows:

State	No of proposals	Total amount (Rs. in crore)
Madhya Pradesh	5	8.34
Chhattisgarh	6	25.06
Rajasthan	16	122.91

There proposals from Chhattisgarh have been returned to State PWD and remaining proposals are targeted for sanction in 2004-2005 depending upon inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(d) The details of funds allocated under NH (O) to various States are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sr.No	State	Allocation in 2003-04 (Rs. in crore)	Allocation in 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.00	90.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.10	6.00
3.	Assam	106.83	69.20
4.	Bihar	70.17	66.07
5.	Chandigarh	1.50	2.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	45.17	50.00
7.	Delhi	10.00	6.00
8.	Goa	24.00	5.00
9.	Gujarat	60.24	74.00
10.	Haryana	52.50	53.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	32.00	45.00
12	Jammu and Kashmir	4.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	36.70	35.00
14.	Karnataka	146.37	76.00
15.	Kerala	95.00	71.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	72.52	80.00
17.	Maharashtra	120.00	114.00
18.	Manipur	15.95	14.00
19.	Meghalaya	39.30	23.00
20.	Mizoram	31.00	22.00
21.	Nagaland	11.50	14.00
22.	Orissa	68.00	77.00
23.	Pondicherry	2.20	3.00
24.	Punjab	48.73	45.00
25.	Rajasthan	44.27	88.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	87.00	90.00
27.	Uttaranchal	19.10	24.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	89.05	138.00
29.	West Bengal	73.00	80.00

Upgrading of National Highway-29

3054. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been given for upgrading the road between Gorakhpur to Varanasi on the National Highway No. 29; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Distance between Gorakhpur and Varanasi is 209 Kms. During the last three years and current year Improvement of Riding Quality/Periodic Renewal works covering a length of 159 Kms. and costing Rs. 37.60 crore have been approved between Gorakhpur and Varanasi on National Highways No. 29.

[English]

Speed Post Centres

3055. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of speed post centres set up in cities/ towns in various States during the last three years;

(b) the details of speed post centres proposed to be set up in the States during 2004-05 particularly in Jhargram town of West Bengal, State-wise;

(c) whether all the speed post centres functioning in the country are both receiving and distributing centres; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Setting up of new Speed Post centres is an ongoing process based on specific commercial and operation norms. A Speed Post centre is functioning in Jhargram Head Post Office.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

No. of Speed Post Centres set-up in various States during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Speed Post Centres set up
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Andhra Pradesh	11
4.	Bihar	11
5.	Chhattisgarh	13
6.	Delhi	Nil
7.	Gujarat	39
8.	Goa	1
9.	Haryana	Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	18
13.	Karnataka	Nil
14.	Kerala	7
15.	Maharashtra	3
16.	Madhya Pradesh	42
17.	Manipur	13
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	7
20.	Nagaland	5
21.	Orissa	25
22.	Punjab	12
23.	Rajasthan	7
24.	Sikkim	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
26.	Tripura	7
27.	Uttaranchal	14
28.	Uttar Pradesh	16
29.	West Bengal	39
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1
31.	Pondicherry	Nil

[Translation]

Telephone Connection in Rural and Urban Areas

3056. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of telephone connections provided in the rural and urban areas of country;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any targets for expansion of telephone services and providing new telephone connections in the rural and urban areas during 2004-05;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any norms have been prescribed for rectifying faults in telephone connections within a time-limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The State-wise details of telephone connections as on 30.6.2004 are given in the Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a target of 94.5 lakh and 10.5 lakh telephone connections in urban and rural areas respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The norms of rectifying faults have been prescribed by TRAI which are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Type of Telephone	Norms	Remarks
1.	Basic	More than 90% faults to be rectified by next day	The fault repair rates are to be averaged quarterly
2.	Cellular	100% faults to be repaired within 24 hours	The fault repair rates are to be averaged quarterly

Statement

Statewise details of Telephone Connections as on 30.06.2004

Sl. No.	State	Rural Telephone (BSNL Only)	Urban BSNL/MTNL + Private Operator+ Cellular
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	21366	23679
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1349749	5111632
3.	Assam	138206	493875
4.	Bihar	396754	1166598
5.	Chhattisgarh	83268	276133
6.	Gujarat	853238	4912553
7.	Haryana	393918	1598068
8.	Himachal Pradesh	317600	376240
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	52268	287595
10.	Jharkhand	99132	479015
11.	Karnataka	868628	4683608
12.	Kerala	2135199	3033928
13.	Madhya Pradesh	333261	2412775
14.	Maharashtra	1362840	5937623
15.	North East	105365	300211
16.	Orissa	312255	878340
17.	Punjab	820993	4136005
18.	Rajasthan	628014	2339976
19.	Tamil Nadu	816461	4512648
20.	Uttaranchal	99706	383174

1	2	3	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	676107	5044929
22.	West Bengal	583387	1038610
23.	Kolkata	0	2865441
24.	Chennai	0	2747477
25	Delhi	0	6763792
26.	Mumbai	0	6765324
	Total	12447715	68569249

Sky-Boards on National Highways

3057. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether sky-boards were erected at some locations on the National Highways in the country on which the picture of the former Prime Minister was painted;

(b) if so, the number of such locations;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to remove these sky-boards;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the amount of money required for this purpose?

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

(b) 387 locations.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on signboards including the erection of gantries on which these signboards where installed, was Rs. 3287.67 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Informatory signboards are being installed on these gantries. This is because with the change in the Government at the Centre, part of the text on the signboards did not remain factually correct.

(f) So far Rs. 147.68 lakhs has been incurred for removing these signboards.

Corruption Cases in MTNL and BSNL

3058. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI DANVE PATIL RAOSAHEB:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the corruption cases against a number of officers of BSNL and MTNL under the Department of Telecommunications have been registered by the CBI;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Information is given in the Statement.

(c) Appropriate action for issue of Prosecution Sanction and/or Regular Departmental action against the delinquent officers, wherever necessary, has been taken by the Government.

Statement

Cases against Officers/officials of MTNL & BSNL

Sl. No.	Case No.	Name & Designation of the Accused
1	2	3
1.	RC 6/2003-BLR	1. Sh. Subburamayya. Gm 2. Sh. K.D. Bhat, Director (Fin)

1	2	3
		3. Sh. A. R. Naik, AGM (Plan)
		4. Sh. V. M. Naik, Former DE all are BSNL, Karwar Telecom., Karnataka
2.	RC 14/2003-BLR	1. Smt. Esther Sarojnini Alex, Sr. Section Supervision, Indira Nagar Teleph. Exch. BSNL, Banglore 1
3.	RC 15/2003-BLR	-do-
4.	RC 17/2003-BLR	1. Sh. Raja Mohan Prasad, EE, BSNL Mysore 1
5.	RC 26/2003-BLR	1. S.C. Kulkarani, DE, BSNL Bijapur, Karnataka 1
6.	RC 3/2004-BLR	1. Sh. M.N Chinnaiah, Wireman, Telecom Elect. Sub Division, Banglore 1
7.	RC 6/2004-BLR	1. Sh. Sanjay Sabharwal, EE (Civil), BSNL, Banglore 1
8.	RC 2(A)/2003-NGPR	1. Sh. D.R. Chaudhary, JTO, BSNL Hingna Distt. Nagpur 1
9.	RC 3 (A)/2003-NGPR	-do-
10.	RC1(A)/2004-NCPR	Unknown officials of BSNL Nagpur & others.
11.	RC 11(A)/2003-CHG	Unknown employees of BSNL, Bhamme Kalan Tele. Exchange, Bhatinda
12.	RC 12:(A)/2003-CHG	-do-
13.	RC 27(A)/2003-CHG	1. Sh. Yogendra Prasad, SDE Deptt. Of Telecom.
14.	RC 30(A)/2003-CHG	1. Sh. Vijay Pal Sing, SDO, Deptt. of Telecom.
15.	RC13 (A)/2003-CHG	1. Sh. Chander Shekhar, GM, BSNL, Rohtak
16.	RC 15 (A). 2004-CHG	-do-
17.	RC 7 (A)/2004-Ker	1. Sh. C. Mohan, SDE, BSNL, Kannur, Kerala
		2. Sh. O.K. Mohan, JTO, BSNL, Kannur, Kerala
18.	RC 3(A)/2003-JAI	1. Sh. Mohan Singh, DE, BSNL, Jhunjhunu
19.	PE 3(A)/2003-JAI	1. Sh. Vijendra Kumar Verma, Engineer, BSNL, Jhalwar
20.	RC 9(A)/2003-JAI	1. Sh. Vijendra Kr. Verma, Enginner
		2. Sh. B.L. Gautam SDE
		3. Sh. B.L. Sharma, JTO all are BSNL, Jhalwar
21.	RC.3(A)/2004-JAI	1. Sh. K.K. Yadav, then SDE
		2. Sh. S.L. Panwar, JTO
		3. Sh. Sobha Ram, DSE
		4. Sh. D.C. Gupta, JTO

1	2	3
		5. Sh. Mool Chand Sharma, JTO
		6. Sh. H. S. Meena, SDE
		7. Sh. Sunil Bhagat, JTO BSNL
22	RC 11(A)/2004-JAI	1. Sh. S.C. Sharma, then SDO
		2. Sh. M. N. MEENA, then JTO Both are BSNL Bhiwadi (Alwar)
23.	RC 12 (A)/2004-JAI	1. Sh. H.A. Siddiqui, Chief Account Officer, BSNL, Nagpur
24.	PE4(A)/2004-JAI	1. Sh. N.L. Meena, then DE
		2. Sh. S.L. Meena, then AO
		3. Sh. T.R. Sharma, then AO (E)
		4. Sh. T.C. Deothia, AO (TR-I)
		5. Sh. B.L Sharma, then AO(Comp)
		6. Sh. Nathu Ram, SDE
		7. Sh. Satyavir Singh, JTO all of O/o TDM, Sikar
25.	RC 1(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. Prem Narayan Gupta, JTO
		2. Sh. Mitthu Singh, HGTO
		both are BSNL Jaitaran
26.	RC 3 (A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. Pukhraj Jinger, JTO, Balotra, Barmer
27.	RC 5(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh Lunkaaran Joshi, Telephone Mechanic
		2. Sh. D.R. Chaudhary, JTO
		both are BSNL Barmer
28.	RC 13(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. K.K. Gupta, SDO
		2. Sh. Rajveer Singh, JTO
		3. Sh. Deep Singh, TM & others
		all are BSNL Pali
29.	RC 14(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. S.K. Sharma, GMTD
		2. Sh. K.C. Agarwal, DGM
		3. Sh. Prem Prakash, DE (Vig)
		4. Radha Kishan Soni, CAO
		5. Sh. Ram Kishan Vyas, DE

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		6. Sh. A.K. Sharma, DE(T)
		7. Sh. Jairam Khatik, DE(T)
		8. Sh. Banu Das, Sr. AO & others, all are BSNL Pali
30.	RO. 16(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. Vela Ram, Sr, Telecom. Office Asstt., O/o GMTD , BSNL, Sirohi
31.	PE 1(A)/2003-JDH	1. Sh. Arun Kumar, GMT(S)
		2. Sh. O.P. Gupta, DGM, BSNL, Udaipur
		3. Sh. T.R. Sharma, GAO, BSNL, Himmatnagar
		4. Sh. R.L. Meena, DE(A), BSNL, Bhilwara & others
32.	RC 2(A)/2003-Gwh	1. Sh. Prem Kumar, the then SDE, BSNL Itanagar & others
33.	RC 5(A)/2003-Gwh	1. Sh. S.K. Bhaduri, the then GMT, BSNL, Kamrup, Guwahati & others
34.	RC 9 (A)/2003-Gwh	1. Sh Mannauf Uddi Ahmed, SDE (SCP), BSNL Sunderpur
35.	RC 11(A)/2003-Gwh	1. Sh. Bishu Bhushan Boro, Phone Mechanic, BSNL Kamrup, Assam
36.	RC 13(A)/2003-Gwh	-do-
37.	RC 2(A)/2003-Bhop	1. Sh. Sukumar Chaudhary, DE
		2. Sh. D.S. Paliwal, SDE, BSNL TT Nagar, Bhopal
38.	RC 11(A)/2003-Bhop	1. Sh. Gulab Singh Yadav, Phone Mechanic, BSNL Bhopal
39.	RC 14(A)/2004-Bhop	1. Sh. P.N. Mahajan, SDE(A/T), O/o TDM, Khargone
40.	RC 18 (A)/2004-Bhop	1. Sh. Rajpal Singh, AO, BSNL, Bhopal
41.	RC 1(A)/20030ACU-(VII/V)	1. Sh. R.P.S. Panwar, GM, BSNL, Muzaffarnagar, UP
42.	PE 1(A)/03-DBD	1. Sh. Prem Shankar Prasad, SDE, BSNL, Dhanbad
43.	RC 4(A)/04-DBD	1. Sh. P.S. Prasad, then SDE BSNL, Dhanbad & others
44.	RC 01/2003-Cal. dated 17/01/2003	1. Shri S.S. Goswami, Divl. Engrr. (CC), BSNL, Kol Tel. Sreerampur and others
45.	RC 06/2003/Kol dated 27/03/2003 (DA Case)	1. Shri Sukumar Pal, Sub Divisional Engineer (SDE), CC II & III, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Calcutta Telephones, Govt of India Enterprise, Howrah resident of Souma Chanditola, Ichapor, Santragachi, Howrah-4
46.	RC 08/2003-Kol dated 31/03/2003 (DA Case)	1. Shri S.S. Goswami, Divisional Engineer (OSD), BSNL, Calcutta Telephones, Uttarpara, West Bengal
47.	RC 11/2003-Kol dated 29/04/2003	1. Shri Chadan Biswas, Cashier, BSNL 2. Shri H.P. Vidyarthi, Pre Check Clerk

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		3. Shri S. Chakraborty, the then Asstt. Acctts. Officer
		4. Smt. Sima Sarkar, Acctts. Officer
48.	RC 14/2003-Kol. dated 09/05/2003	1. Shri Chandan Biswas, Cashier, BSNL 2. Shri H.P. Vidyarthi, Pre Check Clerk 3. Shri S. Chakraborty, the then Asstt. Acctts. Officer 4. Smt. Sima Sarkar, Acctts. Officer
49.	RC 16/2003-Kol dated 30/05/2003	1. Shri Chandan Biswas, TOA(G)-I Cashier, Office of the Superintending Engineer (Electrical), Bharat Shanchal Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Kolkata-12. R/o. 141, West Kodalia, Lichu Bagan, M. Barrackpur, North 24 Parganas
50.	RC. 17/2003-Kol dtd. 18/6/2003	1) Sri S. P. Singha, Sub Divisional Officer Phones (SDOP), (East), Asansol Telecom district, BSNL, Asansol 2) Sri Bhagwan Ram, Telecom Machanic under SDOP(East) Asansol Telecom District, BSNL, Asansol 3) Sri Kchhitishwar Prasad Laurachhia, Divisional Enginer, Office of the GM, Asansol
51.	RC: 18/2003-Kol. dtd 19/6/2003	1) Shri S.K. Patra, Sub Divisional Officer Phones (SDOP) (West), Asansol Telecom District, BSNL, Asansol, West Bengal 2) Sri A. K. Layek, Telephone Mechanic uner SDOP (West) Asansol Telecom District, Telecom District, Asansol 3) Sri K.P. Laurachhia, DE (ADmn.), BSNL , Asansol
52.	RC 20/2003-Kol dated 19/06/2003	1) Shri Ram Das Mondal, Sr. Accounts Officer (Cash), O/o General Manager, Telecom, West Bengal Telecom Circle, BSNL, Asansol, W.B. (A-1) 2) Shri A. Bose, Sr. TOAS(G), the then Cashier, O/o General Manager, Telecom, W.B. Telecom. Circle, BSNL, Asansol, W.B. (A-2)
53.	RC 42/2003-Kol. dtd 24/10/2003	1. Shri Sudhansu Sekhar Goswami, Ex. Divl. Engineer (Cable Construction) External Serampore, Calcutta Telephone 2. Shri Ashutosh Das, JTO, Stores, Cable Construction Chandannagar, BSNL under DE/CC/ Serampore
54.	RC 45/2003-Kol. dt. 7.11.2003	1) Shri Ram Das Mondal, A.O. (Cash), O/o The GM, Asansol, West Bengal Telecom Circle 2) Shri Ashoke Bose, Sr. T.O.A./Cashier, O/o The GM, Asansol, West Bengal Telecom Circle
55.	RC 01/2004-Kol. dated 01/01/2004	1) Shri. B.N. Lahiri, Divisional Engineer, Entally Division Calcutta Telephones 2) Shri N.C. Sarkar, SDE, Tangra Exchange, Calcutta Telephones 3) Shri Ranjit Kumar Malakar, JTO, Tangra RSU Exchange, Calcutta Telephones
56.	RC 17/2004 dtd. 15/04/2004	I. Shri S.S. Goswami then then DE/CC/Serampore, BSNL, Calcutta Telephones.

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57.	RC 32/2004-Kol dated 24/06/2004	1. Shri Dilip Sil, Technician, Chakdaha Telephone Exchange, Chakdaha, Nadia 2. Shri Prasanta Kumar Das, Sr. Telecom Office Asstt
58.	RC 35/2004/Kol. dtd 06/07/2004	1. Shri Harikant Roy, Telecom Mechanic, Jagat Ballavpur, Telephone Exchange, BSNL, Howrah
59	RC 1(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. M.P. Singh, DE(T), BSNL Bihar
60.	RC 6(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Ashok Choudhary, SDE, Hilsa (Bihar)
61.	RC 8(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sinha, Head Clerk, Rural Masaurhi Region, Patna
62.	RC 9(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Washi Ahmad, TTA, BSNL Chehara Kalan TE Vaishali
63.	RC 10(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Jagannath Sahu, Sr. TOA, O/o SDE Barauni, Begusarai
64.	RC 11(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Manjar Hassan, LA O/o CGMT, BSNL Patna
65.	RC 13(A)/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Deepak Patel, Sr. TOA, O/o SDO, BSNL, Danapur, Patna
66.	RC 19(A)/2003-Pat	1. RAm Kumar, Clerk O/o SDET, SBNL Danapur
67.	PE 1/2003-Pat	1. Sh. Pradeshi Ram the then GM 2. Sh. C.P. Singh, GM 3. Sh. Ram Sakal, DGM 4. Sh. K.P. Singh, DE 5. Sh. R.B. Lal, SDE all of BSNL Gaya 6. Sh. B.N. Sinha, TDM 7. Sh.Dhruv Mishra, Sr.AO 8. Sh. H.S. Srivastava, SDE All of BSNL Motihari 9. Sh. Shankar Prasad, TDM 10. Sh. M. Kumar, DE 11. Sh. S.R. Paswan, DE 12. Sh. G. Rai, SDE all are BSNL Hajipur 13. Sh. R.C. Sharma, Sr. TOA 14. Sh. Ramesh Prasad. Sr. TOA 15. Sh. S.C. Sahu, SDE 16. Sh. Ramji Singh, Sr. TOA & others
68.	RC 1(A)/2004-Pat	1. Sh. Sudama Singh, SDE, BSNL Gaya
69.	RC 3(A)/2004-Pat	1. Shri Ram Badan Singh, Sr. TO(A), BSNL Bihar Sarif

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70.	RC 4(A)/2004-Pat	1. Sh. Mohan Sah, Clerk, SDO (Rural BSNL, TE Buildg., Patna
71.	RC 7(A)/04-Pat	1. Sh. B. Hansdaks, Sr. AO
		2. Sh. Nawal Kishore, AAO
		3. Sh. P.K. Singh, Asstt
		all are PGMT, BSNL Patna
72.	RC 12(A)/04-Pat	Sh. Hansdak, Sr. AO PGMT, BSNL, Patna
73.	RC 18(A)/2004-Pat	1. Sh. T.N. Gupta SDE(Group)
		Fatuha, BSNL, Patna
74.	RC 21(A)/04-Pat	1. Sh. Chadrakant, Telephone Mechanic, BSNL Hilsa
75.	RC 22(A)/03-Chen	1. Sh. Anbu, Lineman, BSNL, TE, Chennai
76.	RC 24(A)/03-Chen	1. Sh. Rajessh Kachchap,DGM (F & A),
		2. Sh.R. Balachandran, CAO
		3. Sh. K.Subramanian, Sr. AO all are BSNL Chennai
77.	RC 28(A)/03-Chen	1. Sh. K. Munirathinam, SDO
		2. Sh. A Sekar, TS(O), BSNL, Thiruvannamalai
78.	RC 46(A)/03-Chen	1. Sh. Bhaskaran, JE(Civil)
		2. Sh. Murugan, AE, BSNL, Nagercoil
79.	RC 47(A)/03-Chen	1. Sh. M.Kumaresan, SDE BSNL, Tiruchengode SDS Telecom Divn. Tamailnadu
		2. Sh. Arjunan, TM, Tiruchengode Exchange
80.	RC 32(A)/04-Chen	1. Sh. N. Kirupananthan, JTO, BSNL Arkaonam
81.	RC 36(A)/04 Chen	1. SH. Gajendran, Lineman, Vaiyappamalai TE,
		Tiruchengodu, Namakkai Distt.
82.	RC 03/03-Bhub	1. Sh. Debananda Das, RM, TE, Manikagada, Nayagara
83.	RC 24(A)/03-Bhub	1. Sh. Rabindra Kumar Nayak, SDO(T), Balesore
84.	RC 27(A)/03-Bhub	1. Sh. Niranjan Jena, Sr. SS, BSNL Balasore
85.	RC 35(A)/03-Bhub	1. Sh. Balaram Routray, Section Supervisor
		2. Sh. Ramchandra Das, Section Supervisor, GMT, Bhubaneswar
86.	RC 14(A)/04-Bhub	1. Sh. R.K.Nayak SDO(T), Balasore
87.	PE1(A)/ 03-Goa	1. Sh. B.J. Sherke, the then Divisional Engineer (Trans),
		2. Sh. V.M./Chaudhary, the then SDE (OFC), BSNL Goa
88.	RC 7(A)/03-Goa	1. Sh. M.S. Kalloli, JTO, BSNL, Goa
89.	RC 51(A)/03-DLI	1. Harbhajan Singh, SE (C)

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		2. Sh. Nihal Chand, EE (C)
		3. sh. R.L. Ghera, EE (C)
		4. Sh. RC Bansal, AE
		5. Sh. N.S. Dabas, AE(C)
		6. Sh. Anil Kumar, JE
		7. Sh. R.R. Meena, JE
		8. Sh. H.S. Sharma, AO(C)
		9. Kulbhushan Cashier, all are MTNL, Delhi
90.	RC 54 (A)/03-DLI	1. Unknown officials of MTNL/BSNL, New Delhi
91.	PE 15/2003-DLI	1. Harbhajan Singh, SE, MTNL, K.L. Bhawan, New Delhi
92.	RC 62 (A)/2003-DLI	1. Sh. R.L. Ghera, Ex. Engineer (C), MTNL, New Delhi
93.	RC 64(A)/03-DLI	1. Sh. Som Nath, JTO
		2. Ram Ujagar, RM
		3. Sh. Ved Prakash, RM
		4. Sh. S.P. Singh, TTA (since dead) & others MTNL New Delhi
94.	RC 69 (A)/03-DLI	1. Sh. Nihal Chand, Ex. Eng. (C)
		2. Sh. R.C Bansal, AE (C)
		3. Sh. Anil Kumar, JE(C) & others unknown officials of MTNL, New Delhi
95.	RC 19 (A)/2004-DLI	Sh. H.S. Sharma, Sr. AO, MTNL New Delhi
96	RC 26(A)/04-DLI	1. Sh. Dumber Sing, SDE, MTNl, New Delhi
97.	RC 4(A)/2003-Mum	1. Sh. Maurya Lineman
		2. Sh. L.B. Yadav, JTO, MTNL, Mumbai
98.	RC 7 (A)/03-Mum	1. Sh. B.P. Salunks, Sr. SS, MTNL Mumbai
99.	RC 32(A)/03-Mum	1. Sh. S.C. Verma, DGM (Elect), MTNL, Mumbai
100.	RC 36(A)/03-Mum	-do-
101.	RC 7(A)/04-Mum	1. Sh. D.M. Bagade, Commercial Officer, Telephone Exchange, Kalyan
102.	RC 39(A)/04-Mum	-do-
103.	RC.3(A)/2003-DAD	1. Sh. Bhopal Singh, JE, Telecom. Deptt., Sahampur
104.	RC 6(A)/2003/DAD	Sh. R.C. Srivastava, DE,
		Sh. A.K. Agarwal, SDO

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		Sh. V.C. Sharma, SDO
		Sh. P.K. Agarwal, SDE/PE(E), all officials of BSNL Agra
105.	RC. 10(A)/2003-DAD	1. Sh. R.S Tripathi, SDE, Thakurdwar Exchange, Moradabad, UP
		2. Sh. Ram Deeraj Shukla, R/M, Bhanjpur Exchange
		3. Sh. Khem Singh, TTA, Dinerpur Exchange
		4. Shri Lakhan Singh, R/M, Dingerpur Exchange and others
106.	RC. 19 (A)/2003/DAD	1. Shri Om Prakash, SDE
		2. Sh. Darshan Lal, JTO
		3. Shri K.N. Dwedi, JTO
		4. Shri Shyam Sunder, TTA
		all of BSNL, Meerut
		5. Sh. Deewan Singh, Regular Mazdoor
		All are of BSNL, Meerut
107.	RC. 8(A)/2004/DAD	1. Shri Badu Ram, the then D.E. Sanjay place-II, BSNL
		2. Shri Raju Arora, the then SDO(P), T.P. Nagar, Agra
		3. Shri D. P. Agarwal, the then JTO, T.P. Nagar, BSNL
108.	RC. 8(A), 2003/GNR	1. Sh.L.K. Vithalpura, Divisional Engineer (Rural),
		BSNL, Ahmedabad
109.	RC. 16(A)/2003/GNR	1. Shri Rameshankar Yadav, Vigillance Office, Ahmedabad, Telecom District, Ahmedabad
110.	RC. 1(A)/2004/GNR	1. Shri Kiram P. Patel, Sub Divisional Officer (Phones-III)
		BSNL Naroda, Ahmedabad
111.	RC. 6(A)/2004/GNR	1. Shri G.A. Shaikh, Phone Mechanic, Ved Telephone Exchange, BSNL, District Mehsana
112.	RC.11(A)/2004/GNR	1. Shri G.A. Vegda, Phone Mechenic Naroda
		Telephone Exchange, BSNL, Ahmedabad
113.	RC.8(A)/2004/GNR	1. Shri Kiran. Patel, Asstt. Genl. Manager (Operations), BSNL, Bhavnagar
114.	RC.2(A), 2004/VSK	1. Shri K. Nageswara Rao, Phone Mechanic,
115.	RC.6(A)/2003/JBR	1. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, SDO (Phones)-II, BSNL, Bilaspur(C.G.)
116.	RC: 7(A)/2003/JBR	1. Shri Sunil Kumar, Ex. Engg. (Civil), Div. II, BSNL, Jabalpur
117.	RC. 9(A)/2004/JBR	1. Shri B.S. Patel, SDO (Phones), BSNL, Korba(CG)
118.	PE.3 (A)/2004/JBR	1. Shri K. Khutiyara, Dy. GM(Finance), BSNL, Bilaspur, CG

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119.	RC.2(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Sh. U.Krishnamachari, JE, Nandipet, Nizamabad
120.	RC. 8(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Sh. I Seshgiri Rao, SDE, Nalgonda
121.	RC. 20(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Shri Jagdish Prasad, EE, Hyderabad
122.	RC.21(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Shri Anna Malai, AO, Tirupati
123.	RC. 25(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Shri Babu Rao, JTO, Chintal, Hyderabad
124.	RC.29 (A)/2003/Hyd	1. Shri Sampath Kumar, TDM
		2. Shri C. Sambasiva Rao, DE/MM
		3. Shri B. Gangadhar Rao, DE/T all of Nalgonda
125	RC.34(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Devadas, DE, Peddapalli, Karimnagar
126.	RC.6(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri P. Koteshwara Rao, SDO (Group), Siddi et
		2. Shri Sivaji Raju, SDE, Ramayam Pet
		3. Shri P. Panduranga Rao, DET, Siddi et.
127.	RC. 7(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri K. Surya Rao, SDO, Patancheru, Hyderabad
		2. Shri N. Chandra Amar Raju, SDO, Sangareddy,
		3. Shri R.B. Kishore, DE (Maint) Siddi et.
128.	RC. 8(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri B. Rangaiah, AO, Khammam
		2. Shi M.V.N. Suryanarayana Rao, AO, O/o GMTD, Hyderabad
129.	RC. 9(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri M. Nageshwar Naik, TTA
130.	RC. 10(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri B. Vijay Kumar, JTO, Parakala Warangal
131.	RC. 14(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri. L.V. Sastry, DE, Mahaboobnagar, Warangal
132.	RC.20(A)/2004/Hyd	1. Shri L.V. Sastry, DE, Mahaboobnagar, Warangal
133.	PE.4(A)/2003/Hyd	1. Shri K. Sampath Kumar, GM, Gulbarga
		2. Shri K. Vasantha. Rao AO O/o GMTD, Nalgonda
134.	PE.5(A)/2003/Hyd.	S/Shri
		1. S.K. Krishnamachari, DE, Kadiri
		2. K. Veerabhadrappa, DE, Hindupur
		3. K.S. Chandra Sekhar, DE (Inter) (Retd.) Anantapur
		4. M. Jermailah, DE (Retd.) Guntakal
		5. M. Sainath Sharma, DE, DMV (Retd), Tadipatri
		6. S. Rangaiah, SDOT, Kadiri, Anantapur
		7. S. Mujib, SDE, Kadiri, Anantapur
		8. M. Nageshwar Rao, SDOT, Hindupur
		9. BHK Bagawan, SDE (G) Gorantla

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		10. R.P. Singh, SDE(E) Anantpur
		11. V Anjaneyulu, SDOT, Anantpur
		12. S. Sivaramaiah, SDE(G), Uravakonda, Anantapur
		13. M. Muniswamy Raju, SDE, Kannekal, Anantpur
		14. S. Anjanappa, SDE(G), Rayadurg
		15. SMD Hussain, SDE (G), Dharmavaram
		16. Y. Balaiah, SDOT, Dharmavaram
		17. E. Prabhakar Setty, JTO Kadiri
		18. Raghunath Reddy, JTO(G) Kadiri
		19. Venkoba Rao, JTO, Kannekal Anatappur
		20. M. Srinivasa Rao, JTO, Gorantla, Anatapur
		21. M Nagarjuna Reddy, JTO, Kanekal, Anatapur
		22. G. Poojanna, SDE(G) Mahaboobnagar
		23. G.V. Reddy, SDE(Ex.II) Hindupur
		24. A. Rambabu, JTO Penukonda Anantapur
		25. A. Subba Rao, SDE Tadipatri, Anantapur
		26. E. Chidananda Murthy, SDE, Gooty
		27. G. Guru Murthy, JTO, Anantapur.

Waiting List for SIM Cards

3059. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons provided with BSNL, Mobile SIM Cards so far;

(b) whether there is heavy demand for these SIM Cards;

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

(d) the total number of persons seeking the above connection enlisted in the waiting list; and

(e) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to clear the above waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31st July 2004, the Status of the number of the persons in the country having BSNL Mobile SIM Cards is 6230746.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As a policy, BSNL doesn't maintain waiting list for mibile connections. But due to heavy demand for BSNL's Mobile service, waiting list has been maintained in some of the states and total waiting list in the states where it is being maintained as on 31-7-2004 is 777400. The reasons for huge demand of BSNL's mobile services are affordable tariff, good quality and countrywide availability of the network.

(e) BSNL is presently augmenting it's cellular network capacity from 6 Million lines to 9 Million lines. BSNL further plans to expand the capacity by 15M lines till end 2005 to meet the growing demand for its service.

[English]

Diagnostic Kit for HIV

3060. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that scientists of Bio-chemistry Department of Delhi University have successfully developed a chemical mixture which after being mixed with the blood sample of the patient and displayed on the slide can confirm the HIV infection immediately;

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for popularizing and introducing this device throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi, South Campus, New Delhi has developed a Naked Eye Visual Erythrocyte Agglutination (NEVA) assay technique to detect the presence of antibodies to HIV in blood samples. This test has been licensed for marketing by Drug Controller General of India DCG(I). The study was supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi has transferred this technology to M/s Cadila Pharmaceutical Ltd. Ahmedabad, after evaluation of its efficiency. However, the fact is that, there are several such test kits are now available in the market which have been licensed by DCG(I) from time to time. All these rapid test kits take approximately up to 30 minutes time to evaluate the testing HIV status of a person (through the blood sample).

NACO procures HIV test kits centrally after a procedure of competitive bidding at national & international levels as per World Bank Guidelines on procurement. There is no special preference for domestic manufacturers, small scale industries, Govt. of India undertaking etc.

As per our records, this particular product (NEVA), has responded to and participated in the process of competitive bidding. However, it was unable to compete as the cost of the product was excessive. Hence this item has not so far been included in the National AIDS Control Programme.

Conversion into Electronic Exchanges

3061. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) the State-wise number of telephone exchanges which have not been converted into electronic exchanges so far particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All exchanges across the country under BSNL and MTNL Network including exchanges in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh Circles are Electronic Exchanges.

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

New Bio-Technology Policy

3062. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new bio-technology policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the proposed new bio-technology policy; and

(d) the time by which the above policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee has been constituted for formulating bio-technology policy and a strategy for utilizing the potential of bio-technology from human welfare and economic development.

(d) This policy is likely to be formulated by the end of current financial year 2004-05.

STD/ISD Prepaid Cards

3063. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL has recently launched any STD/ ISD prepaid cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the denominations and countries available on such cards alongwith tariff?

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

(b) VSNL has launched Calling Cards under the following two brands:

- INDIA-ON-CALL, which is an Inbound Card, and can be currently used to call India from USA UK and Gulf (UAE and Bahrain)
- HELLO DUNIYA, which is an Outbound Card, can be currently used to make ISD calls from Tata Indicom mobiles, land-lines and fixed-wireless telephones. The card can also be currently used to make STD calls between the metro cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Chennai.

(c) US-India card is available in denomination of Rs. 54, Rs. 1080 and Rs. 2700, UK-India cards is available in denomination of Rs. 540, whereas Gulf-India card is offered in denomination of Rs. 1080. In respect of incoming calls, the tariffs range from Rs. 9.48 to Rs. 21.48 per minute depending upon the country from where the call originates.

In respect of outgoing international long distance calls, the tariff ranges from Rs. 7.20 to Rs. 19 per minute depending upon the country to which the call is destined.

In respect of national long distance call, the tariff is Rs. 2.99 per minute. This card presently provides capability of calling between metro cities.

Blacklisted Vendors in Kendriya Bhandar

3064. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain vendors registered in Kendriya Bandar were deregistered/blacklisted on account of charging higher rates than the market rates but some of them were re-registered subsequently in the same or changed names;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials of Kendriya Bhandar for re-registering the blacklisted suppliers in changed names etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) Some vendors had been de-registered by Kendriya Bhandar in the past for charging higher rates but none of them has been subsequently re-registered in the same or changed name.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities to Rural and Urban Areas

3065. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new facilities available in the Communication sector have been limited to metropolitan cities and small towns of the country;

(b) if not, the analysis of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has considered measures to remove the anomaly in communication facilities provided to rural and urban areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) to (d) As per available information, various service providers are deploying state-of-art technologies according to their commercial decisions in rural and urban areas of the country. Universal Service Obligation Fund has also set to facilitate expansion of telecommunications network in rural areas.

[English]

MPs Getting Raw Deal at AIIMS

3066. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament get a raw deal at AIIMS as reported in the "Times of India" dated June 19, 2004;

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

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

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

Purchase from Local Chemists

3067. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has stopped direct purchase from local chemists;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that pending bills of Senior Citizens in this regard are settled early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines form the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Govt.

(c) The reimbursement of bills of Senior Citizens (CGHS pensioner cardholder) who have been permitted to purchase drug items from open market has been further delegated by the Govt. to the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

Inclusion of India in Missile Defence Programme

3068. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed an opinion on the US offer to include India in the missile defense programme;

(b) if so, whether Washington gave presentation and briefings on the said programme at a three day meeting of the Defense Policy Group that concluded in Simla on June 4, 2004 which guides the Indo-US military relations;

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken by the Government on the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Presentations and briefings by the US side on missile defense have been on the agenda of the India-US Defense Policy Group since 2001. The US side made a presentation on missile defense in Delhi on 1 June 2004 at the last meeting of the Defense Policy Group. There is no change in the policy of the Government under which it has held preliminary discussions and dialogue with the US on the subject of Missile defense.

Road Network in Jammu and Kashmir

3069. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to meet the deficiency of road network in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Kathua, Udhampur and Doda Districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Jammu and Kashmir has three National Highways, NH-1A, NH-1B and NH-1C.

The NH-1A from Punjab/Jammu and Kashmir border to Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and passing through Srinagar, Khanabal, Banihar, Batote, Udhampur, Kunjwani, Vijaypur, Kathua and Pathankot is targeted for four laning as apart of North-South Corridor by December 2007. NH-1B passing through district Doda and NH-1C connecting Domel and Katra passing through Udhampur District are being widened to two-lane facility in a phased manner depending on the availability of resources and inter-se-priority of projects. Improvement and development of other roads in Jammu and Kashmir is not the responsibility of this Ministry; however 12 works amounting to Rs.35.37 crores have been sanctioned during last 3 years under central Road Fund in the Kathua, Udhampur and Doda Districts of Jmmu and Kashmir to assist Jammu and Kashmir Government to improve State roads.

Anomaly in Pay Scale of Assistants

3070. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAT, Principal Bench in the OA No. 1538/87 found anomaly in the Pay Scale of Assistance vis-a-vis Central Excise and Income Tax Inspectors etc., following the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether the DOP & T vide its OM dated 31.7.1990 upgraded the Pay Scale of Assistants to Rs.1640-2900 complying the said direction of the CAT;

(c) if so, whether Department of Expenditure vide its OM dated 21.4.2004 upgraded the Pay Scale of Central Excise and Income Tax Inspectors to Rs.6500-10500 thereby creating fresh anomaly for Assistants; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to rectify this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) In O.A. No. 1538/87, the Hon'ble CAT, inter alia, came to the conclusion that, prima facie, there was an anomaly in the pay scale of Assistants and directed the Government to consider the same as per the laid down procedure.

(b) The Government after considering the issue in its totality, decided to grant pay scale of Rs. 1640-2900 w.e.f. 1.1.1986 to the Assistants of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) vide DOP & T's O.M. dated 31.7.1990.

(c) Department of Expenditure vide OM dated 21.4.2004, inter alia, revised the pay scales of the Income Tax Inspector and Inspector (Central Excise). The nature of duties and responsibilities attached to the post of Assistants of CSS are distinct from those of Income Tax Inspector and Inspector (Central Excise) and are, therefore, not comparable.

As such, no anomaly can be stated to have been created on account of upgradation of pay scale of the post of Income Tax Inspector and Inspector (Central Excise).

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

VRS for Government Employees

3071. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to introduce VRS for Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit to be accrued to the employees opting for voluntary retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration to offer VRS to the Central Government employees other than those which already exist under various provisions.

[Translation]

Increasing Medical Expenditure

3072. DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been continuous increase in the expenditure incurred on the medical head by the Government during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that even after increasing the expenditure the general public do not get proper medical treatment in time; 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) Although in absolute terms the public expenditure on health has been increasing, the per capita public expenditure on health according to the World Health Reports of WHO has remained at around $ 4 during the last few years. Also as a percentage of GDP, the public health expenditure has been more or less stagnant at less than 1% during the last few years.

(c) and (d) As enunciated in the National Health Policy 2002, it is the endeavour of Govt. to achieve an acceptable standard of good health to the general population of the country by increasing access to the decentralized public health system. For this Govt. have taken various steps. A vast net work of rural health infrastructure has been created. Govt. also provides assistance to states for improvement of the health infrastructure. All out efforts are made to mobilize assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of various National Health Programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable disease like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and mental Health. State Health Systems projects are also being implemented with World Bank assistance in seven states to improve the health infrastructure in rural areas, especially for the poor and the underserved. However, despite all efforts, differences in availability of health care facilities exist across states and there may be some shortcoming with regard to quality of healthcare in terms of supply of drugs, deployment of health professionals and availability of diagnostic facilities.

[English]

Funds to NGOs

3073. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides funds to the voluntary organizations which are carrying out Family Planning Programmes in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated to them;

(c) whether there is any agency to monitor that the funds allocated to these voluntary organizations are being properly utilized by them;

(d) if so, the names of defaulters organizations; and

(e) the action the Union Government has taken/ proposes to take against them?

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

(b) The list is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) A panel of evaluation agencies have been approved by the Department of Family Welfare to carry out the appraisal/evaluation of NGOs as given in enclosed statement-II. The NGOs are evaluated on completion of 1st year and 3rd year of the project. Under the Scheme for Support to Gender Issues (SGI) for which financial assistance was provided by UNFPA, the financial assistance was routed through an identified NGO called Monitoring NGO while the project was implemented through an Implementing NGO. The Monitoring NGO supervised and monitored the implementation of the project.

(d) and (e) The list of NGO against whom complaints have recently been received and action taken in this regard is given in enclosed statement-III. The NGOs black listed during the last three years is given in enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Mother NGO scheme—under World Bank assisted RCH Programme

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of MNGO	State	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ekalavya Memorial League Prakasam	Andhra Pradesh	1,000,000.00		978,414.00
2.	Rahul's Med. & Health Services Society, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	4,000,000.00	3,898,562.00	3,200,000.00
3.	Society for National Integration through Rural Development, Prakasam	Andhra Pradesh	2,234,000.00		1,936,708.00
4.	St. Peter's Multipurpose Health Workers (Female), Guntur	Andhra Pradesh		900,000.00	850,000.00
5.	Heads, Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	750,000.00	739,649.00	2,689,345.00
6.	Social Action for social Dev. Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	1,500,000.00		1,440,000.00
7.	Arunachal Pradesh VHA	Arunachal Pradesh		2,987,396.00	
8.	Rural Women Upliftment Association of Assam	Assam	1,600,000.00	3,000,000.00	2,964,147.00
9.	Voluntary Health Association of Assam, Guwahati	Assam		2,613,000.00	
10.	Deshbhandu Club, Cachar	Assam	1,855,000.00		1,704,646.00
11.	Scientific Education Prom. & Med. Aid Foundation, Patna	Bihar	1,600,000.00	2,360,000.00	2,324,240.00
12.	Millat Educational Society, Samastipur	Bihar		1,200,000.00	1,736,000.00
13.	Mahila Bal Uttan Kendra, Samastipur	Bihar		1,760,000.00	1,800,000.00
14.	Adarsh Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra, Patna	Bihar		2,129,408.00	2,400,000.00
15.	ADITHI, Patna	Bihar			2,987,600.00
16.	Bhagwan Budha Vikas Seva Samiti, Patna	Bihar	400,000.00	596,355.00	600,000.00
17.	Arthick Atma Nirbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran, Patna	Bihar	400,000.00	800,000.00	1,166,700.00
18.	Daudnagar Organization for Rural Development, Aurangabad	Bihar	1,200,000.00		1,983,397.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Shantidoot, Nalanda	Bihar	400,000.00	600,000.00	579,254.00
20.	Rajendra Institute of Education & Social Welfare	Bihar	1,200,000.00		1,189,100.00
21.	Centre for Labour Education & Social Research (CLEAR)	Chhattisgarh	2,500,000.00		
22.	Utthan-Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	Chhattisgarh			1,200,000.00
23.	INDCARE Charitable Trust	Delhi	1,013,890.00	1,500,000.00	
24.	SOSVA, North	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab	3,625,000.00		6,607,853.00
25.	Gujarat Voluntary Health Association, Ahmedabad	Gujarat		1,250,000.00	
26.	Centre for Health Education Training & Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA)	Gujarat	876.997.00	676,317.00	1,345,849.00
27.	Family Planning Association of India, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,200,000.00	1,395,562.00	
28.	Samagra Vikas Trust Amreli Gujarat	Gujarat	1,000,000.00	2,426,389.00	
29.	HP VHA	H.P.		2,271,377.00	
30.	Society for Social Uplift through Rural Action	H.P.			1,277,980.00
31.	Nischal Foundation (SNS), Gurgaon (MNGO in H.P.)	H.P.	1,600,000.00	2,000,000.00	
32.	SWACH Foundation, Panchkula	Haryana	2,489,464.00	2,500,000.00	2,959,657.00
33.	Haryana Navyuvak Kala Sangham	Haryana		474,418.00	
34.	Jammu and Kashmir Ex-Services League, Jammu	J&K	1,200,000.00	1,352,544.00	
35.	Kalamakari Centre Ploura, Jammu	J&K		997,770.00	
36.	Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra	Jharkhand		2,129,386.00	
37.	Gram Nirman Mandal, Nawada	Jharkhand/Bihar	1,600,000.00	2,289,963.00	1,200,000.00
38.	Women in Social Action, Midnapore	Jharkhand		2,400,000.00	2,327,632.000
39.	Phooleen Mahila Chetna Vikas Kendra, Deoghar	Jharkhand	400,000.00	576,645.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	Karnataka Voluntary Health Association	Karnataka		2,128,829.00	
41.	SOSVA, Karnataka	Karnataka		4,000,000.00	3,890,854.00
42.	St. John's Medical College Bangalore	Karnataka		3,364,741.00	
43.	Family Planning Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	1,500,000.00	1,390,591.00	
44.	Kerala Voluntary Health Services, Kottayam	Kerala	2,000,000.00		
45.	Mahila Utkarsha Sansthan, Indore	M.P.		1,200,000.00	
46.	Tarun Sanskar, Jabalpur	M.P.		1,200,000.00	
47.	Sambhav, Gwalior	M.P.		3,378,818.00	3,600,000.00
48.	Sarvajanik Parivar Kalyan Evam Seva Samiti, Gwalior	M.P.	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
49.	Sanskar Shiksha Samiti,	M.P.	1,200,000.00	1,533,773.00	1,761,990.00
50.	Madhya Pradesh V.H.A, Indore	M.P.	1,900,000.00		692,888.00
51.	FPAI, Mumbai (MNGO in M.P.)	M.P.	2,500,000.00		3,288,868.00
52.	Medical Council Centre, Bhopal	M.P.	1,200,000.00		1,762,450.00
53.	Shri Parshwanath Bal Mandir Samiti, Indore	M.P.	1,200,000.00	960,000.00	1,183,876.00
54.	Utthan-Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	M.P.			1,200,000.00
55.	Sevadham Trust, Pune	Maharashtra		7,739,521.00	
56.	SOSVA, (STAPI), Pune	Maharashtra	1,900,000.00		3,366,057.00
57.	Pravara Medical Trust, Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	1,624,000.00		1,374,160.00
58.	Godavari Foundation, Jalgaon	Maharashtra	1,000,000.00		2,467,773.00
59.	Lamding Cherpur Homeopathic & Unani Association, Wangjing	Manipur		2,269,217.00	
60.	Family Planning Association of India, Imphal	Manipur		2,731,823.00	
61.	Nagaland VHA	Nagaland		2,128,829.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
62.	Orissa V.H.A. Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	3,000,000.00	4,892,593.00	3,200,000.00
63.	MY HEART. Bhubaneshwar	Orissa		6,000.000.00	2,962,049.00
64.	Organisation for Social Change and Rural Development, (OSCARD), Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	1,200,000.00	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00
65.	ISWAR	Orissa		584,000.00	
66.	ASRA	Orissa	800,000.00	1,159,634.00	1,195,643.00
67.	Animal Welfare Society of Orissa	Orissa		1,200,000.00	1,187,893.00
68.	Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan	Orissa			600,000.00
69.	PRAKALPA	Orissa		600,000.00	478,800.00
70.	Anchalika Kunjeswari Sanskrutika, Puri	Orissa	1,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	2,993,185.00
71.	NIAHRD, Cuttack	Orissa	800,000.00		1,189,483.00
72.	FPAI, Mohali	Punjab		1,500.000.00	
73	VHA of Punjab, Chandigarh	Punjab		1,000,000.00	
74.	Bhoruka Chartitable Trust, Jaipur	Rajasthan	1,700,000.00		
75.	Bodhgram Society for Education Conscientisation awareness and training (ECAT)	Rajasthan		1,200,000.00	
76.	URMUL, Rural Health Research Bikaner	Rajasthan	1,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	
77.	CHETNA	Rajasthan	1,000,000.00		
78.	Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim	Sikkim	1,000,000.00		2,371,294.00
79.	Rural Education & Development Society, Sivagangai	Tamil Nadu	2,000,000.00		1,795,902.00
80.	Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, Chennai	Tamil Nadu		2,598,151.00	
81.	Gandhigram Instt. Of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust, Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	3,500,000.00	3,930,383.00	
82.	Deepam Educational Society for Health (DESH), Chennai	Tamil Nadu	800,000.00		887,264.00
83.	FPAI, Madurai	Tamil Nadu	2,345,652.00		2,482,741.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
84.	VHA of Tripura, Agartala	Tripura	1,500,000.00		1,780,034.00
85.	CARTE, Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh		2,400,000.00	1,834,645.00
86.	Indian Instt. for Development Studies & Research, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	3,600,000.00		3,534,000.00
87.	New Public School Samiti, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2,000,000.00	3,550,471.00	2,830,471.00
88.	Naujhil Integrated Rural Project for Health and Development	Uttar Pradesh	2,400,000.00	3,288,624.00	2,800,000.00
89.	Utthan-Centre for Sustainable Alleviation, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	2,500,000.00		3,558,000.00
90.	World Welfare & Research Centre Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	2,000,000.00	2,909,142.00	2,774,505.00
91.	FPAI, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	3,600,000.00		3,548,209.00
92.	UP VHA	Uttar Pradesh			2,135,852.00
93.	Himalayan Instt. Hospital Trust, Dehradun	Uttaranchal		3,392,695.00	
94.	CINI, Calcutta	West Bengal			3,883,404.00
95.	Gana Unnayana Parishad, Kolkatta	West Bengal	1,500,000.00		1,500,000.00
96.	W. Bengal V.H.A., Kolkatta	West Bengal		3,980,300.00	3,996,313.00

Innovative Scheme

S.No.	Name of NGO	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rural Women Upliftment	Assam	115.000.00		
2.	Jan Swasthya Sahayog	Chhattisgarh		2,207,100.00	
3.	PRAYAS	Delhi	869,500,00		
4.	VHAI, New Delhi	Delhi			700,000.00
5.	Mahila Sewa Trust, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	11,210,526.00		
6.	SNS Foundation, Gurgaon	Haryana	1,456,000.00	387,400.00	
7.	SNS Foundation, Gurgaon	H.P.	244,125.00		
8.	Yuvak Pratisthan	Maharashtra		1,500,000.00	
9.	SOSVA, Pune	Maharashtra	3,000,000.00	1,975,000.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	VHAI, Delhi	MP	874,073.00		700,000.00
11.	Population Foundation of India	New Delhi	802,762.00		
12.	VHAI, New Delhi	Orissa	1,700,000.00		
13.	Jan Chetna Parishad	Orissa	1,000,000.00	1,304,000.00	
14.	Arasan Rural Development Society	Tamil Nadu	206,775.00		
15.	Tagore Society for Rural Development, Kolkata	West Bengal		5,150,867.00	
16.	Women in Social Action	West Bengal		421,000.00	

UNFPA assisted projects on Gender Issues

S.No.	Name of Implementing NGO	State/UT	Funds released during 2001-2002	Funds released during 2002-2003	Funds released during 2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Voluntary Health Association of India, Delhi	Delhi			460,630.00
2.	Mobile Creches, New Delhi	Delhi	1,287,634.00	195,262.00	252,582.00
3.	Institute for Development & Communication, Chandigarh	Chandigarh		297,448.00	
4.	Centre Direct, Patna	Bihar		787,554.00	
5.	Organization for Socio Economic and Rural Development, (OSERD), Patna	Bihar	247,968.00	283,900.00	283,900.00
6.	Daudnagar Development Sansthan, Daudnagar	Bihar	783,300,00	597,497.00	156,660.00
7.	Visakha Zila Nav Nirman Samiti, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	808,920.00	808,071.00	
8.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	669,600.00	709,753.00	
9.	Swa-Sehyog Sanstha, Chaksu	Rajasthan	325,474.00	169.050.00	
10.	Indian Institute for Rural Development, Jaipur	Rajasthan	148,471.00		
11.	Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation	Rajasthan		773,928,00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Concerned Citizen	Rajasthan		910,967.00	
13.	Guild of Services (Central), Chennai	Tamil Nadu		19,318.00	
14.	Rural Development Society, Wangjing	Manipur	832,928.00	666,515.00	
15.	Community Development Programme Centre, Thoubal	Manipur		54,810.00	
16.	Khurai Young Women Socio Cultural Organization (KYWSCO)	Manipur		186,900.00	
17.	SEVANA, Trivandram	Kerala	139,860.00	32,328.00	
18.	Jananeethi	Kerala		68,843.00	
19.	Anweshi Womens Counselling Centre, Calicut	Kerala		867,384.00	176,835.00
20.	Deepak Charitable Trust, Vadodara	Gujarat	1,574,034.00	149,957.00	219,396.00
21.	Parvatiya Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti, Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh	921,361.00	560,000.00	
22.	West Bengal Voluntary Health Association	West Bengal		912,900.00	
23.	Youth Association for Rural Reconstruction	Orissa		457,832.00	
24.	Kerala State Council for Child Welfare	Kerala		867,382.00	
25.	Community Action for Social Transformation, Thiruviruthanpulli	Tamil Nadu	1,211,700.00	956,750.00	204,096.00

Statement-II

A panel of Pre-appraisal/Evaluation/Field appraisal under the RCH scheme

1. The Director,
Indian Institute for Health Management Research,
1, Prabhu Dayal Marg,
Sanganer Airport,
Jaipur.

2. The Director,
Family Planning Association of India (FPAI),
Bajaj Bhavan, Nariman Point,
Mumbai.

3. The Director,
Nabakrishna Choudhury,
Centre for Dev. Studies,
Bhubaneshwar-751 013.

4. The Director,
NIHFW,
Munirka, New Delhi.

5. The Chief Executive,
Voluntary Health Association of India,
Tong Swasthya Bhavan,
40, Institutional Area, New Delhi.

6. The Director,
CINI, Village Daulatpur,
P.O. Pailan,
Via Joka, 24 Parganas,
West Bengal-743 512.

7. The Director,
Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & F.W. Trust,
Amba THURAI R.S.,
Dindigul Distt., Tamil Nadu-624 302.

8. The Director,
Om Kailash Tower,
190-A, Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow.

Statement-III

Action Taken Report against the NGOs

Sl. No.	Name of NGO	Action taken
1.	Godavari Foundation, Jalgaon, Maharashtra	There was a complaint against the MNGO on alleged misuse of funds. The inquiry was conducted by consultant ARC from 29.5.2003 to 30.6.2003. Second inquiry was conducted AC (NGO) with assistance of US(S.I) 12-14 November, 2003. Allegation against the NGOs were not substantiated.
2.	Arthick Atma Nirbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran, Patna, Bihar	A complaint against malpractices committed by the MNGO has been received. Comments of the State Government have been called for. Their reply is awaited.
3.	CHETNA, Rajasthan	As per utilization certificate for the year 2002-03, they have unspent balance of Rs. 1,58,551/-, CHETNA, Rajasthan has not been separately registered entity. Further grant-in aid has been stopped till they furnished the registration certificate in Rajasthan.
4.	Development Action through self help Network (DARSHAN), Kerala	The NGO was released an amount of Rs. 1,41,400/- for "Day Care Centre". The monitoring reports and visit by UNFPA revealed irregularities in maintenance of accounts and misutilization of funds. Further releases have been stopped and audit Wing of MOHFW has been requested to audit the accounts of the NGO.

Statement-IV

NGOs blacklisted during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of Organization
1.	Revansidheswar Prasanna Education Society, Bidar, Karnataka.
2.	National Educational Minorities Society, Kothapet, Guntur, A.P.
3.	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
4.	Harijan Pichda Warg Kalyan Samiti, Madyepur, Madhubani, Bihar.
5.	Hast Kala Vikas Kendra, Madheypur, Madhubani, Bihar.

Invention of Vaccine for AIDS

3074. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether a research team at the National HIV Reference Centre in AIIMS have succeeded in developing an effective vaccine for AIDS as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 21, 2004;

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

(c) whether the said team is awaiting clearance for the clinical trials to be conducted on human beings;

(d) if so, the reasons attributed for the delay in giving clearance; and

(e) the time by when the clinical trials on humans are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology supports a National Reference Centre at AIIMS for developing a vaccine for HIV. This National HIV Reference Centre in AIIMS has reported the development of a DNA recombinant vaccine against HIV 1 sub type-C. This vaccine is yet to undergo clinical trials to determine its efficacy, safety etc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is constituting an Expert Group to examine suitability of this vaccine for under going clinical trials. In view of the above, no time frame can be ascertained for initiating the clinical trials.

Pension Liabilities

3075. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact from 4.81 per cent of the total revenue receipts of States in 1990-91, the pension liabilities of various States have risen to nearly 11 per cent of their revenue receipts by 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to help the States which have high percentage of pension liabilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement on the year-wise details of Total Revenue Receipts and Pension Liabilities is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Total Revenue Receipts and Pension Liabilities of States from 1990-91 (BE) to 2003-04 (BE)

(Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Total Revenue Receipts (TRR)	Pension Liabilities	% Share of Pension Liabilities in TRR
1	2	3	4
1990-91	6445905	309733	4.81
1991-92	7740805	366394	4.73
1992-93	8761643	384435	4.39
1993-94	10086088	461608	4.58
1994-95	11548224	562337	4.87
1995-96	13547784	679924	5.02
1996-97	15114020	867927	5.74

1	2	3	4
1997-98	17516536	1078307	6.16
1998-99	20013640	1420267	7.10
1999-2000	21474055	2009196	9.36
2000-01	24224270	2382030	9.83
2001-02	28308334	2679066	9.46
2002-03	30354742	3039629	10.01
2003-04	33171594	3578651	10.79

SOURCE: RBI—State Finances—A Study of Budgets (1991-92 to 2003-04)

[Translation]

Discretionary Fund

3076. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount given from the Minister of Health's Discretionary Fund to the patients for treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases under consideration at present; and

(d) the norms fixed for providing amount from the above fund?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) 50 cases as on 17.8.2004.

(d) A statement indicating the norms for sanction of assistance from the fund is enclosed.

Statement

Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

Under this scheme financial assistance is granted to the poor and needy patients to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases. The diseases for which grants have been sanctioned include heart ailments, kidney transplants, hip & knee replacement, cancer, AIDS, hepatitis, eye, tumour etc. Some of the salient features of the scheme/norms for providing assistance from this fund are:—

(i) Government servants (Central as well as State Government Employees) are not eligible to receive financial assistance out of the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant.

(ii) The amount of the grant in any one case does not ordinarily exceed Rs. 20,000/-. The grant is sanctioned as 'one time' grant and is released to the Medical Supdt. of the hospital where the patient is taking treatment.

(iii) All grants are of non-recurring nature and no recurring liability is undertaken.

(iv) Re-imbursement of expenditure already incurred is not admissible.

(v) The sanction of grant is generally being restricted to patients taking treatment in Government hospitals.

[English]

Mass Vaccination Programmes

3077. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mass vaccination programme presently running under the National Immunization Programme; and

(b) the funds allocated to each of the vaccination programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) (i) Routine Immunization is given at:

BCG — Birth

DPT — 6,10,14 weeks and at 18-24 months

OPV — 6,10,14 weeks, 18-24 months and 0 dose for institutional delivery Measles-9-12 months

DT — 5 years

TT — 10 years and 16 years

TT — for pregnant woman two doses or one dose if previously vaccinated within 3 years

(ii) Mass vaccination under pulse polio programme where all children under 5 years are given one dose of OPV during each campaign.

(b) Budget estimates for 2004-05 for

(i) Routine Immunization—Rs. 217.00 crores

(ii) Pulse Polio Programme—Rs. 1011.70 crores

[Translation]

Decline in Family Planning Programmes

3078. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

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

(a) whether family planning programmes have been declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the Government formulated schemes for propagation and expansion of the family planning programmes;

(d) the funds to be provided by the Government for implementation of Family Planning Programmes during the year 2004-05; and

(e) the number of vasectomy operations conducted under the programmes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. the performance figures for Family Planning Methods as given below indicate that acceptability of contraceptive services has increased in the country.

Family Planning Methods	2002-03	2003-04*
Sterilizations	4,793,289	4,875,462
IUD Insertions	6,121,166	6,079,328
Condom Users	22,087,930	21,931,545
Oral Pill Users	9,236,647	8,751,291

*Figures are provisional

(c) Compensation in lieu of loss of wages is paid to acceptors of sterilization @ Rs. 150/- per sterilization. This has recently been revised to Rs. 200/- per Tubectomy and Rs. 250/- per Vasectomy in EAG States, to cover the transactional costs and to ensure better quality in these procedures. An enhanced package of compensation is being offered to the accredited Private/ NGOP Health facilities in these states, for sterilization and IUD Insertion through models of social marketing and social franchise. Contraceptives are being provided to clients both through free supply and social marketing channels. New contraceptives like IUD 380-A and emergency Contraceptives have been included in the National Family Welfare Programme and client specific publicity of Family Welfare theme is being undertaken through mass media and at decentralized levels.

(d) An amount of Rs. 528.67 crores has been directly earmarked for Family Planning Services during the year 2004-05 under the National Family Welfare Programme.

(e) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/U.T/Agency	2001-02	2002-03*	2003-04*
1	2	3	4	5
I.	**Major States** (Population > 20 million)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44,486	42,406	30801
2.	Assam	56	138	406
3.	Bihar	443	584	454
4.	Chhattisgarh	2,039	2,862	3242
5.	Gujarat	1,897	1,831	1677
6.	Haryana	1,383	1,416	1705
7.	Jharkhand	431	521	326
8.	Karnataka	575	1,074	771
9.	Kerala	1,137	1,645	1511
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5,125	6,082	7000
11.	Maharashtra	34,076	37,499	42000
12.	Orissa	2,742	1,122	1233
13.	Punjab	1,127	1,200	1638
14.	Rajasthan	1,410	1,737	1767
15.	Tamil Nadu	507	466	956
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1,971	1,765	5469
17.	West Bengal	1,532	1,835	860
II.	**Smaller States**			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	2	3
2.	Delhi	1,788	2,011	1712
3.	Goa	10	26	13
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3,001	3,054	3160
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	253	538	403

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Manipur	5	360	144
7.	Meghalaya	26	40	9
8.	Mizoram	0	1	2
9.	Nagaland	54	56	19
10.	Sikkim	426	359	180
11.	Tripura	14	10	1
12.	Uttaranchal	1,055	1,527	1900
III.	**Union Territories**			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	24	15	11
2.	Chandigarh	83	60	63
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	33	26
4.	Daman and Diu	1	4	5
5.	Lakshadweep	0	-	0
6.	Pondicherry	18	16	21
IV.	**Other Agencies**			
1.	M/O Defence	2,533	2,416	2882
2.	M/O Railways	946	835	722
	All India	111,192	115,546	113,092

*Figures are Provisional
—Nil

Extradition of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Accused

3079. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been trying for the extradition of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy accused from America for the last 20 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the accused Shri Warren Anderson has crossed the age of 80 years and under the extradition treaty in America a person crossing the age of 80 years can not be punished;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to punish the group of officials engaged in bringing Shri Warren Anderson from America; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and the time by when they will be punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b)

No. The formal request for the extradition of Warren Anderson was sent to the United States Government in May 2003 to stand trial in the criminal case concerning the Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy. In June 2004, the United States Government informed that it has examined the request and concluded that the request cannot be executed because it does not meet the requirements of certain provisions of the Extradition Treaty between India and the United States.

(c) There is no provision in the Extradition Treaty which prohibits a persons from being extradited because of his/her age.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Sending Indian Troops to Sudan

3080. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to send Indian troops to Sudan under the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other countries where Indian forces have been deployed at present under the aegis of UNPKF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to U.N. request, Government of India has made commitment to the United Nations to provide an infantry battalion group with support elements, an Air Force unit comprising six utility helicopters and police personnel consisting of a Special Police Unit and individual police officers.

(c) Indian troops are currently deployed in U.N. Peacekeeping missions in Lebanon, Ethiopia-Eritrea and Democratic Republic of Congo. Indian police personnel are serving in the U.N. Mission in Kosovo.

Telephone Exchanges/Post Offices in Uttaranchal

3081. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices opened in Uttaranchal, district-wise, especially in Haridwar;

(b) the places where new telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices were proposed to be opened during 2003-04;

(c) the number of proposals under consideration of the Government for setting up of post offices and sub-post offices; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of telephone exchanges as on date and Head Post Offices, Mukhya Dak Ghar, Sub Offices, Extra Department Sub Offices, Extra Departmental Branch Offices in Uttaranchal especially in Hardwar are given in statement-I.

(b) Twenty Five (25) telephone exchanges and Five (5) Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) were proposed, out of which 17 exchanges and 5 EDBOs were opened during 2003-2004 till date as given in statement-II. One exchange was opened in Hardwar District. No new post office or sub post office was opened during the year 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal pending, which fulfills the norms prescribed for opening a Departmental Sub Post Office. However, one proposal for opening an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at village Jhudeli in District Champawat, appears to fulfill the norms and is under examination.

Statement-I

The number of Telephone Exchanges opened (District-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Name of District	No. on exchanges
1.	Almora	Almora	48
		Bageshwar	09
		Champawat	15
		Pithoragarh	34
2.	Dehradun	Dehradun	61
3.	Hardwar	Hardwar	29
4.	Nainital	Nainital	29
		U.S. Nagar	46
5.	New Tehri	Uttarkashi	24
		New Tehri	45
6.	Srinagar	Chamoli	32
		Rudraprayag	21
		Pauri	51
		Total	444

Information relating to the number of Sub Post Offices (SO) and Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBO) opened in Uttaranchal

Sl. No.	Name of District	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		SO	EDBO	SO	EDBO	SO	EDBO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Almora	–	4	–	1	–	–
2.	Bageshwar	–	1	–	–	–	2
3.	Chamoli	–	–	–	–	–	2
4.	Rudraprayag	–	2	–	–	–	–
5.	Dehradun	–	–	–	–	–	–
6.	Hardwar	–	–	–	–	–	–
7.	Nainital	–	–	–	–	–	–
8.	U.S. Nagar	–	1	–	–	–	–
9.	Pauri	1	3	–	2	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Pithoragarh	–	1	–	–	–	1
11.	Champawat	–	–	–	–	–	–
12.	Tehri	–	3	–	1	–	–
13.	Uttarakashi	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	1	15	–	4	–	5

Statement-II

Telephone Exchanges proposed/opened during 2003-2004 in Uttaranchal

Sl.No.	District	Total number of Exchanges proposed in 2003-2004	Total Number of Exchanges opened in 2003-2004	Name of the Exchange
1.	Almora		2	Kaman-Matela, Bhujan
2.	Bageshwar		0	
3.	Champawat	7	2	Sukhidhung, Reetha Sahib
4.	Pithoragarh		3	Khir Mande, Baram, Jajradevi
5.	Dehradun	4	3	Yanmuna Colony, Garhi Cantt, Chilhar
6.	Rudraprayag		1	Makhumath
7.	Chamoli	7	0	
8.	Pauri		2	Silogi, Paukhal
9.	Hardwar	1	1	Dhamdhera near Roorke Cantt
10.	Uttarakashi	4	1	Manpur
11.	New Tehri		0	
12.	Nainital	2	1	Bareilly Road Haldwani
13.	U.S. Nagar		1	Devipura
	Total	25	17	

Post Offices/Sub Post Offices opened during 2003-2004

Sl. No.	District	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSO)	Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBO)
1	2	3	4
1.	Almora	Nil	Nil
2.	Bageshwar	Nil	Kathayatbada, Charson (Minister's case)

1	2	3	4
3.	Champawat	Nil	Nil
4.	Pithoragarh	NII	Urai (Minister's case)
5.	Dehradun	Nil	Nil
6.	Rudraprayag	Nil	Nil
7.	Chamoli	Nil	Andarappa, Chaud
8.	Pauri	Nil	Nil
9.	Hardwar	Ni	Nil
10.	Uttarakashi	Nil	Nil
11.	Tehri	Nil	Nil
12.	Nainital	Nil	Nil
13.	U.S. Nagar	Nil	Nil

Exclusive Rights Beyond EEZ

3082. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to get exclusive rights to 1.5 million sq. km of seabed beyond its Exclusive Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the time by when India would stake claim to the area under the provision of the UN convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) the details of the likely impact on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the said move; and

(d) the details of the prolongation of land mass extending beyond the territorial sea in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The actual area of India's Continental Shelf would be known only after its claim for an extended Continental Shelf based on procedures laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea, 1982 is examined by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), and expert body established by the Convention.

(b) India will present its claim for an extended Continental Shelf to the CLCS before the Deadline stipulated for this purpose, *i.e.*, 12 May 2009.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of National Highways

3083. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

(a) the details of the National Highways passing through each State alongwith their length particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of the proposals forwarded by the State Government particularly in respect of Bhandara district of Maharashtra for converting State Highways into National Highways;

(c) the amount allocated to the State Governments from the Central Road Fund for the construction of highways during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to convert the National Highways into four lanes and six lanes in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise details of National Highways, including the State of Rajasthan, alongwith their lengths, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The last declaration of National Highways was made on 25.02.2004. The details of proposals for declaration of National Highways, received after 25.02.2004, are given in the enclosed Statement-II. However, no proposals have been received from Government of Maharashtra for declaration of State Highways to National Highways in respect of Bhandara district during this period.

(c) the details of funds released to various State Governments/Union Territories during the last three years for development of State roads from Central Road Fund are as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
1.	2001-02	299.59
2.	2002-03	950.28
3.	2003-04	778.94

(d) Four/six laning of about 14,279 km of National Highways has been taken up under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). There is a proposal for four laning of National Highways, depending upon viability of such projects of four laning, under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana. This Pariyojana covers improvement of National Highways in about 10,000 km length.

Statement-I

List of State-wise National Highways in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in km)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214, 214A, 219, 221 & 222	4472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52, 52A & 153	392
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153 & 154	2836
4.	Bihar	2, 19, 28, 28A, 28B, 30, 30A 31, 57, 57A 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 &110	3537
5.	Chandigarh	21	24
6.	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 111, 200, 202, 216, 217 & 221	2184
7.	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 & 24	72
8.	Goa	4A, 17, 17A & 17B	269
9.	Gujarat	6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 14, 15, 59, 113 & NE1	2871
10.	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10, 21A, 22, 64, 65, 71 71A, 71B, 72, 73 & 73A	1468
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72, 73A & 88	1208
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A, 1B, 1C	823
13.	Jharkhand	2, 6, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 & 100	1805
14.	Karnataka	4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 17, 48, 63, 67, 206, 207, 209, 212 & 218	3843

1	2	3	4
15.	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213 & 220	1440
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3, 7, 12, 12A, 25, 26, 26A, 27, 59, 59A, 69, 75, 76, 78, 79, 86, 86A & 92	5200
17.	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 4C, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 69, 204, 211 & 222	4176
18.	Manipur	39, 53, 150 &155	959
19.	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51 & 62	810
20.	Mizoram	44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150 & 154	927
21.	Nagaland	36, 39, 61, 150 & 155	494
22.	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 75, 200, 201, 203, 203A, 215, 217 & 224	3704
23.	Pondicherry	45A & 66	53
24.	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, 72 & 95	1557
25.	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 11A, 11B, 12, 14, 15, 65, 71B, 76, 79, 79A, 89, 90, 112, 113, 114 & 116	5585
26.	Sikkim	31A,	62
27.	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45C, 46, 47, 47B, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 & 220	4183
28.	Tripura	44 & 44A	400
29.	Uttaranchal	58, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108, 109, 119, 121, 123 & 125	1991
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2, 2A, 3, 7, 11, 12A, 19, 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 28B, 28C, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72A, 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 91, 91A, 92, 93, 96, 97 & 119	5599
31.	West Bengal	2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 60A, 80, 81 & 117	2325
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	223	300
	Total		65569

Statement-II

Details of proposals for declaration of new National Highways received from State Government after 25.02.2004

Sl. No.	Name of the State		Details of Roads/Stretches	Length in km
1	2		3	4
1.	Karnataka	(i)	Mysore-Malavalli Road	45
		(ii)	Bilikere-Hassan-Hospet-Manvi-Raichur Road	612
		(iii)	Mysore-Srirangapatna-Hiriyur-Gulbarga-Bidar Road	743
		(iv)	Banglore-Mysore-Madikere-puttur Road	361
		(v)	Belgaum-Yragalli-Mudgal-Raichur-Mahaboob Nagar Road	338
		(vi)	Dharwad-Ramnagar Road	52
		(vii)	Bantwal-Mudigere-Belur-Sira-Chintamani-Shrinivasapur-Mulabagal-State border	487
		(viii)	Jeevargi-Hattigudur-Lingasugur-Sindhanur-Bellary	248
		(ix)	Doddaballapur-Nandi-Vijayapura-Vemagal-Kolar	82
			Sub Total	2968
2.	Meghalaya	(i)	Nongstoin-Tura Road	218
		(ii)	Agia-Medhipara-Phulwabri-Ampati-Mohenderagaj-Purakhasia-Barengapara Road	224
			Sub Total	442
3.	Orissa	(i)	Berhampur-Rayagada-Koraput Road	313
			Sub Total	313
4.	Rajasthan	(i)	Mathura-Baratpur Road	40
		(ii)	Nasirabad-Devli Road	95
		(iii)	Kotputli-Sikar Road	125
		(iv)	Khairwara-Doongarpur-Baanswara-Ratlam Road	210
		(v)	Swarup Ganj-Kotra-Som-Kherwada Road	147
		(vi)	Falaudi-Nagore Road	140
		(vii)	Shridungargarh-Sardarshahar-Pulasar-Balarasar-Jasarasar	115
		(viii)	Sawaimadhopur-Shivpuri (MP)	44
		(ix)	Koshi-Kame-Deeg-Bharatpur-Roopwas-Sepau-Dholpur	139
		(x)	Gaumti-Chauraha-Desuri-Sadri-Sanderao-Ahor-Jalore-Barmer	306
		(xi)	Phalodi-Balotra-Jalore-Sirohi	343

1	2	3		4
		(xii)	Nagaur-Deedwana-Khur-Sikar	176
		(xiii)	Kir ki chowki-Bhinder-Saiulumber-Aspur-Durgapur	146
		(xiv)	Hodel-Punhana-Nharatpur-Roopwas-Dholpur	202
		(xv)	Chandwaji-Chomu-Bagru on NH-8	171
		(xvi)	Sirohi-Mandar-Deesa (Gujarat)	68
		(xvii)	Gurgaon-Alwar-Sariska-Dausa-Swaimadhopur	248
			Sub Total	2715
5.	Tamil Nadu	(i)	Sathy (Sathyamangalam)-Athani-Bhavani Road (State Highway No. 82)	52.80
		(ii)	Avinashi-Tiruppur-Palladam-Pallachi-Meenkarai Road (State Highway No. 19)	99.60
			Sub Total	152.40
6.	West Bengal	(i)	Galgalia in West Bengal and Bihar Border to Purnia, via Asraia and Golabbagh in Bihar	102
			Sub Total	102
			Grand Total	6692.40

[English]

Premium Services of Postal Department

3084. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed that many Government Departments/Ministries/PSUs/Nationalised Bank etc. are using the services of courier companies neglecting the premium services rendered by the Department of Post; and

(b) if so, the effective measures taken by the Department to counter the same?

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

(b) The Secretaries to Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries to State Governments have been addressed in this regard.

[Translation]

Constitution of Administrative Reform Committee

3085. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Administrative Reforms Committee to bring about transparency and wipe out corruption in the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special budget for implementing the programme, if any, has been marked;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Prime Minister has urged the Chief Minister to bring about reforms in the process of Governance;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action plan to bring about transparency and wiping out irregularities to restore confidence in public mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to recommend systemic changes in governance for developing greater probity, efficiency and transparency in the Civil Services and making is responsive and citizen-friendly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Prime Minister has asked the Chief Minister to pay attention to

(i) energize institutions of governance

(ii) ensure accountability in the provision of public services

(iii) ensure transparency in the handling of public funds

(iv) align incentives with desired outcomes.

(g) Action plan includes the enactment of Freedom of Information Act, 2002, formulation of Citizen Charter and reforms in the delivery of public services.

Setting up of BTS Towers

3086. MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up BTS Towers at Rural Telephone Exchanges alongwith the District Headquarters Telephone to and cellular phone services accessible even to the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cell phones provided in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh have a very limited range of network;

(d) if so, the time by which the BTS Towers are likely to be set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Having planned coverage up to District Head quarters in the country, efforts are underway to extend the coverage up to Tehsil Head quarters. Additionally, coverage of National provides incidental coverage to the rural areas falling enroute on the highways.

(c) to (e) Presently, the coverage in the towns of Sultanpur, Amethi, Jagdishpur Industrial Area (JIA), Gauriganj, Korwa and Kadipur is limited to the city limits only. It is planned to extend the coverage to Bhadar, Semeri, Jamon and Shukul Bazar during the current financial year.

[English]

Improving Infrastructural Facilities in Ports

3087. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan for improving infrastructural facilities in ports in the country to that of international standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Development of ports in the country, which includes improvements in infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process to cope with the demands of maritime trade. The plans for development of major ports are included in the Five-Year Plans of the Government of the Port Sector. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), an amount of Rs. 4531.29 crores has been allocated for development of major ports. Out of this, Rs. 450.00 crores to be provided as budgetary support from the Government and Rs. 4081.29 crores are to be raised by the ports concerned through their own internal and extra budgetary resources. In addition, an investment of about Rs. 11257.00 crores by the private sector is also envisaged in major ports during the Tenth Plan period.

The focus in the major ports during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period is, inter-alia, on improving productivity through technological upgradation, provision of cost effective services and enhancement of service quality to level which are globally comparable. This is planned to be achieved through upgradation/conversion of existing conventional berths to suit emerging requirements; construction of new berths; upgradation of cargo handling equipment and maintenance procedures; redesigning and upgradation of internal road network and circulation systems where required; upgradation of storage facilities and other port infrastructure coupled with commercial accounting practices, improved equipment and labour productivity, optimization of work force, training, optimal use of information technology etc.

Mughal Road in Jammu and Kashmir

3088. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for reopening and reconstructing historic Mughal Road of Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The construction of Mughal Road is to be taken up by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Central Government has agreed in principle to provide fund to the extent of 50% of the cost of the project.

(c) and (d) Feasibility Study of the project has been carried out by State Government. To firm up cost and technical parameters the State Government has been requested to prepare Detailed Project Report. The Work can be sanctioned by the Ministry depending upon the availability of fund and inter-se-priority of works after firm cost is known. It is premature to indicate time by which it will start functioning.

Maintenance of National Highways in Punjab

3089. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has approached Central Government to enhance the annual assistance from Rs.18 crore to Rs. 40 crore for maintenance of 1430 km. long National Highways in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Government of Punjab has approached the Central Government to enhance the annual assistance for maintenance of National Highways entrusted to them, to Rs. 40 crores.

(b) National Highways in Punjab constitute nearly 3% length of National Highways in the country, excluding the recently declared National Highways. The Maintenance and Repairs Fund allocated to Punjab is Rs. 19.09 crore, which is also nearly 3% of overall allocation of fund made to all States. Because of paucity of funds, allocation to Punjab cannot be increased to Rs. 40 crores.

[Translation]

Setting up of Seismic Observatories

3090. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are atleast ten big water reservoirs in Nasik district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to set up seismic observatories there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Promotion of New Industrial Units

3091. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and village Industries Commission has been assigned the responsibility to promote new industrial units for generating employment opportunities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of new industrial units promoted during the last three years in the country, State-wise

(c) the number of people likely to get employment as a result thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for opening new industrial units through the incentives given this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) with a view to generate employment opportunities in rural areas as well as small towns in the country.

(b) and (c) The State-wise number of new industrial units promoted and the likely number of employment generated under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) during the last three years is available at statement-I.

(d) The State-wise number of industrial units targeted during the current year is available at statement-II.

Statement-I

Sr. No.	State/UTs	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Units	Empl.	Units	Empl.	Units	Empl.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	50	376	196	1392	58	504
2.	Bihar	37	552	229	1965	88	3817
3.	Jharkhand	191	1308	298	9398	323	3969
4.	Orissa	619	5711	668	2816	1031	13432
5.	Sikkim	-	-	16	120	13	449
6.	West Bengal	2892	16159	2459	22531	3348	27349
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	14	5	192	02	61
8.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Goa	482	5511	244	3556	126	1715
10.	Gujarat	83	795	126	1717	290	2236
11.	Maharashtra	2564	31613	2249	27990	857	15498
12.	Chandigarh	119	805	1	7	08	162
13.	Delhi	31	299	9	293	07	231

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Haryana	511	16786	677	15964	923	33200
15.	Himachal Pradesh	594	14845	423	11644	414	13485
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	790	8052	105	3129	775	6845
17.	Punjab	1118	27115	1358	31461	882	13600
18.	Rajasthan	2647	46724	3036	43040	2496	51338
19.	Andhra Pradesh	797	23308	1818	34500	1079	31996
20.	Karnataka	1311	20459	1411	29648	1422	29958
21.	Kerala	1437	28325	789	21394	2046	50291
22.	Lakshadweep	1	46	-	-	09	127
23.	Pondicherry	6	80	3	5	47	219
24.	Tamil Nadu	598	11011	764	11017	1568	24028
25.	Chhattisgarh	139	4445	216	7254	697	19815
26.	Madhya Pradesh	1049	21492	703	10947	1041	23683
27.	Uttaranchal	269	5333	375	6881	1106	16825
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1863	43002	1677	42652	2134	57847
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	157	30	806	32	865
30.	Assam	199	2878	559	7003	1223	15548
31.	Manipur	11	54	79	2196	36	682
32.	Meghalaya	157	1908	153	2515	210	2172
33.	Mizoram	9	214	143	3970	33	1173
34.	Nagaland	162	2931	64	981	61	2331
35.	Tripura	25	702	141	2021	244	4316
	Grand Total	20767	343010	21024	361005	24747	471458

Statement-II

Number of units targeted for 2004-05

Sr.No.	State/UT	Projects
1	2	3
1.	Chandigarh	93
2.	Delhi	38
3.	Haryana	727
4.	Himachal Pradesh	637
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	670
6.	Punjab	1362
7.	Rajasthan	2266
8.	Andaman and Nicobar	45
9.	Bihar	1328
10.	Jharkhand	725
11.	Orissa	989
12.	West Bengal	2605
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	72
14.	Assam	1491
15.	Manipur	79
16.	Meghalaya	416
17.	Mizoram	127
18.	Nagaland	256
19.	Tripura	281
20.	Sikkim	91
21.	Andhra Pradesh	1295
22.	Karnataka	1329
23.	Kerala	1230
24.	Lakshadweep	01
25.	Pondicherry	10
26.	Tamil Nadu	1212
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	02
28.	Daman & Diu	02
29.	Goa	469
30.	Gujarat	711
31.	Maharashtra	2096
32.	Chhattisgarh	542
33.	Madhya Pradesh	1120
34.	Uttaranchal	681
35.	Uttar Pradesh	2273
	Total	27272

[English]

Growth of Government Owned Telecom Companies

3092. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government owned telecom companies have failed to keep pace with the private sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecom growth in private sector has registered manifold increase as compare to public sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the plans formulated to increase the public sector telecom growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Comparative table showing total telephone connections working with Government owned PSUs and Private Operators as on 31st March for the last four years and their growth rate during last three years is given below:

	Government PSUs (MTNL & BSNL)		Private Operators	
	Telephone connections (in lakh)	Growth rate	Telephone connections (in lakh)	Growth Rate
As on 31.3.01	324.5	—	38.4	—
As on 31.3.02	381.62	17.6%	68.06	77.2%
As on 31.3.03	431.71	13.1%	114.46	68.2%
As on 31.3.04	464.83	7.7%	300.57	162.9%

(d) In order to insure increase in the Public Sector Telecom Growth, following steps have been taken:

(i) Government PSUs BSNL and MTNL have targeted to provide 105 lakh telephone connections during current year 2004-05, out of which 90% are cellular & Wireless Local Loop connections which are cost effective and preferred by customers.

(ii) Cabinet has approved reimbursement of License Fee & Spectrum charges to BSNL on year to year basis during 10th Five Year Plan for meeting losses incurred by BSNL in Rural Telephony.

[Translation]

Running of Small Scale Industries in Houses

3093. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are supporting themselves by way of running Small Scale Industries in one or two-room sets in big and small cities or the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of such Small Scale Industries in the country, State-wise;

(c) the value of the average annual production through these industries;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a separate Industrial Policy for the development and expansion of these small scale industries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) While separate information on people supporting themselves by way of running small scale industries in one or two-room sets in big and small cities in the country is not maintained centrally, the total number of SSI units as per Third Census of SSIs was 105.21 lakh as on 31.3.2002. This total includes units running within one or two-room sets in big and small cities of the country. The value of the average annual production of these industries is not maintained centrally.

(d) to (f) The Government has provided a comprehensive package of assistance to SSI units, including tiny and household units in respect of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, exports, infrastructure development, etc. Several scheme are being implemented in this regard.

Financial Assistance by Global Fund

3094. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance for the eradication of AIDS, TB and Malaria has been sanctioned by Global Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis on which this fund is likely to be utilized?

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

(b) and (c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

GFATM Round	Date of Award	Disease	Project Title	Funds approved (in million of US dollar)		Basis on which funds are likely to be utilized
				5 yrs	Approved for disbursement for first 2 years	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	April 2002	TB	Expansion of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program in the newly created States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal and NGO-REACH and strengthening of DOTS in four urban slums	8.783 (For 3 Years	5.650	The basis of utilization of funds is as per already approved norms under the World Bank Project
2	January 2003	HIV/AIDS	HIV Prevention and care for mothers, their families and Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) through scaling up prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services and public private sector antiretroviral treatment	100.081	26.110	1) Strengthening of Voluntary and Counseling Centers for pregnant mothers through ante-natal clinic 2) Provision of Antiretroviral treatment (AIT) at 11 centers of excellence 3) Follow up of HIV+ mothers and children through care and support 4) Capacity building of Medical and Para medical workers in the PMTCT services 5) Mobilization of NGO Consortium in above activities

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	January 2003	TB	Expansion of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program to the "uncovered" 110 million population of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and strengthening of DOTS in four urban slums	29.100	7.080	The basis of utilization of funds is as per already approved Norms under the World Bank Project
3	October 2003	HIV-TB co-infection	Expansion of effective public and private sector intervention in HIV and TB prevention and treatment in India	14.820	0	1) Expansion of Voluntary and Counseling Centers in 329 CHCs in six high prevalence states 2) Provision of ART at selected Medical colleges and district Hospitals 3) Provision of HIV test kits to facilitate care and treatment
4	June 2004	HIV/AIDS	Accelerating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Prevention and Treatment in India	165.414	0	1) Scaling up of ART services through public health services delivery systems in six high prevalence states and 9 low prevalence states including Delhi 2) Engagement of private corporate sector for increasing access to diagnosis, screening, monitoring and support for people on ART treatment 3) Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS 4) Mobilization of NGO Consortium in above activities
4	June 2004	TB	Accelerating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Prevention and Treatment in India	26.632	0	The basis of utilization of funds is as per already approved norms under the World Bank Project

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	June 2004	Malaria	Accelerating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Prevention and Treatment in India	69.053	0	1) Increasing access to diagnosis and treatment in high endemic areas, with particular focus on remote and inaccessible areas through community participation upgradation of peripheral health facilities and small hospitals in the diagnosis and treatment of severe malaria 2) Malaria Transmission Risk Reduction through integrated vector control 3) Enhancing awareness about malaria control and promoting community, NGO and public sector participation.

Post and Telegraph Offices in Rented Buildings

3095. ~~SHRI~~ Kunwar MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post office and telegraph offices in the country particularly in Mathura region of Uttar Pradesh, running in Government premises as well as in rented houses separately, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of new post offices, sub-post offices and telegraph offices likely to be set up in the State, particularly in Mathura region of Uttar Pradesh during the coming year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide postal service to all the villages of the country particularly to each and every village under Mathura region;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of existing residential colonies for post and telegraph employees, State-wise and area-wise;

(f) whether the number of these colonies are adequate; and

(g) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) State-wise, category-wise details of post offices and telegraph offices, running in Govt. premises as well as in rented houses is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

(b) Opening/upgrading of post offices are subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of resources. It is an ongoing process. Hence the exact number of post offices proposed to be opened this year cannot be indicated at this juncture. Information regarding telegraph offices is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Post offices will be progressively opened only in those locations which fulfil the distance, income and population norms. However, postal facilities for daily delivery of dak and sale of stamps and stationery through postman are available in all villages. Collection of letters through letter boxes are being provided in villages with population exceeding 300. There is no separate Mathura Region. Mathura Postal Division is under Agra Region in U.P. Circle. Here also, based on and subject to the fulfilment of norms and availability of resources, as

referred above, post offices will be open. Since, it is an ongoing process specific details cannot be indicated at this juncture.

(e) to (g) State-wise, area-wise details of residential colonies for post and telegraph employees, whether these colonies are adequate and if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard, are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Investment in Khadi Sector

3096. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invest in Khadi sector in the country including Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount proposed for investment in each State; and

(c) the details of rural industries to be set up in Khadi sector in Orissa in particular and the country in general during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government allocates funds to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for implementing various schemes directly or through the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) in all states including Orissa.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Government has allocated Rs. 2080 crores for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector in the country. State-wise funds disbursed to States/UTs under KVI sector during the first two year of the Tenth Plan including Orissa are given at Statement-I.

(c) During the first two years of Tenth Five Year Plan, 1699 projects have been set-up under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in Orissa and 45771 projects in the country. The details are given at Statement-II. The State-wise number of rural industries proposed to be set up in Khadi sector during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan including Orissa are given at Statement-III

Statement-I

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03		2003-04	
		KHADI	V.I	KHADI	V.I
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.0
2.	Delhi	474.99	358.41	794.15	794.46
3.	Haryana	424.51	589.54	394.96	2008.26
4.	Himachal Pradesh	202.9	419.96	214.77	873.89
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	117.63	284.97	98.35	455.07
6.	Punjab	592.41	890.09	257.16	1259.43
7.	Rajasthan	846.56	1167.34	587.50	2916.95
8.	Andaman and Nicobar	5.35	5.01	12.81	106.56
9.	Bihar	544.61	142.21	251.36	681.10
10.	Jharkhand	233.46	156.61	152.26	253.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Orissa	77.46	207.6	16.93	907.08
12.	West Bengal	471.26	981.08	268.37	1731.39
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.83	62.19	22.97	125.72
14.	Assam	433.59	276.45	119.78	1135.12
15.	Manipur	26.4	62.13	15.02	129.98
16.	Meghalaya	17.55	89.21	1.22	237.96
17.	Mizoram	13.23	163.48	2.00	225.24
18.	Nagaland	27.05	53.72	22.02	315.39
19.	Tripura	10.67	141.80	1.71	369.35
20.	Sikkim	7.01	15.82	0.00	132.28
21.	Andhra Pradesh	294.11	1173.57	166.11	1547.72
22.	Karnataka	647.52	1241.66	567.63	1797.06
23.	Kerala	748.35	940.29	292.45	2763.63
24.	Lakshadweep	0	822.66	0.00	0.00
25.	Pondicherry	0.43	10.37	0.00	4.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	19108.81	307.21	1280.56	1397.19
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.42	9.64	0.00	1.20
28.	Daman and Diu	0.25	0	0.00	0.00
29.	Goa	18.13	112.45	4.57	201.58
30.	Gujarat	1055.07	176.54	709.94	291.58
31.	Maharashtra	608.88	684.22	111.46	1515.06
32.	Chhattisgarh	36.07	258.87	60.93	1113.20
33.	Madhya Pradesh	254.05	440.02	125.39	1667.44
34	Uttaranchal	438.14	253.5	277.4	1150.20
35.	Uttar Pradesh	4079.72	1853.61	3076.70	3376.44
36.	Departmental	649.41	1297.14	300.58	8758.43
37.	UNDP	20.00	9436.05	0.00	0.00

Statement-II

Sr. No.	State/UTs	2002-2003 Projects	2003-04 Projects
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	196	58
2.	Bihar	229	88
3.	Jharkhand	298	323
4.	Orissa	668	1031
5.	Sikkim	16	113
6.	West Bengal	2459	3348
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	02
8.	Daman & Diu	-	-
9.	Goa	244	98
10.	Gujarat	126	290
11.	Maharashtra	2249	857
12.	Chandigarh	1	08
13.	Delhi	9	07
14.	Haryana	677	923
15.	Himachal Pradesh	423	414
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	105	775
17.	Punjab	1358	882
18.	Rajasthan	3036	2496
19.	Andhra Pradesh	1818	1079
20.	Karnataka	1411	1422
21.	Kerala	789	2046
22.	Lakshadweep	196	09
23.	Pondicherry	3	37
24.	Tamil Nadu	764	1568
25.	Chhattisgarh	216	697
26.	Madhya Pradesh	703	1041
27.	Uttaranchal	375	1106
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1677	2134
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	32
30.	Assam	559	1223
31.	Manipur	79	92
32.	Meghalaya	153	210
33.	Mizoram	143	33
34.	Nagaland	64	61
35.	Tripura	141	244
	Grand Total	21024	24747

Statement-III

Number of projects target

Sr. No.	State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	93	100	108
2.	Delhi	38	41	44
3.	Haryana	727	785	1588

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Himachal Pradesh	637	688	743
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	670	723	781
6.	Punjab	1362	1471	1588
7.	Rajasthan	2266	2447	2643
8.	Andaman and Nicobar	45	49	53
9.	Bihar	1328	1435	1549
10.	Jharkhand	725	783	845
11.	Orissa	989	1068	1154
12.	West Bengal	2605	2813	3038
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	72	78	84
14.	Assam	1491	1611	1740
15.	Manipur	79	85	92
16.	Meghalaya	416	449	485
17.	Mizoram	127	138	149
18.	Nagaland	256	276	299
19.	Tripura	281	303	328
20.	Sikkim	91	98	106
21.	Andhra Pradesh	1295	1399	1511
22.	Karnataka	1329	1436	1551
23.	Kerala	1230	1329	1435
24.	Lakshadweep	01	01	01
25.	Pondicherry	10	10	11
26.	Tamil Nadu	1212	1309	1414
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	02	2	3
28.	Goa	02	506	547
29.	Gujarat	469	767	829

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Maharashtra	711	2264	2446
31.	Chhattisgarh	2096	586	632
32.	Madhya Pradesh	542	1210	1306
33.	Uttaranchal	1120	736	795
34.	Uttar Pradesh	681	2456	2652
	Total	27272	29454	31810

Treatment of AIDS Patients

3097. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

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

(a) whether the patients suffering from AIDS are not getting proper treatment in the hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to create special wards in hospitals for such patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to assist the States for setting up of exclusive hospitals for treatment of AIDS with the HIV diagnostic kits;

(e) if so, whether any arrangements have been made to supply medicines to the poor AIDS diagnosed patients at free of cost;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether wrong administration of vaccine is causing untimely death of thousands of people from deadly diseases like Hepatitis B and AIDS every year;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir. The National AIDS Control Programme provides free treatment for opportunistic infections and sexually transmitted infections among people living with HIV/AIDS through all the government hospitals in the country. Additionally, 273 centres for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission have been established in government medical colleges & district hospitals where in free anti-retroviral medicine *i.e.* Nevirapine is provided to both HIV positive mother and new born infant. Recently, anti-retroviral treatment, free of cost, was introduced in 8 identified government hospitals located in six high prevalence states & NCT Delhi. This ARV treatment is being extended from 8 centres to 25 centres during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) To avoid stigma & discrimination against the patients affected with HIV/AIDS separate wards are not recommended as a part of National AIDS Control Programme policy. In fact it is recommended that the patients with HIV/AIDS should be admitted in general wards.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The arrangement of free treatment as detailed in (a) above is provided in the government hospitals

(g) and (h) A vaccine for HIV is not yet available. Administration of vaccine for any ailment must be implement with a sterile needle. There is no report to indicate that wrong administration of vaccine to people with AIDS is causing deaths.

(i) The health service providers are trained to follow universal precautions & they must use only the sterile needle & syringes.

Items of Works Carried out through REGP

3098. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has listed the items of works to be carried out through Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the country;

(b) if so, the specific work proposed to be taken up during the Tenth Five Year Plan various States; and

(c) the details of allocation made for the said programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to generate additional employment of about 25 lakhs in the country with a target of 1,38,000 village industries projects under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) during the 10th Plan Period. The state-wise target for projects & employment generation for the Tenth Plan period are given at statement-I & II respectively.

(c) The State-wise allocations for 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Project target under REGP for the 10th plan period

Sr. No.	State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chandigarh	71	86	93	100	108
2.	Delhi	35	35	38	41	44
3.	Haryana	736	673	724	785	1588
4.	Himachal Pradesh	644	590	637	688	743
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	653	620	670	723	781
6.	Punjab	1388	1261	1362	1471	1588
7.	Rajasthan	2121	2098	2266	2447	2643
8.	Andaman & Nicobar	40	42	45	49	53
9.	Bihar	1299	1230	1328	1435	1549
10.	Jharkhand	529	671	725	783	845
11.	Orissa	759	916	989	1068	1154
12.	West Bengal	2404	2412	2605	2813	3038
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	66	67	72	78	84
14.	Assam	1400	1381	1491	1611	1740
15.	Manipur	70	73	79	85	92
16.	Meghalaya	101	385	416	449	485

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Mizoram	110	118	127	138	149
18.	Nagaland	120	237	256	276	299
19.	Tripura	112	260	281	303	328
20.	Sikkim	6	84	91	98	106
21.	Andhra Pradesh	1271	1199	1295	1399	1511
22.	Karnataka	1166	1231	1329	1436	1551
23.	Kerala	1245	1139	1230	1329	1435
24.	Lakshadweep	2	1	01	01	01
25.	Pondicherry	8	9	10	10	11
26.	Tamil Nadu	1165	1122	1212	1309	1414
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	2	2	2	3
28.	Daman & Diu	2	2	2	2	3
29.	Goa	190	434	2	506	547
30.	Gujarat	529	658	469	767	829
31.	Maharashtra	1524	1941	711	2264	2446
32.	Chhattisgarh	492	502	2096	586	632
33.	Madhya Pradesh	1180	1037	542	1210	1306
34.	Uttaranchal	650	631	1120	736	795
35.	Uttar Pradesh	2154	2105	681	2456	2652
	Total	24218	25252	27272	29454	31810

Statement-II

Employment target for 10th plan period

(No. of persons)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19065	23700	24884	26127	27432
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	975	1350	1417	1487	1561

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	21000	27350	28717	30152	31659
4.	Bihar	19485	24350	25567	26845	28187
5.	Goa	2850	8600	9030	9481	9955
6.	Gujarat	7935	13050	13702	14387	15106
7.	Haryana	11040	13350	14017	14717	15452
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9660	11700	12285	12899	13543
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9795	12300	12915	13560	14238
10.	Karnataka	17490	24350	25567	26845	28187
11.	Kerala	18675	22550	23677	24860	26103
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17700	20550	21577	22655	23787
13.	Maharashtra	22710	38400	40319	42334	44449
14.	Manipur	1050	2415	2535	2661	2794
15.	Meghalaya	1515	7600	7980	8379	8797
16.	Mizoram	1650	2350	2467	2590	2719
17.	Nagaland	1800	4700	4935	5181	5440
18.	Orissa	11385	18150	19057	20009	21009
19.	Punjab	20820	24950	26197	27506	29593
20.	Rajasthan	31815	41550	43627	45808	48097
21.	Sikkim	90	1650	1732	1818	1908
22.	Tamil Nadu	17325	22200	23299	24473	25696
23.	Tripura	1680	5150	5407	5677	5960
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32310	41600	43679	45862	48151
25.	West Bengal	36045	47700	50084	52587	55216
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	600	1531	1607	1687	1771
27.	Chandigarh	1065	52	53	54	55
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30	211	221	232	243

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Daman and Diu	30	50	52	54	56
30.	Delhi	525	700	735	771	809
31.	Lakshadweep	30	50	52	54	56
32.	Pondicherry	120	200	210	220	231
33.	Chhattisgarh	7380	9950	10447	10969	11517
34.	Jharkhand	7845	13300	13965	14663	15396
35.	Uttaranchal	9750	12500	13125	13781	14470
	Total	363240	500159	525150	551385	579646

Statement-III

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-05 Margin Money Allocation under REGP (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Chandigarh	4.00
2.	Delhi	29.00
3.	Haryana	1119.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	713.00
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	570.00
6.	Punjab	1399.00
7.	Rajasthan	2160.00
8.	Andaman and Nicobar	143.00
9.	Bihar	1196.00
10.	Jharkhand	906.00
11.	Orissa	829.00
12.	West Bengal	2126.00
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	97.00
14.	Assam	1431.00
15.	Manipur	285.00
16.	Meghalaya	285.00
17.	Mizoram	426.00
18.	Nagaland	162.00
19.	Tripura	162.00
20.	Sikkim	101.00
21.	Andhra Pradesh	2484.00
22.	Karnataka	1885.00
23.	Kerala	1193.00
24.	Lakshadweep	1.00
25.	Pondicherry	6.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	1136.00
27.	Goa	285.00
28.	Gujarat	588.00
29.	Maharashtra	1774.00
30.	Chhattisgarh	857.00
31.	Madhya Pradesh	1210.00
32.	Uttaranchal	570.00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3746.00
	Total	29878.00

Construction of Bypass on National Highways No. 7

3099. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway Nos. 7 & 27 are in dilapidated condition in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the bypass on National Highways No. 7 in Rewa city of Madhya Pradesh is already approved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to construct the said bypass at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Within available resources, NH-7 & 27 are being kept in traffic worthy condition.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, Construction of bypass to Rewa city has not been sanctioned. Its construction is proposed to be taken up on BOT basis.

[Translation]

Disparity in providing Medicines to CGHS Beneficiaries

3100. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government employees holding important position/Member of Parliament/VIPs etc. are being provided medicines by Government appointed CGHS panel chemists on producing the local purchase prescription slip issued by the CGHS doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other CGHS beneficiaries cannot avail the same facility;

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

(e) whether the Government has taken/proposed to take any action to remove disparity among CGHS beneficiaries;

(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) and (b) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions in the following manner:—

(i) By local purchase indent. In this case, a consolidated indent is prepared daily based on individual prescriptions for the required drug items in the prescribed format which is sent to the concerned CGHS authorised local chemist who, in turn, supplies these drugs to the dispensary and the beneficiaries are issued these drugs from the dispensary.

(ii) In the case of urgently needed/life saving medicines, the CGHS dispensary issues an authority slip which is handed over to the concerned beneficiary who directly collects the drugs from the authorised chemist against the authority slip issued by the dispensary.

(c) and (d) The above procedure is adopted without any discrimination in respect of all CGHS beneficiaries which includes all Central Government employees/ pensioners and their family members, holding valid CGHS cards.

(e) to (g) In view of (a) to (d) above, the questions do not arise.

[English]

Computer and Internet Facility

3101. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States and the number of villages of the country where the Union Government has provided computer and internet facility as on June 30, 2004;

(b) the names of the States and the number of villages of the country where this facility has not been provided so far;

(c) the time by when this facility would be made available in such States/Villages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Shanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), a public sector under the Department of Telecommunications, is setting up Internet Dhabas with a set of computers in each of the rural and urban Block Head Quarters (BHQS) through franchisees in the country. So far, 4062 Internet Dhabhas have been set up covering 3984 BHQs out of a total of 6308 BHQs. State-wise details of Internet Dhabhas in various BHQs are furnished in the Statement-I enclosed.

Under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (Class) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), 4251 schools had been covered and provided with computers. A State-wise list of schools covered under the Class scheme is at statement-II enclosed.

The Department of Secondary and Higher Education of the MHRD has launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) in 2001-2002 to promote computer literacy in schools in the country. Under the scheme funds have been provided to the States/UTs for covering 3112 schools as per enclosed statement-III.

In addition, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes, as follows:—

— The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up a country wide network which currently extends to 587 Districts out of 601 Districts in the Country. The district informatics centres created at these Districts are equipped with computers and Internet connectivity.

— 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) in 487 BHQs in eight North East States have been set up with a set of computers and Internet Connection through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs). 60 CISs have also been set up in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir) out of 139 BHQs.

— NIC in collaboration with Maharashtra State Government have provided computer and Internet facility at 70 Villages under Warana project.

— Four Rural Samadhan Centres have been set up in 4 locations in one village each in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & Madhya Pradesh to provide selected e-Governance service.

— Under Vidya Vahini pilot project, 140 Government and Government aided schools in 7 Districts across the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been provided with Computers and Internet connectivity with VSATs to offer learning material in a distant education mode.

(b) to (d) A total of remaining 2324 BHQs are to be covered by BSNL and 14 remaining Districts and 79 CICs in the remaining BHQs of Jammu and Kashmir State are to be covered by NIC as per the individual program drawn out by these organizations and readiness of the concerned States.

Statement-I

State-wise Internet Dhabas status as on 31.03.04 alongwith Target for 2004-2005

S.No.	Circle/State	Existing Internet Dhaba Status		Block HQ Target
		No. of Block H.Q.	No. of Dhabas	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nikobar	5	1	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1104	1099	5
3.	Assam	219	25	194

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	533	223	310
5.	Chhattisgarh	146	105	41
6.	Gujarat	228	305	0
7.	Haryana	111	91	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	75	76	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	119	2	117
10.	Jharkhand	211	22	189
11.	Karnataka	175	175	0
12.	Kerala	152	152	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	313	222	91
14.	Maharashtra	358	357	1
15.	North East-I	99	7	92
16.	North East-II	120	1	119
17.	Orissa	314	26	288
18.	Punjab	140	140	0
19.	Rajasthan	237	202	35
20.	Tamil Nadu	397	362	35
21.	Uttar Pradesh East	598	153	445
22.	Uttar Pradesh West	208	90	118
23.	Uttaranchal	95	26	69
24.	West Bengal	351	200	151
	Total	6308	4062	2324

Statement-II

Statewise position of schools covered under the scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of schools covered under the CLASS Scheme
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	172
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
3.	Assam	102
4.	Bihar	123
5.	Goa	70
6.	Gujarat	171

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	127
8.	Himachal Pradesh	214
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	53
10.	Karnataka	377
11.	Kerala	177
12.	Madhya Pradesh	422
13.	Maharashtra	404
14.	Manipur	26
15.	Meghalaya	42
16.	Mizoram	17
17.	Nagaland	17
18.	Orissa	117
19.	Punjab	137
20.	Rajasthan	239
21.	Sikkim	22
22.	Tamil Nadu	195
23.	Tripura	46
24.	Uttar Pradesh	434
25.	West Bengal	257
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22
27.	Chandigarh Admn.	08
28.	NCT (Delhi)	210
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	09
30.	Daman and Diu	04
31.	Lakshadweep	09
32.	Pondicherry	08
	Total	4251

Statement-III

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Schools
1.	Maharashtra	180
2.	Tripura	50
3.	Chhattisgarh	100
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14
5.	Haryana	100
6.	West Bengal	300
7.	Punjab	200
8.	Andhra Pradesh	500
9.	Tamil Nadu	200
10.	Manipur	50
11.	Goa	50
12.	Uttar Pradesh	300
13.	Himachal Pradesh	100
14.	Mizoram	40
15.	Sikkim	29
16.	Madhya Pradesh	390
17.	Gujarat	300
18.	Meghalaya	59
19.	Karnataka	150
	Total	3112

Road Accidents on NH-1

3102. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a majority of road accidents on National Highway No. 1 in Sonepat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Ambala occur because of faulty road engineering, serving liquor in eateries/ dhabas, encroachments and lack of adequate traffic education;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to remove all encroachments on NH-1; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Accidents on highways occur mainly due to rash driving, driving under influence of alcohol and overtaking from the wrong sides by the drivers. Lack of adequate traffic safety measures, traffic education and encroachments also contribute to accidents.

(b) Some of the encroachments within the Right of Way (ROW) have been removed. However, in some cases it could not be done since the matter is subjudice.

(c) Government has taken following steps to improve condition on NH-1 in order to reduce number of road accidents;

(i) Unauthorized median gaps in front of petrol pumps and individual properties have been closed.

(i) Railings, new jersey crash barriers in the median have been provided to prevent frequent crossing of pedestrians, cyclists and scooterists at many locations.

(iii) Barbed wire fencing along the Right of Way (ROW) in selected locations has been provided to restrict the movement of animals.

(iv) Vehicles met with accidents, broken down vehicles and dead animals from the carriageway are being removed by highway patrol.

[Translation]

Sick Units in SSI Sector

3103. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Small Scale Industries functioning in the country and the number of workers engaged in these industries, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that more and more SSI units are becoming sick following the WTO guidelines and conditionalities;

(c) if so, the number of SSI units Closed down during the last three years, State-wise, and the steps taken by the Government to revival of these industries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to help out the affected workers?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The total number of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units (both registered and un-registered) functioning in the country and the number of workers engaged in these units as on 31.3.2004 were estimated to be 113.95 lakh and 271.36 lakh respectively. The state-wise break up is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) While there is incidence of sickness among the SSI units, which is due to a variety of reasons, there is no information/data attributing sickness to WTO guidelines and conditionalities.

Statement

State-wise details of SSI units (Both Registered & Unregistered) functioning and workers engaged in these units as on 31.3.2004

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of SSI Units Functioning	No. of Workers engaged
1	2	3	4
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	79198	166193
2.	Himachal Pradesh	82526	141618
3.	Punjab	408122	988864
4.	Chandigarh	24095	52516
5.	Uttaranchal	115328	212594
6.	Haryana	241839	602301
7.	Delhi	191787	682307
8.	Rajasthan	478246	944276
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1849829	4356052
10.	Bihar	562484	1178359
11.	Sikkim	400	1439
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1356	4013
13.	Nagaland	15012	61814

1	2	3	4
14.	Manipur	51985	148901
15.	Mizoram	12039	27046
16.	Tripura	26374	61996
17.	Meghalaya	24390	71382
18.	Assam	210523	466913
19.	West Bengal	835454	2360783
20.	Jharkhand	143446	300466
21.	Orissa	420524	1004754
22.	Chhattisgarh	285818	578757
23.	Madhya Pradesh	859458	1463401
24.	Gujarat	574358	1378609
25& 26.	Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	3260	45724
27.	Maharashtra	870306	2232779
28.	Andhra Pradesh	948137	2328848
29.	Karnataka	713538	1783511
30.	Goa	7686	31901
31.	Lakshadweep	576	1783
32.	Kerala	490434	1213160
33.	Tamil Nadu	853407	2196474
34.	Pondicherry	9596	38329
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	3469	8140
	All India Total	11395000	27136003

Abduction of Hindus in Sindh

3104. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government is aware of the alarming increase in the incidents of abduction of Hindus in Sindh province due to which there is a feeling of resentment among Hindus there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has written any letter of protest to Pakistan in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) There have been concerns regarding the situation of minorities in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge it obligations towards its citizens.

Telephone Facility to Villages

3105. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise status of villages deprived of telecommunication facilities;

(b) the number of villages registered/listed in the waiting-lit of telephone connection facility, state-wise; and

(c) the details of action plan for installing telecommunication systems in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Circle-wise details of villages deprived of telephone facility in the rural areas of the country is given in the statement-I.

(b) The number of villages awaiting telephone facilities is given in (a) above. The registered waiting list for telephone connections in the rural areas as on 30.6.2004 is 1353458. The circle-wise details of waiting list is given in the statement-II.

(c) It is planned to provide 10.5 lakh DELs on WLL/ Landline during the current year in the rural areas of the country. In addition, 8061 VPTs are also planned to be provided in the rural areas during the current year.

Statement-I

Number of Uncovered Villages as on 30.6.2004 including private basic Service Operator's share

Sl. No.	Circles	Uncovered Villages As on 30.6.2004
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6041
3.	Assam	4861
4.	Bihar	2602
5.	Jharkhand	4799
6.	Gujarat	6911
7.	Haryana	39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	338
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1951
10.	Karnataka	0
11.	Kerala	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14205
13.	Chhattisgarh	5055
14.	Maharashtra	10926
15.	North-East I	2908
16.	North-Eat II	3748
17.	Orissa	6236
18.	Punjab	0
19.	Rajasthan	15625
20.	Tamil Nadu	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	3792
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	2336
23.	Uttaranchal	3872
24.	West Bengal	1031
25.	Calcutta	0
26.	Chennai	0
	Total	97279

Statement-II

Registered waiting list for Telephone Connections in the rural areas on 30.6.2004

Sl.No.	Circles/Metro District	Rural Waiting List as on 30.6.2004
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	116
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25964
3.	Assam	10726
4.	Bihar	83468
5.	Jharkhand	4820
6.	Gujarat	53290
7.	Haryana	67493
8.	Himachal Pradesh	41246
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14370
10.	Karnataka	77751
11.	Kerala	367559
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11595
13.	Chhattisgarh	994
14.	Maharashtra	140709
15.	North-East I	4570
16.	North-East II	2121
17.	Orissa	15314
18.	Punjab	66092
19.	Rajasthan	121018
20.	Tamil Nadu	37338
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	68402
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	20733
23.	Uttaranchal	2800
24.	West Bengal	114969
25.	Calcutta	0
26.	Chennai	0
	Total	1353458

[English]

Methodology Adopted by NHAI

3106. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the methodology being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India to maintain the National Highways in the country;

(b) the details of the methodology for new development of the existing National Highways in the country;

(c) the details of the project proposals received up to June 30, 2004 from several State Government for development of the existing National Highways State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of the methodology adopted by National Highways Authority of India for maintenance of National highways entrusted to the Authority are as under:-

(i) During the period of construction, the National Highways are maintained by the civil works contractors, as per the provisions of the contract agreement.

(ii) The completed sections of National Highways are maintained through long and short-term operation and maintenance contracts.

(iii) The National Highways built on Build Operate and Transfer basis are maintained by the concessionaire during the concession period.

(b) Development of National Highways are entrusted to National Highways Authority of India, State Public Works Departments, and the Border Roads Organization. The development works are executed through contractors or Departmentally, or through the participation of private sector on Build Operate and Transfer or Annuity basis or through Special Purpose Vehicles.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of the project proposals received from State Governments upto June 30, 2004 and the details of sanctions of these projects are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Proposal received		Proposals sanctioned	
		Number	Amount in Rs. crore	Number	Amount in Rs. crore
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	44.90	16	31.79
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	22.06	0	0.00
3.	Assam	13	76.55	4	13.06
4.	Bihar	11	54.03	3	3.50
5.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	7.17	0	0.00
7.	Delhi	3	13.82	1	1.09
8.	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00
9.	Gujarat	15	27.49	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Haryana	9	42.41	0	0.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12	34.17	2	5.39
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	0	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	7	25.92	6	25.65
14.	Karnataka	30	51.86	15	19.39
15.	Kerala	12	46.19	4	8.66
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5	8.34	0	0.00
17.	Maharashtra	12	156.60	9	8.49
18.	Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00
19.	Meghalaya	7	18.37	5	14.52
20.	Mizoram	5	20.49	0	0.00
21.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00
22.	Orissa	2	11.63	0	0.00
23.	Pondicherry	1	2.83	0	0.00
24.	Punjab	11	31.77	2	3.97
25.	Rajasthan	16	122.95	0	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	9	37.91	0	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	27	77.15	20	53.13
28.	Uttaranchal	1	1.36	0	0.00
29.	West Bengal	3	1.31	0	0.00
	Total	243	927.28	87	188.64

[Translation]

Absence of Doctors in CGHS Dispensaries/hospitals

3107. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doctors of Government Hospitals particularly Safdarjung and AIIMS are not performing their duty properly and attending the patients in Private Clinics, Nursing Homes and rich persons at their residence as reported in the Hindi daily "Rashtriya Sahara" dated July 10, 2004;

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

(c) whether this is also the reason for the Doctors not attending their duty in the CGHS Dispensaries;

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

(e) whether action has been taken/proposed to be taken on such Government doctors;

(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 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Plantation of Medicinal Plants

3108. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations for plantation of Medicinal Plants;

(b) if so, the details of the grants allocated during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the names of the NGOs provided aid during the said period?

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

(b) and (c) The details of grants allocated during the last three years and the NGOs that have received the allocations are given at statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Details of grant-in-aid to NGO's/Farmers allocated during the last three years

S.No.	States	Grant-in-aid during 2001-02	Grant-in-aid during 2002-03	Grant-in-aid during 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	–	10.00	27.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	6.00
3.	Bihar	2.00	1.00	–
4.	Delhi	–	8.00	29.00
5.	Gujarat	5.00	–	–
6.	Himachal Pradesh	–	11.00	–
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	–	14.00	8.00
8.	Kerala	–	–	2.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5.00	4.00	–
10.	Maharashtra	–	6.00	–
11.	Manipur	8.00	2.00	10.00
12.	Mizoram	1.00	20.00	–
13.	Rajasthan	–	2.00	–

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Tamil Nadu	–	7.00	12.70
15.	Uttar Pradesh	78.00	38.00	40.00
16.	Uttaranchal	15.00	23.50	30.00
17.	West Bengal	–	–	2.00
	Total	114.00	146.50	166.70

Statement-II

Andhra Pradesh-Promotional activities—non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the Project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (Years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Development of Nursery to supply Seedlings/seeds to Farmers to popularise medicinal plants cultivation in draught prone regions	Dr. S. Vedavathy, President, Herbal Folklore Research Centre, B-23 Valkuntapuram, Tirupati-517502	3	6	5.00
2.	International conference on medicinal and aromatic plants	K. Narsimha Reddy, Swami Ramanand Tirtha Organisation Committee for International Conf. on M&A Plants, Hyderabad-500016	1	—	5.00
		Total			10.00

Promotional—non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
	QPM production of QPM-nursery-endangered spp. Promotion of MPs & Creation of Awareness among farmers of AP	A.V. Seetaramaiah, Chaitanya Bharti Seva Sangam, Door No.3-53, 3rd Ward, Near Water Tank, Madala Vill, Muppaalla Mandal, Guntur Dist-522403 Ph-08641-280271	3	To grow rare & endangered spp (QPM 13.2 lacs) 6 Species Guggal, Sarpogandha, Ashok, Amla, Gudmar, D. hamilfoni	25.00
	National Seminar on Investment Opportunities in medicinal & Aromatic Plants Based industries held on 10-11 Oct. 2003	Sh. Koteshwara Rao SSR, President The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Federation House, Red Hills, Post Box No. 14, Hyderabad-500004	1	—	2.00
		Total			27.00

Arunachal Pradesh—Promotional-non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Nursery and raising of planting stock & training/seminar	Ven Bhikkhu Vimalananda, Secretary, Arunachal Pali Vidyapith, Chongkham, Lohit District	3	QPM 2 lacs, Training/Seminar	6.00
		Total			6.00

Bihar—Promotional projects-Non Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in Years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	State level training, Workshop/Seminar of Medicinal Plants under Promotional Scheme	Jainendra Kumar, Secretary, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Sansthan Vill: Karihon, P.O.-Bishanpur Bejha, Distt. Vaishali Bihar Tel. 0612-357230	2	2.00
		Total		2.00

Projects (2002-2003)
Promotional Activities—non-Government Organizations

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (Years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	District Seminar and Wks. On mps.	Ganesh Prasad Singh, General Secretary, Prithviraj Chauhan Foundation, Village Chamtha Barkut, dist, Begusarai-851111 Ph-06278-27071	1	—	1.00
		Total			1.00

Delhi—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organization (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (Years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Promotion of mps in rural Delhi	Harpal Rana, General Secretary, Gramin Swabhiman, Village Mundaka, Delhi-110041 Ph-011-25188405	3	—	6.00
2.	International seminar on Promotion of technology of medicinal plants	Dr. R C Paliwal, Herbal Biomed Foundation, A-7, Pushpanjali Enclave Ph-011-27014590 Fax-011-27028721	1	2	2.00
		Total			8.00

Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-2004)

#	Title of the project	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Seminar National Seminar on Scope of MPs & Amchi system of medicine in Himalayan Region	Mr. M. G. Agola, Sec, Himalayan, Buddhist Cultural Association, Ladakh Buddhist Vihar, Bela Road, New Delhi 23965323, 23985895	2 day in Oct, Nov-03	Seminar	4.00
2.	Motivating action at the grass roots for development of the herbal sector in Uttaranchal	Manoj Kumar Mishra Executive Director, PEACE Institute, 178-F, Pocket-4, DDA Flats, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, New Delhi-110091. Tel. No. 91-11-22719005	2	Marketing to documentation Preparation of monitoring & evaluation manual)	10.00
	Production of QPM and Training/Extension Programmes to farmers	Sh. B.K.P. Sinha, Retd. PCCF UP. Ritnand Balved Education Foundation AKC House, E-27, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024	3	QPM 4 lacs 7 acres, main species Amla, Sarpagandha, Ashok Bel, Arjun, Bahera; training/Ext.	15.00
			Total		29.00

Gujarat—Promotional projects—Non-Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	A Project for the Promotional NGO Action in Augmentation of Plant Based Medicinal Raw Material in the 3 Northern Distts. of Gujarat	Ashok Kumar, I.F.S., Retd. Volunteers of Charity, 374/A, Sector-23, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat-382023 Tel.(079)-3234616 Voiceindia @email.com/ yahoo.com	3	5.00
			Total	5.00

Himachal Pradesh—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-2003)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance Sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	5
1.	Role of Educational Institutions in conservation of medicinal plants in Himachal Pradesh	Ms. Vandana Thaplyal, State Director (North Region), WWF-India, Field Office Forest Colony, Mist Chamber, Khalini, Shimla Ph-0177-2626295	3	1.25	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	5
	Cultivation of mps Chachiot Block Mandi	Dr. Lal Singh Director, Himalayan Research Group, Umesh Bhavan, Chota Shimla- 171002 Ph-0177-2626820	3	0.5	5.00
		Total			11.00

Jammu and Kashmir—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance Sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Establishment of med. Pl. Nursery	Lt. Col. K.S. Samyal, Jammu and Kashmir Ex-services League Ambphalla, Jammu-180005 Telex-0191-2564326	3	2.5	5.00
2.	Ext. activity for organizing seminars of regional level to the welfare of society	Twewnag chastor, CPEAD Group Zanshar, sani, P.O Padum Distt. Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir	2	—	2.00
3.	Production of QPM at Anantnag dist. Jammu and Kashmir	Mr. Mohd. Rafi Khan, President Human Chain Welfare Society Dadoo, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Ph-0191-2555964/2555696	3.	3.0	7.00
		Total			14.00

Promotional—Non-Government Organization (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial Assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Marketing/trading of medicinal & Aromatic plants & herbs	M/s Azad Enterprises, Bypass Road Distt, Kupwara, Kupwara Kashmir	5	Marketing & trading 8 spp. Valerina, Kuth, Podophyllum, Kutki, Atees etc.	8.00
				Total	8.00

Kerala—Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial Assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Conducting 6 No. of Seminars on medicinal herbs	Rs. D. Ramanathan, Gen. Secretary, Ayuvedic Medicine Manufacturers Org. of India, Araffa Tower, Veliyannur Road, Thrissur-21	1	For two seminars only	2.00
		Total			2.00

Madhya Pradesh—Promotional projects—Non Government Organization (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants	Dr. Gurpal Singh Jarial, Faculty member CEDMAP, 60 Jail Road Jahangirabad, Bhopal-462008, M.P.	2	5.00
		Total		5.00

Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the Project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Cultivation and extension of medicinal plants	Anil Soumitra, 100/45, Sivaji Nagar, Spandhan, Bhopal Ph-0755-2763768	1	2.0	3.00
2.	International Conference on Export promotional of mps for poverty alleviation of India	Dr.R. Sugandhi, President, People for Animal, Vasundhara Bhawan, E-4 Patel Nagar, Bhopal-462021 Ph-0755-2752727	1	—	1.00
		Total			4.00

Maharashtra—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the Project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Motivation of farmers for farming of medicinal plants in Pune and Aurangabad distt.	Dr. Sandeep N. Deshmukh, Chairman, Jankidevi Bajaj gram Vikas Sanstha, C/o Samaj Seva Kendra, Survey No. 4272, Behind Akurdi Post Office, Akurdi, Pune Ph-020-27472851 (extn-6440), Fax-27473398	1	—	2.00
2.	Establishment of nur. For raising mps.	Miss Rohini Deshmukh, President, Shriram Pratisthan Mandal Wqadla, Solapur Ph-0217-246155	2	1.0	2.00
3.	Nagarjuna mps project	Shri P.N. Auchar, President Vidya Nagar, Akola Road, Hingoli, Distt-Hingoli-431513	2	—	2.00
		Total			6.00

Manipur—Promotional Projects—Non-Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Central scheme for development and cultivation of medicinal plants	B.A Sharma, President Research and Development organization PAICOS society, Brahmapur Khongman Mangjin, Imphal-795001, Manipur Tel. (0385)-220029	3	8.00
		Total		8.00

Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project Period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	State level extension and training on med. Pls.	M Biren Singh, Wangjing Tentha Farmers Development Assoc. Tentha village Wanjing, Thoubal Distt. Manipur	2	—	2.00
		Total			2.00

Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Nursery Development for producing QPM at Tamenglong Dt.	Sh. Amu Kamei, Secretary, Manipur Tribal's Pioneer Association, Minuthong, Stadium Road, Imphal-795001	2	QPm 5.0 lacs, Area 5 acre, 2 spp. Atees, Sarpagandha	10.00
				Total	10.00

Mizoram—Promotional Project—Non-Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Training program on herbal medicines	Sh. Valsala B.S, R.N.R.M, M.D(A.M) Bethani Health Center, S. Sihphir, P.O., Aizawl-796031 Tel (0389)-364408	2	1.00
		Total		1.00

Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project Period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Medicinal plant plantation in 8 districts of Mizoram	Mr. Lianzuala President, Central YMA Office, Tuikhuahtlang, Aizwal Ph-0389-2322869 Fax-2326973	3	50	20.00
		Total			20.00

Rajasthan—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project Period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	State level Training Programme for cultivators	Govind Sharn Sharma Rajasthan Urishi Aram Gramin Baghbani Vikas Somsthan, 14-Gokulpuri, Thana circle Jaipur	2	—	2.00
		Total			2.00

Tamil Nadu—Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project Period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Cultivation of medicinal plants	S. Thanikachalam, Ethanur Cuddalore Distt. Tamil Nadu Ph : 044-28150836	2	12	2.00
2.	Conservation action on mps	C. Jagannath, Executive Chairman, ANSA, Tiruchinapalli C/o SMPB, Tamil Nadu Telex-0431-2760443	3	—	5.00
		Total			7.00

Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ex-situ cultivation of six species of medicinal plants	Mr. S. Ramaswamy, Secretary, MASS, No. 3, Vayalur Main Road, Ramalinga Nagar, South Extension, Trichy-620017	3	Area 25.5 acres Species Amla, Musali, Pippali, Kalmegh, Chandan, Brahmi	10.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Organizing a regional seminar and Buyer-Seller meet on herbal on 23rd December, 2003	Sh. Rethinavelu, President, Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 178-B, Kamarajar Salai, Madurai-625009	1 day	—	0.70
3.	National Seminar on Production & Utilization of Aonla	Sh. S.S. Mehta, President, Aonla Growers Association of India, 256 Advalta., Ashram Road, Fairlands, Salem-636016	3 days	—	2.00
		Total			12.70

Uttar Pradesh—Promotional project—Non-Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	Period in Years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Field Plantation and Nursery Development for Quality Planting of Bhoomi Amlki, Aonla, Beal	Dr. A.K. Johri, Head, Agro-Biotechnology Division, Dabur Research Foundation, 22-site-IV, Sahibabad-201010, Gaziabad, U.P.	Continuous Process	10.00
2.	Quality Planting Material and Seed Production of Andrographis paniculata, Gglycyrrhiza glbra	Dr. A.K. Johri, Head, Agro-Biotechnology Division, Dabur Research Foundation, 22-site-IV, Sahibabad-201010, Gaziabad, U.P.	Continuous Process	8.00
3.	Project on Development of Herbal Gardens where farmers could learn about ex-situ cultivation techniques and first hand information on other aspects of medicinal plants	Dr. Kaushal Kumar Utthan Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, 18-A, Auckland Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad, Tel.(0532)-420454, 615847 Fax; 420984/425105-M tiwari@yojana.nic.in	3	20.00
4.	Submission of Project on Supply of Quality Planting Material	Dr. Kaushal Kumar Utthaan Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, 18-A, Auckland Road. Civil Lines, Allahabad, Tel .(0532)-420454/Fax: 420984	3	20.00
5.	Submission of a Project on Information, Education & Communication, Training/ Workshops/Seminars	Dr. Kaushal Kumar Uttahaan Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, 18-A, Auckland Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad, Tel.(0532)-420454 Fax:420984	3	20.00
		Total		78.00

Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title of the project	Name & Address of the applicant	Project Period (years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Plant is a source of health	Jai Prakash, Secretary Nirval Varg Gramodhyog Vikas Samiti, Vill-Sakara, Post-Hasainpur, Distt-Ghazipur Ph-0548-220234	1	—	1.00
2.	Development of herbal garden, cultivation of medicinal plants and awareness creation etc.	Vidya Sharma Vasundhra Vikas Samiti 39, Teacher's Colony, Faridpur, Bareilly Ph-05821-24306	2	6.0	2.00
3.	Organising training on herbal cultivation	Prof. V.K. Dubey, National Council of Development Communication, B-30/14-22 Koshlesh Nagar, Suderpur, Varanasi Ph-0542-2318574	1	—	1.00
4.	Symposium on Emerging Trenis Inidan Med. Pls.	The friends of Nature Naseem Manmjil, Madehganj, Sitapur Road, Lucknow 226020 Ph-0522-2368064 Fax-2338572	2	Symposium on Med. Pls	2.00
5.	Prod. Of QPM of Aloevera & Awareness activity in Distt. Farrukhabad U.P.	Louis Khurshi, BUNIYAD, 4-Gulmohar Avenue, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 Ph-011-26322720 Fax-26849662	2	12.0	10.00
6.	Training demonstration unit and nur. of commercially imp. Mps.	S.S. Sharma, Secretary, Myana Gramodhyog Sewa Sanshathan, Murari Nagar, GT Road, Khurja, UP Ph-05738-243184	3	0.80	3.00
7.	Establishment: nur. For producing QPM and organising training for farmers	Anmol Singh President, Shri Anmol Gramodhyog Sewa Sansthan, A-1012, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	3	5.5 0 lacs QPM	19.00
		Total			38.00

Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (acre) & Species	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Training & Promotion Nursery Mathura Jile mein Oushadhi Podhon ki kheti hetu vistar karyakram	Major B.P. Sharma, Adhyaksh, Keshav Dham, Vrindhavan, Pandit Deen Dyal Upadhya Janam Bhoomi Smarak Smiti, Deen Dyal Dham, Farah, Mathura-281122, Uttar Pradesh	3	1 crore, Ashwagandha, Sarpgandha, Amla Nursery & Training of farmers	15.00
2.	Production of Superior Quality planting material of medicinal plants & Training of farmers	Sri Vinay Kumar Training Assistant (Horticulture), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Deendayal Research Institute, Gonivan, Chitrakoot	3	10 acres Ashwangandha, Safed Musali, Senna, Mulethi, Amla & Beal QPM 5 lacs, training to farmers, training manual	20.00
3.	Training in agro-forestry of medicinal plants	Dr. B.N. Mahrotra, Jeevaniya Society, E-III/249, Sector-H, Alganj, Lucknow-226024	2	IFC material training prog. to farmers, training manual	5.00
				Total	40.00

Uttaranchal—Promotional Projects—Non-Government Organizations (2001-2002)

#	Title	Name & Address of the applicant	period in years	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Ex-situ cultivation of some paramount Taxa of high altitudinal medicinal plant within Tons valley	A.K. Badoni, Secretary General, 17 Sewala Khurd P.O. Mohbbewala, Dehradun, Uttaranchal, Tel, 0135-641283 E-mail:-sher@sancharnet.in	3	15.00
		Total		15.00

Promotional Activities—Non-Government Organizations (2002-03)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area in Acres	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Establishment of Propagatory of four medicinal plants species for QPM	Harpal Singh Negi Uttaranchal Youth & Rural Development Centre, Narain Bagar, Chamoli Ph-01363-255134/50 Fax-255204	3	07.00	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Production of QPM of Costus (Saussureal appa)	A.K. Badoni Secretary General SHER, 17 Sewla Kurdh, P.O. Mohbbewala, Dehradun Ph-0135-2641283	2	3.5 lacs seedlings	05.00
3.	Production of planning material of Shatavari	Buddu Mian, Vill:-Kumole, P.O. Garisain, Chamoli Ph-01363-268108	2	1.25 acre (45,000 plants)	01.50
4.	Training and awareness programme	P. Singh Pushpwan HIMALTO, Gramudyog Sansthan, Rawat Bhavan, Srinagar, (Garhwal) Ph-01368-251803	1	—	02.00
5.	Nursery for Aonla in distt. Dehradun	Mrs, Sarita Aswal, LIG-21, Phase-I, Indirapurum,. Dehradun	1	—	1.00
6.	Demonstration & extension of mps.	Pushpa Sharma President, Nera Mahila Samiti, Vill-Nera, Distt Pithoragarh Uttaranchal Ph.05964-2244562	3	—	5.00
7.	Jari Buti Kheti Utpadan, Swasthya Upchar Rojgar Vikas	Jayanti Lal Bhai, Secretary, Jai Maa Lok Vikas Pasu Sewa Sansthan, Ghontri Patti Gajada, Distt-Uttarkashi, Uttaranchal	2	0.40	3.00
		Total			23.50

Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (Acres & Species)	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Integration of micro Propagation technology for propagation of high value MPs	Dr. Vidha Bhawan, Bioresources & Biotechnology Div., the Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) Darbari Seth Block, Habitat Place, Lodhi Road New Delhi	3	Chirata, Jatamansi, Atees, Kuth, Kutki, QPM 5 lacs	15.00
2.	Empowering women for health & income through Mps in 50 Vill. of Chankhutia & Bhikhiasain Block of Dist. Almora,	Satish Chandra Pant, Instt. of Himalayan Environment Research & Education (INHERE), Masi, Bazar, Masi-263658, Block Chankhutia, Dist. Almora	3	25 Hac. QPM for 50 SHG, documentation training manual	15.00
				Total	30.00

West Bengal-Promotional—Non-Government Organizations (2003-04)

#	Title	Applicants Name & Address	Project period (Years)	Area (Acres & Species)	Financial assistance sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1.	National Seminar/Workshop/Exhibition on medicinal plants, plants products & Patents	M/s Association of Ayuvedic Doctors, 90, D.P. Nagar (1 K.G. Road), Kolkata-700050	3 days	National Seminars	2.00
				Total	2.00

Joint Working Group against Terrorism

3109. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the setting up of Joint Working Group against terrorism and exchange of information clating to organised crime, trafficking of narcotic drugs etc. with Turkey and Israel;

(b) if. so, whether any agreements have been signed with these countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcomes of the said agreements signed alongwith the strategy drawn to tackle the various related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) India established a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism with Israel in June 2000. A Joint Working Group with Turkey on combating Terrorism was established in September 2003. These provide a framework for cooperation with these two countries, including inter-alia, by way of sharing of information and experience, cooperation in preventing terrorist financing, drug trafficking and organized crimes as also through capacity building.

[Translation]

Opening CGHS Dispensary at Mayur Vihar

3110. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposed to open CGHS dispensary at Mayur Vihar-Phase III, DDA Colony;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it will be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to open a CGHS dispensary at Mayur Vihar Phase III, DDA Colony.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

[English]

Office Memoranda relating to Reservation

3111. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Office Memoranda relating to reservation for which amendments have been made by bringing bills in the Parliament till date;

(b) whether various Ministries/Departments have started implementation in compliance with the amendments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the Ministries/Departments/Undertaking which have not started implementation of the revised Office Memoranda alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The details of the constitutional amendments which were made in the context of various Office Memoranda on the subject matter of reservation as below:—

(i) The Eighty-first Amendment to the Constitution was made to neutralize the effect of Memorandum dated 29.8.1997 which has prescribed that 50% ceiling for reservation would apply to backlog vacancies also.

(ii) The Eighty-second Amendment to the Constitution was made to neutralize the effect of Memorandum dated 22.7.1997 which had done away with the relaxation in qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in the matters of promotion for the candidates for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(iii) The Eighty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution was made to neutralize the effect of Memorandum dated 30.1.1997 which had provided that a general candidates will catch up his seniority over Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribal Candidates promoted earlier by virtue of reservation.

(b) and (c) Suitable instructions have been issued to all Ministries/Departments vide Office Memorandum dated 20.7.2000, 3.10.2000 and 20.1.2002 respectively. The respective Ministries/Departments of the Government comply with these instructions in the relevant cases.

(d) No specific report regarding non-implementation of revised Office Memoranda has been received.

[Translation]

Preventing Spread of Dengue

3112. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) the number of people suffering from the dengue in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other States, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the prevention of dengue;

(c) whether the Government has succeeded in bringing this disease under control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of dengue cases and deaths reported in the country, State-wise, during 2004 (upto 10th August, 2004) is at statement enclosed.

(b) Steps taken for prevention and control of dengue include:—

- Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive and control measures.
- Institutional and Management Capacity Building, trained manpower development and efficient Management Information System.
- Information, Education & Communication towards personal prevention and community participation.
- Early detection and containment of epidemics.
- Vector control mainly through source reduction.

For controlling dengue, central support is need based and is provided in the event of outbreak. During 2003-04, cash assistance to the tune of Rs. 369.35 lakh was released to the affected States for IEC, Capacity Building and support for control of outbreak.

(c) and (d) The number of cases and deaths reported in the country since 1996 are as under:—

Year	Cases	Deaths
1996	16517	545
1997	1177	36
1998	707	18
1999	944	17
2000	650	7
2001	3306	53
2002	1926	33
2003	12754	215
2004*	754	5

(*) Upto 10th August 2004

754 Dengue cases and 5 deaths have been reported in the country till 10th August, 2004 as compared to 3069 cases and 66 deaths reported during the corresponding period of last year.

Statement

State-wise dengue cases reported during the year 2004

Sl. No.	State	Year 2004 (Prov. upto 10th August)	
		Cases	Deaths
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	0
2.	Bihar	0	0
3.	Chandigarh	0	0
4.	Delhi	6	0
5.	Goa	1	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0
7.	Haryana	0	0
8.	Karnataka	89	1
9.	Kerala	474	4
10.	Maharashtra	0	0
11.	Orissa	0	0
12.	Punjab	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	21	0
14.	Tamil Nadu	145	0
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
16.	Pondicherry	0	0
	Total	754	5

[English]

Faulty Telephone Bills

3113. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether erroneous and faulty telephone bills are received by the consumers many a time in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce meters for telephones as has been done in the case of electricity and water; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure correct telephone bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Some times excess bills are received by the consumers in Assam. However, the percentage of such complaints with respect to the number of bills issued during last financial year was less than 1 percent.

(b) and (c) All the telephone exchanges in BSNL Network are Digital Electronic and Meter Reading of subscribers are maintained in the system itself, which is error free, reliable and secure, therefore, there is no proposal to install individual meters like electricity/water at the residence of subscribers. Billing systems are progressively being computerized to ensure correct telephone bills to maximum possible extent.

[Translation]

STD Facility

3114. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of talukas/tehsil headquarters which has telephone exchanges with STD facility in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) the number of talukas/telsils in the States where this facility is not available in the aforesaid States; and

(c) the time by which STD facility is likely to be made available to such taluka/tehsil headquarters and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD): (a) The Telephones Exchanges at all 226 Taluka Head Quarters of Gujarat,

all 1126 Mandals of Andhra Pradesh and all 323 Block Headquarters of West Bengal are having STD facility.

(b) Nil

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

[English]

Reservation for Most Backward Castes

3115. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to make provision for reservation in Government services for persons belonging to most backward castes amongst the backward classes as has been done in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reservation is available to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. No castes have already been categorized as most backward castes for the purpose of reservation in services under the Government of India.

[Translation]

Pending Passport Applications in Andhra Pradesh

3116. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the number of passports issued during the last two years and till date;

(c) whether certain suggestions have been received to streamline passport issuance procedure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has directed the Regional Passport Officer to implement these suggestions for public convenience; and

(f) if so, the time by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) the number of passport applications pending in the two Passport Offices in Andhra Pradesh were 3238 as on 31st July, 2004;

(b) the number of passports issued by the two Passport Offices in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and as on 31st July, 2004 is as follows:

Passport Office	2002	2003	January-July 2004
Hyderabad	2,31,530	2,57,850	1,71,001
Visakhapatnam	45,777	50,346	37,713

(c) to (f) A Committee for Review of the Passport issue System made several recommendations in its report in 2001. These recommendations include simplification of procedures for issue of passports, decentralization of receipt and scrutiny of passport applications to the District level, technological upgradation of Passport Offices and efficient public information, facilitation and grievance redressal mechanism. Most of these recommendations have been implemented..

[English]

Improving Postal Services

3117. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that public have turned to Post Offices Monthly Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the rate of interest has gone down to 8% from 13%;

(c) if so, whether for taking interests, the General Public and Senior citizens have to wait in queues for hours together and also have to make the rounds of the Post Offices; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to improve the situation in this era of E-Banking?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, Sir. However, it is submitted that the Department of Posts is computerizing the Savings Bank transactions in Head Post Offices gradually and it is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

Functioning of WLL Service

3118. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephone connections provided through WLL technology are not functioning properly;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to bring change in this technology; and

(d) if so, the time by which this change is likely to be made

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Most of the telephone connections provided through WLL (Wireless Local Loop) technology are functioning satisfactorily. However, in some cases the systems including FWT (Fixed Wireless telephones) subscribers end terminal equipment's are affected due to inadequate and irregular electric supply in rural areas. Non-standard external battery charger used by the some of the customers also causes damage to the FWT. At some places, the junctions between WLL Systems and C-DOT exchange get blacked occasionally The C-DOT organization is seized of the problem and is developing a software patch, which is under test.

(c) There is currently no proposal to bring any change in the current WLL technology.

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

[English]

Public Telephone Booths

3119. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for allotment of public telephone booths, circle-wise in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the criteria laid down for allotment of such booths;

(c) the steps taken to clear all the pending applications;

(d) whether while allotting the booths any priority is given to educated unemployed youths/handicapped; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir. No application is pending for allotment of public telephone booths (PCOs) in Tamilnadu.

(b) Public telephone booths are allotted liberally to all applicants of the age of 18 years and above as per their registration subject to technical feasibility.

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

(d) and (e) Normally, the Public Telephones are allotted to all the applicants as per their registration. However, where there is waiting list, priority in allotment is given to the handicapped persons alongwith war-widows/dependents, SC/ST and ex-servicemen. No priority for educated unemployed youths is considered necessary as the PCO are available on deemed in most of the areas.

Doctor-Patient Ratio in Government Hospitals

3120. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale shortage of doctors and paramedics in the Government hospitals as reported in the "Times of India", July 28,2004;

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

(c) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap of doctor-patients ratio in Government hospital in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is a shortage of doctors and para-Medics in Central Government Hospitals due to application of Government instruction on downsizing under which the Department is allowed to fill up only 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in a year subject to 1% of the total sanctioned strength. The matter has been taken up at the highest level to seek exemption from applicability of the Govt. instruction so that the vacant posts in Central Government hospitals are filled up. The data in regard to doctor patient ratio in various state Government hospitals is not maintained Centrally.

Cloud Seeding Project in Maharashtra

3121. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Prakalp Varsha a cloud seeding project to generate artificial rains in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the said project has flopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the expenditure incurred on the said project; and

(e) the extent to which the artificial cloud could generate rainfall?

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

Amount allocated to Gujarat

3122. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned/allocated/released for Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent/utilized during the period;

(c) the amount refunded indicating the reasons for refunding the amount;

(d) the amount sanctioned/allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan, till now, to Gujarat; and

(e) the projects on which this amount has been utilized by the Gujarat Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The total revised outlay and actual expenditure in respect of Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan are Rs. 30019.62 crore and Rs. 24657.98 crore respectively at current prices.

(c) The Annual Plan outlay of the states consist of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. The entire amount of Central Assistance released was utilized by the State Government.

(d) The total revised outlay and actual expenditure/ revised estimate during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan are Rs. 12740 crore and Rs. 12143.19 crore respectively.

(e) The plan allocation has been utilized by the State Government for various projects/schemes in sectors such as agriculture, rural development, irrigation, energy, industry, transport and social services such as education, health, social welfare, nutrition etc.

Supply of Livery Items and Shoes By KB

3123. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government authorized Kendriya Bhandar to supply livery items and shoes at the approved rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rates of livery and shows have to been reviewed during the last ten years or new suppliers empanelled in Kendriya Bhandar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to impanel more number of suppliers and to review the quantity and the prices of the items?

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

(b) Kendriya Bhandar is authorized by the Government to supply woollen serge, shoes etc. to common category of Groups 'C' and 'D' employees as part of the uniform at approved rates.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The rates of livery and shoes have not been reviewed during the last ten years since supplies are received at prescribed rates and there is no demand for their revision. The empanelment of suppliers has not been reviewed by Kendriya Bhandar since the supply of liveries include value added service like taking measurement of the liveries and the rates are already competitive as other agencies have also been authorized for supply uniforms to Government departments.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Four Laning of National Highways No. 76

3124. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 76 is proposed to be four laned under the National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bye-pass roads are proposed to be constructed on the outskirts of Banra, Anta, Kota cities on the said National Highways;

(d) if so, the number of towns where bye-pass roads are proposed to be constructed; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Only 599 km length of NH-76 is to be 4 laned under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The work in 99 kms of Udaipur-Chittorgarh section which is common portion of Golden Quadrilateral and East-West corridor is targeted for substantial completion by December 2004. The four laning in the remaining length is targeted for completion by December 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Bypasses are opposed to be constructed for 10 towns on NH-76 in the State of Rajasthan. The estimated cost is Rs. 1023 crore and the work is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

[English]

Maintenance and Repair Works of National Highways

3125. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern States inducing Sikkim have sent several proposals to the Government for maintenance and repair works of National Highways in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to accord approval to these proposals and release the funds according?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty-six proposals amounting to Rs. 60.59 core for the maintenance and repair works of National Highways have been received as per details given below:

Sl. No.	State	Proposals received	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)
1.	Assam	9	31.33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Manipur	8	4.39
4.	Meghalaya	7	19.98
5.	Mizoram	1	2.92
6.	Nagaland	1	1.97
		26	60.59

Tripura and Sikkim are not required to forward proposal as the National Highways in these States are with Border Road Organisation.

(c) The proposals are targeted for approval by 2004-2005 subject to their satisfying technical parameters availability of funds.

Promoting SSI with Foreign Assistance

3126. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to promote small scale industries in the country with foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the countries with which joint ventures are proposed to be set up to promote small scale sector; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The small scale industries (SSIs) in the country including joint ventures with foreign assistance area set up by individual entrepreneurs. The proposals relating to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the SSIs are considered on merits of each case as per the declared policy of the government. The extant policy allows FDI upto 24% in the SSI via automatic route. In cases where the FDI exceeds 24% and the proposal contains manufacture of items exclusively reserved for Small Scale Sector, the investor has to obtain an industrial licence and to undertake export obligation of 50% on such items.

Super Computers

3127. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to instal more Doppler Weather Radar Network for modelling and predicting the course of cyclones in coastal areas by using super computers;

(b) if so, the areas identified therefor alongwith the places where such Radars have already been set up; and

(c) the likely cost thereon and the benefits to be derived therefrom and the share of State and Central Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cyclone Detection Radars (CDRs) of IMD's existing network are located on the east and west coasts of India. Two old radars located at Chennai and Kolkata have already been replaced with Doppler Weather Radars of latest technology. Two more such radars are in the process of installation at Machilipatnam and Visakhapatnam. In addition, one indigenous Doppler Weather Radar has been installed at Sriharikota (A.P.)

(c) Cost of each Doppler Weather Radar is Rs. 12-15 crores approximately. Doppler Weather radar provides quantitative information about crucial meterological parameters like wind and precipitation and also give large number of products which have direct applications in tracking of cyclones, thunderstorms, cloud bursts, wind shear, tornadoes etc. These events take heavy toll of life and property. The estimated loss in case of severe cyclones runs up to several thousands of crores of Rupees. The radars are purchased using Central Government funds. There is no cost sharing by the State Government.

Broadband Services

3128. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) whether telecom industry has demanded that broadband should be included in the definition of infrastructure facility under Section 80(1A) 4(1) of Income Tax Act and accordingly be given 10 year tax exemption;

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

(c) the details of the major shops given/proposed to be given to broadband services by TRAI

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Broadband has

already been included under Section 80(IA) 4(ii) of Income Tax Act. No specific proposal for extending the benefits under Section 80(IA) 4(i) has been received from the telecom industry.

(c) TRAI has made certain recommendations pertaining to policies for Broadband penetration in the 'Recommendations on Accelerating Growth of Internet and Broadband penetration'. List of these recommendations submitted by TRAI to Government is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Major Recommendations of TRAI on Broadband

1. To promote quick growth and create immediate competition in broadband services, nondiscriminatory local loop unbundling (LLU) should be executed in a time bound manner for both Shared Unbundling and Bit Stream Access. The owner of the local loop who is a unified access or basic services access provider (LL Operator) will have the opportunity to decide in which exchange they want to make the investment to upgrade the infrastructure for their own use as well as for providing Bit Stream Access to access seekers. A list of such exchanges should be specified by the LL Operator for Bit Stream Access, with the expected date by which the facility would be provided. This list should be provided within one month of implementation of the LLU program. This information should be available in the public domain and regularly updated.

2. The Authority will undertake the LLU program in a time bound phased manner, with each phase being 3 months. For those exchanges in which the LL Operators choose not to provide Bit Stream Access (or are unable to provide) in the first phase of the LLU program, LL Operators should be mandated to provide Shared Unbundling and collocation facilities. The Authority will review the implementation during each phase and take action as appropriate to achieve the objectives.

3. The Authority expects the LL Operators would most likely find it easier to focus on extending broadband services through their own efforts or their franchises. The Authority is of the view that for introduction of a competitive stimulus, is also important to have non-discriminatory access by others to the above-mentioned unbundled local loop of LL Operators. The Authority would monitor the development in this regard, and expects that such opportunities would be provided by LL Operators to steadily increase the presence of non franchisee access seekers during each of the phases mentioned above.

4. To continue to promote roll-out of new broadband-capable infrastructure, LLU will be implemented only for lines that are five years old from 2004-2005, the fiscal year of implementation of the LLU program. The same principle shall apply for all installations in the future once they complete five years. Therefore, all installations that were completed before the 1999-2000 fiscal year will be subject to LLU, and at the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year, lines installed during 1999-2000 will be subject to LLU rules. LL Operators will be required to submit to the Authority within 21 days of the date of issue of these recommendations a complete list of all lines and the associated year of installation into service. This will be used for public reference in implementing the LLU program. In the event that identifying the installation date of lines presents a problem in achieving the goals of the LLU program, the effective date for unbundled lines can be shifted to a later date. These parameters will be revisited in the future as the Authority performs its regular reviews on the progress of achieving the goals of the LLU program.

5. An Open Sky policy should be adopted for VSAT operators, similar to what is available to ISP's and broadcasters. VSAT service providers should be allowed to work directly with any international satellite.

6. The regulation for minimum size for a VSAT dish should be removed to allow operators further cost savings and increased operational efficiencies by taking advantage of available technologies. Additionally, throughput restrictions on VSAT services, for both up-link to the satellite and down link to remote-stations, should be completely removed. SACFA clearance should ensure that the interference levels are within acceptable limits.

7. The license for VSAT operators should be modified so they may provide connectivity between multiple distinct telecom services

providers, such as ISP's, using the same hub-station and remote-station and therefore also provide internet services directly to clients through their won ISP license. With an ISP license, a remote-station can thereby also be used as a distribution point and provide date services to multiple independent customers from that one station.

8. This recommendation does not intend to cover other services such as fixed PSTN and mobile voice, and does not envision any inter-connection with a PSTN exchange/PLMN network for inter connecting voice services.

9. After submitting all relevant documents to the WPC for SACFA/WPC clearance, the VSAT operator should be allowed to commence the installation process where the installation is on the grounds of an already authorized building and the total height of the installation is less than five meters above, the rooftop, which is sufficient to allow for safe installation. If the VSAT operator's application is rejected by the WPC or is causing interference to any other system, even if it is at a later date after clearances are granted, then the operator can be asked to cease operations at that location. Alternatively, the operator may perform installation if the clearance decision from SACFA/ WPC is not obtained within one month.

10. Finally, it is recommended that no SACFA/WPC clearance should be required for receive-only VSAT's if the location is one the grounds of an already authorized building and the total height of the installation is less than five meters above the rooftop, which is sufficient to allow for safe installation.

11. To enable Receive Only Internet Service via satellite, a DTH provider should be permitted to get an ISP license. The ISP license should be permitted to allow reaching customers for downloading data though DTH and other receive-only satellite services. Since this connectivity is though receive-only satellites, it should not require obtaining any further clearance or permissions from the WPC or SACFA if the installation is on the grounds of an already authorized building and the total height of the installation is less than five meters above the rooftop, which is sufficient to allow for safe installation. Furthermore, there may not be a need for the NOCC fee, which is used of plink monitoring, and his service also should not lead to further levels of fees.

12. An Open Sky policy should be adopted for DTH operators, similar to what is available to ISP's and broadcasters. DTH service providers, should be allowed to work directly with any international satellite to ensure that a full extent of video and broadband services can be provided to a large subscriber base

13. ISP's should be permitted to provide bi-directional data services to customers using the DTH platform, and should follow the same rules and regulations as recommended for VSAT providers. This should be done while ensuring level playing field for entry and license fees in date services

14. Though the issue of license fee for all telecom services is under consultation process, it is recommended that like for other operators, concession of 2% in license fee may be given to the VSAT and DTH operators also.

15. Furthermore, the definition of AGR for VSAT operators when calculating license fees should not include the sale of VSAT hardware that is required for establishing connectivity at the customer premise. WPC charges of 4% should also be reduced to 1% of AGR, in proportion to historical changes. In addition to this WPC charge of 1%, no other WPC charges like application processing fee, etc. may be levied.

16. Finally, DTH operators should be exempted from spectrum royalty fees or up-linking from within India.

17. The 2.40-2.48 GHz band should be de-licensed for low-power outdoor usage, and on the basis of non-interference, non-protection and non-exclusiveness. This de-licensing should be technology-neutral. Similarly, de-licensing should also be done for the 5.725-5.85 GHz band to facilitate deployment of Wireless Access technologies for broadband. Additionally, the 5.15-5.35 GHz band should be vacated expeditiously and de-licensed to further facilitate the objectives.

18. The system of frequency allocation, siting clearance, and licensing should be streamlined and made time bound by removing cumbersome procedural requirements and also be automating

spectrum Management through immediate computerization of the WPC.

19. In a point-to-multipoint network, once the base station has received WPC and SACFA clearance, remote access points within the same geography should be allowed to commence installation without WPC or SACFA clearance once applicable paperwork for obtaining clearance has been submitted, and if the installation is on the ground of an already authorized building and the total height of the installation is less than five meters above the rooftop, which is sufficient to allow for safe installation. In the event that an installation causes interference, the operator should cease to operate that antenna. The WPC should respond to an application within one month of submission of paperwork, with reason for denial if the installation is not allowed, otherwise the operator can assume that the installation has not been contested.

20. IND49 of the NFAP 2002 which says. "Requirements of micro cellular WLL systems based on TDD access techniques, especially indigenously developed technologies, capable of coexistence with multiple operators..." should be altered to remove the reference to WLL. This should be done so that the link between fixed wireless and mobile wireless technologies, which remains because of the former WLL regime, is corrected for current technologies and bands, and future ones

21. Furthermore, the WPC may explore alternative spectrum bands, which are not in the high demand bands, that could be used for deploying broadband services and develop pricing incentives for their usage.

22. The Central Government should recommend to all State Government that detailed GIS mapping should be required for all new infrastructure and civic projects. These maps should be readily available when application is made for right of way clearance. Furthermore, these projects should include ducts for future insertion of data cables when appropriate. These recommendations should be then followed with legislation to ensure execution by the State Government. The Central Government may consider mandating the parameters for such ducts and for accessing them.

23. Furthermore, the Central Government should recommend to all State Governments that they should actively consider giving right of way permission to operators in exchange for bandwidth provisioning to government offices. This arrangement helps bring the government online, benefits operators, and also saves the government from paying for access. These recommendations should be then followed with legislation to ensure execution by the State Government.

24. The Central Government should legislate parameters for provisioning ROW access for telecom operators in privately owned multi-dwelling buildings and residential and commercial complexes, and for installing ducts for telecom services in all new projects of this nature.

25. Access providers of local segment of leased lines, for example, BSO's should be mandated as part of their License Conditions to provide local "within city" links to backaul operators (NLDO's IP-II operators, etc.), in a time bound manner, subject to technical feasibility.

26. The Authority's recommendations regarding waiving of license fees for IP-II should be considered expeditiously by the Government. Likewise, the issue of removing the bank guarantee for these operators should also be considered. Finally, the same principle should be extended to NLD operators, BSO's UASL operators and ILD operators for the portion of revenue earned from leased lines provided to other telecom operators.

27. The current working group of NIXI's Board of Directors should complete the process for arriving at commercial agreements and processes and make their plans and price list for services publicly available within two months.

28. Providers of backbone services, including NLDO's BSO's and IP-II operators, should be mandated for the next two years to provide links to NIXI for ISP's, if it is technically feasible.

29. The Government should consider for the first two years subsidizing the cost of leased lines from a Class B or ISP's print of presence to a NIXI node for purposed of promoting inter-connection. The order of magnitude of this support should be 30-50%.

30. Consideration should be given to allowing 100% depreciation in first year for PC's and broadband Customer premise Equipment (CPE) including modems and routers.

31. Consideration should also be given for tax benefits to organizations on the value of PC's as defined by the Government through a value schedule, that they donate to schools run by the government/local bodies, and charitable organizations.

32. Finally, consideration should also be given to removing the anti-dumping duty for recoiled PC's imported into India.

33. Duties levied on inputs (parts, components and spares) and finished products used in providing broadband and internet services should be reduced to levels equivalent to that for mobile phones.

34. Additionally, the central excise duty levied on these items should be reduced to the extent the customs duties are proposed to be reduced on a pro-rata basis, and in line with duties on imported finished goods

35. Profits that accrue to such web hosting enterprises should be partially exempted from the income tax by at least 50% for the next 5 years

36. ISP's should be exempted, from the payment of service tax, which is 8% of the value of the service provided, for the next 5 years. This exemption will reduce immediately the cost of purchasing such services by 8% to the customer

37. The Government of India should also recommend to all State Governments to waive sales tax on goods and services that are transacted through electronic mode (e-commerce) for the next 5 years up to limits to be prescribed by the Government. This recommendation should be then followed with legislation to ensure execution by the State Government.

38. A similar recommendation or legislation should also go from the Government of India to the State Government to waive Entertainment Tax, currently approximately 30% in certain states, levied on broadband subscriptions and entertainment services, if they are provided through a broadband or internet platform. This recommendation should be then followed with legislation to ensure execution by the State Government.

39. All corporations, whether public or private, should be allowed to give a Rs. 6,000 per annum allowance to employees for broadband services access at home. This allowance should be removed from taxable income for the corporation. The same facility should be extended to self-employed professionals so that they may also reap the benefits or broadband services.

40. A position in the Department of IT should be created for proposed of formulating and monitoring a detailed time bound action plan and for aggressively driving efforts related to this goal. The title of this position would be Project Director (e-Government) and should be at the level of Secretary to the Government of India. This individual would be part of a committee of Ministers who would facilitate in setting priorities and cross-departmental coordination since the efforts would span the breadth of the Government. This Ministerial group should include the departments of Communications and IT, Human Resources Development, Health, Law, Finance, and Commerce. The Group of Miniseries should include a few eminent industry leaders to help in obtaining non-government inputs. The responsibility of this Ministerial group would be to create a new vision for bringing India online through e-services and the Project Director shall ensure cross-departmental coordination of existing efforts that are being executed at the State and Central level as well as new initiatives in four areas: e-governance in Central Government processes and system, e-education, e-health, and e-governance by State Governments with possible funding from the Central Government. Having created that vision, s/he would be the nodal point of execution and coordination to made sure that the initiatives are implemented in a timely fashion, and goals are met.

Establishment of Institute of Seismological Research

3129. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that consequent to the devastating earthquake the Government of Gujarat is keen to establish an Institute of Seismological Research in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the provision of funds for the project has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat State Government has informed that the State is taking necessary steps to establish the Institute though its internal resources and external assistance. A Director General to head the Institute has already been appointed. Out of the World Bank loan received by state government under Gujarat Emergency earthquake Reconstruction Project, an amount of Rs. 30.00 crores has been allocated for the institute. During the last three years the Department of Science & Technology has supported several research projects in Gujarat area of better earthquake hazard assessment.

[Translation]

Joint Scheme for Family Planning

3130. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN

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

(a) whether India and China are formulating a concrete scheme jointly for family planning in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds likely to be spent on the said scheme; and

(d) the percentage of population likely to come down on implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Meeting of Senior Officials on Polio Eradication

3131. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of senior officers of Union Government and State Governments has been held recently in connection with eradication of polio programme;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow up programme proposed to taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir, a meeting of State Officials and Senior Officers of the Union Government was held on 13th and 14th July, 2004 to review the progress in implementation of the polio eradication programme and Universal Immunization programme.

(b) Detailed strategy to be adopted in the States for polio eradication programme and strengthening of routine immunization were discussed. The officials of the State Governments were requested to ensure 100% coverage of children under 5 years of age in the next immunization rounds to be held on 22nd August 2004, 10th October 2004 and 21st November 2004. In order to maintain high community immunity, States were advised to improve the routine immunization by identifying area with low performance through proper micro planning, monitoring supervision, vaccine logistic and reviews.

(c) Regular review of the programme at the National at State level to identify the gaps in the implementation of the immunization programme and take corrective action at appropriate level.

[Translation]

Medical Diploma Course

3132. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that a three years medical diploma course is being run by the Chhattisgarh Government.

(b) if so, whether the said diploma course is recognized by the Medical Council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the fate of students pursuing the said diploma course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Information in this regard is being collected.

Amount for Centrally Sponsored Health Scheme

3133. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought additional amount to complete the health related Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh is one of the 8 States included in World Bank assisted Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP). In the initial stage of the project, 90 development blocks from 15 districts in the State were included. Subsequently on receipt of request from the State Government, five more blocks were included under EMCP for providing assistance for malaria control

[English]

Withdrawal of Incentives

3134. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw various incentives provided to backward areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the relative spread of population in various backward areas of the country and the financial and auxiliary incentives provided to these areas;

(d) the extent to which the backwardness in these areas can be attributed to lack of attention on the part of Central Government; and

(e) the response of the Government to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal in the Planning Commission to withdraw incentive to backward areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No areas has been declared as backward per se. However, for the purpose of certain schemes, various Department/Ministries use their own criteria for allocation of funds, incentives, etc. Planning Commission has identified backward districts for the limited purpose of the scheme, "Backward Districts Initiative" under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. A total of 132 districts are covered under this scheme currently—100 backward districts and 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 15 crore is allocated per year to the identified districts for three years *i.e.* Rs. 45 crore.

(d) and (e) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in his regard through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central assistance and through Special Area Programmes. Further, as per the announcement in the Budget Speech 2004-05 of the Finance Minister, a Backward States Grant fund will become operational from 2005-06 to enable the implementation of social and physical infrastructure programme in the poorest and most backward strict in the country.

Ex-Gratia Payment to Employees

3135. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 2 stated 2.12.2003 regarding ex-gratia payment

to Kendriya Bahndar emplyees on the ground that ineligible emplyees are paid ex-gratia in lieu of bonus as a gesture towards appreciation of their services for the profitability and state:

(a) whether the emplyees of Kendriya Bhandar have been aid bonus more than 20 per cent of their pay and whether the Kerala High Court has recetly held that employees are not entitled for bonus more than 20 per cent of their pay;

(b) if so, the reasons for paying ex-gratia to ineligible employees;

(c) whether a fraud has been committed on the money earned by Kendriya Bhandar on the sale of stationery and other items to Government departments purchased out of public funds; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against people responsible for sanctioning ex-gratia payment to ineligible employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) No employee of Kendriya Bhandar has been paid bonus more than 20% of his salary.

(b) Ineligible employees are paid ex-gratia in view of bonus as a gesture of appreciation of their contribution towards the profitability of the Organisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Trade in IT

3136. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the amount of foreign trade done by Information Technology Industry during the year 2003-04;

(b) the percentage of foreign trade done by various States, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the difference in the growth of this industry in different States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Computer Software and Services exports from India during the year 2003-04 are estimated at Rs. 58,000 crore.

(b) The requisite information is furnished in the statement.

(c) The differences in the growth of IT Industry in different States are attributable to the level of infrastructure facilities and incentives provided by the State, availability of skilled manpower and the overall investment climate.

Statement

State/Union Territory	Computer Software & Services exports 2003-2004 (Rupees in Crores)	Percentage of Total Exports
1	2	3
1. West Bengal	1600.00	2.759
2. Chhattisgarh	0.78	0.001
3. Orissa	325.00	0.560
4. Uttar Pradesh	3550.00	6.121
5. Delhi	3500.00	6.034
6. Haryana	5000.00	8.621
7. Madhya Pradesh	105.00	0.181
8. Punjab	190.00	0.328
9. Chandigarh	50.00	0.086
10. Rajasthan	150.00	0.259
11. Himachal Pradesh	5.00	0.009
12. Uttaranchal	1.00	0.002
13. Jammu and Kashmir	1.00	0.002
14. Karnataka	19400.00	33.448
15. Tamil Nadu	8100.00	13.966
16. Andhra Pradesh	5650.00	9.741
17. Kerala	300.00	0.517

1	2	3
18. Pondicherry	25.00	0.043
19. Maharashtra	9982.00	17.210
20. Goa	6.00	0.010
21. Gujarat	159.22	0.275

Providing Telephones in Villages

3137. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken action against those companies which had made agreement to install telephones in villages and failed to do so;

(b) the names of the companies which have not fulfilled the conditions of this agreement;

(c) the clarification of the Government showing the action taken against such erring companies; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The names of the companies are:

(i) M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. (now Bharti Infotel Ltd.)

(ii) M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.

(iii) M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.

(iv) M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.

(v) M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.

(vi) M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.

(c) and (d) The six private basic telephone service operators, who were granted licences in 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in their respective service area. Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime, the six private basic telephone service operators have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime in November 2003 and thereby the roll out obligations have changed to coverage of District Headquarters instead of provisioning of fixed number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and VPTs.

The Government has recovered liquidated damages to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores from these six private basic telephone service operators for non-fulfilment of roll out obligations in terms of commencement of service as well as in provisioning of DELs and VPTs.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 497/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 :—

(1) Annual Report of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 498/2004]

(2) Annual Report of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 499/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 500/2004]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 501/2004]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith 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 2002-2003.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 502/2004]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 503/2004]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 504/2004]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 505/2004]

(13) 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 Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan,

for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 506/2004]

(15) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 238 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2004 appointing the Ist day of May, 2004 as the date on which various sections mentioned therein of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 shall come into force, issued under section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 507/2004]

(16) A copy of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 137 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 508/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (3rd Amendment) Regulation, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 5-4/2000-A & L (Vol. II) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2004 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 509/2004]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, on behalf of Shri K.H. Muniappa, 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. 715 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

(ii) S.O. 735 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 716 (E) dated the 21st August, 1998.

(iii) S.O. 736 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 717 (E) dated the 21st August, 1998.

(iv) S.O. 798 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 382 (E) dated the 3rd May, 2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 510/2004]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:–

(i) S.O. 716 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2004 regarding entrustment of Bridges mentioned therein on National Highway Nos. 24 and 87 to the National Highways Authority of India.

(ii) S.O. 717 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2004 regarding entrustment of stretches mentioned therein of National Highway No. 53 to the National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) S.O. 759 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2004 regarding entrustment of stretches mentioned therein of National Highway No. 7A to the National Highways Authority of India.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 511/2004]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Mr. Baalu, please see that notice is given. Next time, I would not allow.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am sorry, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 512/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 513/2004]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 514/2004]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 515/2004]

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 516/2004]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

First Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

First and Second Reports

[English]

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2004-2005):-

(1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development); and

(2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).

12.03$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

First and Second Reports

[Translation]

SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:—

(1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; and

(2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to thank the hon. Chairmen and the hon. Members of different Standing Committees for the very effective job that they have done.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce :-

(1) 65th Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); and

(2) 66th Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry).

12.04 $^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

One Hundred-Twenty Fifth to One Hundred-Twenty Seventh Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:—

(i) One Hundred-Twenty Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Science and Technology;

(ii) One Hundred-Twenty Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; and

(iii) One Hundred-Twenty Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Biotechnology.

12.04$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Seventy-eighth Report

[English]

L.T. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Seventy-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) National Welfare Board for Seafarers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Coir Board

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): I move the following:—

"That in pursuance of rule 4 (1) (e) of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board, for a term to be specified by the Central Government."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 4 (1) (e) of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members form among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board, for a term to be specified by the Central Government."

The motion was adopted.

12.06$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(iii) Indian Council of Medical Research

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to move the following:–

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, subject to the other provisions of the said rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, subject to the other provisions of the said rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs.

(iv) Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to move the following:–

"That in pursuance of section 5(j) read with section 6(2) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, subject to the other provisions, of the said Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 5(j) read with section 6(2) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, subject to the other provisions, of the said Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.07½ hrs.

(v) Tuberculosis Association of India

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to move the following:–

"That in pursuance of rule 3(vii)(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations and By-laws made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 3(vii)(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations and By-laws made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, I have given a notice of privilege motion.

MR. SPEAKER: It has not come to me as yet. I will look into it when it comes. Now, let us take up Calling Attention. Shri Krishnaswamy.

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of the move to curb right to strike by employees and placing other Restrictions on the working classes and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the move to curb the right to strike by employees and placing other restrictions on the working classes and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have called the attention of the Government to the situation arising out of the move to curb the right to strike by employees and placing other restrictions on the working classes and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. The Department of Personnel has the charge of the Government employees in general. Those working in industry are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. I shall confine myself to the hon. Members' query regarding Central Government employees.

The conditions of service of the Central Government servants are governed by the rules made by the President under Article 309 of the Constitution or under the Act of Parliament enacted under the same Article.

In their Judgment delivered on the 6th August, 2003, in T.K. Rangarajan Vs. Government of Tamil Nadu and Others, the hon. Supreme Court have held that no right to strike, whether Fundamental, Statutory or Equitable/ Moral Right, is available to Government employees.

In this connection, I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Central Government is alive to the legitimate concerns of the Government employees, especially for a fully functioning grievance redressal mechanism. The Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) Scheme has been working for many years and has proved its usefulness both to the Government and the Government employees. Its object is to promote harmonious employer-employee relations and to secure the greatest measure of cooperation between them – the Government as employer and the general body of its employees – in matters of common concern and to improve the efficiency of the public service. The JCM, therefore, provides a time-tested forum for the resolution of differences, if any, between the Central Government and its employees' associations or unions.

[Shri Suresh Pachauri]

As I have already submitted, enough safeguards are available to protect the interests of the Central Government employees. Government does not propose to disturb the existing arrangement.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the labour movement is a movement of struggle. With great sacrifice and agitation workers are given minimum social security rights like right to negotiate, collective bargaining right, right to strike, etc. This was not achieved on a single day but the movement was spread over three centuries, from the late 18th century when the industrial revolution was started till now.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has become notorious in taking away or snatching away one-by-one the hard earned rights of the workers and has gone to the extent of indulging in victimization and dismissal. Recently, last year, the entire nation knows about the strike of State Government servants, teachers of Government and local bodies in Tamil Nadu. They have been victimized. Lakhs and lakhs of State Government servants have been dismissed. So, we need a statutory right not only for the Central Government employees but for the State Government employees also.

As per the reply of the hon. Minister, there are enough safeguards for the Central Government employees. My suggestion is that enough safeguards should also be given to the State Government employees. As human beings, the State Government employees should be treated equally. This is my humble suggestion. On behalf of the DMK Party and on my own behalf, I request the Government to pass legislation on the floor of the House making right to strike a statutory right. This is what I expect from this Government. I want an assurance from this Government.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): After the Supreme Court's judgement on right to strike, there has been widespread resentment among the Government employees as well as workers. Against that judgement five crore Government employees and public sector undertaking workers went on strike on 24th February and demanded a legislation from the Central Government to make the right to strike a fundamental right. About seven lakh State Government employees and teachers had to go on strike in Tamil Nadu because the Government of Tamil Nadu curtailed the pensionery benefits extended to the Government employees and teachers. When all the avenues were closed, there was no avenue left with, they had to go on strike. The strike was successful. In order to crush the strike, the Government of Tamil Nadu imposed Tamil Nadu Essential Services Maintenance Act (TESMA). Thousands of employees and teachers were arrested and dismissed from service. The case was not whether the right to strike is fundamental or not. The case was whether the action of the Government of Tamil Nadu of dismissing thousands of State Government employees who went on strike was justified or not. The Supreme Court of India did not deal with that question for which the case was lodged. But the Supreme Court of India, without commenting on the arbitrary action of the Government of Tamil Nadu, observed that the right to strike is neither statutory nor fundamental nor equitable nor ethical. The Supreme Court of India advised that all the disputes should be settled by Joint Consultative Machinery. I am surprised to read the Statement of the Minister that the Joint Consultative Machinery Scheme has been working for many years and it has proved its usefulness to the employees of both the Central Government and the State Government. If it is useful, why in each case when there is an award from an Arbitrator or a Tribunal, the Government comes forward with a Resolution to reject the award. Three such resolutions are pending in this House.

Article 19 of the Constitution says that all the citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, to assemble peacefully without arms, to form associations or unions, and to move freely throughout the territory of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am coming to the question. The right to form association and union is not separated from agitation or resistance. We cannot separate the right to form association and union from agitation or resistance. In a number of countries, the right to strike has been given to the employees and workers in 1977. It appears that some 16 countries had explicit recognition of right to strike by public employees and by 1985 eight more countries have been added to the list. In the United Kingdom and even in Israel, the legality of strike has been tacitly recognised. In Italy, the right to strike to both private and public sector employees is recognised. In France, the constitutional protection of right to strike was upheld to both private and public sector employees. When other countries of the world have given the right to strike to their citizens, why should this right not be given to both private and public sector employees of our country which is the biggest democratic country in the world? They should have this constitutional right. Why does the Government of India feel that there is no

necessity to propose a change in the existing arrangement? I want to know whether the existing arrangement is satisfactory or not. If it is satisfactory, then why has there been a number of strikes in our country? Sir, how can the grievances of the employees of the State Governments and the Central Government be redressed? What is the difficulty of the Government? It is because earlier, it was not felt like that. This right is an inalienable right of the working class of our country. Today, the Supreme Court of India has observed that all Government employees do not have the right to strike and their right to strike is not fundamental or moral or ethical. But tomorrow the Supreme Court of India may observe that the workers of our county, workers of the public sector and the private sector, will not have the right to strike. Sir, this inalienable right of the workers to strike is now being taken away.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, it is important.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know from the hon. Minister regarding the workers who went on strike only on this demand on 24th February? In the last Lok Sabha election, the people of Tamil Nadu have given their mandate. Their mandate is against the arbitrary action of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. They are against the fascist policy of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu as well as the people of India have given their mandate to change the anti-working class, anti-people policy of the earlier Government. The earlier NDA Government wanted to take away the right of the working class and the employees of the country. Now the UPA Government is coming forward with a legislation to make the right to strike as a fundamental right. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what prevents this Government from bringing a suitable legislation to make the right to strike as a constitutional right? How does the Government propose to redress the grievances and problems that are being faced by the employees and working class of our country?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker Sir, permit me to comment that the hon. Minister did a fine tight-rope walking. What was the Calling Attention about? The hon. Minister has avoided it deliberately because he does not want to take any steps. The essential question is about the Government's attitude towards the right to strike of the workers in general and not the Government employees only. The Minister has remained completely silent on it.

Two questions have evolved here. The first question is whether the Government employees have the right to go on strike and secondly, whether the working people who are not Government employees have the right to go on strike. Sir, you were an eminent lawyer.

MR SPEAKER: Here, I am not a lawyer. I am here to maintain peace.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I said 'you were'. I never said 'you are'. You have left it.

MR SPEAKER: Still I am. Yes, go on please. It is a very important issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The Supreme Court has given a judgement and that judgement was with regard to the strike in Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court is free to give a judgement. It said that the Government employees do not have the right to go on strike. We also understand to that extent. But while delivering the judgement—that is most important—that particular Bench of the Supreme Court has given an opinion that the workers in general in the country have no right to go on strike because it causes distress to people. There is no word about lockout or about retrenchment. There is no word about violation of labour laws. But that particular Bench of the Supreme Court, in its own wisdom, has said that the workers have no right to go on strike. This is the precise reason which has agitated the minds of the people. On this the hon. Minister is completely silent or ignorant or does not want to commit. This is where we asked a question in the last Indian Labour Conference. You may remember that in the last Indian Labour Conference Dr. Pandey and myself representing CITU and AITUC respectively, asked the former Prime Minister as to what is his response to the judgement of the Supreme Court. It is because at that point of time the hon. Attorney General has opined that the judgement is not innocent and that it should not have been given....*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: It was not the word 'innocent'. He did not agree with the judgement. Do not use the word 'innocent'.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I amend it.

The point is we wanted Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to respond and to say what is the Government's attitude towards that. After persistent queries, the hon. former Prime Minister said, "*Hum bhi khush nahi hain*". Then we suggested that there should be a meeting of the Government with the trade unions to find out the remedy. The meeting did not take place. The Government did everything else. But they had no time to talk to the trade unions on that issue.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

This Government must make its position clear as to whether they believe in the judgement or they agree with the judgement. Whether they believe that the workers and the working people in general, not only those who are belonging to the Government service, have the right to strike or not. Let me not go into history. Everybody knows history. Strike is a fundamental right. Strike is a basic right. I speak on behalf of trade unions. This right to strike has been acquired by the working class all over the world, not only in India, by shedding blood, by sacrificing life, by going to jail and by losing their jobs. This has been acquired by the international working class all over the world and in India too. Let us remember that Bombay working class had gone on strike in support of RIN Mutiny. In West Bengal, the Government employees had gone on strike during the regime of Shri Bidhan Chandra Roy. There was a general strike in India in support of liberation movement of Goa. Nobody uttered a word at that time. Since somebody had the courage to challenge the atrocious and dictatorial move of the Tamil Nadu Government, suddenly there was a response from the judiciary. My question on behalf of the workers is: Do you want to follow the footsteps of the earlier Government and remain conspicuously silent on the issue? Or will you say that the Government believes that the workers in India have the right go on strike? Strike is not fun. Workers do not go on strike for fun. It is because workers have to make sacrifice during strike. They lose their jobs; they lose their salaries; they go to jail; and they have been even shot dead. There have been occasions when it happened. In Jamshedpur, in fifties, fifteen workers were shot dead because they had the courage to go on strike against Jamshedji Tata's atrocious policies. We shed blood to protect our interests.

My basic question to the Government is: Do you want to remain silent? Or will you say that workers have the right to strike as a last resort? I say, on behalf of the trade unions, that strike is a last resort. I am constrained to say that violation of labour laws are rampant in the country. No labour law is given effect to. You go to Haryana or Pubjab. You take the case of even Delhi. Take, for instance, the case of Pepsicola.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not mention their names because they are not here to defend themselves. You just mention that it is happening in different States without mentioning their names.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My precise point is labour laws are being violated. Consultative machinery has collapsed. The Ministry of Labour is almost a bonded Ministry. It has no independent effective role to protect the interest of the workers. I do not want to go into the details because there is time constraint.

Therefore, in this background of alleged collapse of the machinery that has been set up by the Government to redress the genuine grievances of the workers, will the Government agree that workers have the right to go on strike as a last resort? Mr. Minister, if you think of the distress of the people, then, why do you not think of the distress of the workers?

Sir, you will be surprised to know that even the public sector workers do not get their wages. The President of this country is the owner of the factories. A sum of Rs. 2000 crore is in default by this Government, by the earlier Government. They did not pay the wages to their own workers. There are cases of suicides. There are cases of distress deaths. The Government has not paid the money. Where is the distress redressal machinery? Please tell me. ...(*Interruptions*) The workers are not paid their wages. What is this distress redressal machinery for? Therefore, my scientific question to the Government is this. The present Government has come with a new mandate...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Minister, you have come with a new mandate. So, in consonance with the new mandate, kindly let me know whether you believe that the strike is sacrosanct and as a last resort, the workers can go on strike.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government would decide, agree to enact a legislation to negate the pernicious impact of the judgment that was given by the Supreme Court recently.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court's judgement is not only against the Government employees but also it is against the democratic rights of the Indian people. It is a major threat to the democratic system of India. The Supreme Court has stated in the case, "even if there is injustice to some extent as presumed by the employees, they should seek legal remedy in a democratic people's welfare State." What is the meaning of the legal remedy in India? What is the cost of this legal remedy? It is not easy to get a judgement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know all these things. Please put your question.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: It takes a long period of time. It takes years together to get a judgement. The non-employment of suspended worker's case takes 25 years to reach from the Labour Court to the Supreme Court. In a welfare State, remedy should be immediate.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question. It is an important subject. I am a little bit liberal but that does not mean that you can misuse it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Unfortunately Supreme Court judgement goes against the spirit of the Constitution. The 1947 Industrial Disputes Act provides for the right to strike. It is a democratic weapon available to the working class. May I know whether the Government of India would amend the Constitution accordingly to safeguard the right of the workers, their right to strike? Thank you.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Hon. Speaker, Sir, first of all, let me say that I am totally unsatisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister of State. The question to answer is regarding the situation arising out of the move to curb the right to strike by employees. My colleague Shri Dasgupata has said that the hon. Minister has not answered this question properly. He has actually answered in between the lines. He has said:

> "The Central Government employees have got enough safeguards and enough methods to protect their interest... The JCM provides a time-tested forum for resolution of differences."

It means that they have enough safeguards and they need not go for strike which is against their democratic right.

When the questions is about employees in general, how can he answer only about the Central Government employees totally ignoring the State Government employees and a huge number of employees belonging to the private sector? The whole situation arose because the Supreme Court ruled that strike is not a fundamental, legal or moral right. I just want to clarify one thing. The Constitution has to be read and understood in letter and spirit. I agree that Article 19 says that there is a right to have unions and associations and it does not state that there is a right to go on strike. But what is the meaning of having a union? The unions are there to bargain for the socio-economic interests of the workers. Having a union and having a right to bargain are synonymous. When you agree to bargain, striking work has been agreed as an approved and time-tested method of bargaining.

All over the world, striking is the most effective and spectacular method of achieving the targets. In that way, right to have union, right to go for strike and right to bargain are synonymous. Instead, the Constitution has been interpreted in letter and not in spirit. So, what is the Government going to do about it? Are they going to amend the Constitution to add a provision saying that the workers will have the right to strike?

This is very important, because at the time of the Supreme Court judgement, the media and everybody came out saying that strike is the most misused weapon, workers are insensitive to the plight of the citizens and all those things. Even some people went on to say that 'strike' is a dirty word and workers have a self-centered approach. This is because India has now got a very strong class divide between the working class and the rulling class.

Sir, I would like to make one more point here. Having come from a party which stands for social justice, it is very painful for me to say that in India we had *Manu Dharma* many years ago, which said that workers have come from the foot of the God and the rulers have come from the forehead of the God. In that way, I am wondering whether we have a divide so strong that we are not able to get the rulers understand the plight of workers. So, I would only request the Government to understand the plight of workers and decide whether workers have the right to strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware fully that the rules permit only five Members to participate in a Calling Attention, this being a very important issue, I know that all sides of the House are concerned to know the Government's views. Some requests have come to me. I do not think I can accommodate all, but considering the importance of the matter. I will give opportunities to some Members. Now, the main Opposition has not got any hon. Member to speak because no name has come up from them. Therefore, as a special case – please do not refer to this as a precedent in future – I give opportunity to some hon. Members. Now I recognise Shri Santosh Gangwar to make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me also the speak. ...(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given his name but you have not given your name. You are trying to take advantage now

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: This is not done in the Calling Attention. That is why I didn't give my name. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Geete ji, I am trying to give chance to some hon. Members to put their questions

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Please give me also a chance ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for you have given me a chance to speak on such an important issue.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gangwar, please put only questions. If you put questions only, I can give opportunity to some other hon. Members also to put questions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: While associating myself to what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta Ji, I would say that right to strike should be there. I would like to quote here what Shri Golwalkar ji said :–

[*English*]

"Right to strike does not mean right not to work and right to work does not mean right not to strike."

In the ILO Convention, the question of right to strike was accepted. I want that the Parliament should rectify what was accepted at the ILO Convention....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When he is speaking for the right to strike, do not disturb him.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: In the Central Civil Service Conduct Rules, there is no such provision. So, the provision for 'right to strike' should be inserted in the Central Civil Service Conduct Rules.

[*Translation*]

This is for the Government employees. If we want to apply it properly, then I would like to urge that after the decision of the Supreme Court, now it is time that we take a decision on it after having a decision. As has been stated by the hon. Minister, in his Statement is only of clarificatory nature. The Government employees are agitated over it since I had been in this ministry for some days. I therefore, urge upon the Government that a decision should be taken after a comprehensive debate. This is what I think, since the remaining employees are also attached by it. Therefore, a proper decision should be taken in the interest of employees.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Santasri Chatterjee will speak now. Mr. Chatterjee, please put only questions. Do not make a long speech. I cannot allow that.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to put some questions which I am placing in a very lucid and short way.

Sir, as an eminent jurist and having been in Parliament for a long time, you know that in the era of freedom struggle, the working class in Tamil Nadu went on a continuous strike and the employers moved the honourable court and the honourable court issued an attachment warrant against the leaders of the strike. That was an era of freedom struggle, but after 58 years of Independence, it is a matter of concern that the working class is denied its right.

There is an ILO Convention and India is a part of it. It is ratified in the ILO Convention. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister agrees with the ILO Convention's right to strike or right to association or the fundamental rights of the working class. Will the UPA Government rise to the occasion ad in conformity with its Common Minimum Programme, will it protect the interests of the working people of the country?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put questions only.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the Calling Attention in regard to curbing the right to go on strike by the Central and State Government employees. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the trade unions of employees resort to stress only when they are compelled to do so and going on strike is their last weapon. As the hon. Minister has just said that he has mentioned about the Central Government employees in his statement, whereas most of the employees in the trade unions belong to scheduled castes and backward classes who have been struggling since their birth. They resort to struggle for safeguarding their interests. When the Central and State Governments take a tough stand against them, then they are compelled to resort to strikes. If the Government takes care of their interests from time to time, then they will not be compelled to go on strike.

I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you that provisions should be made in the Constitution to

safeguard the interests of the trade unions, their fundamental and constitutional rights and they should get a right to express their views.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Calling Attention motion concerning associations of the Central and State Governments employees. We honour the feelings of the Supreme Court, high courts and other courts including all the concerned organizations towards the working class. But besides this, I want to put my points before this House that various institutions like hospitals also resort to strikes which are so important for the public. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the employees of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and major hospitals of India resort to strikes on the ground that they do not want to work, this should not be the purpose of the strike. If they are being oppressed, then they can go on strike. But now-a-days it has been seen that the only purpose of the strike of the Government employees is to skip their work. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. This is absolutely a privilege that I am giving to the hon. Members to seek clarifications. Therefore, please do not make any speech. So many Members have also given notices.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I want to say through you that there should be some restrictions on the strike in essential services in India. Rather there should be a provision to hold talks across the table within one, two or three months. If even after that no solution is found to their problems only then they should resort to strikes. This is a very important question....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask whether the Government will consider such a situation.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, what is he saying?

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Please let me speak. ...(*Interruption*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not bound by what he states. Nobody is bound by others' observations.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I will take a minute only. There is a refinery in my Mathura constituency employees of which are the highest paid employees in India. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing my indulgence.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: When the employees of the oil company go on strike, it results in less production. I would like to say to the hon. Minister to hold talks with employees to preampt such strikes. Prior permission should be given for such strikes as is in the Railways and other departments. It is not that whenever you want to go on strike and stall the work.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anant Geete.

Shri K. Manvendra Singh, I have called Shri Anant Geete. Please take your seat. You have said that. He will answer it.

Shri Anant Geete, please put a question and just a question. Co-operate with me. Many hon. Members have given notices earlier.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speakar, Sir, I will put forth a straight question. Everybody should have sympathy with them be they government employees or private employees. In my opinion, everybody has sympathy with them. Today the House is having a debate on the issue of 'right to strike' through calling attention. The hon. Minister has given clarification in this regard. I agree with Shri Gurudas Dasgupta that strike is the last resort. Workers go on strike only when it is inevitable. They do not go on strike for trivial reasons. We honour the verdict of the hon. Supreme Court in this regard. Parliament is supreme. We should have a debate on this issue in the interest of crores of workers in the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

Government want to hold an all party meeting in this regard. Such a meeting should be held. There are a number of such precedents that this august House has opined otherwise on a Supreme Court verdict. Therefore, throughs you, Sir, I want to ask the Government their views about such verdict, keeping in view the interests of crores of workers of the country and what they propose to do in this regard.

MR SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Please put a straight question.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, other Members have given notices but you have not given any notice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Right to strike is a constitutional right. So, the workers, the trade unions have this constitutional right. The Supreme Court's verdict in this regard snatches this right from them. The hon. Supreme Court has right to give its verdict, but we want to know the Government's view about it. The Government should make its view point clear in this regard. Parliament is supreme in a democratic set up. Therefore, when this issue is being discussed through Calling Attention Motion, then the Government should make its view point clear and clearly indicate that the worker's right to strike shall be restored. If any legislation is needed to be brought or any amendment in the constitution is needed, then it should be done in consultation with the Ministry of law.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Varkala Radhakrishnan.

I will not allow anybody to say anything except a question. Let me not make it a totally open debate. It cannot be done under the rules. Please put only one question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we claim to be the largest democracy in the world with civilized society. The Supreme Court's judgement is definitely a black mark on the civilized society. We are a party to the International Labour Organisation. We will have to oblige or even follow up the directions or the provisions contained in that agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. What you have said has been said by everybody.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please do not interfere.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to interfere.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Let me finish.

There are two options before the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? It is your bad luck that your have not got your name listed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am asking the hon. Minister a very relevant question about the two aspects.

One is that there is a provision for a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court to review the judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court because it was only a casual reference by the Supreme Court. The matter in issue was entirely different. The question that was put before them was whether the Tamil Nadu Ordinance was legal or illegal. In dealing with that matter, by a side observation they said that the workers have no right to strike. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You say, it is *obiter dicta*.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is every chance for preferring a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court. In the alternative, the Government can bring forward a legislation in this House conferring the right to strike for the workers.

Moreover, it may be pointed out that there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act. The Industrial Disputes Act provides a provision for the workers to strike if it is not declared illegal. The only condition is that 24 hours notice is essential. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to know from the Minister whether he would establish the right of the employees to strike as a matter of right. This is my simple question. Two options are before the Government. The Government can either prefer a Special Leave Petition or bring forward a statutory legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken five minutes to put one question, not just a minute.

Now, Shri Ramdas Athawale. Please put a question. If it is not a question, I will have it everything deleted from the record. Please do not make any speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to the Supreme Court judgement, the employees and working class had right to strike but it has been snatched away after this Supreme Court judgement. This is not a good sign in a democracy.

[*English*]

Indian democracy is the best democracy.

[*Translation*]

An amendment should be made in the constitution for providing right to strike to the working class. If it is not done so, we should think over it in the light of election results in Tamil Nadu where Ms. Jayalalita who did similar injustice to the employees in Tamil Nadu and could not win even a single seat there. Today, the working class is with you. The Government should take decision in support of the working class.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, across the party lines, all the political parties are supporting this provision for the Government employees. It is already there in the Industrial Disputes Act. There is an apprehension of curtailment of this right. I would like to know whether the Government considers to bring forward a legislation or to go for a revision before the Supreme Court because of this passing remark.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Raghunath Jha.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want an opportunity to speak on this issue....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. I have allowed a Member from your Party also. This is very unfortunate. When I try to co-operate with the hon. Members, you should co-operate with me. It is contrary to the rules. I am allowing you and it is being misused.

Now, Shri Raghunath Jha.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the basic issue. Whether the Parliament is supreme or not? These days, the judiciary is intervening in every matter. Even the political parties are deprived of the right to call a bandh. The hon. Supreme Court has imposed a ban on it. We want to clear it from your end as to whether we will get our constitutional rights. It has imposed ban not only on strikes by the Government employees or other employees but also on the bandhs called by the political parties. Whether the Government want to bring suitable legislation in this regard. Otherwise the Government would be in such a position where legislature is forced to take back seat. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Political parties are not workers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Government have powers. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We are concerned with the workers' strike. You have effectively made your point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You should try to restore the supremacy. Nowadays judiciary is intervening in every matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Political party members are workers of their leaders. Now, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar. You kindly put only one question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): I want to know the intention of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should know the decision of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point, now have patience to listen to the Minister's reply.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The hon. Minister should inform about Government's intention about the right

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

to strike. There was a long struggle to obtain this right. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

It is not by any compassion. It is in the event of the Court's orders and observations. Sometimes, Courts give order and extrapolate in the form of observations to order where their decision does not apply also.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you are not right. Whether they would change it or not, yes, the Supreme Court's obiter dicta are binding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: In the course of giving the judgement on Government employees' strike, the Supreme Court made observation regarding non-Government employees also. That is an extrapolation. The Supreme Court cannot do that. I humbly say that the Supreme Court cannot do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, he wants to know whether the Government is considering this issue.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the Members who have raised very important points in the matter which is under discussion. I am also happy to note some of the points which they have mentioned in relation to the welfare of the workers.

Before I come to the other points, I notice that most of the Members were keen to know the stand of the Government in relation to the welfare of the workers. As far as the stand of the UPA Government is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the UPA Government is committed to fulfil the Common Minimum Programme. Now, what is Comman Minimum Programme? I would like to mention it over here.

> "The UPA Government is firmly committed to ensuring the welfare and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the unorganised sector who constitute 93 per cent of our workforce. Social security, health insurance and other schemes for such workers, like weavers, handloom workers, fishermen and fisherwomen, toddy tapers, leather workers, ...*etc.*, will be expanded."

I will now come to the other points.

> "The UPA Government rejects the idea of automatic hire and fire. It recognises that some changes in labour laws may be required, but such changes must fully protect the interests of the workers and families and must take place after full consultation with trade unions."

This is the stand of the Government as far as the interest of the workers is concerned.

As far as employees are concerned, there are three categories of employees. First is industrial workers. Second is Government employees, and third is industrial workers employed in public utility services. As far as industrial workers are concerned, they are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Industry is defined in sub-section (j) of Section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act which mentions the definition of industry very clearly.

As far as definition of a strike is concerned, this strike is for the purposes of Industrial Disputes Act which is defined in sub-section (g) of Section 2 which I would not like to elaborate and take much of the time of this hon. House. But as far as the right of the workers in relation to strike is concerned, as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the industrial workers are entitled and they have every right to go on strike as part of their right of collective bargaining. It is mentioned very clearly in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Do you uphold that right?

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Let me conclude first. After that, if any point remains, you can raise it and I would answer that.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: As far as other workers are concerned, the next category is of industrial workers employed in public utility services. Public utility services are defined in sub-section (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act. These *inter alia* include railway services and other essential services about which hon. Member Kunwar Manvendra Singh mentioned, but section 22 of the Industrial Disputes Act quite clearly lays down certain restrictions on strikes by industrial workers employed in public utility services. It is mentioned in the Schedule under the heading 'Public Utility Services' in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 but there are some conditions for that.

One of the restrictions is that an employee cannot go on a strike within 15 days of giving such notice, and notice may be given before 14 days. So, it is not that such workers who come under such category cannot go on strike. They can go on strike if a notice is given before 14 days.

Now, I come to the third point which is related to my Ministry. The other two points on which I elaborated with your permission are not related to my Ministry. You know it very well that they relate to the Ministry of Labour, but I thought it proper to give a reply on those important points which hon. Members had raised. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: This is the misfortune of this Govt. that the concerned Minister is not available here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: When he is speaking, he is speaking as a Minister of the Government of India.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: As far as the stand of the Government on Government employees is concerned, they are governed by the Conduct Rules and other rules made under article 309 of the Constitution. Rule 7 of the Conduct Rules forbids a strike by Central Government employees. A strike for purposes of Conduct Rules is dealt by Government of India's decision under rule 207.

Now, a question might be raised about the welfare of the employees and how their interests could be protected. I would like to mention that as far as the interests and rights of the Government employees are concerned these Government servants are protected under articles 14, 311 and 16 of the Constitution. If a Government servant is aggrieved in respect of any condition of service, he has not only a constitutional right but also a constitutional remedy under article 22 before the High Court. That Government servant may go to the hon. High Court under article 226. Even after that, the Government servant may go to the Supreme Court under article 32.

There is one more provision in the interest of the Government servants. An effective grievance redressal machinery like the Joint Consultative Machinery exists for the redressal of grievances of Government servants. Now, it could be asked if even then the interests of the Government servants are not protected, what is the next forum? I would like to mention over here that there is a next forum for such Government servants for redressal of their grievances and that is in the form of arbitration. The demand of the staff side is that no agreement could be referred to the Board of Arbitration. An hon. Member had asked about the outcome of arbitration. I would like to mention that out of 240 awards, only five awards have been rejected from Parliament. This is the situation. The forum is quite open for the welfare of the Government servants.

Now, I would like to come to the other point. An hon. Member had mentioned about the ILO Convention. Often a reference is given of the ILO Convention. These ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 deal with the freedom of association and protection of rights of the workers for organized and collective bargaining. But there is no separate Convention on the right of strike. The Government has not ratified even these Conventions Nos. 87 and 98. We were the participants, but the Government has not ratified it. But it does not mean that whatever decision was taken in that Convention, we should not take cognisance of that decision which was taken in the Convention.

I would like to make it clear that whatever decision is taken in that convention, we would like to see whatever is possible as per our rules. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has heard everybody without interruption. Please allow him that little courtesy.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: If there is anything which remains, I am here to answer those points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. After he finishes, I will give you opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, as I said, we are not the signatory to this Resolution. But being a member of ILO, it is a binding on the country to follow this Resolution in spirit. So, we will follow the Resolution, whatever is possible. Hence, India does provide an option for collective bargaining to the workers in the spirit of ILO Resolution, and I can give such an assurance.

It is said that I have not covered some of the points. I tried to cover almost all the points which are in relation

[Shri Suresh Pachauri]

to the workers - Government employees, industrial workers, and those workers who come under the Schedule (1) category, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow all this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will the hon. Minister state that in view of the observation in the Supreme Court judgement, the doubt that has arisen, he would like to call a meeting of the Leaders of the different political parties and discuss this important issue?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Trade unions also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: And also trade unions, if possible. I think, you may consider that.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, I am glad that you asked about this point. In fact, I should have covered this point before I concluded. I would like to mention about the Supreme Court judgment as to how it has taken the decision. The Supreme Court in its decision dated 6th August, 2003 in the case of T.K. Rangarajan *versus* the Government of Tamil Nadu and others has held some opinion about the strike. I would like to mention it over here. This judgement is under review because some of the Members have asked whether this Government is going for the review or not. My answer is 'yes, this is under the review'.

It will not be proper for me when this judgment is under review to mention it over here as to what would be our viewpoint. But as far as our feeling is concerned, I mentioned it when I quoted the commitment of the UPA Alliance Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Political parties and trade unions.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, I would like to mention it that when I read the commitment of UPA Government, this is quite clear in this. I think, I need not say more about it.

As far as the involvement of political parties is concerned, we are open for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He accepts the spirit of it.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Thirteenth Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Madam Chairperson, yesterday, I had raised the issue of Late Shri Savarkarji's insult and said that the Petroleum Minister of the Government of India had inflicted insults upon the freedom fighter, Savarkarji. The Leader of the House had assured that a statement would be made in this regard by the Government. Even today I raised this issue in the morning at 11 O' clock when the House had assembled. At that time, the hon. Speaker had said that the Government would make a statement but so far no statement has been made. The Government is also deliberately allowing the insult of Savarkarji. He is being insulted again the again. Madam Chairperson, when this matter was raised in the Rajya Sabha, it was replied that it was not known if the words of Savarkarji have been erased. ... (*Interruptions*) The fact, however, remains that the words of Mahatma Gandhi are very much inscribed there. Madam, this way Savarkarji is being insulted again and again. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, when the Government has assured to give a reply, it would definitely do so.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer is a Minister of Government and he is available in Delhi. He should come and make a statement here. ...(*Interruptions*) Madam, the leader of the House has assured about making a statement on Government's part. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to say something, please listen to what he want to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Madam, please give me some time. I will get back to the House on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairperson, the Government can not inflict insults on Late Shri Savarkarji this way. This is not the way ... (*Interruptions*). The great freedom fighter, Savarkarji has been insulted. The leader of the House should come and make a statement here ...*(Interruptions)*. Now the Government's version is that is would make a statement after some consultations on this issue. This is being done deliberately ...(*Interruptions*). Insult is being inflicted on freedom fighter and Savarkarji... This is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government to get Savarkarji insulted by a Minister of the Government and moreover, statement is not being made in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: When he is requesting, he should be given time. You please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairperson, this issue is being raised since yesterday. Rajya Sabha has been adjourned. No statement has been made here on this subject. The Government is not serious about it...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: How can I give my reaction? ... (*Interruptions*) Please give me some time. I will get back to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It will not be like that. You please listen.

[*English*]

Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Let me see what I can do...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam chairperson, Mani Shankar Aiyer is present here. He has shown disrespect towards Veer Savarkarji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should also think that when a senior Minister of the Government has said this.

[English]

That they will come back with some information.

[Translation]

We should give him time.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: We have been raising this issue since yesterday against a Minister. How much time is taken to get an information from a Minister? ...*(Interruptions)* We cannot tolerate the insult of Savarkarji at any cost. The entire nation is agitated on this issue. Savarkarji is one of our freedom fighters and the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters have enabled us including the Minister in question to come and sit here in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* We cannot tolerate the situation when a Minister shows disrespect towards freedom fighters and the Government is sitting mum. The leader of the House had made a statement in another House...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No, you will have to give this much of time.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: So far no statement has been made by him here. We are making this demand since yesterday. Unless a statement is made in the House or Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer apologizes here, the business of the House should not be conducted. ...*(Interruptions)* This is an insult of Savarkarji and of the freedom fighters. The Government is allowing this insult and no statement is being made...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should not repeat this. You will have to give this much time.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Government must immediately give a statement about the issue of Savarkarji's insult, but the fact remains that the Government also wants to show disrespect towards Savarkarji. We are sitting here by virtue of freedom fighters who liberated our country and the Government is repeatedly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You will have to give time.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairperson, the Government should make a statement here.

14.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Today, we have got two discussions under Rule 193. Therefore, I request that the Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to place a curb on removal of sand from the Amravathi river bed in Erode district of Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In my Palani Constituency Vellakoil, Mulanur and Darapuram unions which come under Erode district, are served by river Amravathi. There are 30 small and big integrated drinking water schemes in the Amravathi river. The Amravathi river serves thousands of acres of agricultural land for irrigation facilities.

Of late, huge quantities of sand is being taken from the riverbed by contractors. In fact, the Chennai High Court set up a Committee to go into the question of removing of sand in the riverbeds and a Committee was constituted. Based on the Committee's report Government of Tamil Nadu decided to quarry the sand by P.W.D. and sell to others. Certain norms were fixed for quarrying the sand. Particularly not to quarry for 50 meters from the riverbed and not to quarry more than 1 meter depth. Despite the clear orders of the High Court and also the directive of the Government, the private operators are having a free hand in removing the sand. The have already removed large quantities without following the norms. If huge quantities of sand are allowed to be removed, it will have a telling effect on the soil erosion which would in the long run affect not only agricultural operations but also ground water level of the areas concerned.

Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Environment and Forests to intervene in the matter urgently and issue necessary directions to the effect that sand from the Amravathi riverbed should not be removed against the orders of the High Court and directions of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Need to include Andhra Pradesh under the National Drainage Technology Programme to enable the State to undertake research and adopt drainage improvement measures

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): The State of Andhra Pradesh is one of the prosperous agricultural States of India, significantly contributing to the production of food grains, oilseeds and commercial crops. The production and productivity of crops will be further enhanced in this State if due attention is paid to the drainage improvement. It is understood that the State has not been included in the National Drainage Technology Programme, contemplated by the Union Government.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has got oldest deltas. The soil being heavy in these areas, the State is facing severe problem of water logging and impeded drainage. An estimated area of about 1.1 m ha. suffers from drainage congestion and water logging, a large part of which lies in Krishna-Godavari delta.

So, the State Government has requested the Government of India to include the State of Andhra Pradesh in the National Drainage Technology Programme for undertaking research as well as on far trains/ demonstrations for large scale adoption of drainage improvement measures in the common areas of the State. An early action by the Government of India in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

(iii) Need to link Bhiwadi and Rewari towns through a broad gauge railway line

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Madam Chairman, Bhiwadi is one of the fast growing industrial towns in the national capital region which is in my parliamentary constituency Alwar in Rajasthan. More than 1000 industrial units have been established in Bhiwadi and an Inland container depot has also been sanctioned for Bhiwadi. This area including Bhiwadi town is well populated. The Rajasthan Government has also taken a decision to develop Bhiwadi as a big town in view of its developmental potential.

Bhiwadi is 75 km. from Delhi and 25 km. from Rewari. At present, Bhiwadi does not appear on the railway map of India. I urge that Bhiwadi be linked to Rewari through a broad gauge railway line. This 25 km. stretch of railway route will be very helpful in accelerating the developmental activities of this area in NCR.

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* Treated as laid on the Table.

Therefore, I would like that engineering-cum-traffic survey be conducted this year itself to assess the traffic potential and the up-to-date estimated rate of returns.

(iv) Need to bring forth a comprehensive legislation to curb the practice of female foeticide in the country

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (Narasaraopet): Female foeeticide has created alarming imbalance between male and female birth ratio. At present there are 845 females after every 1000 males. People prefer to go for sex determination test due to the urge to have a male child and destroy the female child in the womb. It is a heinous crime and must be curbed. Ultra sound machines available with medical practitioners and quacks often misuse the machines in sex determination cases and openly indulge in this unethical practice to earn easy money. It is surprising that nationalised banks give loans on lower rate of interest to purchase ultra sound machines.

I urge the Government to go into all aspects of this burning social problem and plug all loopholes in the existing Acts like PNDT and, if necessary, bring forward a comprehensive amended legislation in consultation with State Government to tackle this problem.

(v) Need to take suitable steps to check inflation rate

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Rate of inflation is increasing day by day and it has crossed 7.5%. Margin of profit in medicines for common poor people by various giant drug companies and traders is exorbitant *e.g.* retail rate of some medicines is Rs. 1.20 for 10 tablets but it is sold in market at the rate of Rs. 26/- and upwards as prices printed on it show such higher rates. Moreover, many times, benefit of tax reduction does not reach to the common man, but burden of slight increase in taxes are passed immediately on the shoulders of common man. After hike in steel prices, oil companies have stopped supply of new gas cylinders. Thus, cumulative effect on inflation has caused unbearable hardship to common poor people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to take immediate measures to control the rate of inflation and also control the prices of all essential commodities, which are meant for the use of common poor people.

(vi) Need to mandatorily take the recommendations of the Local Area Member of Parliament for sanctioning old age pension

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Madam Chairman, the Government is providing old age pension to the persons aged above 60 years with none to support and maintain them. It has been seen that in some cases off springs of such persons refuse to own the responsibility and taking care of their parents.

Such old persons die morally even before their physical death. There is a need to examine as to whether any kin of the persons seeking old age pension is there to provide them financial assistance or food and clothing. If not, such persons should be given pension.

On the other hand it has been seen that people get the government officials make false recommendations reports that there is no son or daughter to provide them food and clothing and thus they manage to get pension.

My request is that taking of recommendation of local M.P. should be made mandatory for sanctioning of old age pension as he is personally aware of the condition of the people in his constituency.

(vii) Need for construction of a by-pass at Rewa on National Highway No. 7 in Madhya Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Madam Chairman, the work of construction of by-pass on National Highway at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh has been penind for years. The land has also been acquired but the work has not been started as yet. More than a dozen higher secondary schools and three colleges are situated along this highway, accidents take place every now and then because of non-commencement of the work and a number of students have also died so far in the accidents. Apart from schools and colleges, a number of industrial units are situated along this highway in which thousand of workers are engaged. Earlier, the Central Government wanted to construct this road but the State Government did not cooperate but now the State Government want to construct it but Central Government is not according its sanction.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue instructions for construction of this road immediately so that life and property of the people of Rewa including students are safe and movement of traffic may become smooth.

(viii) Need for Central assistance in checking the erosion caused by the sea in the coastal areas of Upupi Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): Fishermen settled along the Dakshina Kannada Coast are beset with a host of problems. I would highlight the following as major impediments to their source of livelihood.

Sea erosion along the coast falling under my constituency–UPUPI–has vastly changed the topographical and ecological balance. Many land areas including coconut groves along the shoreline have vanished due to the sea erosion. Diminishing land area has constricted the space meant for settlement and also uprooted jettis/wharfs. Faced with funds crunch the State Government has been taken ad-hoc measures rather than attempting at long term solutions to check sea erosion. I urge the Centre to come forward to allocate more funds for fortifying the sea embankment or else pose this project for overseas assistance and technical expertise – either from Japan or from any of the Scandinavian countries.

Estuaries of most of the west flowing rivers in the district pose hazard for fishing crafts due to silt, making the navigational channel shallow, causing wreckage of vessels and loss of lives. I urge the Centre to commission dredging vessels for rational work along the coastline – from Kerala to Goa.

(ix) Need to construct a railway over-bridge at Mohitnagar level crossing in West Bengal

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): The road connectivity Siliguri–New Jalpaiguri and Jalpaiguri is a very important State highway road of North Bengal as it is the main connection between rest of India and entire North East. There is consequently a heavy traffic on this road. But there is a dangerous level crossing at Mohitnagar crossing between Raninagar-Jalpaiguri, when the Rail gate is closed for the passage of train, the critical jam that after creates real perplexing matter for the local people and the traffic to cross the rail gate at Mohit Nagar. It takes 30 to 45 minutes to pull it up, involving this a lot of jam by vehicular traffic.

I urge upon the Government to construct a railway over-bridge at Mohitnagar level crossing which is a long felt demand of the people of Jalpaiguri and also to those who use this road.

(x) Need for expeditious completion of the work on Agra-Kanpur section of the National Highway No. 2 in Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Madam Chairman, the people at large are facing a lot of problems due to delay in completion of Agra-Kanpur National Highway No. 2 which runs *via* Etawah-Ferozabad. At the same time, the work on the bye-pass road at Etawah which was scheduled to be completed by the year 2004 came to a halt a year ago thereby posing great difficulties to the people and causing many accidents all too often. Water logging in the rainy season makes traffic movements very difficult. Therefore, I urge for expeditious completion of Agra-Kanpur road together with construction of the bye-pass at Etawah without delay.

(xi) Need to declare the Western Vidarbha region of Maharashtra as an economically backward area

[*English*]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Western Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is an industrially backward area and as a result of this youths of this area are not getting adequate job opportunities. Due to the unemployment problem, youths of this area are not in a position to shoulder their responsibilities and are frustrated. If they are not taken care of, there is every likelihood of their committing suicides in the near future.

I urge upon the Government to declare Western Vidarbha region of Maharashtra as economically backward area.

(xii) Need to develop Daringibadi in Orissa as a tourist resort by extending Central assistance

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Daringibadi, a scenic beauty tourist spot in the traditionally backward

and predominantly tribal populated district, Kondhamal, in Orissa is situated at a height of about 5000 feet above the sea level. This hilly terrace is famous for its natural beauty, the flora and fauna, the dense forest and wild animals around it. Because of its ideal allocation and healthy climatic condition, the former Chief Minister of Orissa Late Biju Patnaik had expressed his desire to make it the summer capital of Orissa. People who visit Daringibadi call it the second Kashmir of India. But it is unfortunate that the place is yet to be brought under the tourist map of India despite the presence of natural beauty.

The Government of India is laying emphasis on the promotion of wild life tourism, forest tourism and tourism in the tribal areas. Daringibadi can be brought under the tourist map of India if the infrastructure facilities are provided and the place is developed as a national tourist centre. Daringibadi can also be developed as a beautiful hill station which will ultimately attract thousands of domestic as well as foreign tourists.

Since the State Government is not in a position to bear the cost of this project, I request the Union Ministry of Tourism to send a Central Team to tap the tourism potential there and explore the possibility of developing it as National Tourist Centre by releasing Central assistance without any further delay.

(xiii) Need to provide financial assistance for reviving and promoting the cashew industry in Kerala

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): The cashew industry in Kerala is one of the major traditional industries. Tens of thousands of workers, especially women workers are working in more than 500 factories of this industry. More than two and half lakh families are dependent on them. The Achutha Menon Government in 1970 established in Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation for the development of the industry as well as for the welfare measure of the workers with minimum wages, P.F., Pension etc. the factories under this Corporation were closed during the last three years. About 40,000 workers were unemployed. The State Government didn't make any efforts to open these factories. The Corporation needs a Central assistance of one hundred crores of rupees to re-open it and provide employment as well as to earn foreign exchange through cashew exports. It is a welcome step announced by the Finance Minister to provide 100 crores of rupees for traditional industries like handloom and coir. But cashew industry is not included in that scheme. So, I request the Union Government to include it along with the handloom and Coir industries and also raise the financial assistance to Rs. 500 crores.

(xiv) Need to introduce mobile telecommunication facilities in the rural areas of Nasik Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE (Nasik): Madam Chairman, Nasik Parliamentary Constituency is of great importance from the tourism, archaeological study, cultural and religions point of view. There is Devlali Cantonment area and Ambad and Sinnar industrial units located near Nasik. But Nasik city and rural area is very backward from the point of view of telecom services as compared to other developed areas of the country. Thousands of rural subscribers and hundreds of small villages are still deprived of telecom services.

As such I request the Government to make available machines equipped with latest technology for providing WLL equipments and BSNL Cellular services in rural areas of Nasik Parliamentary Constituency.

(xv) Need to solve the problem of scarcity of drinking water in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Madam Chairman, through this House I would like to draw attention that water table in Gomiya and other blocks under district Bokaro in my Parliamentary Constituency Giridih has depleted due to extraction of coal by CCL. With the result, the shortage of water has endangered the life of people of Sadam, Hosir, Hajari, Gomiya Jhirki Khudgada, Champi, Khetko, Angwali, Pichwari, Budiyarwad, Giridih, Pachamba and Chhatabad, Lewabad, Mohda, Kapuria, Bans Kapuria, Bhatmudna, Katrasagarh, Pachgarhi in Baghmara block in district Dhanbad and various villages of Bermo block. The women of these villages have to bring water from a long distance and even that water is contaminated.

As such, it would be appropriate in the public interest that suitable arrangements to provide water in the aforesaid villages may be made so that lakhs of people of the region could be benefited.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): The Government has stated that statement would be made. The Government should tender apology for this. This government is deliberately insulting Savarkarji. *...(Interruptions)*

14.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairman, this is unfortunate for the country. *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Government has stated to make the statement.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Government is coming back with a reply on this issue. Please give them some time.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Chairman, the government is repeatedly showing disrespect towards Vir Savarkarji *...(Interruptions)*. The government is deliberately showing disrespect towards Vir Savarkarji *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up further discussion regarding situation arising out of shortage of power in the country. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav is to continue his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam Chairman through you I would should like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister ... (*Interruptions*) yesterday. I was discussing rural electrification. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned up to 1445 hours.

14.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Eight Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been waiting since morning for the statement which was scheduled to be given by the leader of the House. I had said in the morning also. *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee is going to say something.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the hon. Member, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, raised certain issues in regard to certain observations and action made by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I assured the House that I would ascertain the facts and I would share the facts with the House. In fact, I have ascertained the facts. What I learned from Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the points should be noted, is as follows:

"(i) The Swatantrya Jyot is a project of the Indian Oil Corporation Foundation, which is managed by a Board of Trustees, the Chairman of the Board being the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(ii) As the Swatantrya Jyot is an eternal flame commemorating the Freedom Movement, it is only appropriate that Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, be remembered on the plinth on which the flame rests: this was done at my instance.

(iii) Neither at the official function nor in the press conference that followed did I refer to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

(iv) When asked about him by NDTV on the margins of the function, I said my personal views as a citizen of India were well-known and expressed earlier, but that as a Minister I was bound by the decisions of the Council of Ministers."

This is the fact which I have ascertained. Thank you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one. I allow Shri Geete to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the statement made by the leader of the House that the entire information which have come in regard to Swatantarta Jyoti celebration held on the 9th August are correct. Mr. Chairman, madam ...*(Interruptions)* Madam Chairperson ...*(Interruptions)* sorry sir, as the chair was previously occupied by Madam Chairperson so inadvertently uttere madam by mistake instead of 'Mr. Speaker, Sir'.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: So long you allowed the Chair to function!

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Swatantra Jyoti was constructed there. Shri Mani Shanka Aiyar, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the Government of India went there for its inauguration. I would like to tell you that the construction took place during the tenure of Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of Petroleum. It was done on his order. When it was decided...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Now it is our regime.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am telling you the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)* It was then decided that the construction would take place under the supervision of Indian Oil Corporation. It's maintenance is also being taken care of by the corporation. It was decided to inscribe the words of four freedom fighters on it and what were the words was also inscribed there on the plaque. Unfortunately, the words of freedom fighter Vir Savarkar were omitted from the plaque of the Swatantra Jyoti...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Shivhar): Government have the power to effect changes in the decision.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: This is true...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not give wrong examples to our future generations.

[Translation]

Geete ji, you please ignore them. I am listening to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripalji, please take your seat.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Government has changed. The Ruling Government have the power to change the decision taken by the previous government as has been mentioned here by the ruling party. We are charging the present Minister of Petroleum Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that he changed the decision taken by the Minister of the previous Government. The words of Shri Savarkar have been omitted. We are not opposed to Mahatma Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what Shri Geete says.

...*(Interruptions)*"

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I do not want to comment on what he said. You can very well inscribe the words of Mahatma Gandhi over here but the Minister of Petroleum and this Government have shown disrespect towards Shri Savarkar by omitting the words uttered by Vir Savarkar on Swatantra Jyoti. If it is not the case, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and the Government should

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"Not recorded.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

apologise. If a statement from the Government is given with the assurance that the words of Vir Savarkar would again be inscribed over there...*(Interruptions)* They should give an assurance to this effect. If the Government intend to do so, they should come out with a statement in this regard otherwise the Government and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar should apologise for this. They insulted the hundred crore people as well as the freedom fighters of this country. The leader of the House is present here. We have no objection against Mahatma Gandhi. But we are in favour of getting words of Vir Savarkar re-inscribed there which were omitted. If the Government and the leader of the House are in favour of it, we will certainly accept that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. Please allow the Chair to conduct the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Geete, you have made your demand.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: If they do not accept it, it will amount to an insult to Savarkar. They should apologise for it here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me speak. Do you know as what I am to speak about?

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me speak on this subject...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale should be made the Speaker so that he cannot speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. It has nothing to do with your constituency.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): The issue can be discussed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. I am giving my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Corporation is under the Ministry of Petroleum.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I am not shouting.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, then, why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, from the Leader of the House I had found out that he wanted to make a statement after you raised the issue. I am not minimizing the importance. In pursuant to what he has said, he has made a statement. So far as it is understood it is a matter not of the Government directly but it is a matter concerning the Indian Oil Board. Therefore, let the matter be taken up by the Government with the Board. Let the Board take a decision on that. Government has not done it, some Foundation has done it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: However, there is a procedure which has to be followed. It is the Foundation which has done it. You have made your point. Nobody can obliterate the history. Why are you worried?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government have changed their decision? It was a settled affair *...(Interruptions)* We would like to know whether any change has been made in respect of inscribing the words of those four persons there? This is our foremost priority. If it has been changed, we should be apprised of the reasons? The second point is that nobody has any objection about the inscription of Mahatma Gandhi's words. That can be there as the fifth inscription, but deleting the inscription of Savarkarji tantamounts to his insult. This loss can be compensated only when the deleted inscription is put back. Is the Government ready for this? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Geete, you have made your point. I have listened to it. Let us come back to the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Leader of the House is present here. It would be good if he makes a statement here on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister has made his statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has made his statement. It cannot be that you will only have a statement according to your satisfaction. It cannot be that you will only get a statement according to your satisfaction. The government has made a statement. You have made your point. It is on record. You have made a demand. please allow the House to function.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the House should make a statement on our demand. We have no objection if he wishes to make the statement tomorrow at 12 O' clock in the morning, but the leader of the House must make a statement...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has made a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is evasive reply. The point is whether change has been made or not? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just wait.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am repeating. Yesterday, certain matters had been brought to the notice. I informed the House that I will ascertain from the person concerned. I have ascertained from the person concerned and the information I have shared with the hon. Members. I have mentioned at the very beginning that so far as Government is concerned, the decision was not taken by the Government, the decision was taken by the Foundation. It is for the Foundation to decide. Therefore, the question that Government took a decision is not valid. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has made it very clear.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The corporation is under Petroleum Ministry *...(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker Sir, I.O.C. is not a private company *...(Interruptions)*. The Government is deliberately showing disrespect towards Vir Savarkarji *...(Interruptions)*. I.O.C. is under Petroleum Ministry...*(Interruptions)*. We blame the hon. Minister for this *...(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. What more can you say?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government cannot show disrespect towards Vir Savarkarji in this way...*(Interruptions)* The Government is showing disrespect towards him again and again *...(Interruptions)* The Government is not ready to accept the greatness of Savarkarji...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I had asked him to speak, he had spoken. You wanted to say further. I had allowed you to

*Not Recorded.

speak. What more can be done? He has said that the Government has not taken any decision.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 3.15 p.m.

15.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till 15.15 of the Clock.

15.15 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have had a discussion, and I am thankful to the hon. Leader of the House that he has agreed to make a statement – whatever he wishes to say, it is for him – at 2 o' clock tomorrow. If it is to be made earlier, then he would come earlier and make a statement on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the House should make a statement here tomorrow. We have no objection on that. We walk-out from the House owing to the insult of Vir Savarkarji by the Government and also we condemn the behaviour of the Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyerji.

15.17 hrs.

(Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you stage a walk out today wait till tomorrow when a statement is likely to be made by the Government.

...(Interruptions)

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*Not Recorded.

15.18 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation arising out of shortage of power in the country

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us come to item No. 22–Discussion under Rule 193.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was drawing the attention of the hon. Minister towards generating hydel power. I was saying that a number of rivers emanate from the Himalayas. The waters coming from there are causing havoc of floods in the whole Bihar, Assam and other States. If you make a little efforts, electricity will be generated at cheaper rates and people will easily get electricity at the rate of only 25 paise per unit. I would like to cite a small example that if we install hydel power project on the Kosi river, 3300 MW power will be generated there. Similarly, if hydel power plants are installed on the rivers flowing from Nepal, electricity will be generated on large scale and the people of the country will be relieved greatly of the power crisis. I would request you to take some concrete steps and a decision in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year we discuss the severe flood situation in Bihar. This time also we have done this in the House. Crores of rupees and life and property is being damaged there. Installation of hydel power plants will be a relief to the people. The hon. Minister should take a decision in this regard, and the money they are investing in power generation should primarily be for hydel projects.

So far as providing electricity to the rural areas is being talked about, the Government have taken note of this. There is an agreement in the common minimum programme of the UPA Government and the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister both are in favour of this. Until a decision is taken to increase power generation, your dream cannot be realized. A target to generate power

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*Not Recorded.

to the extent of 41 thousand Megawatt was fixed during the tenth plan period but you are unable to meet that target. Just 6000 MW power has been generated during the last two years. What I mean to say is that if you fix some target you must make all-out efforts to meet the same. In the given perspective the development of the country is not possible without availability of adequate power. If we have to ensure the development of the country in a holistic manner, there is no way but to increase power generation. The electricity is the key to all sort of problems be it drought, property, unemployment or rural problems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government towards Bihar. Bihar has been neglected since independence. Bihar has two power plants one at Barauni and another at Kanti. The generation capacity of these plants, have gone down so low that they are generating only 50 MW of power. Can Bihar do with only 50 MW of power? I would request you to allocate money for modernization of power plants of Kanti and Barauni in Bihar. The State government has already forwarded a proposal to the Union Government in this regard. If the Government allocate funds for these power plants, they could enhance their generation to 500 MW each. Both the thermal power stations have capacity to jointly generate 1000 MW of power. We have suffered exploitation. Prior to division of Bihar, the State used to supply coal and today substandard coal is being supplied to the stations of Bihar which also affects their generation capacity adversely. Now Jharkhand had been carved out of Bihar. Our resources have run out and we are now a hapless lot. We cannot take Bihar on the path of progress unless Central Government bestows their help. We in Bihar lack funds as well as capacity for rural electrification. We fully depend on the Government at the centre. Please dispense justice to us. If you don't do justice, how could we fulfil the dream of the honourable Prime Minister for rural electrification in Bihar as well as the agreement entered upon in the CMP? Ninety percent of rural Bihar has no access to power. There may be data or papers showing it otherwise but the reality in Bihar is that even farmers do not get electricity in Bihar. Since we don't have funds, we request you to allocated 90 percent of funds from central pool and rest 10 percent of resources would be met through our resources. We are helpless. Our means of income have ended with formation of Jharkhand. We want you to make efforts for rural electrification in Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): How was Jharkhand created?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You did it.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': We did not do it. It was your proposal.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Do not talk about it. Centre is responsible for the bifurcation of the State and he has destroyed Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': The proposal in this regard was sent by the Government of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt now. This is to right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to urge that Bihar has been constantly neglected. We demand the UPA Government to do justice to Bihar, uplift it. This is a sick State. If one of the member of a family is ill, how can the family prosper? The country will prosper only when all the States are prosperous.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Bihar is eight crore. If we want the country to make progress, it is not possible by neglecting Bihar. Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar has sent a proposal. You implement it. It has come to my knowledge that cabinet note has also been received in this regard. I am sure that you will soften your stand on it. Hon. Minister is on a visit of Bihar. He has given many assurances to the people of Bihar. He promised the state that assistance will be provided in power-sector. We are obliged for this. People of Bihar are hopeful that the Central Government will provide assistance to them in power generation sector. I would like to bring to your kind notice that hon. Chief Minister has sent a proposal to you in regard to power. I hope full cooperation on your part.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that the Centre has given money to Bihar for transmission and not for power generation purposes. How the transmission is to take place in absence of power generation. Fund should be provided for power generation. Moments before Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' was telling that the construction of thermal power station of NTPC is going on in the constituency of the former Minister Shri Nitish Kumar. He has assured that it would be completed within five years. I do not know as to when will it be completed but I

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

would like to request that it should be completed as early as possible so that it can be exploited to it's full capacity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you through the Chair to accord priority to Bihar in power generation sector and I hope that some concrete measures will certainly be adopted keeping in view of the problems of Bihar. Due to lesser generation of power in Bihar the position of this State is very pitiable. Poverty of Bihar is a problem for the country as a whole and it is certainly going to affect the country on this count. The country cannot make progress by neglecting Bihar. So, special attention needs to be paid towards Bihar.

Sir, Hon. Minister has himself accepted that 35% of power being generated in this country is consumed by its theft and the 15% loss of power occurs due to the technical fault. Strict law should be framed to check the pilferage so that the people involved in it are compelled to think as to what would be their fate if they keep on doing such things. This measure will certainly work. Whatever effort is made to increase the power generation the situation will not improve unless such measures are implemented strictly. Thus, it is essential to enact a law and implement that to take strict action against those who are indulged in power theft. The planning of the Government in this regard should be positive.

Sir, few days back there was power cut in 'Parliament'. Several areas of Delhi are such where for seven to eight hours load-shedding is common. You can yourselves assess the situation of the villages in Bihar and throughout the country if such a situation prevails in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do they not demand power.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I am forwarding the same demand to the Hon. Minister through you. Not only in Bihar, there is shortage of power in Orissa, Assam and West Bengal as well. It is not the case with you sir?

MR. SPEAKER: At the moment it is going well.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are fortunate enough and I congratulate you for there is no shortage of power in your State and the supply of power there is smooth.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have got an efficient Minister. I have no doubt that the Hon. Minister will gives proper attention to Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the country has to make the progress, we will certainly have to increase the production of power in Bihar.

Sir, just as a man cannot live without water, as the saying goes, likewise, I may add, in the modern age a man cannot live without electricity also in the present time. If our country is to make progress we will have to increase the production of electricity. If we want to save the country from the floods and droughts, we will have to generate hydro electricity. The electicity generated with thermal based power plants costs Rs. 3 per unit. The people in the country are poor so they cannot afford to purchase electricity at such a high rate, therefore, we will have to lay our stress on the construction of hydro-power projects as the electricity generated through these projects is cheaper. Today the entire country, rather the entire world is dependent on electricity. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister through you that when he gives a reply on this discussion he should take a positive stand towards Bihar in order to provide electricity in all the villages of the State and the cost on the construction of hydro-electricity projects should be borne by the Union Government and the Bihar Government in the ratio of 90:10 percent respectively so that Bihar marches ahead on the path of progress and may be able to come to the main stream. I am sure, you will do justice to Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure you have put up your case very effectively.

Hon. Members, I am sorry to interrupt this debate. There are some important papers to be laid on the Table. I have permitted the hon. Minister, Shri Palanimanickam to lay the papers on the Table.

15.30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. 82/2004-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette

of India dated the 18th August, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002, so as to reduce effective rates of Customs duty on petrol, diesel, kerosene (for PDS) and LPG with effect from 18.08.2004 under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(2) A copy of the Notification No. 44/2004-Central Excise (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002, so as to reduce effective rates to Excise duty on petrol, diesel and kerosene (for PDS) with effect from 18.08.2004 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in the Library *see* No. LT-724/04]

15.31 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation arising out of shortage of power in the country—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu – Not present.

Shri Jai Prakash.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, electricity is absolutely necessary for the entire country or, for that matter any developing country. Since it plays an important role in the life of people be it a common man, a factory owner, a farmer or a worker from morning till late night, I have seen in many of the five year plans in the past, particularly in the eighth and ninth five year plans, much emphasis was laid on privatization of the poor sector. In the second Five Year Plan also we find a mention of privatization of electricity. In the process of privatization, neither the Union and State Governments could take up the expansion work nor the private parties could take this work any further and ultimately, this country suffered a lot on this count. I, therefore, suggest that the Union Government should direct the State Governments to produce more and more hydel power where water is a plenty and supply it to the water deficient States as the hydel power is relatively cheaper.

15.32 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Sir, India is predominantly an Agricultural country and the extent to which we provide cheaper electricity to the Agriculture sector, it would be beneficial to the farmers to that extent. And if the farmers of the country become prosperous, our country will also become prosperous. Nowadays agriculture is no longer a gainful vocation due to increase in the rates of electricity. Farmers cannot afford costly electricity for their tubewells. Sir, you are also from Pubjab. One can see that farming has became a loss-making vocation and electricity is one of the major causes responsible for that. Shortage of electricity results in decline in the production. The cost of agricultural inputs also goes up due to costly electricity. I, therefore, suggest that we should generates much hydel power as we can. We have thermal power plants in Haryana and Punjab for which coal is supplied from Bihar and Dhanbad involving huge transportation cost. If a national power grid is set up and transmission lines are inter-connected all over the country, then we shall not have to incur transportation expenses on coal which makes it costly. Major thermal power plants should be installed in Bihar and Jharkhand which will generate electricity from coal and that electricity may be transmitted here. What I mean is that it would cost much cheaper if electricity is transmitted in place of transportation of coal. Today, the country is incurring heavy losses because the power sector has been divided into five zones. Out of these five zones the chances of hydel power are high in the north-eastern States, but if you generate power there it would not be possible for us to bring the same to our areas. So I would like to urge the hon. Minister to think of only one national grid in place of five grids in the country so that we could transmit power there from the areas where power sources are many. In Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir where rivers have a downward flow and in Pubjab also you have set up hydel power plants at many places. I would request the hon. Minister to make a similar flow system in respect of the rivers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and to construct dams there to check their water. These dams will be of double benefit. The farmers and the people will get water for irrigation and drinking purposes and cheap electricity will be generated. you are providing electricity at the rate of Rs. 3/- per unit, our farmers can never afford to compensate for that. The farmers are in heavy losses today and so are the factory owners. My suggestion is

[Shri Jai Prakash]

that thermal power plants should be installed in the areas where coal is available. Coal is next only to hydel for cheap production of electricity.

Secondly, the Electricity Act was formulated in 2003 and the consumers deserve the benefits of its which they are not getting. I would like to request the hon. Minister to extend more and more facilities to the consumers so that the State governments could produce more and more electricity in their areas and provide it to the factories and the farmers. This will enhance power generation in the whole country. The last ten years have recorded an increased consumption of electricity but its production is not increasing, rather it has decreased. We have seen that due to low production of electricity, our industrial production is always costlier than that of other countries. This is why India today has been reduced to a mandi of the whole world. I would request the hon. Minister to infuse more money into power generation so that our factory owners could get cheaper electricity and they could be able to provide cheaper productions and we will be in a position to throw competition to other countries.

My third suggestion is related to installation of atomic energy plants. It was said that atomic energy is very dangerous. I have a suggestion and this is my own idea that atomic energy plants like those in Rajasthan and the remotest part of Punjab should be set up in Haryana also. I have read that a large number of atomic energy plants have been installed in the whole Europe. If nothing untoward has happened in Europe, why will it happen in India? Atomic power plants also generate cheap electricity, but all of them are installed in the south and the west. If atomic power plants are installed in other areas of India where water is scarce and coal is brought from outside, it will be beneficial strategically also. I would like to say that such plants should be installed on the borders. If any foreign power attacks up, they will also perish along with us. Then plants will give us electricity and the neighbouring countries will fear that we have such dangerous plants. We will be able to provide cheap electricity to farmers and factory owners. So more and more time and attention should be paid to the atomic power plants.

NTPC is a department which caters to the power requirements of the whole country. But various States owe large sums of money to NTPC. If NTPC does not get this money, how can it generate power for the States? My submission is that the State Governments take undue advantage of the Central Government and keep on taking electricity from the NTPC but do not make payments for that as a result of which NTPC is in a critical condition today. States like Haryana which have government's of regional parties, are doing the same. Haryana is not paying to the NTPC for the electricity they use, rather, they are misusing this money for their own party's affairs. I would like to request the hon. Minister to recover the arrears of the NTPC at the earliest. If NTPC is in a critical condition how can it work towards producing electricity for the whole country. If NTPC gets rich in financial resources, hydel power projects and thermal power projects will be installed in large number. If finance is not available, plants will be disinvested which will be a great loss to the country.

I have a suggestion that small hydel power projects should be installed. These can be mostly installed on small rivers with moderate flow of water so that electricity could be made available in small areas. Here, I must say that the benefit of electricity thus produced should be given directly to the farmers because this electricity will cost only 15 to 25 paise per unit. This will benefit the farmers most. This electricity should be circulated in villages.

A little while before, the issue of rural electrification was raised. I do agree that each village of Haryana has been electrified but the leader of the State especially the Chief Minister often claims that they would ensure supply of power round the clock by December though earlier they used to claim to ensure the same by September. In fact, this country is ruled in the name rural India and farming community but today in rural areas of Haryana power supply is provided for just 5-6 hours and that too, after a gap of two-three days despite the fact that there is still summer, a lot of mosquitoes and diseases also break out more these days.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to ask the Chief Minister of Haryana to provide power in rural areas of Haryana. The cities are inhabited by rich people and they can afford generators also. There is no supply of power in rural areas where poor and unprivileged farmers reside, when we go through the records in Lok Sahba and assemblies then we find expectations to the effect that all the villages of India are to be electrified by 2007 but the actual figures are not very promising. If the demand for power continues to increase at the present rate then the people living in J.J. clusters and interiors of India will never see the light in their houses and thus will ramina deprived. Electricity has made a massive contribution in the development of the country and unless and until we ensure supply of power to the poor and farmers, the nation cannot march forward on the path of progress and development.

Tehri, a very big hydel project. It has been under construction for past several years but it has not yet commenced production. If Tehri project starts generation of power then Haryana, Uttaranchal and Delhi will get adequate supply of power. I would, therefore, like to state here that special allocation of funds be made for pending big hydel power projects to facilitate early production of power therefrom so as to provide supply of power to the poor, farmers and factory owners.

I, through you, would like to request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the needs of Haryana because Pubjab had stopped supply of water to our State when drought hit Haryana. When rains poured heavily, they allowed more water into the S.Y.L. causing floods in our areas. We do not get supply of power. I would, therefore, request you to set up an atomic energy or gas based thermal power plant in Haryana. As there is no scarcity of gas in the country, it will be alright to set up a suitable gas based plant in the country.

When the issues of drought are raised before the Chief Minister then he says that he would not beg before the Central Government. The farmers of Haryana have not got even 10 paise grant in last five and half years. There is acute shortage of power in the State. No thermal power plant has been set up in Haryana during last five years. Therefore, I would make an earnest request to the hon. Minister to set up large thermal power plant there.

I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me the opportunity.

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Member who initiated this discussion under Rule 193, the reason being that energy is the engine of growth. Without electricity this nation cannot move forward. We are today discussing about the shortage of electricity which is very badly felt throughout the country. The last electricity survey, which was conducted, pointed out that we are running at a shortage of about 10,000 MW of electricity per year. Therefore, to make it up, the last NDA Government had initiated the Electricity Bill in the year 2001 where it envisaged that by the year 2012, it would add another one lakh megawatt of electricity to the country thereby, to some extent there would be some improvement in the electricity scenario. I hope this new Government, which has come into being, will fall in line with this policy and implement the unimplemented, innovative programme which was initiated by the NDA Government to make energy self-sufficient in the country so that we become self-sufficient in respect of electricity.

Basically, the Electricity Bill, which was passed by the previous Government, was an amalgamation of the Electricity Act, 1910. That Act was guiding us till 1948. So, by joining the two Acts, the Electricity Bill was formulated and legislated. It was eventually passed unanimously in the House. As I remember as the Member of the 13th Lok Sabha, there was no opposition to that Bill. So, I am sure, this Government will see to it that the aims and objectives, which were in the last Bill, are effectively implemented on a non-partisan basis, non-partisan attitude towards various States.

Sir, I come from the State of Orissa which they say is surplus in electricity. During our Government, the Plant Load Factor in thermal plants improved from seven per cent to 35 per cent, 40 per cent, 65 per cent and 75 per cent in Talcher. I am talking about my State. So also was the scenario in other States where thermal plants are located.

There is one thing which is astonishing me. When there was a Government for the last 50 years, on the nuclear energy side, generation of power through nuclear energy has been completely minimal. It is only 2.4 per cent of the installed capacity which we can put up today. But that sector has not been properly explored. Of course that particular source of energy is not under the Ministry of Energy. I know that it is under the Ministry of Space and Atomic Energy. Therefore, I would like this Government to at least impress upon the Space Department and the Atomic Energy Department to generate more electricity for the country.

It is very much astonishing today that *per capita* consumption of electricity in India is only 350 KW. But, at the same time, the transmission and distribution issues have become so high that the Government should come forward with a legislation on this so that more powers are given to the officers at the divisional, sub-divisional levels where they can check the losses because energy saved is energy added, multiplied. So, keeping this thing in mind, the Governmnet should be straightforward in dealing with this matter. Today, we are facing electricity shortage. This august House is discussing this aspect. It should come forward with proper measures so that in future we do not have to discuss it.

Many political promises are made saying that electricity duties in respect farmers would be waived. The State Government of Pubjab came out with a long promise

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

to the people saying that they would waive the electricity duties. Is it practical? In practicality, could they do it?

Now, wherever elections are going to be held, all the political parties are making announcements that we would waive electricity dues and we would give free electricity to farmers. But we have to see the feasibility of this measure because if we kill the golden goose, we will not get the golden egg always. There is the story of the golden goose which lays golden eggs. So, either you want to kill the goose or you want to save the goose which lays golden eggs because, today power sector is a very critical sector and without power, nothing can grow, be it agriculture or be it industry. So, the deficient States should be encouraged so that additional power generation is added in the country.

Sir, in Arunachal Pradesh a survey was done and according to that survey, it is said that the State of Arunachal Pradesh could generate about 54,000 MW of electricity. In Arunachal Pradesh, the Kameng river, Subansiri river, Siang river, Lohit river and Tirap river could together generate 50.382 MW of electricity, but you will be surprised to know that in the State of Arunachal Pradesh which has got great potential for power generation, the previous Government, barring the NDA Government, have been able to generate only 10 MW of power so far. So, this is what they have been doing for the Northeast.

In the State of Orissa, we have got a lot of potential. But the gestation period in sanctioning and completing the projects is so much that the cost effectiveness goes away. Therefore, I would request the Minister to come out with some mechanism to overcome this problem. When a project is announced, it should also be announced as to when it should be completed. There are a lot of ministries involved in implementing a power project. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development are involved in this. The hon. Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is sitting here. He is from Bihar. I would like to submit one thing here. The Subarnarekha project which was supposed to have come up, which would have generated about 600 MW of electricity and would have irrigated vast tracts of land in Sundargarh district of Orissa which is a backward area, could not see the light of the day because the then Bihar Government – not the Jharkhand Government, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Arjun Munda has gone on record saying that we would gradually implement the Subarnarekha and Koilkaro projects–headed by Shri Lalu Prasad objected to it. So, the eastern sector is very badly neglected in the case of power generation and the most important problem there is the problem of evacuation of people. Proper evacuation system should be there. 400 KV lines should be constructed speedily in order to connect to the National Grid.

Now, I would like to say something regarding my constituency, which is a backward constituency. But my district generates 600 MW of hydel power. Hydel power is a very good form of power. It is a very clean power, pollution-free power. The only problem is regarding rehabilitation and resettlement of tribals and the ecological impact which it is going to have. So, keeping these things in view, those evacuees from the area of thermal power projects and hydel power projects should be looked after properly. If proper rehabilitation is provided to them, they will welcome these projects and also jobs should be assured for them. At least, Class III and Class IV jobs, which do not require much of qualification, could be given to these people so that they would cooperate in implementation of these projects. Hydel power has got great potentiality. After the Regulatory councils were made through this Electricity Bill, I am proud to say that my State of Orissa was the first State in the country to get the Regulatory Authority.

Previously the Electricity Boards and the Central Electricity Authority used to jointly monitor the electricity programmes in the country. But today, see the concern of the Electricity Boards. There is an annual loss of Rs.1,00,000 crore. So, with this condition, the only answer to that could be to make the Regulatory Authority. I am sure that most of the States have not done it because there is a lot of politics in it. I know that CITU and other unions control the labour unions in the Electricity Boards and they are not allowing it at the cost of the country. I think, some sacrifice should be made and regulatory authorities should be created. Sir, I may inform you that an ex-MLA of CPI party, Shri Prashna Kumar Panda sat on a dharna regarding Brajrajnagar evacuation. In this condition, party interest should be kept in the low ebb and the greater interest of the country should be kept higher and there should be a proper coordination between the Central Electricity Authority, Electricity Boards and the Regulatory Councils so that the electricity generation in the country improves and the poor farmer or the poor man living in his house gets his due electricity.

Kutir Jyoti Programme and Rural Electrification Programmes are only on paper. You put up a solar light and say that the village is electrified. You draw an electric line, you do not take it to the middle of the village, you leave it at the village end and say that the village is

electrified. From where will the poor farmer or the poor villager get the capital to energise his village or to educate his children or to use information technology or to watch TV or for his child to study at home so that he can make progress in life?

Considering all these factors, I welcome this discussion which has been initiated by Shri Panda. I hope that as they are part of the UPA Government – not directly but supporting the UPA Government – with all their right earnestness they will see to it that all the points and programmes, which they have mentioned, relating to electricity will be implemented to a greater extent.

I, being a Member of the last Lok Sabha, have seen Shri Panda and so many other Members of the Left Front, while deliberating from their respective seats have also supported that Bill. There was no opposition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): No, it is not ture. We opposed the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: They did not oppose it in the full strength. No decision was there, but they approved of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): If he sees the records, he will come to know that we opposed it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That means they do not want electricity...*(Interruptions)*

So, with these words, I conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded. Whatever is spoken without my permission should not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the BAC had allotted two hours for this discussion. So far, we have taken two hours and 40 minutes. Still more than ten Members are there to speak on this issue and the hon. Minister will also reply to this discussion. We have another discussion under Rule 193 on the Jute Industry. So it is my humble request to all the Members to be very brief so that I can give chance to maximum number of Members to speak on the other issue also.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, please.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): I would like to thank hon. Deputy-Speaker for giving me a chance on such an important discussion.

16.00 hrs.

Since this is my maiden speech, on this occasion, I would like to wish and thank all my colleagues in this august body.

Obviously, the Motion raised by Shri Prabodh Panda is very important. There is no doubt about it. Electricity or power, whatever it may be called, is very important for the overall growth of the country. It is the key issue for development. There is no doubt about it. But, still today, after 57 years of our Independence, we are having more than one lakh revenue villages which are without power. I believe the definition of electricity or village electrification has now changed. Earlier, a *mauja* or a village with even a single connection was supposed to be an electrified *mauja* or revenue village. This time it is, at least, 10 per cent of the habitation. I would request the Department and the Minister to reassess and re-survey and finalise the electrification set-up in the country. If it would be done properly, probably we would be having more than 30 or 40 per cent of our revenue villages without electricity, according to the new definition. Similarly, more than 50 per cent of our households are still not having access to electricity. Even if there is electricity in the village or even in the household, its quality is very bad. More so, power-cut, power shortage and load-shedding are playing havoc in many parts of the country including Delhi. So, we know the situation is very grievous.

Sir, in the last financial year, Haryana had to suffer 1 per cent of its GDP loss due to shortage of electricity in the manufacturing sector. Karnataka had to suffer 2.2 per cent of its GDP loss in the manufacturing sector. Similarly, in the agriculture sector also, we had to suffer a lot. In the case of Haryana, it is 3.1 per cent. In the case of Karnataka it is 13.3 per cent. So, basically, we are incurring huge losses in the interest of the nation. Therefore, things must be looked properly. Some of my friends were saying that Electricity Act 2003, which was basically formulated in the last four of five years, would be the solution. I believe, it is no more a solution. It is not at all a solution. If we go into the details, it might prove futile. Heavy expenditure is to be borne by us.

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*Not recorded.

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

There is no confusion about it. What was the solution sought in the Electricity Act? What was the solution sought by the previous Governments? Basically, it was aimed at privatization in different aspects. It was aimed at privatisation in generation and distribution. But the transmission must be with the Government, and the distribution and generation will be with the private sector. Why? We know the fate of ENRON and the fate of other private sector companies. Probably, we could not grow. I will come to the statistics later on. In this Act–obviously not in the Act but in the approach of the Government–household connection by 2012 and village electrification by 2007 were planned. We are expecting to complete household electrification by 2012 and we are not interested to continue the crossubsidy. These are not attainable at the same point of time. The situation of our peasantry and of our rural masses has been mentioned by many of our friends while participating in this discussion. Look at the way in which the cost is increasing. It is going to increase to Rs. 6 per unit. It cannot be compatible for real and proper solution of the issues.

Sir, even in this Act of 2003, we see that with regard to distribution, particularly in the rural areas, no question of licensing is there. In the urban areas, there must be licensing because many players are interested. But in the rural areas, there is no question of licensing. Why? It is because the players also will not be interested. By giving it entirely to the private agencies or co-operatives without any licence, at the end we are trying to deny our responsibility on electricity, particularly village electricity. I believe, a new look to the whole issue is very urgently required. I understand that the hon. Prime Minister and also the Ministry might be planning in a proper manner. They should plan it correctly.

Electricity must not be viewed arithmetically in terms of loss or profit. The whole question of growth of the country, its economy and everything should be mixed correctly.

The second point which I would like to refer here is that the direction particularly in the case of generation has not been made properly for years together. We were depending on thermal generation heavily. We know the trouble with thermal generation. The major problem with thermal generation is that the fossil fuel reserve of the country is limited. I believe it will take 40 to 50 years with the way the study goes. Probably in the world also, fossil fuel reserve is coming down. We are depending mostly on fossil fuel. Why is it so? Let us look at the fruits of the Five Year Plans. At the end of the First Five Year Plan, we were having 33 per cent hydro generation in the overall mix. At the end of the Second, Third, Fourth and up to Fifth Five Year Plans, it rose to about 40 to 46 per cent. But then again it came down. After the Eighth Plan, it is now moving in the direction of 24 to 26 per cent. So, we are not planning generation in a proper fashion. You know that the mix must be 40:60, that is 40 per cent hydel and 60 per cent thermal. So, a proper stress on hydra generation must be given.

In the North-East alone, there is a potentiality of 58,000 MW generation. What has happened up-till now? Up-till now, we are generating 1334 MW, that is 2 per cent or less than that, and 2,334 MW is in the pipeline. The sum together will be there to four per cent of the entire potentiality that the North-East is having. So, a very special attention for hydro power generation particularly in the Eastern and North-Eastern Regions should be given.

The second one is nuclear power. It is only two per cent of the overall generation. Within those, the eastern region is not having any nuclear power. Why? Reserve is there. Coal *etc.* are moving all through the country. Thereby, a very specific planning for nuclear power particularly in the Eastern Region is urgently required.

The third one is non-conventional energy. What is our target with regard to non-conventional energy? Out of these 1,12,000 revenue villages, we have identified probably 18,000 villages where non-conventional energy can be generated. We are looking at non-conventional energy mainly from accessibility point of view. We should look at it even from the generation point of view and also from the clean power point of view. Obviously non-conventional energy is the most clean power and it is even better than hydro energy. We should plan it in a proper manner so that the research on non-conventional energy could really be accentuated.

I believe this way the direction in generation along with distribution etc., must be fixed up properly by the Government. I am also sharing the views with my friends who are saying that the Eastern part of the country is neglected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I will take another three minutes.

There is a feeling or at times it is being said that for the last five years, there was a very positive attitude, very correct decision was taken and correct steps were taken in the field of power. I beg to differ. Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu was trying to look deeply into the issues. Maybe, that is the reason why he had to go. I do not know. But what happened?

AN HON. MEMBER* : ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are yet to Speak.

[Translation]

When you speak then he will also speak in between and what would be the outcome?

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : If you see the facts about the growth in the last five years, then we will see the real picture. What was the growth in generation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: He has taken the name of a person who is not a Member of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see the record. If that name is there, I will expunge that.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if he had mentioned only about the former Minister, then it was all right. But he should not name a person who is not a Member of the House. He can blame the policies of the Government. He should not mention the name of the person...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged that.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will not go on record. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: From 1995-96 to 1998-99, the generation increased from 379.8 billion units to 481 billion units. So, between 1995-96 and 1998-99, it was a growth of 30 per cent. Between 1998-99 and 2003-04, the generation increased form 481 billion units to 558.1 billion units. In the past five years, it was only 16 per cent growth in generation while in the preceding five years, it was a growth of 30 per cent...*(Interruptions)*. I will refer it again. Along with this, in addition to these statistics, you see from the Ninth Plan onwards, we talked of privatization, structured plan, this and that. What happened? Even 16 per cent counter guarantee was granted. What is the result for the last seven years?

So, I believe that it should not been seen the way some of my friends are looking into it. I am obviously in difference with that. National Grid is not yet complete. Obviously, the Eastern part of India is in a relatively bad condition.

My last point will be on rural electrification of all the villages by 2007 and all households by 2012. The Government itself had planned giving the responsibility of construction of rural electrification to the four Central Government Public Sector Undertakings which are in the power sector, namely NTPC, hydro Power Corporation and the other two which are supposed to concentrate on generation. We are lagging in generation also, but the REC has come into an agreement with these organisations so that these generating companies will do the construction in rural electrification. Why is it so? What is the retionale behind that? Are we not departing from our own approach?

The 23rd Amendment Act gave the scope to include or involve Panchayats in the rural electrification. That is the correct position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. I have given you 13 minutes.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: So, I believe, the Government will re-look into the matter to involve the Panchayats very categorically in the rural electrification. Obviously, that would be better. So, I conclude by saying that it needs a re-look deeply. It needs consultation with various groups, Members, representatives of the Panchayat system, etc. A new policy must be drawn up very categorically.

With these words, I thank all my colleagues and thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak about the shortage of power in the country. I would like to speak in Canada.

*Karnataka State has suffered from severe drought for the last three years. This year the State received some rain but this rainwater is sufficient only for some crops like Ragi, Jowar, etc. The tanks in the State are not full and the major dams also have not received water to the optimum level. Hence, the farming community in Karnataka continues to face water problems. Added to this, we have power shortage throughout the State.

The State Government says that farmers would get electricity at least for four hours every day. But in Tumkur district the farmers get electricity hardly for two hours only. There is voltage fluctuation throughout the district. This has created serious problems to farming community. In fact, villagers in remote areas of Karnataka do not know anything about electricity. Under these circumstances

*Not recroded.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

how can the life of farmers improve? What type of democracy do we have by neglecting the villages and farmers?

Electricity theft is rampant all over the country and Karnataka State is not an exception in this matter. The electric wires in many areas in our State are very old. These wires are cut and disconnected at various places. This ultimately results in loss of electricity and some people have lost their lives by touching these live wires. The concerned officials should take the responsibility and corrective measure should be taken in this regard.

The demand for power is steadily increasing day by day both in urban and rural areas. Hence, it is very essential to increase the generation of power to match the increase in the demand.

The power generation capacity of the Kaiga atomic power plant and other plants should be increased. Similarly, thermal power plants should also generate more power. The Raichur Thermal Power Plant often develops snag and it take several months to rectify this. Therefore, it is very essential to take appropriate steps such that these power plants do not develop snag.

The power generated by the hydel power plants in the country particularly in Karnataka is not at all sufficient. Hence, there is an urgent need to set up at least two hydel power plants in Karnataka. The ideal places for this purpose are Mekedatu in Kanakpura taluk and Mutyalmadu near Bangalore. There are several other places in Karnataka where hydel power plants can be set up. They have all infra-structural facilities also. Therefore, my humble request to Shri P.M. Sayeed, the hon. Union Minister of Power, is to set up at least two hydel power plants in Karnataka during the current financial year. If this is not done, the farmers will continue to suffer and I am sure that the Centre will come to the rescue of the farmers of Karnataka.

The Centre and the States should take adequate steps for a decent distribution of power. For example the linesmen (Karnataka State Electricity Board) are not at all available to the villagers. In fact, they are supposed to be at the Village Panchayat Headquarters. The villagers and farmers go in search of them and they find it difficult to locate them. There are many such problems which affect power distribution to a large extent. This has to be rectified by the respective electricity boards and Centre should take keen interest in these matters.

Now, in Karnataka the Electricity Board is planning to fix meters at all places where electricity is being used for agriculture. The farming community in the State is opposing this move of the State. The farmers should be given free electricity. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. The farmers provide food for all of us. We should reciprocate and help them to get free power for cultivation. Then only cereals, fruits, vegetables and other essential commodities would be available at reasonable rates. Otherwise, the prices will shoot up and the inflation will rise steeply. The people of the country are already suffering because of inflation and increase in the prices of essential commodities. I therefore, once again appeal to the Government of India to come forward to provide free electricity to all the farmers in the country, such that the farmers would not only provide us food grains but also help us to export food grains and earn valuable foreign exchange.

With these words, Sir, I thank you once again and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab–not present.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are holding discussion on a very serious subject. Power is an important subject and power related crisis affects the entire humanity. I am aware of the importance of time so I shall be very careful. I do not want to repeat the constructive and positive suggestions given by my senior colleagues to increase power generation. It is right as some of our colleagues said that some private companies were allowed to generate electricity in certain big cities in 1910 under Electricity Act. At that time electricity was considered to be a luxurious item. After independence it was felt that electricity was not a luxurious item rather it was the backbone for development. Electricity Supply Act was enacted in 1948 when Dr. Ambedkar was Law and Power Minister of the country. No sector, be it agriculture or industry or service sector can prosper without electricity. So it can be said that Electricity and Development are complementary to each other. The Power Minister is sitting here. He was the Deputy Speaker during the previous Lok Sabha and I have seen him as a Deputy Speaker for a long time. That is why whenever I meet him, it seems to me that he is still the Deputy Speaker and not a Power Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can consider me as his incarnate.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would very politely like to submit that the Government will have to increase the power generation at least by 40 percent to achieve the target of 8 percent growth rate in the ensuing five years because the outcome of the efforts to increase power generation has not been encouraging. Huge fall in power generation during Ninth and Tenth Plan periods, has widened the gap between demand and

supply. At present, total power generating capacity in the country is about one lakh megawatt. Unless power is generated to the tune of one lakh additional megawatt by 2011-2012, the government cannot achieve the intended target. During the sixth five year plan 24,100 villages were targeted to be electrified annually but this figure was reduced to 20,100 villages during the seventh plant. Even during the ninth plan this number was not increased. It seems to be impossible for the Government to achieve the target of electrification at all villages by 2007 in view of the above figures.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister of Power to evolve a mechanism to find out the number of villages which have been electrified and we may be apprised of the same. What happens is that it is claimed that a particular village has been electrified. One revenue village may consist of seven, eight or ten sub villages and there are also cases where sub-villages are bigger than the main revenue village. Main revenue village is electrified in the name of rural electrification and the 10-12 sub-villages are left. Therefore, what actually happens is that a village is electrified only partly whereas it is deemed that the entire village has been electrified which is neither practical nor justified. This point must be considered. Through you I would like to submit that so far only 4,93,204 villages against the target of 6,07,491 villages set by Minister of Power have been electrified. This is the official figure, which may come down if analysed closely.

80 percent power is generated by thermal power sector. How to generate the power is a separate issue. Sayeed Sahib has himself accepted that the power crisis can be largely attributed to technical snags and power theft. State Electricity Boards are running in losses and no State Electricity Board is running in loss due to shortage of funds. They are running in losses due to mismanagement and corruption which should be looked into seriously ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: You have your government in that State.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We all are somewhat partner in the system. You should not make more comments otherwise I shall be compelled to reveal many things. He is my neighbour ...(*Interruptions*). The hon. Minister has himself accepted that present power crisis can largely be attributed to technical snags and power thefts.

I would like to make one more submission to you that power is generated indigenously. Power generation through Naptha and gas amounts to utilizing one fuel to produce another. The quality of coal utilised to generate electricity need to be improved. Sometimes, the content of ash in coal is as high as 60-65%. If they do not improve the quality of coal and depend on Naptha and gas for generation of power, it may put them, in a situation in which they may have to depend on others for electricity at the cost of self-reliance. I would like to point out one more thing to them that the benefits resulting from subsidy provided in the name of electricity to the tune of thousands of crore rupees do not reach consumers although it is given out of the revenues collected from consumers in tax form. The subsidy given to the state electricity board is swallowed by the corruption rampant in the State Electricity Board. So, there is the need to keep a vigil on the activities of state electricity board. Unless they bring transparency in the functioning of the boards, it will fail to deliver good results.

Sanction given by the Government to sugar mill owners and cement and steel industries to install captive power project for meeting the shortage of power has delivered some good results. The rate at which electricity is sold is considerably low. They have successfully tried to meet their requirements to a considerable extent but their license accompanied by the condition restraining them from utilizing electricity beyond there premises of their establishments and they can not sell the surplus power generated by them; results in that surplus power going waste. I think, if he has some thought on this line and he goes ahead with it, it might deliver some good results.

Hon. Minister of Power, I would like to seek a few minutes' time from him to let me speak regarding Uttar Pradesh. The first point, which I would like to mention is that the present demand of Uttar Pradesh is about 6,500-7,000 megawatts while the total availability of power in both central and state governments sponsored power projects remains between 5000-5200 megawatts. Thus, we have to resort to load-shedding in order to meet the gap between the demand and supply of power. Now-a-days the performance of any Government is evaluated on the basis of the power supply situation during that particular regime.

Presently, U.P. is reeling under power crisis. The second problem, we are faced with is that the formula according to which the states receive their share of power from the Central power pool become redundant under the present circumstances of the increased requirement of various States. A large state like Uttar Pradesh which has the population of about 17 crores, gets 3,100 megawatts from the central power pool. I do not want to criticize any state. The population of Haryana is about 1.8 crore whereas the allocated quantum of power to the state is one thousand megawatts. The population of Punjab is about 2.2 crore while the share of the State is about 1300 megawatts and Rajasthan whose population is about 4.8 crore get a share of 1200 Megawatts out of central pool. We are hopeful that he would provide additional quantum of power to the state.

We do not intend to grab the share of other states but we do hope that he will provide us that much share which is sufficient to meet the requirement of our people. This situation points towards the anomaly in the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

distribution of power. We need 750 megawatts of additional power to bring U.P. at least at par with Rajasthan.

The Government of India created one more crisis before us. That crisis is that at the time of the creation of Uttaranchal, Government of India passed an order warranting one thousand megawatts of power for the state. A power generation unit with an installed capacity to generate one thousand megawatts of power from water thus transfers to Uttaranchal. In addition to that, an order of the Central Government deprived U.P. of its share worth 20% and provided it to Uttaranchal. I would like to apprise the hon. Minister of Power that Uttaranchal is getting 1300 megawatts of power at present while the requirement of the state is about 500-600 megawatts. The states having potential more than their requirement are making money in illegal manner. At some places, electricity is in surplus while at some other places it is in short supply.

At last, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Power that ABTB system was implemented by the Central Government in December, 2002 in order to maintain discipline in the grid. The Government of Uttar Pradesh followed the system in all earnestness but the wide gap between demand and supply compelled the Government of Uttar Pradesh to buy more power than its share.

In the recent past transmission centre of northern region located at New Delhi has objected to drawing electricity by Uttar Pradesh. The Central Regulatory Commission has increased the prevalent rate of tariff from Rs. 4.20 per unit to Rs. 6.00 per unit w.e.f. 1.4.2004 for the electricity drawn in excess of the prescribed share by the state. Power tariff per unit has been enhanced from Rs. 4.20 to Rs. 6.00. Where should we go then. Uttar Pradesh is a large state and its requirement of electricity is quite high. The States which have surplus electricity are not supplying it to the states where there is shortage of electricity. They are earning profit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that by taking advantage of the situation Delhi and Uttaranchal have earned Rs. 447 crore and Rs. 47 crore respectively in the previous year as U.I. charge. During the current year Delhi and Uttaranchal charged Rs. 173 crore and Rs. 20 crore more as U.I. charge. Uttar Pradesh made payment of Rs. 145 crores as U.I. charge during the last year whereas during the current year Rs. 150 crore has already been paid as U.I. charge so far and about Rs. 180 crore is yet to be paid. If the present rate of U.I. charge is not revised, this amount is likely to exceed Rs. 500 crore. An additional amount Rs. 500-700 crore is being charged from us. I request you to kindly appreciate our limitations as well as our capacity. Today people are crying over the shortage of electricity farmers are also demanding electricity. Their demand is genuine. Electricity is not available, price of Diesel has increased, drought like situation is prevailing all around and we are helpless, and unable to help them. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am quite hopeful and I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of Power. Though there is shortage of electricity all over the country but I request him to kindly take special note of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry-not present.

Shri Dushyant Singh.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. It is my maiden speech in the House. I rise to speak on the discussion on the situation arising out of shortage of Power in the country, which was moved by Shri Prabodh Panda, an hon. Member from West Bengal.

Power is a critical medium for infrastructure and economic development in the country. It is a matter of great concern that every State within our country is facing a severe power crisis and the failure of monsoon has further aggravated the situation in the North-Indian States. Power crisis has affected the development of our State's economy in agriculture, industry and other related sectors. As per the Economic Survey, in the year 2003-04, power generation within India was about 558.1 billion kilowatts. I must say that the energy deficit within the country, at this stage, is about 7.1 per cent. This deficit increases to about 11.2 per cent during the peak period. The Government has set up new power plants in the country, but the demand is running far ahead than the supply. The policy planners are looking at the supply side, whereas they should be looking at both supply and demand sides.

I may also mention at this stage that power is a concurrent subject and, therefore, the Centre and States should work together to solve the problems relating to power generation in India.

I may mention that under the leadership of our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we passed the Central Electricity Act in June, 2003. Its main objective were to bring out comprehensive reforms within the power sector, such as removal of barriers to allow private participation in the sector, to help the common people or the consumers, to meet quality and price regulations, removal of grievances, which people have at State and District levels, reorganise the State Electricity Boards and also to increase trading within the States, which will help

the State concerned in getting electricity from different parts of the region.

I must say at this stage that the State Electricity Boards are running on losses. The pilferage is very high within the States. The transmission and distribution losses are about 34 per cent, at this stage. The farmers, the industrial sector and even other sectors, like the SSI sector, are going through a tough time. A comprehensive package should be made so that we can infuse some new changes in them.

This present Government, after assuming the power, mentioned a couple of thrust areas in the Budget, that is, 'creating electricity for all' and 'creating space for small-scale industry to thrive'. This will only be possible, if all the concerned come together.

I know that the time is very short. Therefore, I would focus on my State of Rajasthan. As far as our State is concerned, we have a lot of treaties with other States, like the Indus Water treaty, sharing of Sutlej-Ravi-Beas waters, and it is claiming its share from other hydel projects, such as Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, UBDC Stage-II Project, Shahapura Project and the Thein Dam Project. As per the agreement, the State of Rajasthan is supposed to get 575.54 MWs of power from the State of Punjab. At this stage, I must ask the hon. Minister, with the help of the Prime Minister, to direct the State of Punjab to give us our share, which they are still holding back.

I must say that the power prices are raising, as far as residential and commercial users are concerned. I would like to suggest that there should be only a ten per cent raise in power tariff during a period of three years. The Department of Atomic Energy has gone for expansion of the Atomic Power Plants in Rajasthan. Since then, the tariff has gone up. As per the statement of the hon. Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, the unit price of atomic energy is 264.49 paise per unit. I would like the hon. Prime Minister to look into the matter and revise the rates. I, on behalf of the State of Rajasthan, urge the Central Government to assist us and revise the tariff of atomic power down to about Rs. 1.75 per unit.

The State of Rajasthan has a tremendous potential for thermal power through the project at Ramgarh. The Government of India is talking about signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Iran for a gas pipeline. I would suggest that if we get the pipeline. It would assist the Ramgarh gas plant to increase power generation in our area. Rajasthan has vast potential for lignite-based power plants because there are lots of lignite finds in the State in Barsingha and Guda blocks. This would be helpful in power generation. The first unit can be commissioned within 48 months from the date of sanction. But the case for NOC is still lying with the Central Government which needs to be cleared for the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. I would request the hon. Minister to assist us in getting this project through.

In our State, Coal India has dug up several tube wells in Nagore. The coal is of Grade 'C' and the quality is pretty poor. But there is a Russian expert who gave a favourable report for this. An underground coal gasification project is viable to be set up in this region.

Government of India has launched the Accelerated Power Development Programme but they have not given adequate budgetary support for implementing it. So far, Rs. 15,642 crore have been sanctioned under DPDRP vovering about 466 towns in the country. An amount of Rs. 80.5 crore has been released as incentive component under this programme to the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan in the first two years. I would suggest that this allocation be increased for Rajasthan and the State of Rajasthan be given the status of a special category State.

To improve power situation, we should also focus on hydel, wind and solar power generation which are very attractive. They are renewable and non-polluting. Wind power generation has great potential in Rajasthan which is not fully tapped. I would request the Central Government to give assistance to non-conventional energy projects in the State in order to generate more power in our region and mitigate the problems of the people.

Techno-economic clearance for change from Naphtha plant to LNG plant for the project in Jodhipur is pending. In the same way, there is another project called Harsh Prahlad in Sikar District. So, we would need the assistance of Union Ministries of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources to work together in this regard and expedite these cases.

As far as rural electrification is concerned, Rural Electrification Corporation has signed an agreement with Power Grid Corporation and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation for taking up electrification of every household in every village of the county. I wonder by what date it would be possible. The United Progressive Alliance Government at the Centre is laying emphasis on rural electrification in the entire country. We need about Rs. 9 lakh crore at the rate of Rs. 490 crore per day for the

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

next five years to attain the target of total rural electrification.

I must say that it is a Utopian idea. We need to work with the private partners. We need to take the help of Foreign Direct Investments. At this time, there is an Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme to cover one lakh villages in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa. What are the guidelines and who will be setting the guidelines? Guidelines should be framed so that it is not only on paper, it really works to the bottom line for the benefit of the common man.

The Government should give directives to NTPC, NHPC and other power PSUs to revise the targets and expedite power generation. T & D losses and pilferage of power should be stepped at any cost. The Tenth Plan will not help to resolve the power problem. Energy policy should be redrafted to meet the challenges of the nation. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan had request the Centre to increase the allocation from the unallocated quota from 20 to 35 per cent. I would request the hon. Minister to consider our demands and to go ahead with that. I would like to Chair and all the hon. Members for giving me time. I would like to end my speech with a small quote.

Taraqui Ke Liye Zarurat Hai, Takat Bhi Hai Yeh Bijali,
Kayamat Hai, Sararat Hai, Enayat Bhi Hai Yeh Bijali,
Koi Bijali Kisi Ke Khwab Mein Jab Muskarai To
Kaha Usne Jeene Ki Ibadat Hai Yeh Bijali.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participte in the debate on an import subject which relates to elimination of poverty and unemployment from the country. I am thankful to my colleague Shri Prabodh Panda who has taken initiative in this regard by raising this issue for discussion here in this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Comrade Lenin a great thinker of the world, led agitation against the Czar of Russia and when he came to power, the newspaper correspondents asked him as to how he would establish socialism? Comrade Lenin replied their query in one sentence by saying 'you give me electricity I will establish socialism'. I mean to say that electricity is our lifeline. On the eve of independence day the hon. President in his Address to the Nation expressed his concern that Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North-Eastern states are not linked with mainstream of the country. These are poor, weak and sick states. He has emphasised on paying special attention towards theses states so thay they could join the mainstream of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is in the priority areas of the UPA Government in which it has been envisaged that this sector would be expanded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot say that nothing has been done in the power sector but I am of the view that a lot is yet to be done in this sector. At the time of independence our installed capacity of power was only 1362 MW whcih has increased to one lakh twelve thousand MW now. I would like to thank the Governments of our country for that. Five lakhs villages have been electrified but even after fifty seven years of independence lakhs of villages of the country are yet to be electrified. Yesterday my friend Shri Ramgopal Yadavji of the Samajwadi Party referred that the more a country's per capita power consumption, the more progress it makes. The per capita consumption of electricity in India is 586 units as compared to 1783 units in Brazil, 719 units in China, 5843 units in United Kingdom, 6606 units in Australia and 8784 units in USA.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): This is increased from 15 units to 586 units.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I have appreciated you for increasing it from 15 units. But consumption in our country is very low. Therefore, today there is a need to formulate a concrete master plan in consultation with the State Governments. Unless a master plan is drawn up in this regard till then be it transmission, generation or distribution, the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan cannot be achieved. Just now the hon. Member Shri Lalji Suman said that it will take a lot of time in achieving the target. You should place this in priority sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from Bihar. I do not want to go into the details of as to who are responsible for bifurcation of Bihar but the persons responsible for the bifurcation of the State have not done justice to the State of Bihar. The people of Bihar have been defrauded, injustice has been done to the poeple of Bihar. One fourth of population went in Jharkhand and remaining three fourth population remained in Bihar. My friend from Orissa was saying that Tenughat, Swarna Rekha and Patratu Thermal Power Station were located in Bihar which were generating about two thousand MW of elctricity. Out of which 1540 MW electricity went in the share of Jharkhand, population of which was about one fourth and 500 MW came in the share of Bihar which have almost

three fourth population of undivided state. Nothing has been done in regard to flood being caused by the rivers originating from Nepal. No arrangements have been made for flood management there. Infrastructure in Bihar got destroyed every year due to floods and the state suffer huge loss as a result thereof. We have got nothing except agriculture. We should have been compensated for all this but it is not being done.

17.00 hrs.

Shri Sayeedji is a veteran and experienced Member of this House. I have no hesitation in saying that Shri Suresh Prabhu was a dynamic and able Minister. Whoever got him dropped from the council of Ministers have betrayed the country. Though I want to know as to why he was dropped from the council of Ministers but I do not want to get involved in any political controversy on this issue. He was an able person and we were quite hopeful that he will certainly do something in the power sector as he is a knowledgeable person and he also has the intention of doing something remarkable in this sector and he was removed at a time when he was doing well in this sector. Now an experienced person like Shri P.M. Sayeed has got the reigns of the Ministry of Power and whereas we have high hopes from him, we do not want any favour but we certainly want to request him to see that injustice is not done to us. Sir, in the Thermal Power Sector, Barauni has a capacity of 320 Megawatts, Muzzaffarpur Kanti has a capacity of 220 Megawatts. Overall, these have a capacity of 540 Megawatts whereas they generate only 50 Megawatts. The Planning Commission has given its approval for is extension, upgradation, renovation and moderization in order to enhance power generation. Now, Mr. Sayeed Sahab has just to submit a memorandum in the cabinet meeting and get it approved so that the work of modernization could be taken up and the feeling and aspirations of that area are fulfilled. Besides this, two units have been sanctioned under the Muzzafarpur Kanti expansion and these two units are targeted to generate 500 MW additional electricity. Rs. 4 crore are required for generating 1 MW of electricity and it is beyond the capacity of the Bihar Government to generate required electricity with its limited resources. It does not have that much economic resources. After creation of Jharkhand, the situation has worsened. If today we need to generate 300 megawatts of electricity, we need Rs. 2540 crore as per the said estimate. I request the hon. Minister to kindly get it approved. We do not want that it should be handed over to the State, rather the work should be carried out under the supervision of the NTPC.

Sir, now I would like to attract your attention towards the hydro electricity projects. I would not take much time. I want to make two-three points here. Among the hydro-electricity projects in Bihar, the Indrapuri reservoir scheme has a capacity of 450 megawatts power generation. The consent of the Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh Governments is to be obtained for that. The Madhya Pradesh Government has already given its consent. No it is your responsibility to obtain consent of both the above Government and start generation of hydro-electricity from the said reservoir. Similarly a 2580 megawatts capacity hydro-electricity pump storage has been installed at Kaimur. The Central Government should take charge of it and get the work done through N.P.H.C.

Sir, we are aware of the fact that top priority should be given to generation of hydro-electricity since the people get it at cheaper rates. Our area is adjoining Nepal and Bhutan. If a hydroelectricity power project is constructed on the river Koshi originating from Nepal, we can generate 3000 megawatts of electricity projects on the rivers like Bagmati, Kamlabalan, Bhadak and other rivers. We can construct such dams on the river Gandak also. If we do so, we can generate 10,000 megawatts of hydro electricity.

Sir, lastly I want to conclude my speech by touching upon the issue of rural electificaction. India is a country of villages. We are dependent on agriculture. If you see the state of rural electrification in Bihar, electicity has reached only 6 per cent homes whereas the national average of electified homes in the country is 30 per cent. There are 45,103 villages in Bihar and half of them have not yet been electricity. For example, if electificity is provided to a house in any village or a tube-well gets electricity connection in any village, the entire village is deemed to have been be electrified. I, therefore, request you to kindly prepare a special package for rural electification in Bihar under the rural electrification scheme. If the Centre shares only 50 per cent of the electricity projects as is done with other states, it would be difficult to provide electricity in villages of Bihar. I, therefore urge upon the Government to provide 90 per cent as grants and 10 per cent as loan to execute electricity projects in the State only then we can go ahead with the work of rural electrification.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request to Hon. Minister without much of your time that a master plan should be chalked out for Bihar envisaging proper provision of generation, transmission and distribution therein, thereby bringing Bihar into the main stream and bring them at par with other states on this count.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jhaji, nobody made a running commentary while you were making your speech. I, therefore, request you to be bit careful in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is directing that he should not delivery running commentary during my speech. If he goes on interrupting me during my speech then, I will follow suit in the course of his speech tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may have some compromise.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall not do commentary during the speech of hon'ble Member Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sincerely grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to putforth my views on the important issue of power. As also I would like to thank Shri Prabodh Panda for raising the issue of power here in this House as a result of which I also got an opportunity to express my views on such a critical issue.

Sir, the development of the nation is directly linked with power, be it industrial production, agriculture production or service sector or for that matter daily life.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Sir, availability of power is quite essential for the development of any nation. If power is not available in abundance, it should at least be available as per requirement. It is said that power is key to any country's development. The development of a power-starved country can not even be imagined. But in the states of our country scarcity of power varies from 6-20 per cent. We are not getting the required quantum of power but we are endeavouring hard to abridge the gap between demand and supply.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that scarcity of power can be removed by removing mismanagement and by ensuring optimal utilization of the available resources. The power sector is broadly divided in three parts—generation, transmission and distribution. Today, our country has got the installed capacity of one lakh and twelve thousand M.W. power but our generation capacity is only 60-65 per cent. As stated by Jha Saheb, Bihar generates only 50 MW against its installed capacity of 540 MW. There are several states where only 10-25 percent of the installed capacity is being generated. If we can utilize 90-95 per cent of our installed capacity is being generated. If we can utilize 90-95 percent of our installed capacity then we can meet the shortage of power in the country. As far as transmission problem is concerned it can be solved by better management. Today, transmission is divided among four zones. At present, there is shortage of power in North and West Zone. In South Zone, power generation is as per demand and in the eastern sector there is surplus power, Owing to problems in transmission sector. The Government is not able to transmit power to the power-starved sector. Therefore, the need of the hour is that the transmission sector should be revamped and the surplus power be supplied to power starved sector.

Sir, several hon'ble Members have putforth their view cutting across party lines. Shri Suresh Prabhuji had done hard to bring in effective in the power sector. Infact, he had understood the problems of power sector and had moved ahead for its solution. He had made rich contribution in the power sector. I would like to request hon'ble Minster to review the work done by Shri Prabhu and also complete the incomplete work undertaken by him. We should move forward by continuing with the good work undertaken by him.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are nine more speakers and the Minister also has to reply. The maximum time allotted to each speaker is three minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, as per allocated time to us, our time has not yet started *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can show you the list. The time allotted to you is only one minute

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, you could look at the time allocated earlier.

I want to inform the Hon. Minister that the distribution loss of electricity accounts for 29 per cent in our country

today whereas it accounts for 6 per cent at the maximum in the developed countries. This loss of electricity is due to power theft and lack of improvement in technical advancement in place. We should made up the said loss. There is a huge difference in our cost of production and tariff. The theft of power cannot be possible without connivance of the employees of the Electricity Department. If we are able to check power theft and made up the 29 per cent distribution loss, then we can tide over this problem to a grant extent.

Jhaji has just said that the rural electrification in Bihar is 50 per cent. I do not agree to him. Rural electrification in not 50 per cent in rural areas of Bihar, it is only 5 per cent.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I have said that only 6 per cent villages have been electrified.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Electrification in rural areas of Bihar today is only 5 per cent. Even in the villages which have been electrified, electricity has not reached. And it is because either there is no transformer or it is defunct due to short-circuit for installing just one transformer, we have to approach right from the Chairman of Electricity Board to Junior Engineer, then only a transformer is provided. Therefore, the need of the hour is to concentrate on rural electrification.

He was talking about Kanti and Barauni. The need of the hour today is to undertake their modernization and the technology installed, there should be replaced with advance technology. And the Government of India should come forward for this task. Besides this, I would like to urge upon to hon. Minister that there should be control and monitoring of the funds given by the Centre to the States for the purpose and this step is required to be taken urgently.

I will conclude after making one final point. Today electricity is being produced at the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station. I would like to know when the Hon. Minister gives the reply as to the quantum of electricity they are giving to Bihar from the said power station. I request the Hon. Minister to supply the electricity from the Kahalgaon Super thermal Power Station to make up the gap between the requirement and supply of electricity in the State. As he said Bihar is a backward State and after the division of the State, its economic condition is fully dependent on agriculture. If, we want to improve the economic condition of Bihar and to bring it at par with other States, then we will have to meet the shortage of electricity in the State and for that we have to specifically concentrate on this problem.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on a very important subject.

I fully agree with my hon. colleagues who explained that electricity is one of the most important life-lines in our country today. Unfortunately, there is power crisis for quite some time in the country. In fact, there is a big gap between demand and supply. Some of our hon. colleagues while participating in the debate gave the details how the per capita consumption in India is much less compared to many other countries in the world. Whatever consumption is there, we are unable to meet even that demand. There are several reasons for this power crisis. Everybody agrees that there should be more generation of power. Of course, in the post-Independence period, definitely we have advanced in the last five decades. But unfortunately, the Governments in power did not give enough priority to investment in the field of power.

That is one of the reasons and now, though we understand the problem and though we understand the solution, unfortunately, the pervious Government has taken a different step for the extra generation of electricity, that is, privatisation of electricity. I think that aspect is becoming very dangerous and inspite of privatisation of electricity in the country, inspite of increase in the generation of power, other problems have come up.

The most important is that the supply of quality electricity is suffering. The price of electricity is going up. On the one side, because of the crisis and scarcity of electricity, some industries and agriculture are suffering and on the other side, the increase of the charges of electricity is making the situation much worse. Hence, it is necessary to reconsider the possibility of privatising electricity. Under the influence of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation at the behest of the imperialist countries, the World Bank and the International. Monetary Fund, several important industries in our country are going from the public sector to the private sector. And multinational corporations are naturally interested in two fields, that is, electricity and drinking water which are utilised by billions

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

of people. They can loot the country more easily. They can get very big profits in it.

The State Electricity Boards are accused of inefficiency and corruption and on that name, several State Electricity Boards are dismantled. In the State of Andhra Pradesh which I represent, and in States like Orissa, Haryana, Rajasthan and many other States, the State Electricity Boards have been dismantled and have been divided into various independent corporations and with the result, the price of electricity has gone up. Since privatisation has come up, it has been totally commercialised. I think commercialisation of electricity is a very dangerous aspect. I do not say that this should be supplied free to industrialists and agriculturists. But is should be taken as a service sector. It should be considered as a very important aspect for the development of this country.

Here, Sir, I would like to remind the House about the Enron Dabhol project which brought a crisis for the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. Very wrong methods were used and I request our hon. Minster to think of making a thorough inquiry into the agreement between the Enron project and the Maharashtra State Government. I remember that the Government of India has given a counter guarantee. The role of each one of them has to come out. There is a big scandal behind the Enron project. Now, the entire world knows about the Enron Company and how they tried to cheat the world, how they tried to cheat the Indian people.

Now, I propose that the commercialisation aspect and privatisation aspect should be reconsidered if we want to set right the problems of the Electricity Boards. I would like to refer to the price. Earlier, it used to be Rs. 2.5 crore to Rs. 3 crore for production of one megawatt of electricity in our country. Since privatisation has come, it is Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 4.5 crore or even Rs. 5 crore. There are some fixed and variable charges for electricity. Investment plus interest plus 16 per cent of the profit is becoming fixed charge whereas the fuel and transport cost is becoming variable cost. While the fixed charges are fixed, there is a lot of fraud that is gong on. The consumers are unfortunately being made the victims. The cost of the flue, particularly of gas and naphtha is going up very high. So, while the quality electricity is not coming, while enough electricity is not coming, the cost of the electricity is going up much higher. Poor people are being denied electricity. The so-called electricity reforms in the country are, in way, becoming a hurdle for more generation of electricity. The World Bank has threatened that it will not give fresh loans and stop even the instalments of the old loans to Andhra Pradesh because the new Government in Andhra Pradesh has announced free electricity to agriculturists. For the last four year, there is drought and famine in Andhra Pradesh. More than 3500 peasants committed suicide. In these circumstances, on the demand of the people, the new State Government has taken a very positive step of giving electricity free of cost to the agriculturists. Why should the World Band have any objection to it? Why should it poke its nose in the internal affairs of this country? This is very unfortunate. They should not be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of this country. It is for us to decide whether we give free electricity or we charge for it. The World Bank and the IMF are trying to dictate terms to us. This is a very glaring example. They are saying that more and more privatisation should come here.

In conclusion, I would like to say that to meet the electricity needs of the people of India today, all the potentialities of the hydel power should be fully utilised as the recurring expenditure is minimum in this. Wind power should be fully utilised. Use of non-conventional energy should be encouraged more. All care should be taken to see that the subsidy that goes to the middlemen, really goes to the people. Captive power can be allowed in some industries. But further privatisation should not be allowed. It should be in the public sector. All the villages in the country should be electrified. Poor should be benefited with cross subsidy.

Above all, I propose that the Electricity Act 2003, which is very lopsided, anti-consumer and anti-villagers should go. It cannot be amended. It should go lock, stock and barrel.

The State Government, and the Union Government should take the courageous step of repealing this Act.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, power is the critical infrastructure for the economic development of the country. According to the National Common Minimum Programme, household electrification is to be completed within five years in all States and 'Power for All' is to be completed by 2012. For achieving this target, a new rural electrification strategy has been drawn up by the Government. The strategy is for creation of rural electricity distribution of 33 or 11 KV line sub-station in each block.

The second strategy is about the creation of village electricity infrastructure by providing distribution transformer at least one in every village. The third one is about electrification of un-electrified rural households from the

village transformer. The fourth one is about the decentralised distribution generation system for such villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost-effective. These strategies will enable the Government to fulfil the promises made in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, there are still more than one lakh villagers yet to be electrified. Only 80 per cent of the villages in our country has so far been electrified. Therefore, the Power Ministry should drastically revamp the National Electricity Policy. Otherwise, the scheme of electricity for all villages cannot be completed. Therefore, the revamp of the National Electricity Policy should be done.

Under the circumstances, I would like to say that, in my constituency, there is a hydel project in the name of Purulia Pump Storage Project. It is a very big project and a unique project also. It is joint venture project. The NHPC contributes 70 per cent and the State Electricity Board contributes 30 per cent. The Finance Ministry has not given permission. We are waiting for the permission or approval of the Finance Ministry. Since it is a very unique project, I would request the Power Minister to take up the issue with the Ministry of Finance so that the project is completed by the year 2008.

With these world, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I conclude my speech.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Chairman, Sir. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

At the outset, I would like to agree with the hon. Member Shri Sudhakar Reddy. The point is that the lending institution, whether they are the IMF or the World Bank or the ADBA, cannot dictate us what we should do especially in the field of water, electricity generation etc. It is our experience in Kerala that the ADBA tells the Government that electricity should be given to the private sector. It is not their business to decide the matter. It is our business to decide it.

Sir, I do not want to talk much because almost all aspects have been covered here. However, I want to talk about the non-conventional sources, the renewable energy sector. This sector has already made its contribution to the total installed power capacity and in the deployment of decentralised energy systems. The power generation capacity under renewable sources rose from 36 MW in March 1990 to 1186 MW in March, 1997 and 3510 MW in March, 2002. It represent 3.5 per cent of the total installed power capacity from all sources. The achievement of this sector is admirable particularly considering the fact that it received attention only since the early 1980s. Statistics shows that the renewable energy sector, over a span of two decades, has contributed more power than the nuclear power sector which could, over a period of five years, contribute only 2720 MW of electricity.

World over, there is a tendency to go for this source of power generation. It fact, the European Community has projected 22 per cent share for renewable power sources in total electricity production by the year 2010. The reason is simple. There is dwindling reserve of fossil fuels and environment hazards of excessive use of the fossil fuels. The big hydro-electric power projects are not environmentally should. That is what the experts say. So is the case with respect to nuclear power generation also. As of now, I do not delve into that.

Sir, India now ranks fifth in the world in wind power capacity, fourth in deployment of solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems and third in the production of SPV systems. It is an economically viable and cost effective technology.

In the case of solar energy generation. the Central Government gave a directive to State Government that they should amend the building bye-laws to make mandatory provisions of solar water heating systems in some particular type of buildings. I do not want to quote all the reports about it and take the time of the House. Similarly, bio-gas plants are successfully working in various parts of the country and they are based in rural areas. I do not want to state the statistics here du to paucity of time.

Sir, I would like to make a submission regarding small hydroelectric projects and what is happening in May State of Kerala. In Kerala, the State Electricity Board started its first 3 MW hydel power project in 1996. So far, we have 10 such projects functioning under public sector worth an installed capacity of 72.02 MW. In 1998, we decided to go in for technical collaboration with China where these small projects have become a roaring success. The United Nations Industrial Development Corporation has recommended the Chinese model of small hydro power development as a touchstone for alternative energy programme in developing countries. It is a great success in China and because of constraint of time, I do not want to quote figures here. In Kerala, we have arrived at an agreement with China for building 18 such projects. We have so far completed four projects.

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

I would like to quote one example here. I requested the Electricity Minister of Kerala to come and visit the place called Thiruvambadi which falls under my constituency, but he has not visited the place so far. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Power that the State Electricity Board in Kerala is not showing enthusiasm to attend to the technical problems faced by some of the small hydel projects. A project near Tiruvambadi which is in my Parliament Constituency (Calicut) known as Urumi, was highly successful project which was build with the help of Chinese Collaboration, but in the current rainy season, it developed some problems and part of it is destroyed due to bad management. Nobody is bothered about it and nobody wants power generation from small hydro electric projects. All the representatives of the people have requested the Electricity Minister of Kerala to come and visit the place, but he has not visited the place so far. So, I would request the hon. Minister to come and see the place.

Sir, we have identified 198 locations for setting up small hydroelectric projects with a capacity of 466.85 MW. However, we find a lack of enthusiasm among the power managers of the State. The projects already executed are having problems with power purchase agreements with the State Electricity Boards and unwillingness of State Governments to buy power during peak production seasons. Here, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister the whole mindset of our State Electricity Board.

The Silent Valley project issue came up in the 1970s. Shrimati Indira Gandhi intervened in the matter and the project was shelved. It drew the world's attention. I need not comment about Prof. M.G.K Menon's report here. The Silent Valley biosphere is very precious to the world and so, that project was dropped. But now, the State Government is planning to build a hydroelectric project at Pathrakkadavu which is just 3 kms. from the Silent Valley.

Sir, I would like to quote one example of how the experts and engineers deceive the people. The river called Kunti is in Patrakadav which is flowing in Kerala. They say that 20 years ago, the flow of water was 293 cubic meters. Everybody knows that due to less rainfall and a lot of environmental problems, water is flowing as much as it was 20 years ago in that river. But the engineers now say that 498 cubic metre of water is flowing in the river.

It is just to spend Rs. 400 crore to Rs. 500 crore to produce 70 MW of electricity. There are 198 minor projects which have been identified and many of them are half completed. The investment is about Rs. 100 crore or more. They can produce more than 300 MW of electricity. They do not want to do that, they want to spend Rs. 500 crore and go for Pathrakkadvu Silent Valley Project.

I would request the hon. Minister to study the whole impact of what would happen if Pathrakadav project is cleared—I do not want to bring in the Silent Valley issue here for want of time. The arguments they are bringing in about his 70 MW project and Patrakadav is not correct. It is a huge dam, which is more than 16 meter high. It is considered as a big dam. It is not necessary there. I only said that this Pathrakkadvu Project now recommended by the State Electricity Board of Kerala is just to please high bureaucrats. There is big amount, investment and big project. They do not want more electricity, they want more investment.

Sir, there is a transmission loss of 26.15 per cent. The High Court of Kerala in one of the judgements said, 'you first reduce transmission loss'. Suppose 10 per cent or 5 per cent is reduced how much electricity will you have? Nobody is bothered about that. Before the Electricity Regulation Committee, they said, 'by 2003-04, we will reduce the transmission loss by 3.73 per cent'. Does anybody care for that? Is anybody caring for what to do with the transmission loss? Nobody is worried about it. Nobody is worried about small project.

It is my submission that the Government must give thrust to power generation from these sources, small hydro projects, solar energy, wind energy and such unconventional energy sources so that it could be supplemented. This is my humble submission on this issue.

I totally agree with the hon. Member that we have to stop giving everything away of our country to somebody who has no concern to our nation.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been discussing the issue of power crisis and the problem relating thereto in the House since yesterday and all senior hon. Members are putting forth their view. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a few points. There is a consensus on a few points cutting across the party lines. The power generation has improved in the country during the past 50 years. This should improve further. Transmission and

quality position should improve. Better system should be adopted in distribution. Electricity is the first prerequisite for development. We often talk of captive power consumption not only for industrial sector but also for rural sector. In this regard India is even behind Brazil. Compared to China, our consumption of captive power is half of their consumption.

17.44 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have discussed upon several dimensions of power sector. If we study the annual report of power ministry, we come to know that Orissa and Delhi have been pioneer in power reforms. I have had a very close experience of Orissa. There is no two opinions about having reforms in power sector including allowing competition in this sector. But the point is that the participation of private companies in power sector should be people oriented. Those companies should be accountable to the public. The Power Ministry must think about this aspect. Our experience in Orissa tells that Distribution Companies are behaving in arbitrary manner. Those companies take assistance, loans, aids etc. from the Government, but power distribution position is not shown desired improvement.

We have very emphatically discussed here about rural electrification, Delhi is said to be the pioneer state in power reforms. We witnessed disruptions in power supply on several occasions in the Parliament yesterday. There is no power supply for four hours in a day in that part of Delhi where I live. I represent Orissa and also live in Delhi. I shall also tell you about my experience of power distribution position in Orissa which is handled by private companies. The position in distribution and transmission sectors is worst. The National Power Grid has not shown desired progress. Referring to rural electrification it was stated many times that 5 lakh 87 thousand villages have been electrified. This data is based on 1991 census. I shall present before you the latest data. According to 2001 census about 43.52 percent villages have been electrified. But the fact remains that the households of only well off people in the villages have been electrified. Providing electricity to the households of well off people cannot be termed as rural electrification. This data suggests that electricity has been provided to 43.52 percent villages. The State which I belong to is looked from microscopic view. In Orissa only 20 percent people get electricity and the rest 80 percent people are deprived of it. In cases of Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand which are part of Eastern India only 10 to 5 percent households get electricity. Cant it be termed as development? The Department of Power must consider this point.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all governments have contributed towards rural electrification. But I want to draw your attention to a different matter. There is one A.P.D.R.P. scheme which mostly takes care of upgradation of distribution and transmission system. I have an information which I would like to share which the hon. Minister. There is a bid to add a new provision to A.P.D.R.P. programme. The Central Government gives assistance to State Electricity Boards. Now efforts are being made that the same assistance should go directly to transmission and distribution companies. On the basis of my personal experience I can say that in Orissa, private companies are performing very badly in power distribution. Therefore, the power ministry should reconsider this.

Transmission and Distribution are the most problematic areas in power sector. Moreover, there is a problem of power theft in villages which further compounds the problem. I can give several examples. Big industries are indulging in this practice. There is one such example when one person in Orissa takes power connection in the name of 'Kutir Jyoti' and runs a petrol pump just in nearby area by using the power from there. On account of this kind of power theft there is an annual loss of Rs. 20 thousand

[English]

Unmetered power and power theft are the two major reasons for transmission and distribution loss.

[Translation]

for this old cables should be changed. We should take care of the overload. Several senior members have given suggestions on many issues going beyond their part lines. We believe that there should be more allocation of funds for hydel power projects. Bio-fuel is a new concept which is emerging in our country. There is a vast potential of bio-mass in the country in which the power department must pay attention to. The carbon technology is emerging as a latest technology all over the world. I want to know from the hon. Minster as to what research is being undertaken in this regard. Research can also be carried out on coal-based methane. Such new options in the power sector can be mapped in the new century. The power department should think about power mapping in the next 20-25 years in view of power requirement of the country.

Before conclusion, I would like to submit one more thing. I hail from Orissa. Out of total 4500 MW power generated in Orissa 3000 MW is generated in my constituency. Most of the Thermal Power Plants there are coal based. There is a closed down fertilizer plant of the fertilizers corporation of India at Talcher. Shri Achariaji knows it because he has visited this place. NTPC is

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

undertaking its activities there on large scale. I want to say that whether NTPC will also consider about taking over of the physical structure erected in front of pithead of a coal mine there.

Before conclusion I would like to make one point more. There are numerous hilly areas in Orissa. Your plan is to generate 50,000 MW power through 162 projects being implemented in hydel sector. Now NTPC has also started working in this field and has started setting up of projects. NTPC and N.H.P.C. have not set up even a single Hydel Power Project in Orissa so far. Will the Government consider to set up such central projects in Orissa through NHPC and NTPC. There is unanimity among us and on the basis of my own experience I can say that private investment should be increased in the private sector, though ours is a welfare state. We should evolve political consensus on the issue whether the private distribution companies should have monopoly of distribution or not in the welfare state. On the basis of my own experience I can say that distribution sector should not be left to private companies. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sarbanada Sonowal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir. I was absent when my name was called and I was busy in the Standing Committee meeting. So, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I have called his name. Please take your seat.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, first of all, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to highlight the power scenario particularly in Assam because the power scenario of the country has already been focused in this august House.

I must express my thankfulness to Shri Prabodh Panda ji for bringing a very important issue before this House.

Sir, as you know, in the age of science, power has always been playing a very important role in the overall growth of the country.

In India we have been getting information from all the corners that everyone is suffering from power crisis. That is why, the hon. Minister of Power will have to take up this matter very seriously. You must chalk out some special plan of action so that power can be supplied throughout the country adequately and we could give a feeling of optimism to the growth of industry in the villages and towns.

Now, I am coming down to Assam. In Assam, as you know, we have got tea industries. Oil India and ONGC. They are our important sectors. Now a days, the people of Assam have to stay under the shadow of darkness. The power scenario in Assam is very pathetic. In my constituency, particularly the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh combined district used to be one of the highest revenue paying zones in the country. We are not only paying revenue to the Union Government but also to the State Government. But we have never been supplied power adequately. As a result, our tea industry is suffering. Hospitals and other institutions in the towns and villages suffering and the rural economy is also totally disrupted.

The Government of India had a commitment to set up, the AMGURI power plant based on natural gas. It is in the constituency of our Minister of State for Defence, Shri Bijoy Handique. But up till now, it has never been taken up. On the other hand, in the last two months most of the time there is a problem of load shedding Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. This has not only been complained by the people of Assam but the people have also come to the street to demonstrate their aggression and expressed their resentment to the Government of Assam. But nothing has been done so far. That is why, Sir, this is my humble submission before the hon. Minister of Power to please take up the issue of power crisis in Assam seriously.

We have got sufficient number of rivers. We have got mighty Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. There are also 138 tributaries. We have got natural gas: sufficient stock of coal. We could set up coal-based and gas-based power plant. We could also set up a water-based power plant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please be brief.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: That is why, we sincerely appeal and also request the hon. Minister of Power to set up the power plants immediately. If you are interested, I invite you to my constituency to set up power plants. It can be coal-based plant. It can be gas-based plant and it can be water based because coal, gas and water resources are available in my constituency, which, as you know, is one of the richest constituencies in India.

We have got abundant natural resources namely water, forest, gas and coal resources. We have got everything. That is why, this is my humble submission that this is an issue which is to be given to priority whether it involves national planning or State planning. I hope that this matter will be taken up. Amguri gas-based power project will be specially considered. The power scenario in Assam will be taken up with a serious note.

The Government of India will have to put their proper investment and planning to improve the power sceneries in India. This is also a matter of important discussion and consideration that whether the power sector should be handed over to the private companies subsequently or not. Once it is handed over to the private companies in totality, tomorrow we may not see the light of the day. That is why, this should be seriously discussed throughout the country. We should also have special occasion of debate so that we can decide in which sector this can be negotiated. It is to be properly examined. Then it would be better to come to proper point of resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the issue of low production of power in the country raised by Shri Prabodh Pandaji and Shri Basu Deb Achariaji. Electricity is integral to human life and is directly related to our country's development. It was my fortune that I was member of the Parliamentry Standing Committee of the 12th Lok Sabha when hon. Basu Deb Achariaji was the Chairman of that Committee.

18.00 hrs.

I had a privilege to visit the North-Eastern States with you, but it is quite unfortunate that since 1950 till now we have been able to generate only 1,12,000 MW of power which is very short of the target. The demand for electricity is quite high but over the recent two or three year we have been able to generate as low as 5 or 6 MW or electricity which is too less. And to cut it all, we make a cut of 8 per cent of the total output. In some state, as my party colleague Shri Sumanji has just said like our newly created Uttaranchal state, power production is high. Our Government has made a promise to provide power for 14 hours in Uttar Pradesh. Today we are providing power in rural areas. The surplus electricity should to the states where the need and demand for it is high. National Power Grid Corporation should also be constituted. We have been at North-Eastern States have high potential for hydel power projects where we can produce cost effective electricity.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister kindly to provide financial assistance and promote power generation at least in the North-Eastern States where resources for power generation are in abundance. Unfortunately, we have been able to tap only 15 per cent of the resources in the hydel power sector. Hydro-electric power generation should be promoted, as we come to environment ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumarji, kindly wait of a minute. It is six O'clock now, I want to feel the mood of the House in this regard because Jute is also to be discussed today under Rule 193. If the House agrees, all the leaders agree, the time of House may be extended.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important issue on which a number of hon. Members have to speak and the hon. Minister of Power has to reply. So let this discussion be completed today and the issue of jute may be discussed tomorrow. Let it be completed today ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the time of the House is extended till the discussion on and reply to the issue of power. Shailendraji, you may continue please.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the recommendation for power generation, hydel power generation which was made in 1988 is still pending. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to implement that recommendation so that power generation could be resumed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I have no objection to it, but I think some decision have been taken by the Business Advisory Committee for tomorrow. I think it is Manipur to be discussed tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)* whether you decide is alright ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like, to tell you that two important issues are to be discussed tomorrow—one is food and the other is Manipur. If you take up three subjects tomorrow, is it possible for you to discuss things in detail? So this is my request that you should take up the Jute issue for discussion today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one Calling Attention Motion for tomorrow and a discussion Under Rule 193 on PDS is also listed. So, it would be good if the discussion on power issue is finished early and the Jute issue is taken up today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It depends on the hon. Members. If they take less time, it may be possible.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I agree with Shri Basu Debji. Only a few more Members would be there to speak on this. Let them be called and let the Minister make his reply. After that the Jute issue may be taken up and the reply to the debate on Jute may be made tomorrow. Do whatever you think proper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, how many more hon. Members are there to participate in this debate?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Jute is also an important one. Let us discusss it today, the Minister of Power may make his reply tomorrow. And I think tomorrow we can have a more meaningful debate on the Jute issue. We have enough time yet. We can have debate on PDS on Friday or Monday. At this time you have not such Government business and this can be adjusted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sumanji, you must recall that the proposal of the BAC is also before the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It has been decided by the BAC that Government business will be transacted on all the three day *i.e.* 31 August, 1st and 2nd September ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The leaders of all the parties are there in the BAC, there opinion is unchangeable, so now till the reply and till we take up the Jute issue, we will do as per the time available.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate that even after 56-57 years of independence we have not been able to pay proper attention to electrification. As the figures reveal, we have been able to electrify only 19 per cent rural areas in Uttar Pradesh, 5 per cent in Bihar and 3 per cent in Jharkhand as against our target to achieve 100 per cent electrification in rural areas by 2012. For this also we need additional power, we will have to increase our power generation capacity for an additional two lakh MWs, only then we will be able to achieve the social target. Power theft amounts to 33 per cent of the total generation which also needs to be checked.

As a number of suggestions have come in this regard, we will have to think over it seriously. We will have to especially take care of the proposal for modernization of the old power plants in 1997-98, only then the power situation in the country will be strengthened. The Government of India will have to make the national power policy afresh so that we could provide power to the states as per their demands. Ours is mainly an agricultural country so we will have to provide more electricity to our rural areas with the production of which we can develop the country. So we will have to pay special attention to the rural areas. We will have to pay particular attention to the production of non-conventional energy ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding now. The Centre will have to extent more assistance in view of the demand of the State Governments.

Now, I would like to conclude after talking about Uttar Pradesh. This State has a population of 18 crores. Everyday, we are buying electricity worth Rs. 25 to 27 crores from other states, and we are supplying electricity for 14 hours in rural areas. Recently, the Government have laid foundation of the power plant in Dadri, Ghaziabad. I think, it will be completed within 2-3 years. I would like to make a demand to the hon. Minister to provide at least Rs. 500 crores as national assistance for land and establishment of other state production areas.

With these words, I conclude and express my sincerest thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, first and foremost, let me thank, Shri Prabodh Panda and Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I think, we owe them thanks because this august House is discussing the critical position of power...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vijayendra Pal Singh ji, You must take care of your time

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I will come straight to the point because of paucity of time.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leave the background, come to the point directly.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: The reasons that we are in this situation of shortage of power is that the SEBs in most parts of the country are facing bankruptcy. That is why the entrepreneurs, the FDI, the investment from the private sector are not coming because they do not have the (money) power to pay for the power that is going to be generated.

That is one of the big problems. We are all looking forward to the statement from the new Minister because the whole country is worried about power sector reforms. We have passed this Electricity Act, 2003 about one year ago. We would like to know from the hon. Minister that in one year, after this new Act had come into being—and we had so much hopes from this new Act—what have we really achieved. The salient feature of this Electricity Act, 2003 is the open access which is as new thing. When this open access comes, it will already change the whole scenario and get reforms in the country. What exactly is this open access? It is that you can wheel power from one State, from the surplus States or from the surplus areas into the deficit areas and this wheeling can be done if the Power Grid also puts the national grid into place. The national gird will come into force of in place. I think, in a very short time because all the regional networking of the grid has already taken place.

Sir, I have a few suggestions to make. What I suggest is that the shortage basically is at the peaking hours. If the shortage in the peaking hours is, say 11 to 12 per cent, can we not have time zones for the country because then you will be able to save the day light? If Calcutta and Delhi have a different time, you would have different time zones and that would different peaking hours in the country so that after the national grid comes into effect and puts in place this wheeling, we can save some areas and the surplus can be transferred to other areas. When in smaller countries than India there are two-three time zones, why can we not have different time zones in the country.

The other thing is about pithead generation. You do not need to cart coal all the way to the States. You have big mega thermal power stations and then do the wheeling after this power grid has been put into place.

Sir, hon, Members have talked about nuclear civil programming. Even America today is ready to help us out because after the Pokhran-II we had a lot of problems and they were not ready to give us and technology. Even Canada had withdrawn giving us the technology and the fuel even to RAPP in Rajasthan. But today the thinking has changed. For your information, it is true that the nuclear fuel in the world is cheap. France has 85 per cent of its power requirement met by nuclear power stations and that should also be taken into consideration.

The other reason that the investment has not come into generation was because the regulatory framework and the contractual obligations were not in place. With this Electricity Act, 2003 in place, the regulatory framework and the contractual obligations can really get us more investment. One of the other reasons is, they have been taking about free power in the States and that has become a populous move. I will just say one thing. Nobody, at least not myself, is against subsidy; but that subsidy of free power must be budgeted. It has to be budgeted in their programming and in their budget proposals and that is the reasons that the SEBs have been going bankrupt and going into losses. If a State is ready to give free power, they must budget it. Otherwise how would the SEBs really run?

I think I have said a lot. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards Jharkhand region which has great potential for power generation. There are several small and major rivers and hundreds of collieries. It has a power plant like Bokaro-Thermal-Power Plant. Chandrapur Thermal, Patratu-Thermal and Lal Paniya-Thermal Hydel Power Plants have been set-up there. On paper the rise in power generation has been shown to be 3% however, actually it is 1%. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister that first of all construction of Bokaro Steel Plant took place then come-up-B-Plan adjoining it. That Plant was closed down giving the reasons that its' power-generation capacity has gone down and a new plant would be set up in its' place. The work of this plant was stopped due to financial crunch. I, therefore, urge the Hon'ble Minister to make the plant viable by arranging funds for it so that the Jharkhand does not feel neglected. Despite availability of water, labour iron and coal in adequate quantam, work would not commence there. Funds should be made available in order to start work on 'A' Plant so that the

[Shri Tek Lal Mahto]

development of Jharkhand state could take place. In case development of rural area does not take place, development of any area would not be possible.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. M. Jagannath-not present.

Shri K.S. Rao : Not present.

Now, Shri B. Mahtab would speak. He is the last speaker. After him, the Minister would reply.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I rise here to discuss about the situation arising out of shortage of power in the country, regarding the shortage of power in the country and problem arising out of it, which has been very rightly raised by Shri Prabodh Panda.

Power is a critical infrastructure for the economic development of the country and there is a deep shortage in power sector in the country. The question is, how can the situation be improved. There is a long way to go before promises like availability of electricity on demand by 2012—that is the dream which has been envisaged—can be fructified. For converting these promises into reality, major thrust has been given to accelerated development and restructuring of the power sector. A comprehensive approach is required. It envisages a six-level intervention on strategy at the national, State, State-Electricity Board, distribution, feeder and consumer level.

For meeting the projected power requirement by 2012, an additional capacity of 100,000 megawatts is required in the two Five Year Plans, that is, Tenth and Eleventh Plans. A capacity of nearly 41,000 Megawatts would be set up in the Tenth Plan and the remaining in the Eleventh Plan with a stronger focus on hydro-power. This is the plan. Here, this 41,000 megawatts of power has been divided into Central sector, State sector and private sector. The Central Sector will contribute 22,500 MW, the State Sector will contribute 1,400 MW, and the Private Sector will contribute 7,100 MW, making a total of 41,000 MW. This is envisaged in the 10th plan.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Are you talking about the 10 Plan?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, 7,100 MW by the Private Sector.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I think it is 7,100 MW in the Private Sector.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, it is 7,100 MW in the Private Sector. Project of around 19,000 MW are already under construction, and projects of around 8,900 MW aggregate capacity has already got the requisite approval. These are the figures that I could gather from the Government record. But the idea is to generate power on demand. that is, whenever the consumer wants electricity, it should be made available, and that should be done, By 2012, we need 1,00,000 MW, and within the 10th plan it is only 41,000 MW.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the main point.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, this is the main point. We are not discussing in the Parliament as to why there is power breakdown in the villages, or why quality power is not being provided in the villages. These problems should be debated in the Legislative Assemblies, namely, the functioning of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs), etc. We are here to discuss about the Plans relating to this sector, namely, what all do we envisage in the 10th and the 11th Plans; where are the defects; and how much money is to be provided by the Centre for the Central Sector, the State Sector, and the Private Sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The electricity that was being generated for the installed capacity was only 1,713 MW in 1950, and in the year 2003 1,07,875 MW was being generated.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: You are wrong. It is the installed capacity.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I stand corrected. It is the installed capacity. Despite this impressive growth, the annual per capacity of electricity in the country is estimated at about 350 units, which one of the lowest in the world. India continues to have a peak shortage of approximately 13 per cent, and energy shortage of about 7 per cent.

The core problem is the poor state of the sub-transmission and distribution systems of the Electricity Boards, and other electricity utilities. The problem is for the end users of electricity like households, farmers, commercial establishment industries who are confronted with frequent power cuts, both scheduled and unscheduled. Power cuts, erratic voltage, low and high supply frequencies all have added to the increase in power cuts, resulting in more problems for the consumers. The problem emanate from such factors as inadequate power generation capacity, lack of optimum utilisation of

the existing generation capacity, and inadequate inter-regional transmission link to name a few.

The question that I would like to ask is this. Has the Government made any review to advise the States whether to privatise generation and distribution? The major factors responsible for financial sickness of State Electricity Boards are skewed tariff structure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech as we are having time constraint today.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Skewed tariff structures are leading to unsustainable cross-subsidy, huge transmission and distribution loss, etc. These are largely due to outright theft, un-metered supply, lack of accountability in distribution set-up of State Electricity Boards. etc. The Power Sector cannot develop unless the above issues are addressed at all levels.

It has been repeatedly said that Orissa has become the laboratory for distribution reforms since 1991, and again it was implemented in 1997. So, Orissa has become the laboratory of reforms relating to Energy Sector. I would like a clear answer because we have faced it; everyday, the people of Orissa are facing it. I would like to know whether the Government still continues to believe that distribution reform is the key area for putting the energy sector on the right track or you have any other alternative.

I come to my second point now. After Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra is the third State, which has offered free electricity to its farmers. The decision to give free electricity is illegal. I am saying 'illegal' because we have implemented an Act in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which clearly specifies that electricity cannot be given free of cost by any State Government or by anybody. As has been rightly mentioned, some budgetary provision has to be made. Just to be populist and to get votes. Whether it is this side or that side, whether it is the ones who are sitting in the Opposition or the ones who are sitting on the Treasury Benches, they are doing this. When there is competition, how are you going to control it ? We would like to be apprised about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B. Mahtab was the second last speaker; Shrimati Jayaprada is the last speaker. After her speech, I am going to give the floor to the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

I would like to remind you on this occasion that it was the vision of Bapuji that the development of villages would lead to the development of nation but the dream seem to remain unrealized. Today, while discussing this issue on this occasion, I am undergoing a sense of enjoyment as well as agony. The thing, which makes me happy is that, we are at least, holding discussion on the topic whereas it is a matter of agony that even after 57 years of independence, we are discussing the problem of power. Today there is acute problem of power particularly in villages. It is quite unfortunate that we think about providing education to the people, particularly children, when we pay a visit to the villages. They are not so lucky that they could have availed of the facility of sitting under the light and study. Power is of utmost important to make us enable to make progress in every field today, whether it is agriculture, industry or service sector. Whether the Government has that much capability so as to satisfy present requirement of Power of the country? Generating or supplying power is not a major issue, the thing which means us a lot is to supply adequate quantum of power at affordable rates so that our country can make progress.

Today, I would like to give an example here. All the hon'ble Members present in the House are aware that Enron launched a project in Maharashtra and production of power also started there but at higher cost. Per unit cost of generation of power was projected at rupees 7.10. Thus, Maharashtra State Electricity Board withdraw. They suffered a loss running into about twenty five thousand crores of rupees. I would like to say that we are unable to properly utilize our resources like water and coal. There should be clarity in this regard so as to enable ourselves to meet the demand of the public. It is impertinent to see whether the clear transparency exist in distribution sector. Whenever Government face problem, they should have vision of the year 2020 so that we can assess from our future plans as to what extent can we meet our demand?? Why we are unable to compete with our neighbouring countries; particularly when we see that so much progress is taking place in China? We should try to improve the present situation. Although, I belong to Andhra Pradesh, which is my birth-place, but my place of work is Uttar Pradesh. I have been elected from U.P. and I think it is my duty to accord foremost priority to U.P. on my agenda.

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Chief Minister is making efforts in this direction and he has announced the selling up of a 3500 MW power house at Dadri. As regards sick power units I would like to submit that these are located all over India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh also. We can revive these sick units and can give package for the same. It is worth mentioning here that new projects are left incomplete in midway after some years and then we try to purchase power from outside. We are not able to generate electricity because we are not making proper utilization of available resources.

As regards. Hydel Projects, we are faced with the problems of floods and drought. In view of the shortage of electricity we must take a decision and for that we can set up a special committee for monitoring the power situation and where the channel of Hydel Projects have gone dry, we should try to revive them. In Villages because of power shortage Power theft is more rampant and we should set up a task force for it's monitoring.

Finally, I request the Government that on the pattern of the Planning Commission it should formulate a National Energy Policy monitoring of all these things.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Prabodh Panda and Shri Basu Deb Acharia for having brought this matter into focus and for drawing the attention of Members to it. It is the need of the hour for all of us to think seriously as to how we can solve the power problem in the country. I am glad to know that the hon. Members have brought all the issues to the fore in this discussion.

Yesterday itself we ought to have finished this subject but because of the extraneous matter that was brought in, we could not help it. In the afternoon I was apprehensive whether we would be in a position to compete today. We have to take one more subject after this. Therefore, I will also not be going to test your patience and the patience of the Members. I will place my case before you as short as possible.

This subject, in fact, is highly technical. Even I will have to study as a student, as a layman rather. I had some grasp of this subject. I could understand how our Members were trying to understand and then reach to the subject. Shri Singh has touched some points. Many other Members like Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and many experts like Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who happens to be a regular Chairman of Energy Committee, have raised many points. I do not know how he has missed it this time. He has gone to head the Committee on Railways this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, both Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have technical knowledge on the subject and are also articulate leaders.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Thank you for reminding me.

We, in the Government, do recognize that the country is faced with the problem of power and energy shortage in the order of seven per cent, and peaking shortage of 11 per cent. It is worthwhile to evaluate at this juncture as to how we started our journey from 1947. What was our capacity then and what is our capacity now? We have started with 1362 MW and we have reached 1,12,058 MW as on 31.03.2004. What was our consumption per head then? It was 15 units. What is our consumption now? It is 582 units. It is not at all comparable with the developed countries. Yes, at the same time, it is not a mean achievement, if you look at our journey. What was the coverage of villages then? It was 1500. Now, we have already covered 4,75,000 villages, that is, 81 per cent. Some Members have pointed out many things. I am not going to go through all due to paucity of time. They have appreciated many thing. One thing they have pointed out that the subject of power is in the Concurrent List. While mentioning it, I am not running against my responsibility. Power generation, power transmission and power distribution was done by the States and the State Electricity Boards and utilities. It was only in 1975 that the Centre stepped in. Now the Centre is producing or rather generating one-third or a little over one-third requirement of the country. As the distribution is totally in the hands of the States and State Electricity Boards, the transmission was also in the hands of the States for some time. Now the Centre has taken it over. Power grids are now doing that job. One thousand-circuit kilometer has already been done. Out of this, 50,000 is done by the power grids alone. The total network of our power in the country is at the distribution segment. Many hon. Members have pointed out about this here. Whatever is being generated is not reaching the consumer because of age-old machines. No steps have been taken to augment or to strengthen and modernize the sector. The result has been that the T & D loss is very huge. It is almost 45 per cent of both put together. It is an alarming thing. The Central Electricity Act was also a cause for it. Theft was also a major problem. Un-metering, low quality metering, 55 per cent billing and 45 per cent realization are some other problems. What is going to be the problem? You can

count that in terms of shortage. The shortage was almost 45,000 megawatt. This is the position. It is the unaccounted.

In order to improve the transmission system and also the distribution system, a number of schemes have been drawn up by the Central Government, one of which, I would put is as the 'New Deal'. We have given financial help under the APDRPP. We have made a provision of Rs. 16,100 crore. Many States have utilized this. The net result was that, because of this un-metered set up, because of the heavy theft, because of the technical loss, the areas of the Electricity Boards and utilities happened to be of the order of Rs. 41 crores. That has to be securities. That had to be converted into bonds.

These are the incentives and initiatives taken up by the Centre, which have been availed of by most of the State Electricity. Now, they are in a position to stand up and pay to the public undertaking, they are in a position to pay the interest.

It is true that a huge amount is necessary for starting a power plant. In the Eighth and Ninth Plans, our major defect was that we could not reach the target. It was below 50 per cent. Therefore, this crisis has arisen. From 1985 to 1990, it was almost 100 per cent. We produced 20,000 MW during Rajivji's period. It was almost 100 per cent. But during the Eighth and Ninth Plans, it was below 50 per cent. It was only 35,000 MW.

Now, we have planned capacity addition of 41,110 MW in the Tenth Plan. Advance planning has already been done in terms of capacity addition for the Eleventh Plan also. It is 60,000 MW. That will double our power generation.

With all these new measures, power will reach to all villages. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has emphasised that every village household, every rural household should get electrified within five years. That is the mandate that has been given to this Government. I am sure that we will be in a position to achieve it.

Sir, you may be wondering as to how we would do all this. But I may inform the hon. Members that we have already commissioned 8,000 MW of power generation out of these 41,000 MW, and 27,000 MW is already under execution. There is only 7,000 MW left for the States. There also, finalisation has already reached. Thirty days are there and that could be finalised. So, we are sure that we will be in a position to reach 41,000 MW of capacity addition. Over and above this, we will also have 3,000 MW capacity addition from the non-conventional energy. That is also there.

Therefore, there should not be any problem in this sector. I would also inform the House that some States have done very well. How is it that West Bengal could contain theft of power at almost 100 per cent? How is it that some other States could also contain theft of power?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Andhra Pradesh has also contained theft.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yes, you are correct. Andhra Pradesh has also contained theft of power.

To a certain extent. Haryana has also contained it. Therefore, there should be endeavour form our States as well as Centre together. There is no problem of finance. In this case of 41,000 MW, there is no problem. We will be in a position to do it.

16.49 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

But the difficulty was there in the Eighth and Ninth Plans because of poor performance, poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards and utilities.

Now, what we have aimed at is getting support from the private sector.

They started nervous and so, they did not come. At the same time, because of the heavy indebtedness-the arrears were something like Rs. 41,000 crore—the public sector was unable to do. That was the culmination of the entire thing.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): What about Enron?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I am not in a position to say anything on that. The case is pending. It may likely to prejudice the decision; I will try avoid it. Of course, everybody knew it and I would not like to say anything on that.

Many hon. Members have said many things, particularly on the hydro-electric power generation. Compared to thermal power, it is better. We have a potential capacity of 1,50,000 MW, in the long-term plan. We have this plan; and in that, 50,000 MW is going to be from hydel sector.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Is it in the 11th Plan?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Partly in the 11th Plan and partly in the 12th Plan. This is what we are aiming at.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): What about nuclear power?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: It is also going to be increased, in the 10th Plan. The plan was for 300 MW; it is going to be 2500 MW now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, in my constituency, there is a nuclear power plant at Narora and it is functioning very well. And if you recommend one more unit there, it would be very good...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When the Minister finishes, you can ask the question. You are wasting the time of the House now.

[Translation]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Whatever Shri, Basu Deb Acharia has send is quick right. It is not so, we will not help. We can take it up.

[English]

We can take it up. I have already mentioned about additional capacity. Due to paucity of time, I would skip some of the things which have been mentioned already. Coal is available in the Central and in the Eastern sectors. Hydel is available in the North and in the North East....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: You just recommend ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You may also include Eastern sector.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I agree. Last year, your State has produced Rs. 800 crore worth of electricity. I know that; thank you.

What is the capability of power grid? All these five zones are linked. The link from the power grid to the States and up to the village, it is a problem. In order to link it up, we have a plan. Now, the capacity is 8,400 MW and at the end of the 10th Plan, it would be 23,000 MW. By the end of Eleventh Plan, the capacity is going to be 30,000 MW. I think I have broadly covered all the points.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What about free electricity?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: In the last sentence of your speech you had talked about it. According to me, the 2003 Act is a new legislation. Many hon. Member have mentioned about it. Electricity Policy, tariff policy, rural electricity policy, etc. all these things are there in this Act. Tenth June was the last date to accept it. All, except 13 States which wanted some more time, have accepted it. Its review was mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme and we have fulfilled that promise. No other point has been taken up by anyone else. Of course, any Act can be reviewed as and when necessary. In the case of 2003 Act, 13 States have asked for extension of time from two months to 11 years and we have given that.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Does the Act help us in any way?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: It took three years to get this passed. For complete one year the Standing Committee consulted all the concerned persons throughout the country. The Standing Committee took unusually long time and then it was passed in both the Houses. What I want to impress upon is, it was not imposed on any State. It was based on acceptance. Of course, it may not be of hundred per cent desirability for some States

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): This Act has the wisdom of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I should not say that. One thing is sure that this Act was not imposed on anybody. The Act has given opportunity to the States to un-bundle and then reorganise. They are now in a much better, healthier position. According to some States, there may be some provisions which may not be up to the mark but by and large, this is the position.

As far as policy is concerned, we have taken the initiative. Shri Arjun Sethi is my good friend. Hardly three

months have elapsed. We have taken it on war-footing. I have myself written to all the Chief Ministers and State Power Ministers. My Secretary has met all concerned zonal Secretaries and it is under our active consideration. This policy is very much in the visibility sight and is going to be formulated very soon.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Act be reviewed?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: We have already reviewed it and 13 States have got extension also....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Let the Standing Committee on Power review it again.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Of course, the Act can always be reviewed whenever it is necessary. That is all I wish to say.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, as regards rural electrification, the Rural Electrification Corporation has now taken up certain works in different States. The Power Grid Corporation has also taken up certain works and has entered into some agreements. It is not that they are going and pestering the States but they themselves are requesting for help. I had been to Bihar along with Shri Lalu Prasad and we went to Gaya. We had inaugurated a project worth Rs. 80 crore there. Now I understand the Uttar Pradesh is also coming forward. They are also requesting that their work should also be taken up. This is a comprehensive plan of both financial shift and work shift. They are entrusting the work to us now. We are also helping them in financial matters. They authorized us to do it.

As far as Bihar is concerned, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and other friends have mentioned some places. We are very much interested in them and we will give our utmost consideration to their problem because they are keep to entrust all the work to us. Recently, I am told that the Chief Minister has taken a decision. That job could be 90 per cent or even 100 per cent. Up till now, the money used to be sent to them but they could not prepare the DPR or do the formulation. But now the entire preparation as also the implementation is going to be done by the public undertakings.

As regards Purulia, in March 2004, PIB had cleared the project. Again the West Bengal Government was requested to confirm the continuation of loan arrangement from ABIC. Only a few days back, we have received the communication from them. Now the PIB recommendation has been proposed to be amended. I would like to inform Shri Basu Deb Acharia that it will be taken up with PIB.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the Government has decided to provide electricity to all households by 2012. But it has to be at affordable rates because more than 70 per cent population of our country consists of poor farmers and marginal farmers. It is not affordable, how would they get electricity? So, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking to re-introduce the provision of cross-subsidy. This provision was there earlier.

Secondly, in the course of discussion not only myself but also so many other hon. Member of this House have raised a point about the National Electricity Policy. What short of National Electricity Policy are you thinking of? Are you thinking to have consultation with all the political parties and the State Government in this regard? I want clarification on these two points.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: About cross subsidy, it is already there and it is continued now also. Of course, the new Electricity Act does not bar it. That is the position.

With regard to the Policy, draft is sent to the Chief Minister also. The comment of some of them is awaited. Most of them have already come. There is going to be Power Ministers Conference. They are meeting in the Conference. We have received letters from some of them.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Are you giving affordable electricity?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Our intention is, it should be affordable. Particularly regarding rural electrification, every house in rural areas must be in a position to consume electricity. That would be possible only when you have competition and you have opportunity for it. Now, how is trade in the Power Trading Corporation? The customers are there and they are taking it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I want to seek clarification on two issues. This is the highest body. What is the Government stand on free power? You are dealing with the States. What is the stand of the Government on free power? The second point is on theft and transmission loss. They are very serious issues in this country. Some States are taking very good measures to control theft and transmission loss. By enforcing all the laws they have, they are saving a lot of power and getting as lot

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

of revenue. Are you providing any incentive to such States? If not, will the Government give incentives to the States which are controlling theft? Some State Government have suggested amendments to the Electricity Act of 2003 in the interest of the States. Some loopholes are there in the Act. After their study, some State Governments have recommended certain amendments in the interest of the State Electricity Boards. Is the Government ready to make those amendments?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, his first point is with regard to free power. I made it clear more than once that the Electricity Act says that any segment of population can be given subsidy provided the provision is made in the budget of that particular State. This is the position...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My question is whether cross subsidy will be there or not.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Cross subsidy is still there and it will continue to be there.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : One must really laud the desire and endeavour of the Government to provide electricity to all the villages in the country. Back home, Punjab and Haryana are two States which have done extremely well in this regard. So, there is not really much to say. But there is one pertinent point and that includes my Territory, Chandigarh also. Because of the increase in the population there, a large number of people are residing outside in what is called the Laldora. A good number of *deras* have come up particularly in Punjab. Those people are willing to pay and they want to pay. But no connection is provided to them. There should not be any difficulty for them. I want the Government of India to really intervene in the matter to ensure that power is made available as they are willing to pay for it. Those people are living outside the villages, as such. People living outside the *abadi* but in the revenue estates should also get it.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Are they also constituting the village unit?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They are coming under the revenue estate but are outside the *abadi* area. So, they are not taken in the villages as such.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are living at some distance from the village, like 500 yards away etc.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The power grid may not be in a position to reach there and the cost may not be effective to reach them. In such situations, IPP, that is the Independent Power Producers can reach there. The Government will encourage that. That is the position.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Why will they so? IPPs will go only if it is profitable to them. Otherwise, why will they go to such distant areas? Is it profitable to them? Mixing township and these areas is not affordable to these organisations. How can you say that IPPs will go to those distant areas?? It is not possible.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: We will persuade the State Government and the State Electricity Boards to see that Independent Power Producers are there to provide the electricity.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Persuade the State Governments and direct the Union Territory administrations to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): I want to know a very small but important thing from the hon. Minister. Both the former Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister had stated at the conference of the SAARC countries that SAARC countries would set up a SAARC Grid together and India would play a special role in that as it is located is the central of the South Asia and which I had mentioned in my speech yesterday. Nepal produces 83,000 MW, Bhutan produces 2500 MW and Bangaladesh has vast reserves of natural gas.

[English]

I am talking about the SAARC grid for which a commitment was made by the farmer Prime Minister of NDA Government, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Manmohan Singh has also said in the Press, in the SAARC Conference, that they will form a SAARC grid. What do you say about that? Is it being followed? Or have you dropped the idea? What is your reaction to that?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, it is Shri Lakshman Singh's permanent seat. In the last Lok Sabha, that is in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, also he occupied that seat.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am proud to be here.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: We are taking different countries on bilateral basis. That is true for SAARC also.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Delhi States has been the pioneer in the distribution of power through the private sector. There are two players who have been given the responsibility of distributing power in the State. It is the pioneer in this respect.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Delhi is not the pioneer. The State of West Bengal is the pioneer.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I am talking about the distribution of power. Distribution of power by the private sector.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I am also talking about the private sector.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: They have also been the pioneers, if they are. 750 employees of the old utility were retrenched. VRS was to be given to them. The private sector companies are not giving them VRS. Who is going to be responsible? Can the Centre also intervene and see that this VRS benefits are paid to them? Should it be paid by the private sector or by the old utility? Can you do something about it? It is because 750 employees of the old utility have not been paid VRS. They have been retrenched. It is a very serious matter. I do not want an answer right now. But please do something about it. These 750 employees are still to get VRS.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: We have discussed about power problems. In the speech also, I have already mentioned about power theft. If theft is taking place in certain States and certain places, have they got any idea to keep a Task Force to control it?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Jayaprada ji, to control and then to plug this menace, many States have already made laws. That is what I have mentioned about Bengal and Andhra Pradesh also. As many as nine States have made laws. They are controlling it. They are really advancing to reach the stage of near completion. Therefore, it is the State Government, the State Electricity Boards and the utilities which will have to think of finding out what existing law is going to be used against power theft cases. If there is any law necessary, they can also make the law. Act the same time, I appeal to the countrymen to do one thing. This menace is eating into the very vitals of our electricity. Therefore, a massive awakening in the country, in the educational institutions and Government offices should be there. So many places are there. This matter is to be publicised in all such places so that it can be contained.

Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh has already asked a question. The Regulatory Commission is looking into this problem that he has mentioned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for he has taken a positive attitude towards Bihar. He has stated that he will give priority to Bihar's problem. He has agreed in principle on the issue of setting up of hydel projects and without that the problem will continue to persist. He has chalked out a strategy for that. As I had said during my speech there is plenty of water available in the rivers of Bihar and also in the rivers originating in Nepal. He has also chalked out a plan to top this huge water resource but he has not yet clearly stated what he will do for that? I want to know from the Hon. Minister, the details of the scheme, which he has formulated or propose to formulate in this regard, and whether Bihar will be given priority since there is vast scope for Hydropower in the state and which in turn would be helpful in controlling foods besides power generation on large scale which would beneficial for all.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Ram Kripal ji is an active member. I listened to his question attentively and gave a reply too. I want to reiterate that when we will chalk out a plan in this regard, we will do whatever we can for his State.

19.18 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Third Report

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee is to be presented. Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.19 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193—*Contd.*

(ii) Problems Being Faced by Jute Industry

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take the next item, Item No.23. Shri Basu Deb Acharia to initiate the discussion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that it is an important industry it has a vital role to play in the economy of Eastern and the North-Eastern India...*(Interruptions)* When our country was divided, the jute-growing areas went to Bangladesh, the erstwhile East Pakistan and the jute mills remained with West Bengal.

Sir, the first Prime Minister of India assured the people of West Bengal and urged them to produce jute so that some jute mills which were there in the State of West Bengal could survive. The farmers of West Bengal responded to the appeal of the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The paddy growing fields were converted into jute growing fields. West Bengal became self-sufficient in the production of jute and thereby all the jute mills survived.

Today, due to the wrong policy of the Government of India, four million jute growers of West Bengal and 2.5 lakh jute workers are facing crisis. What was the situation in 1980s? When there was a stiff competition from the plastic lobby, the Government of India felt that to protect the four million jute growers and 2.5 lakh jute workers, the enactment of a legislation was necessary. The main purpose of that legislation was to protect the jute growers as well as jute workers. The main object behind the enactment of this Act was to protect the jute industry from the plastic industry.

The Jute Packaging Material Act was passed in 1987 and in Section 4, Sub-section 2 of that Act, it was stated that the intention was to maintain the level of usage of jute material. quality of raw jute available, quantity of jute material available and to protect the interest of the persons engaged in the jute industry and in the production of raw jute and to continuously maintain the jute industry etc.

Sir, after the enactment of this Act, what we have seen is that gradually this Act is being diluted. When this Act was promulgated in 1987-88, for foodgrains 100 percent jute packages were used. For sugar also, it was 100 per cent. For urea, it was 50 per cent and for cement it was 70 per cent. In 1988-89, it was 100 per cent for foodgrains, sugar and urea and 70 per cent for cement. In 1994-95, it was 100 per cent for sugar and foodgrains, but it was 65 per cent for urea and 70 per cent for cement. In 1995-96, it was 100 per cent for sugar and foodgrains, but 50 per cent for urea and 50 per cent for cement. In 1998-99, you will be surprised to know, in the case of foodgrains and sugar it was 100 per cent, but in the case of urea it came down to 20 per cent and in the case of cement, it was nil. Then in 2001-02, for both, urea and cement, the use of jute packages was nil and today for urea and cement it is nil. In 2002-03, in the case of sugar it was reduced to 90 per cent.

In the Jute Packaging Material Compulsory Use of Packing Committees Bill 1987, there is a provision dealing with violation of the provisions of the Act. There is a provisions for penalty. In Section 5, it has been stated, 'that where an Order has been made under Section 3 requiring any commodity, class of commodities or any percentage thereof to be packed in jute packaging material for their supply or distribution, such commodity, class of commodities and percentage thereof shall not and on from the date of specified Order be supplied unless the same is packed according to that Order'.

What we have seen is that there is a recommendation of the Standing Advisory Committee and that recommendation should also be in consonance with Section 4, sub-Section 2 (d), 'that protection of interests of persons engaged in jute industry and in production of raw jute'. So, the Standing Advisory Committee's recommendation should also be based on Section 4, sub-Section 2(g), that whenever the Standing Advisory Committee will take a decision or make certain recommendations, the interest of the workers and also the jute growers should be taken into consideration Sir, although the provisions of this Act had been blatantly violated in the case of urea and also in the case of fertilizer, no action has been taken against those who have violated provisions of this Act. Although the Act is mandatory, they had blatantly violated it in the case of urea and fertilizer.

Sir, why are we raising this discussion today? There were a number of cases. On 6th of July, Calcutta High Court has given a judgement. Sir, I would like to quote the Calcutta High Court's Judgement of 6 July, 2004. It says:

"We are, therefore, unable to appreciate the action taken by the Central Government in its Ministry of Textiles in publishing the Order dated 1st July, 2004, obviously with the motive of rendering the present proceedings in the court infructuous. We, therefore, allow the appeal and set aside the Order passed by the learned single Judge. We also quash the Notification/Order issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Textiles on 1st July, 2004, as published in the Gazette of India on 1st July, 2004 and direct that *status quo* with regard to the use of jute packaging material, as was existing prior to the issuance of such Notification of 1st July, 2004, will continue until a fresh recommendation is made by the Standing Advisory Committee of the Central Government on the basis whereof a fresh notification can be issued. The Standing Advisory Committee shall fix a fresh date of hearing and give notice to the appellants herein and to such other persons as it may consider necessary, and, after considering the submission made on their behalf, proceed to make fresh recommendation to the Central Government keeping in mind the provisions of Section 4 (2) —it is very important—and in particular, clause 'd'—which I have already mentioned—thereof. And the Central Government shall, thereafter, proceed to act in accordance with the Section 3 of the Act".

Sir, this Notification of 1st July was based on what was decided on 16th of April. During its tenure, the NDA Government continuously tried to dilute the Jute Packaging Material Act. What did we see in the month of August, 2003? They tried to dilute the provisions of the Act. Why did they feel it necessary to issue Notification of 16th of April 2004 when there was no Lok Sabha? Lok Sabha was dissolved. First phase of election was to be held on 20th April, 2004.

So, why did the then NDA Government feel it necessary to issue this notification on the 16th of April, just before the elections? What was the necessity to issue this notification? Was it because of the election and also to get the financial benefit from the plastic lobby? Why was it necessary? I would like to ask the present Textile Minister as to why he has followed their footsteps. He could have undone the wrong committed by the previous Government because they were out to destroy the interest of the jute growers and the farmers because their policy was anti-farmers policy and anti-working class policy. That was why, a number of attempts were made to dilute the various provisions of this Act.

After the Calcutta High Court's judgment, the Standing Advisory Committee's meeting was called. I spoke to the Textile Minister on the 5th of August. I was told by the trade union leaders that on the 5th of August, they were asked to submit their proposal, if they have any, by the 6th of August. I contacted the Minister on the 5th of August and I told him as to how could they submit their proposal within one day. It was told to them that if they want to attend the meeting and present their views, they could come on the 9th, the date on which the meeting was fixed.

What was the decision of the meeting? The decision of the Standing Advisory Committee was not taken to protect the interest of neither the jute growers nor the jute worker. What was the recommendation of the Standing Advisory Committee? In the case of foodgrains, it is 100 per cent procurement for public procurement agencies and 80 per cent for others. It was 100 per cent in all respects for both public procurement agencies and others. Now, the Standing Advisory Committee has recommended that 100 per cent for public procurement agencies and 80 per cent for others. Is it not a dilution of the provisions of the Act?

Sir, in the case of levy sugar, it is 100 per cent for public procurement agencies and 75 per cent for others.

What we were demanding what the trade unions are demanding and what the jute growers are demanding is that it should be 100 per cent in case of foodgrains and 100 per cent in case of sugar also. But the Standing Advisory Committee's meeting, which was held on 9th of August, recommended to reduce it to 80 per cent in case of foodgrains and 75 per cent in case of sugar for others. Has the Ministry of Textiles calculated what will be the percentage in case of public distribution and public procurement and in case of delivery of levy sugar? Will the requirements of jute bags be further reduced?

Today, there are 62 jute mills. Out of 62 jute mills, 58 are in the State of West Bengal. Today, more than two lakh workers are in the jute mills. It is one of the vital economies of the State of West Bengal. This decision of the Standing Advisory Committee or Council will definitely affect the jute industry as well as the jute growers of West Bengal adversely. There was an assurance given by the past Prime Minister of India to West Bengal farmers who responded positively. Today, the farmers as well as the workers are facing crisis.

Why are we asking for use of jute packages? What are the advantages over the plastic packages? This is

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

not our personal view. An independent study, a comparative study of jute and polypropylene in respect of their relative cost and advantages, was made by IIT, Kharagpur in February 2000. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of that study or not. It has revealed some starling chinks in the so-called armour of the plastic industry and established several advantages of jute over plastic. The report stated that India has a natural advantage in its jute industry that not only supports the livelihood of millions of people, but also it is environment friendly. It is also cost worth. Jute is the best bet for bulk packaging in India. Unwanted war between jute and synthetic must be stopped. Environment friendly jute can be disposed of easily. Synthetic bags toxically poison the earth when destroyed, and it has been proved. Jute has a minimum lifetime of five years. It can be re-used a number of times. But in case of synthetic, its loading capacity and material handling properties are inferior to that of jute. Jute is entirely indigenously produced and is one of our foremost cash crops.

Synthetic bags made from imported polyester have number of additives as well.

Due to its superior life span and handling properties, it is cheaper than plastic. Plastic bags carry much less than jute bags in their lifetime. So, it is advantageous over synthetic bags but the Government of India and the Ministry of Textiles are gradually reducing jute bags and encouraging such synthetic bags. When the Act was enacted, the object stated was: "An Act to provide for compulsory use of jute packaging material in supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interest of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, of persons engaged in production thereof and matters connected therewith." This Act recognised the significance of jute industry in the national economy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, how much more time would you take?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have just started. This is a very important subject concerning millions and millions of people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not asked you to conclude now. I only wanted to know how much time you would take.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would take another fifteen minutes. Give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not asking you to stop the speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take only 15 minutes more because the Chief Whip of my party Shri Rupchand Pal would also speak. He is an expert on this subject.

The Act recognises that jute packaging is the foundation of the industry and hence the need for ensuring stable market for jute bags. The Act acknowledges the immediate need for reduction of plastic packaging. The Act also provides clear penalties for any default together with making it a cognisable criminal offence. In the light of the Act, the Government stipulated compulsory jute packaging for four essential commodities—foodgrains, sugar, urea and cement. I would like to know whether cement and sugar still continue in that list or they have been dispensed with.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKAR SINGH VAGHELA): They are still continued in the list.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am sorry, I wanted to know the position about urea and cement. I want to know what punishment has been given to those who have defaulted.

In West Bengal, there are five nationalised jute mills. The National Jute Manufacturing Corporation NJMC, has six mills. Five of them are in West Bengal and one in Bihar. When I met the hon. Minister of Textiles after he took charge, he assured that he would make sincere efforts to revive some of the mills of NJMC. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had written to him a letter on the 9th August. On the 8th August, the BIFR had ordered closure of all the mills of NJMC. Why did the BIFR take such a decision? We had several meetings with the Minister of Textiles. Shri Tarit Baran Topdar has, for the last several year, fought for the revival of NJMC. We have had several meetings but the Government of India has never responded positively. Though the unions have jointly submitted a revival package to the BIFR, the Government of India and the Ministry of Textiles have failed to provide financial assistance for the revival of this public sector jute manufacturing unit. But the Government of India, the Ministry of Textiles, failed to provide the financial assistance for the revile of these public sector jute manufacturing units. Today, NJMC has 13,000 workers and once upon a time, the NJMC had 22,000 workers. If all the mills are closed down, then what will happen to these 13,000 workers? I would like to know whether the Government of India has no responsibility for the workers who are there in NJMC, in their own public sector units. When the AIFR. At the time of reply, the hon. Minister of Textiles, Shri Shankar

Singh Vaghela, will tell us whether the Government is planning to approach the AIFR against the order of the BIFR.

I have earlier stated that the Jute Industry is not only for the worker but there are also more than two lakh workers are working in it. But because of the dilution of the Act what happen to about 40 lakh jute growers? JCI is there. This year the Government has announced the Minimum Support Price for West Bengal per quintal. I is Rs. 930/- to Rs. 1,000/- per quintal. But only a few days back I had been to the District of Murshidabad and I was told that JCI has not opened a single tender for the purchase of jute ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): They have already declared that they will not purchase.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If JCI will not come to the market, if the purchasing centers are not opened, then how the distress sale can be prevented. The Government of India has announced the Minimum Support Price. Certain percentage of jute is also being purchased by cooperative societies. So, unless the jute which is produced by the jute growers is purchased by JCI, jute growers will not get the Minimum Support Price.

There is another problem which is being faced by the jute industry and that is the recent BIS norm which has been announced. The amendment was made under duress despite objection from jute mills like IJIRA and other related agencies. All the specification under IS: 12650: 1997 should be continued because what we want is that the earlier norm should continue. It is because of the new norm, which has been prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standard, the jute industry will face difficulty in producing the jute bag, according to that specification.

19.55 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

So, the earlier system should continue. This is a question concerning millions and millions of people. The jute industry is vitally connected with the economy of the eastern India. We demand that there should not be any dilution of the Jute Packaging Material Act. The SAC has recommended to reduce the use of jute bags in case of foodgrains and sugar. That should not be implemented. The position that jute bags should be used 100 per cent for sugar and 100 per cent for foodgrains should be restored. There should not be further dilution of the Act in order to protect the jute industry and the four million jute growers of West Bengal.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity. The jute sector has been playing a very important role in the Indian economy. In Andhra Pradesh jute farmers are there in my constituency in Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. Four million farmers are dependent on this jute farming and 2.5 lakh people are working in this industry. Every year the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their investment. The Government of India has been announcing minimum support price every year for this jute and mesta crop also. For the last 15 years, from 1989 to 2002, the Government of India has been increasing at the rate of Rs. 25, Rs. 30 and Rs. 35 in the minimum support price in all varieties of the jute and mesta. From 2003-04 onwards, the Government of India has been announcing minimum support price exclusively for TD-5 and some varieties only. In Andhra Pradesh, particularly in my area, the farmers are growing D-bottom and X-bottom varieties for jute and mesta. For the past 15 years they have been enjoying the increase in minimum support price. Since 2003-2004 they are not getting the minimum support price and that is why they are not getting back the investment and the farmers are suffering a lot.

My request to the Government through you is that the minimum support price should be increased to all the varieties like in the past. With this the farmers will get the remunerative price. Every year the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of India have been collecting cess from out of this industry—for every hundred rupees, one rupee as market cess, far rupees as sales tax, four rupees on bags and four rupees on CST and goods tax. The State Government and the Government of India have been collecting different taxes and are getting revenue even though they are not giving the minimum support price for all the verities. This is a great injustice to the farming community. Now the farmers are suffering a lot.

The second aspect is that for the jute farmers to survive in this industry and to get remunerative price, the Government of India should give more thrust for the diversification activities. There is a lot of demand for jute products in various countries outside India. That is why the Government of India should concentrate on this diversification for jute products. Then the market will grow and the farmers will get remunerative prices.

20.00 hrs.

The second thing is that for the protection of jute farmers and for the survival of the jute industry, the

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

Government of India should implement the Jute Packaging (Compulsory Use in Commodities) Act of 1987 indiscriminately. So, there should be no exemption. This is an eco-friendly industry. So, everybody is supporting this Act. Plastic is a non-biodegradable substance. It will also affect environmentally. That is why, to protect the industry and the farming community, this Act should be implemented *in toto* so that they have to use jute bags for packing of foodgrains, sugar and other commodities. Otherwise, the industry will suffer, the farmer will suffer.

Sir, my request, through you—the Minister knows the ground reality and he is a pro-farmer Minister—is that irrespective of varieties, for all varieties throughout the country, the minimum support price should be implemented like it used to happen in the past. He may go through the record. previously, they were giving minimum support price for all varieties. In Andhra Pradesh, our farmers are not growing such varieties. So, we should not penalise those farmers. In view of this, my humble request to this Government is that they should give the minimum support and protect the jute farmer and the jute industry.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, jute is regarded as a golden fibre and today, a new consciousness has developed all over the world which indicates that the future will contribute a lot to jute industry provided we take appropriate measures without any delay. I do not want to waste my time on blabbering because we have to realise the present plight of this sector in view of globalisation and in view of WTO regime because within a few months or more, the multi-regime will also be introduced.

Sir, everybody knows that jute is an eco-friendly natural fibre. West Bengal is hailed as having the traditional jute industry, which was thriving in the pre-Independence era. After the partition, all the jute mills were left to the Indian side while the areas growing raw jute were left to East Pakistan. Therefore, local cultivators were encouraged to produce or grow jute so as to cater to the jute mills which were located in West Bengal. But the golden era of the golden fibre, that is called jute, has been lost since the advent of synthetic fibre. In the year 1987, the Government of India had intervened by enacting a law in which jute packaging was made compulsory, in order to supply oxygen to this sector. However, it was a temporary measure. At that point of time, the Government had genuinely recognised the need of the jute growers and the jute mills, which provided livelihood to 2.5 million workers and 4 million jute growers. In addition to that, as many as 2 million livelihoods in the secondary and tertiary sectors are provided by jute itself. Therefore, we all should recognise it as the most vital sector.

This sector also contributes to the exchequer of the State Government and the Central Government. But is paradoxical to note that since the promulgation of the Act, the area of jute cultivation has been shrinking in Bengal, even as the demand for gunny bag was increasing. Naturally, to maintain the adequate supply of gunny bags, the Government was often compelled to issue permits for importing jute bags. The advantage of the present market economy consequently helped the producers and the industries in the foreign countries also.

We need to take a holistic approach to this sector because the history of the developed countries reveal that it is the textile industry, which has laid the basic foundation for any developed economy. Jute also belongs to the textile industry. A number of countries of Western Europe, America and countries like South Korea, China, etc. are thriving on the textile industry, and jute is also a part of that industry.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): It is therefore receiving step-motherly treatment.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Shri Topdar, you are hailing from a constituency, which has a large concentration of jute mills. But you cannot deny the fact that the Government of West Bengal has failed to take any pre-emptive action in view of the flourishing synthetic industry.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Can you suggest some measures to solve this problem?

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Shri Chowdhary, you have been misinformed with regard to this issue.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: In connivance with the bureaucrats in West Bengal, and in collusion with the political apparatchik of West Bengal, fly-by-night operators have been thriving in this sector in Bengal. You can deny it. For example, do you know that those fly-by-night operators are roaming scot-free after reneging provident fund, gratuity and other employment facilities to the workers? How is it possible? If your Government is sincere enough and vigilant enough, how those fly-by-night operators are roaming scot-free? That is why I was stating that you should forget or abandon the habit of passing

the buck to the Central Government for rehabilitation or anything else. You should have explored ways to ensure survival of this sector.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Speak about the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act which will enable the industry to survive. What is your opinion? Is it to be withdrawn?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: No, but it cannot go for long, or for centuries because the situation has been changing drastically. You cannot assume yourself that you are living in an isolated island. In view of the globalised market and in view of the present scenario, you cannot permanently rely upon the Central Government for all kinds of succour and for rehabilitation. I say this because being a State Government you should discharge your responsibility to this sector.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The State Government cannot issue such orders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there be no interruptions please.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I am advocating only for those jute growers because in the competitive environment you cannot sustain this sector without adopting any innovative measures. You have to shore up this industry by adopting innovative measures in which you have failed miserably in the State of West Bengal..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, please address the Chair.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: There is a plethora of schemes to revamp and develop this sector such as- Capital Subsidy Scheme, Technology Upgradation Fund, Infrastructure Development Scheme like Jute Service Centres, Raw Material Banks, Design Development Schemes, Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme, and for expansion of markets abroad jute Manufacturers Development Council. In spite of all those measures why have we not been able to develop jute industry? This is to be clarified by the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time do you need Shri Chowdhary?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I will take a few more minutes.

Sir, the problems which have been identified by experts and which have so far stultified this sector are as follows:

1. High labour cost;
2. Instability in the production of raw jute;
3. Demand Erosion;
4. Obsolescence of machinery; and
5. Competition from synthetic sector

These are identified to be the problem areas. The remedies prescribed are: increase in productivity, upgradation of quality of raw jute and stimulation of additional demand for jute goods both in domestic and international markets. Therefore, holistic measures need to be taken in order to keep this sector alive.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Such as?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Your Government discouraged the Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission because you were always average to modernisation programme. That is why we are suffering till now..... *(Interruptions)* You cannot shirk the responsibility. You have not set up any institute to study how to promote consumption of jute goods, beyond the compulsory jute packaging.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Do not follow BJP, follow Rajiv Gandhi.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: You follow Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, where there is no jute production, more than 300 units are being run. Raw jute goes therefrom West Bengal or other jute producing States, ... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and say that jute mill owners in the State of West Bengal can be divided into two categories. One of the categories comprises IJMA. Here, workers are being paid by the owners to the tune of Rs.120 to Rs. 180 per day. On the other hand are the mills which were bought by the local traders. In the pre-Independence era, most of the mill owners were foreigners. When they left the country, those mills were bought by the local entrepreneurs. Sometimes, expatriates also left the mills to the local entrepreneurs whose only motive was to make profit without making any innovation, without introducing any technological upgradation. That is why the entire jute industry in West Bengal has been suffering from a lack of technological upgradation and modernisation. The entire machinery is obsolete and no innovation has so far been made. That is why jute sector in West Bengal has not been able to compete in the present scenario. That is

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

why I am proposing that investment of fresh funds should be encouraged to upgrade these jute industries.

Private investors need to be encouraged so that in the present situation those mill owner would be able to plough back their income in this sector. Therefore, the Central Government in consultation with the State Government should encourage and make provision for the fresh investment so that this sector could be revived, specially for those Jute growers who are really suffering and whose condition are deteriorating from bad to worse, could be survived.

I beg to differ with Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who has jute told that the jute procurement has not been started in Mushirabad district. I think, he has not been informed properly. Jute procurement has already been started in Mushirabad district and the rate is around Rs. 900 per quintal because there is some gradation. The JCI is the nodal agency for MSP operation and the Jute Commissioner is the highest authority. It entirely depends upon the Jute Commissioner to determine the differential prices of jute.

In the last year, the quota of TD-5 was fixed at 35 per cent but this year this quota has been increased to 39 per cent. I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to this issue. In the last year, the quota of TD-3 and TD-4 has been five per cent and it has been increased to 22.32 per cent this year. As regards TD-6 last year the procurement was fixed 40 per cent, this year it has been reduced to 20 per cent. As regards TD-5, last year the procurement was 20 per cent, this year it has been reduced to 18 per cent. Here lies the rub. The quality jute under the grade of TD-3, 4 and TD-5 are not abundant in the jute producing districts. Here, the percentage of procurement quota has been raised while the percentage of available grade has been slashed. This problem must be addressed. Otherwise, those jute growers would be adversely affected.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir. Eastern India, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Andhra, Orissa and Tripura account for 90 percent of jute-production. About two lakh workers are engaged in the jute industry and its ancillary industries and if we take the jute growing farmers and traders associated with this trade together, about one crore people are associated with the jute-industry directly and indirectly and at present these people are facing a severe crisis. In West Bengal, jute mills are not operational because jute is not being procured and this situations has arisen there because of the policies of the Union Government. Hon. Basu Deb Acharia has initiated discussion on this issue to overcome the said situation. Sometimes, I am at a loss to understand that on the one hand this Government is dependent on the support of the left parties and at the same time, they are not at all afraid of these parties. It compels me to think that how long our leftist friends would continue to give their support to this Government which does not have any respect for their feelings. As this issue relates to the public interest, they are not talking about their own personal gains. The entire country realizes that crisis lies before the workers in West Bengal and Industrialists are finding it difficult to run their industries smoothly and in this hour of crisis when this burning issue is being raised in the House, not a single Congress leader is present here. Only the Hon. Minister is present here out of compulsion. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised this issue in the House and it is also his moral responsibility to run the Government. The Congress has taken this issue very lightly and that's why not a single Congress Member is present in the House. What I want to say is that jute is environmental friendly and also a lot of employment avenues can be generated in the country by promoting this industry.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a saying of Kabir Saab that sab ghar dekha, ek hi lekha. I do not want to say anything from the Chair about the state of affairs of various parties.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the fact that jute is environmental friendly and the Government is implementing many a welfare programme to protect the environment.

At the same time the UPA Government in its common minimum programme have said that they would create employment opportunities. When you talk of creation of employment opportunities then you should think seriously before going for snatching the jobs of lacs and crores of people engaged in a particular sector. You should think over the provisions of such Packaging Act which is leading to such circumstances. Such a move should be studied carefully and after that at least certain number of items like foodgrains should be packaged in jute made bags. It is so far already mandatory with regard to sugar but for several items plastic bags are being used. Several chemical reactions take place due to moisture which are not good for foodgrains and we have jute as its alternative. Jute has multipurpose usage. This industry needs to be revived by encouraging multi dimensionals

to use jute in an environment friendly manner. The farmer should be encouraged in order to promote this industry. This industry was the best foreign exchange earning industry during 1960 to 1970 when India used to export jute to Russia and America, but today, the circumstances have changed. In post 1980 decade, exports of jute discontinued with the result our foreign exchange earnings declined. The situation further deteriorated when the Central Government imposed a cess on it. Now you see, the reason for imposing this cess is told that the new industries will be supported for modernisation purpose with the funds generated through this cess. This cess is being collected for this purpose. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has been collected through this tax and how many industries have been supported to be set up with the help of this tax. We see no such industry, only this tax is being collected. This amount will keep on accumulating if it is not re-appropriate after collection. Due to this factor, this industry is facing crisis at present. The hon. Minister must be aware of the data relating to this amount. He may enlighten us about this. In my opinion, this tax should be done away with. The jute industry is facing crisis due to this tax and if it is withdrawn it will certainly benefit the jute industry.

The jute industry needs technology upgradation. We can see no improvement till we stick to the traditional method of working. In order to bridge this gap, we should provide them soft loans so that they can perform well in the direction of technology advancement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are approximately 71 jute mills. In addition to these, there are small scale jute mills also for making petty things like jute string etc. Of these, 59 mills are in West Bengal and seven in Andhra Pradesh. As there is Left Front Government in West Bengal, they facilitated a production linked wage agreement between jute mill owners and the labourers. An MOU was signed among the West Bengal Government, the labourers and the industrialists. The Local Government has reached a settlement through the said MOU for paying predicting linked wages. As far as I know, the West Bengal Government has not taken any steps in the direction of implementing the said MOU. It is the responsibility of the State Government to revive and develop the industry. The State Government can help in this. The State Government should also take active steps in this regard. If the local Government implements the said MOU, it will certainly benefit the labourers and the industrialists. The local industry can be revived through it. The necessary steps should be taken to revive these industrial units.

As this industry is a 100 year old industry, it gave India an identity. The Government should think in this direction to maintain this identity. The facility of using plastic bags especially for foodgrains which is being provided these days should be withdrawn which will benefit the country in a big way.

Recently a technology for using jute in engineering sector has also been developed. Big works can be done by studying the new technology. We have institutes like ITI which can conduct such study. The Government have conducted a study. Hon. Basudeb ji has referred to a study in which these suggestions have been received. Crores of rupees would have been spent on the said study. If we do not implement the suggestions made in the study, it is not going to help solve the problem. Debate will take place in the House and we shall also get replies thereof. This may also appear in newspapers but we have to work in coordination to take result oriented steps. Some subjects hold place above politics. We have to think seriously in this direction also. This contemporary subject has come up to fulfil that need. Once the subject has come up, we should certainly ponder over that with all seriousness and take steps. I urge as to whatever good works can be done in this direction, should be done.

It is also noteworthy that Naxalism takes less roots in areas where jute cultivation is taken up which is a cash crop of the farmers. It is a matter of study that Naxalism has grown at slower pace in areas where jute cultivation is undertaken. Therefore, cultivation of such crops and vocations should be encouraged. If we make earnest efforts in this direction, the farmers of this areas will regularly get job opportunities. Job opportunities have to be created for the farmers. The Government also lays stress on cultivation of cash crops. Means of conventional farming need to be changed. Huge funds are provided in the budget to encourage the farmers to go in for cash crops like pulses and oilseeds by deviating from conventional farming. There are provisions for providing subsidies and grants to the farmers undertaking cultivation of cash crops under various schemes. If the Government wishes to encourage the farmers then several such avenues are available in specific areas. If production

[Shri Pradeep Gandhi]

increases, it will help facilitate setting up of industries at Alwar and other places of Rajasthan and at other states also. If the raw material for industries is easily available then certainly the industries of other areas will also be benefited. The price of jute bag is more than that of plastic bag but the mute point is as to who is to determine the price? The minimum wages are determined by the Government. In Bengal, a labour is paid Rs. 205/- after putting in 8 hours labour. If the Government determines the wages, power tariff and all other things then it is not fair and justified to discourage the use of certain item on the plea that its prices are more. It will be highly beneficial if we stop determining the prices of other items also. Shri Basu Deb Acharia also mentioned that as per BIFR instructions. several factories are to be closed down in Bengal leading to a serious crisis before the workers. Their families are in distress and are struggling to eke out a living. I would therefore seek to formulate a policy for making such units viable. In fact, this causes the crisis because the units can not be made operationalise till the liabilities of previous owners of the mills are not paid. If we intend to resolve the immediate problems of the workers then we will have to think over it seriously and draw-up a well-thought-out policy whereby any industrialist or workers association may be allowed to run the factory setting aside the considerations so as to mitigate their immediate hardships. If we continue to go by the convention that the mill can be handed over and allowed to be run by the proposed owner only after he pays all the liabilities relating to outstanding provident funds dues, power bill, sales tax dues etc. of the outgoing owner then hardly any person is likely to come forward to run the factory. Nobody can have the courage to run an industry after paying up other's liability. One comes forward to run the factory only when one is sure of the benefits likely to accrue. The Government should formulate such policies in the larger public interest. The places where this has been undertaken in larger social interests, all the state owned units are running in losses and each year P.Us. of the ministry ask for budgetary support. How long shall we keep supporting such public undertakings? Therefore, what is required is, if a person comes forward to run such units, he should be given a chance. We need to formulate a policy on it. The Government may or may not waive off the dues or it may fix a time-frame of 5-10 years period within which he is to pay the dues in installments. They should run the units as well as provide job opportunities to the workers. The money they generate on their own will have to be paid as liabilities and a commitment to that effect should be taken from them. If we take such a commitment from them, such units will certainly become viable. If some adhoc arrangements are made and some funds are given by the Government then such units will run for some period but after some time they will face closure. Therefore this issue should be considered thoroughly and some sustainable solution should be explored.

I do believe that hon. Minister is quite serious about it. You should accept the suggestion of the allies of the Left Front otherwise it will lead to acrimony and crisis. Therefore, don't invite the trouble. We would rather wish that it comes sooner than later.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The crisis will not come.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: The Congress and the Left Front strike the same note which would make one believe that both have some sort of mutual understanding behind the scene and that will not lead to any solutions.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You please speak on the package.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: I have stated. But no solution of this problem is in sight. This joint note is not condusive to finding a solution to the problem. A positive approach needs to be adopted to solve the issue for the betterment of farmers and workers. Industries have been the backbone of the nation, therefore, some meaningful steps needs to be taken to strengthen them.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am on the point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The quorum bell is being rung.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. on the 19th of August, 2004.

20.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 19, 2004/Sravana 28, 1926 (Saka).

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