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Wednesday, August 3, 2005
Sravana 12, 1927 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 3, 2005/Sravana 12, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 141.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (South-Central Mumbai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, entire Maharashtra is submerged in water. *...(Interruptions)* The country gets seventy thousand crores of rupees from Mumbai but it has been given only 500 crores of rupees. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. I have committed myself to give you time at 12 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to get reply from the Government in this regard *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. I will give you an opportunity at 12 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, we are all concerned about it. I have myself said that it is a great human tragedy. You can ask Shri Malhotra what I had said.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise it now. You cannot dictate me. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed to your Party Member. I have committed to Shri Suresh Prabhu that I will allow you to raise this matter in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you. If you disturb the House in this manner, I will not allow you even at 12 o'clock. You can do whatever you like.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is worst situation in Mumbai. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are all concerned; the nation is concerned; I am concerned; and I am sure the Government is also concerned. You are trying to be too much concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, honourable Prime Minister is sitting here. We want reply from him *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit even him to speak now. He may speak at 12 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the Prime Minister not to respond now.

...(Interruptions)

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. Why are you speaking?

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I would have done it had you cooperated with me. I would have made an appeal to the Prime Minister. You are deliberately interrupting the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will issue notice if you do not cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House and go away. Your matter will not be taken up then and I will say that because of Shri Mohan Rawale the House is adjourned today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Had you cooperated, I would have requested the hon. Prime Minister to intervene.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a mockery of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What did you gain by wasting six minutes.

[English]

Question Hour is also very important. I have committed myself. I have told this to the hon. leaders also. I will permit it to be raised as the first item during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, I will name you immediately.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 141. If anybody, other than Shrimati Satheedevi, opens his mouth, I will take action against him.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pilferage of Coal

+
*141. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a large scale pilferage of coal in the Public Sector Coal Companies due to the mafia operations and other illegal activities;

(b) if so, the estimated loss incurred by these companies during the last three years, company-wise and mine-wise;

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

(d) if so, the details of the findings;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any comprehensive scheme/plan has been formulated by the Government to check these illegal activities;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government is aware of the pilferage of coal but it is not possible to exactly specify the loss on this count due to the nature of illegal operations. However, raids are conducted by security personnel of the coal

companies themselves as well as with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments. FIRs are lodged with the police and action is initiated by the local law and order authorities. The details of FIRs lodged, quantities recovered and its approximate value during last three years in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited are as under:

Company	FIRs lodged	Arrests Made	Qty. recovered (te)	App. Value (Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
		2002-2003		
ECL	804	174	14,140,00	113.00
BCCL	47	67	71.69	0.98
CCL	13	15	704.50	7.00
NCL	0	0	0	0
WCL	20	17	277.21	2.23
SECL	7	13	65.48	0.55
MCL	4	1	34.60	0.16
NEC	40	3	49.70	0.53
Total	935	290	15,343.18	124.45
		2003-2004		
ECL	698	190	11,912.00	95.46
BCCL	155	53	5223.23	54.86
CCL	11	16	1,200.00	12.06
NCL	1	1	9.00	0.07
WCL	18	17	169.39	1.66
SECL	17	24	139.50	1.54
MCL	3	4	31.00	0.15
NEC	0	0	0	0
Total	903	305	18,684.12	165.80

1	2	3	4	5
		2004-2005		
ECL	408	381	11,048.12	88.39
BCCL	374	108	2770.64	38.32
CCL	29	21	2263.00	22.98
NCL	0	0	0	0
WCL	5	12	20.80	0.21
SECL	51	37	730.71	7.55
MCL	22	25	196.72	1.23
NEC	39	0	137.57	1.70
Total	928	584	17,167.56	160.38

(c) to (h) The Government and the coal companies are seized of the problems and have taken the following steps to deal with them:

1. Specific complaints regarding pilferage of coal are got investigated by the Vigilance Wings of CIL and its subsidiaries. The systems improvement measures suggested by the Vigilance are implemented. Where outside parties are allegedly involved, the CBI is also asked to investigate the allegations.

2. State Governments of the coal bearing states have been requested to take steps to prevent illegal mining in their areas.

3. Law and order is a State subject, hence the coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

4. The following steps are being taken by subsidiary companies of CIL to prevent theft/pilferage of coal:

   (i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

   (ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

   (iii) Construction of watch-towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area.

   (iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.

   (v) Escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Force (RPF) in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

   (vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

   (vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

   (viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

   (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

5. The matter is brought to the notice of highest authorities in the Stage Government concerned from time to time.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, the Minister in his reply has stated that there is pilferage of coal in the coal mines but it is not possible to exactly specify the loss on this account due to the nature of illegal operations. It is reported in several newspapers that coal worth an estimated amount of Rs. 1000 crore is stolen every year. The practice of storing coal in open space and the lack of adequate security at the pithead point where coal is loaded in the rail wagon facilitate pilferage of coal in large quantities.

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry is contemplating to investigate the entire illegal dealings in the coal mines through a CBI inquiry.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, the amount of pilferage and theft cannot be valued because the pilferage takes place at the time of loading, transportation and at the time of transportation from Railway Station to the consumer points. Actually this pilferage has been identified from three areas. Out of these three areas, one area is loading at pithead, the second area is transportation from pithead to Railway wagon, and the third area is from Railway wagon to consumer points. Some instances of theft have been reported by media from Railway wagon to consumer points at places like Pandaveshwar, Sindhuvi, Sonabat, Andal, between Andal and Gaya as also between Gaya and Mughalsarai sections. Actually once the loading in the wagon is completed, it is not the responsibility of the Coal India. It will not come under the purview of the Coal India. But the second area, namely, pithead to Railway wagon, it is under the control of the Coal India. We have taken measures to curb thefts in this area. The armed security people are deputed for certain thefts.

As the hon. Member has put it, the major problem is at the time of loading from pithead. This is the major issue and really I am mot happy with the instances which have happened previously. Now we have studied it and have found that there are *mafias* with money and muscle power. They collude with some of the workers internally. There is a system of pick and choose. As you know very well, there are grades from 'a' to 'g'. If a consumer has to be given 'f' grade coal, he colludes with the workers and takes away 'b' or 'c' grade coal. This is how they pick and choose.

We have studied the situation and now we have to eradicate this problem. For this, we arranged a meeting with the technocrats and what we have done now is that we have evolved a system of having crushed coal. Earlier, it was in bundles of 60 kgs. and 100 kgs. and thus it was possible to pick and choose. But in this system of crushed coal, it would be cut into small pieces and separate grades of coal will be put in separately so that the possibility of the consumers colluding with the workers and other groups to take away coal, I do not say that it would be eliminated totally, would be reduced to a large extent.

Sir, I may inform the House that we are now supplying 100 per cent crushed coal to MCL; we are supplying 96 per cent crushed coal to CCL, and we are supplying 100 per cent crushed coal to WCL. We are sure that by the end of this year we will be able to supply 100 per cent crushed coal so that pilferage of coal could be completely stopped.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question about the CBI enquiry. I had specifically asked whether the Ministry of Coal is intending to have a CBI enquiry instituted to look into this entire illegal dealing of coal. The total value of stolen coal runs into thousands of crores. Coal from the mines is taken away in trucks and even in bicycles. What is the role of the contracting agencies? I would like to know whether any responsibility has been fixed on any individual or on any authority of the top management or not. I would like to have a definite answer regarding the percentage and value of loss that has taken place because of this illegal activity of coal pilferage. I would also like to know whether this has directly affected the performance of Coal India in economic terms or not.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, regarding the pilferage of coal by *mafia* groups in SCCL, a large number of complaints were received in early 2004. We had referred this matter to the CVC. He had found certain irregularities in the dealings. We had then referred this case to the CBI. The CBI, after verification, said that the information supplied by the CVC was inadequate and they gave a clean chit, not only to the company concerned but also to the people involved.

We again referred the second allegation to the CBI and asked them to enquire into the case. It is being investigated by the CBI. I am sure the CBI will come out with some findings. As soon as we receive the report

from the CBI, I would definitely let the House know about it.

DR. K. DHANARAJU: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for having given a very elaborate answer about how the Government proposes to save the hard earned wealth of our country.

Sir, I have three parts to my question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to why the Coal Ministry is not thinking in terms of switching over to rail transportation of coal from road transportation. Thanks to the Railway Ministry, they have reduced the rate of freight for 700 kilometres. The rate per quintal of carriage by rail is Rs. 57.57 as compared to Rs. 100 in case of road transport. The rate for carrying by road is almost double. So, wherever possible if we could transport coal by rail, then the extent of pilferage of coal could be greatly reduced.

The second part of my question is about artificial scarcity of coal. The coal traders are creating an artificial scarcity in order that they could engage in this illegal activity of coal pilferage.

Sir, the last part of my question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry I cannot allow any more.

Mr. Minister, I have allowed only the first two parts of his questions.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, through his supplementaries, the hon. Member wants to know the reason as to why we cannot shift the entire thing to rail transport from road transport. Today, almost 45 per cent of the revenue of the Railways is from coal. There are a lot of constraints in getting railway freight. There are small consumers going by road and there are places where railway freight is not available and railway unloading facility is not available. So, they have to prefer only road transport and that too for a short distance. So, major coal transport is being done by railways. Out of Rs. 27,646 crore of revenue of the Railways, Rs. 12,778 crore income is from coal. That means major part of coal is being carried by Railways. If the consumer wants it to be carried by road, then he can have some arrangements, he can have his own people to reach the destination or he can insure it. But it costs more.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as mentioned in the written reply of the honourable Minister. There is a difference between the number of first information report lodged and the number of arrests made. There were 935 first information reports registered in 2002-03 and 290 arrests were made. This number is 903 and 305 respectively in the year of 2003-04. Similarly, the number is 928 and 584 respectively in 2004-05. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the reason for variation between the number of cases registered and that of arrests made is the failure to arrest some of persons booked in the FIR. At least one person should have been arrested in each case but it did not happen. My question is whether arrests on local level have been deliberately made in less number? If so, would the Government reconsider it and reinvestigate it and would take action against them?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, simultaneously permit were also given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In this way it will be discussion and not the supplementary question.

[English]

You are a very articulate member.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I again submit that there is difference between the number of first information reports registered and the number arrests made regarding pilferage of coal. I would like to know as to why there is this difference. Whether some persons were acquitted after they were booked in the first information report or no action was taken against them. Would the Government like to reinvestigate it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the number of persons arrested, acquitted and cases not proceeded with.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: The numbers are given here. If the hon. Member is very keen to have them, I will send a statement to him.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: There is a difference between registration of cases and arrests. What is the reason for low arrests and high registration of cases?

[Translation]

Are some persons acquitted without any justification and if so, would then matter be looked into again?

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: If the hon. Member wants the figures, I can given a statement in full. But regarding the cases in which FIRs have been registered, there is no need for everybody concerned to be arrested. When the FIR is registered, the courts will take action and when it is proved, they are arrested. I do not think that whoever is registered can be arrested. Sir, if he wants the details year-wise, colliery-wise, I can send them to him.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mafias are working at large scale in it. Therefore, I am saying that the matter should be reinvestigated afresh. No reply has been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can the cases which have been decided can be tried again? How can it be? That would be double trial. I am agreeing with you that this shameful thing is happening in India. I do not know how many culprits are really apprehended and sent to jail.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, unless we identify the quantity of coal that is being pilfered, it is very difficult to make anybody accountable. It is not a difficult task to identify the quantity of coal that is being stolen. It is because measurements will be there. If you take year-on-year calculations, we can measure the coal fields and then see what is excavated. Then, we can account the total amount of coal fields that are excavated and accordingly we can make the people responsible who are working there.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: So, I am surprised that we are not able to make them accountable nor are we able to estimate the pilferage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is taking in this direction, at least from now onwards, from this year itself, to see how much coal has been pilfered or stolen.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given full details.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: No, it accounts only for Rs. 4.5 crore. It is nothing when compared to Rs. 1,000 crore and when the amount spent is much more than Rs. 4.5 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: You seem to have more information than the hon. Minister himself. Give it to him. It is not a place for giving information. It is a place for seeking information.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is aware of the e-auction sale of coal of Mahanadi Coalfields. If so, what has the Government done for the open sale scheme for the local coal marketeers?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, to bring more transparency and to avoid the *mafia* selling the coal in the open market, we introduced e-option in almost all the subsidiary companies. In Mahanadi Coalfields we introduced e-option on trial basis. We observed that consumers were unable to get the linkage and they were buying coal from outside market at higher prices. So, to avoid this, we introduced e-option on trial basis. Only 10 million tonnes were given. By the end of this year, we would know whether it yields good results. Then, we will go ahead with this.

Regarding open sale, actually we are supplying more than 80 per cent of the coal to the power sector. Now, we have made it easy for the small consumers. We made five million tonnes of coal available through State Government recommendations and they will get it without the e-option in the open market.

[Translation]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, corruption is rampant in Coal India Limited and in its subsidiary companies. Coal worth crores of rupees is being pilferred with the nexus between coal mafias and the CCL officers and local officers. Once a CMD of CIL was suspended on the changes of corruption. Surprise

inspection by Honourable Minister of Railways has revealed that the quantity of coal loaded in wagons was in far excess than shown on papers and it has been proved too but no action has been taken by the Ministry of Coal against any officer till date. They are only suspended and later on they are reinstated. There is the largest open cast mine of Asia in my constituency in Chatra, Piparpar. I have myself seen illegally mined coal being loaded in around more than two hundred trucks and transported with the nexus between Coal India Limited officers and coal mafias.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask question please.

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: This is the position in Piparwar. The construction of railway siding was started there ten years back and this work has not been completed as yet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since road contractor himself belongs to a mafia gang there, he does not want that construction of rail siding be accomplished there. Thus, he does not want that coal be transported by trains. Now he himself has admitted in his reply that pilferred coal worth Rs. 22 lakh was recovered in the year 2003-04. I would like to state that theft of such an amount of coal takes place daily. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask question please.

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether CBI enquiry will be conducted against officers of Piparawar colliery? I have written earlier also so many times that CBI inquiry may be conducted into the coal theft in Piparwar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has faith in CBI.

[Translation]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been informed as yet whether CBI enquiry is being conducted or not. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether CBI inquiry into the Coal pilferred in Piparwar colliery will be conducted or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a specific area—his constituency—where it is going in large state.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, actually, there are so many complaints and they need authenticity. Unless there is authenticity, we cannot refer any matter either to CVC or CBI.

Now, that the hon. Member has brought this to our notice, I would like to inform that this has already been referred to CBI. There are major charges against the CMD. Now, Sir, the cases are under consideration against the person which the hon. Member has pointed out. It was given to the CBI which is looking into the cases.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is an important question and I would like to ask a question regarding a very serious issue. I may kindly be granted permission to ask question? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have taken 27 minutes for one question. Please take your seat. I do not know why do we print 20 questions.

[Translation]

Education in Ayurveda and Admission to Medical Colleges

*142. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is no regulation for education and practice of pharmacy in Ayurveda and other indigenous systems of medicine as reported in 'The Hindu' dated June 24, 2005;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is aware of availability of spurious drugs in the market in the name of known ayurvedic and indigenous systems of medicine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued any instructions to the Government to enact proper law governing entry to medical colleges and the fee-structures therein; and

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

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, there is no regulatory body for education and practice of pharmacy in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. A Central Pharmacy Council for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Bill, 2005, is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament during the current session.

(c) and (d) Sections 27 & 33 (I) & (J) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, provide for punishment for adulterated and spurious Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs respectively. Good Manufacturing Practices for Ayurveda, Sidha and Unani drugs have been notified u/s 33 (N) of the Act for compliance by the manufacturing units. Enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, with reference to Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs is the responsibility of the State Governments, State Drug Controllers and State Licensing Authorities appointed by them. Under Sections 33 (C) & 33 (D) respectively of the above Act, the Central Government has constituted they Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board and Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani Drugs Consultative Committee for the purpose of securing uniformity in respect of standards and quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs throughout India.

(e) and (f) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education has clarified that the State Government may prescribe the percentage of seats in private professional colleges which can be filled by the management. The remaining seats are to be filled up as per merit through the common entrance test conducted by the State agency. The seats filled by the management are also to be filled up as per merit through a common entrance test to be conducted by the association of all colleges in the concerned State or in the absence of such association, by the common entrance test conducted by the State Government. In the said judgement, it has further been clarified that each institution shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure. Pending a Central Legislation to regulate the private Medical Colleges, each State Government is required to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge to decide whether the fee proposed by the Institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of capitation fee. The said committee may approve the fee structure proposed by the Institute or may propose some other fee which shall be binding on the Institute for a period of three years. The Government is in the process of framing a comprehensive legislation in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Hon. Minister that according to a decision of the Supreme Court the seats in the medical colleges are filled as per merit through the common entrance test. However, because of authorising the institutions to fix their fees themselves, the students belonging to the poor and middle classes are unable to get admission as fees in the colleges are high. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is contemplating to fix a uniform fee structure for the students seeking admission in various colleges and Universities of all the states and whether he intends to again file appeal against that decision of the Supreme Court?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, hon. Supreme Court on 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education said that the issue of fee structure and the quota structure of the management in the State Government will be left to the respective States. The State Government has to form a committee—one for fee structure, and the other, for a quota structure. They deliberated on issues like how much fee for the management quota and how much fee for the State quota,

how an entrance exam will be conducted, whether all the group of professional colleges will join together, form a common entrance or whether the State Government will conduct an entrance. All these were deliberated and they left it to the States to have this discretionary power till a Central Government notification was issued. So, on this issue, the Central Government—both the HRD Ministry and the Health Ministry—is going to have an enactment, make a law for this. By next year—by next academic year—there will be a law to regulate the fee structure as well as the quota structure.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has answered you.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that he has stated in his reply that some delay is taking place in bringing in a Central legislation for fixing the fee structure for the Private Medical colleges. I would like to request him to make immediate efforts to enact a legislation in this regard and ask simultaneously whether 15 per cent students are taken through NRI (Non Resident Indians) quota in such institutions which have full right to fix the fees for the deemed university in our country? Whether it is true that instead of 15 percent, the government are contemplating to give admission to 30 percent of such students. Who is the controlling authority in this case?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We are going to expedite this process. As I said earlier, by next year, there will be a law for regulating admissions. We are now going through the phase of consultation with the respective States and the stakeholders.

Regarding the Deemed Universities, the HRD Ministry is taking up this issue. This issue probably comes under the HRD Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the fee-structure in the Private Institutions working in the field of Medical Education, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that they have been given the full autonomy. Because of its adverse impact the students getting admission there have to shell out more than Rs. 40 Lakhs as fees in an illegal manner. The Hon. Minister has told that there is a need to make a Central legislation. What is the reason for not making the Central legislation till date? The names of the states which have so far constituted such committee out of the states to which he has directed to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of a retired justice of High Court to examine the fee structure and whether any report has so far been received by the Government in this regard? I would also like to know from him the fee structure prescribed in case such a report has been received?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Supreme Court has given the issue of fee structure to the States to take a decision. Most of the States have formed a Committee under a retired Judge to go into the fee structure. The fee structure will be in the range of Rs. 1 lakh to about Rs. 3-5 lakh. The hon. Member says that Rs. 40 lakh is the capitation fee which is illegal. Nobody is allowed to take any capitation fee. That is why, the Government is fixing a fee structure so that all the students will be benefited. Most of the States have got the fee structure. The fee structure is for a period of three years. The management cannot arbitrarily fix the fee structure. There is a regulatory mechanism where all the fee structures are coming under the Committee formed by the State Government.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: There is a drug manufactured by a Himalayan company called the Liv-52 which is an irrational combination of Ayurveda. Is the Ministry considering banning this drug? I want to know about it from the hon. Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: On what basis have we to ban the drug? I would like to ask the hon. Member to tell about it.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this question. This is not a matter of finding it out.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: It is an irrational combination. Even though it is called an Ayurvedic drug, it contains so many other things which are injurious to health.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If it is an irrational combination, we will look into the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the information.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Nowadays, there is a large-scale acceptance of Ayurvedic and Siddha medicines in several countries of the world, needless to talk about India.

MR. SPEAKER: This is relating to education.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: There has to be some concrete proposal to encourage Ayurvedic drug manufacturers in the country so that they can manufacture Ayurvedic medicines in competition with allopathic drugs. I also want to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to boost the ancient Ayurvedic system of medicine. Is there any plan to set up more units of the Central Council of Research institute in Ayurveda and Siddha to develop these systems of medicines in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: It is for you to volunteer!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We have a separate Department in the Ministry called the AYUSH, the Indian System of Medicine. We have a Secretary. In fact, the Budget for the Department this year over the last year was just doubled. This was the importance which the Government is giving to the Indian system and the traditional system of medicine.

As I said earlier, though myself being a modern doctor yet I am giving much importance to the Indian system because it is our own system founded by our forefathers. We need to propagate it not only in India but the world over. This is a cost-effective system. This has been propagated and used all over the country, mostly in the rural areas and the villages. That is what we are doing about the system.

For ensuring the quality of medicines, I would like to say that the Government is taking a lot of steps.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government is taking a lot of steps to check the spurious medicines of so-called Ayurveda or Siddha or Unani or Homeopathy. We have implemented the GMP-Good Manufacturing Practices. There will be only standardised quality pharmaceutical manufacturing units for Ayurvedic as well as for the modern system; and also for this system we have publicised the Ayurvedic or Homeopathic pharmacopoeias. We have publicised the formularies so that active ingredients of the combinations will be notified to the general public. We have, in fact, assisted 22 State Drug Testing Laboratories. We are giving about Rs. 1 crore each to all these laboratories to improve the testing facilities and we are giving Rs. 5 lakh to individual pharmaceutical manufacturing units to upgrade their manufacturing capacity. We have also formed the Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Drug Technical Advisory Board, Drug Consultative Committee. All these steps are being taken to make quality products in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: This relates to education and also spurious drugs. If you have some questions on that please put and not any and everything under the sun.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: The Unani system of medicine is practised in the country. In Tamil Nadu, the great Tamil saintly physician, Thirumoolar, has said:

> "*Undi kotuthore uir Kotuthore*—Life saving medicine is not drug; but it is diet."

On the basis of this great maxim, the Unani system is practised in this country. In Tamil Nadu, the Unani practitioners prescribe certain medicines which are not available in the Allopathic system. They claim that certain diseases, namely, Asthama, HIV, AIDS and such diseases, for which the Allopathic medicine is not available, can be cured by Unani medicine.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Such medicines have been prescribed and those, who take those medicines, are claiming that they are being cured of their diseases. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if he has got any proposal to convene a Conference of the Unani medical practitioners and to find out how these new medicines, which are not available in the Allopathic system, are practised in the Unani system.

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with this Question. You are a Professor and you should realise that it has nothing to do with the Question. You have to relate it to the main question. What is it?

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if there is any proposal to establish a Unani Medical University in Tamil Nadu to bring out these facts to the people.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have myself attended a lot of conferences on Unani Medicine. We have a CCRUM-Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine. It is going into all the research purposes of Unani medicine. The Government is also going to form a golden triangle with the cooperation of the ICMR, the CSIR and the Indian System of Medicine Department where the Government is contemplating on spending literally about Rs. 120 crore over a period of 5 years only for research into so-called treatment of the Indian systems of medicines, namely, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. We are going in for scientific validation of the so-called cures or treatment which is not there in the Allopathic medicine.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Saroj—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to know that the Hon. Minister has announced to enact law on fee structure. However, the reality of present age is that despite decision of the Supreme Court, the fees ranging from two lakh fifty thousand to three lakh twenty five thousand, is being charged by the Private Medical Colleges. In addition, the amount of Rs. 25 Lakh to Rs. 30 Lakh is being taken as capitation fees, inspite of the direction of the apex court. Despite this, the Hon. Minister and his department has *suo motu* increased the seats on its own in some of the Private Medical Colleges in violation of the MCI norms. The earnings of the Private Medical Colleges is increasing in proportion to the increase in number of seats. I would like to make it clear to the Hon. Minister that till the Government of India get this law passed in the House, the Government of India should not resort to increasing any seat in any Private Medical College in violation of the recommendations of the MCI. Whether the Minister would like to give any assurance in this regard?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, nobody is allowed to take any capitation fee in the medical or dental colleges. Today, capitation fee is illegal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: How can the Minister say like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will reply to that. ...*(Interruptions)* Capitation fee is illegal in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: What does he want me to say? ...*(Interruptions)* Let him give me one example. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be replied. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Let him give me a proof. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Sir, in whatever the Minister has said, there should be some reality.

MR. SPEAKER: Even if it is real, there is a method. There is a known and a permitted method of raising it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I would like to reiterate that capitation fee is illegal in the country. If anybody is taking capitation fee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, very high capitation fees is being charged. ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has only said that it is illegal. He has not yet said that nobody is taking it. Why do you not have a little patience to hear?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are people who are paying it.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If anybody is found taking capitation fee, he is liable to be prosecuted under the law. He is liable to be arrested. If any hon. Member has any proof that anybody is taking any capitation fee, if he comes to me with the proof, I will be responsible for arresting the medical college owner or whoever is responsible for that. But, let him give me the proof. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you sit down or go out of the House.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the fee structure provided by the respective State Governments is being monitored by the Committee. It is the only legal provision today. It is being monitored by the Committee. Nobody is allowed to take any capitation fee. If anybody is found taking. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not report to him?

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: You will report to me. If anybody has any proof, let him report to me, I will take action. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this thing takes place just as the horse trading. *...(Interruptions)* If somebody want to get admission, he pays it. *...(Interruptions)* What are you saying? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion regarding Question No. 142. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the admissions do not take place. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary Question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not there in the list.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do we not do our duty in reporting to the Minister? He has made an open offer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. You are not reporting to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have discussed only two questions in 45 minutes. We are printing 20 questions everyday.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do some introspection.

[Translation]

Modernisation/Expansion of Health Services under CGHS

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*143. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government is spending the funds allocated for the CGHS under the Tenth Five Year Plan on the modernization and expansion of health services;

(b) if so, the total percentage of the allocated funds spent on the health sector during the year 2003-04;

(c) if not, the reasons for not spending the entire allocated funds on the said services;

(d) whether the medical dispensaries are proposed to be privatised;

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

(f) the steps taken or being taken to streamline the functioning of CGHS dispensaries?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), the approved outlay of CGHS for 2003-2004 was Rs. 20.00 crore and the expenditure during this period was 22.80 crore which was 14% more than the approved outlay.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

(f) Improvement of various services provided in the CGHS dispensaries is an ongoing process. There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervision and guidance by senior officers of CGHS.

Eight special inspection teams have also been constituted in Delhi to monitor the complete functioning of CGHS dispensaries. Surprise visits are made by these teams from time to time and remedial action taken as and when required. For monitoring the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in cities outside Delhi, surprise visits are made from time to time and remedial action taken accordingly by the respective Additional Directors/Join Directors of the CGHS.

The Government has already approved the Combined formulary for the MSO/CGHS in respect of 504 proprietary drugs. Action to procure medicines for the CGHS as per the formulary has been initiated. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries is expected to improve further.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are Central Government dispensaries in the country for Bidi Workers. Now the ESI dispensaries also come under the Central Government. There is also a dispensary for the treatment of the Members of Parliament. It is my experience that in ESI dispensaries where bidi workers go for their treatment and I have also personally felt as a Member of Lok Sabha that the medicines prescribed by the doctors are not available in the dispensaries. The medicines prescribed to the Members of the Lok Sabha by the doctors in CGHS dispensary located in PH Annexe are not available in the pharmacy there. As a result of this, we have to go to the Kendriya Bhandar. There they ask to come after a day in the morning or in the Evening. On being asked the reason they informed that the payments of the Bills of Medical Companies are not cleared for six months. Corruption is prevalent there. I have pointed out three things and I would like to know whether the Government are going to issue any guidelines or enact any enabling provision or make any proper arrangement for supply of medicines from these dispensaries?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. There is a question and you are referring to a personal matter!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, currently about 160 to 180 medicines are available in all the CGHS Dispensaries and the medicines which are not available in the CGHS Dispensaries are being asked to be procured

from the local chemists as and when the consultants or the specialists prescribe those medicines to the patients. Now we have approved a formulary comprising 504 medicines to be purchased. These are all high quality medicines and this process is on. In the next few weeks or months these medicines under this formulary will be available in all the CGHS Dispensaries. As regards purchase of medicines from the local chemists where there are a lot of problems like corruption, that will be reduced drastically.

As far as the Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre is concerned, it has been given permission to get the best medicines available and I do not see any shortage of medicines there. If there is any shortage, the Members will be getting the medicines within one day. We will ensure that Members of Parliament get the best treatment in the Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: My Second question is whether more funds will be allocated for ensuring increased supply of medicines from the dispensaries of the ESI where there is shortage of medicines for people particularly the Bidi Workers as persons of lower strata go there while there are dispensaries at a number of places all over the country. Whether efforts will be made to make any proper arrangements and if so, the extent to which medicines will be made available?

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking about the CGHS here?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as I have already assured, a formulary has been put in place. For Delhi alone, literally HSEC is procuring medicines to the tune of Rs. 55 crore only for about 80 and odd Dispensaries in Delhi. For the rest of the country we are procuring these high quality medicines which are soon going to be available in all the Dispensaries.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brajesh Pathak—Not present.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government is going to update the list of medicines available in CGHS Dispensaries. In my personal case, when I went to Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre, an injection was prescribed to me and that was not listed in the list of medicines available there and so I purchased it from the market. Therefore, there is a need to update the list of medicines.

Then, a number of medicines are not available and services are also not available in Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre or in other CGHS Dispensaries. As a result of that, we are going to other hospitals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those matters should be brought to my notice. They should not be raised in the House. It does not sound nice that the MPs are only speaking for themselves.

Mr. Minister, you please see that our Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre functions properly.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have done a lot to the Parliament House Annexe Medical Centre. We are giving the best medical care possible there and all the medicines are available. Whatever injections or other medicines are prescribed, we have instructed the CGHS to get the best medicines for our Members of Parliament and we are taking care of that.

MR. SPEAKER: These matters should be brought to my notice in future instead of raising them in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that in emergency the CGHS dispensaries function merely as a post office. They prescribe medicines on a slip and these have to be purchased from the market and the medicines are not available in the dispensaries. Equipments and the specialist doctors are not available in these dispensaries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will ensure that the equipments there are upgraded, medicines and specialist doctors are made available in the such dispensaries. In these dispensaries medicines are prescribed on a slip and people have to go outside to purchase the same. Even there are no specialist doctors there. I would like the hon'ble Minister to kindly reply to it.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, after taking over, I asked the DGHS to go round the country to know about the patients of the CGHS dispensaries and polyclinics in the country. He has gone round and has prepared various programmes of how the condition of dispensaries as well as the polyclinics to be improved. The Government is going to spend literally Rs. 6,000 crore to Rs. 700 crore on providing small equipment to these dispensaries.

Meanwhile, a high level team has been formed under the Chairmanship of former Cabinet Secretary, Shri P.K. Kaul and in which the former Health Secretary, Shri Javed Chowdhary is also a member. This team is to look into the functioning of the CGHS and to make recommendations on making it more user friendly. So, there are a lot of things on which the Committee is going to go into, like availability of shortage of medicines, delay in supply of indented medicines, quality of medicines, substitution of medicines in different brand names, pending medical claims, quality of diagnostic and pathology services, quality of indoor services, behaviour of doctors and all these parameters. A high level committee has already been formed and they have met a couple of times. They are going to give us their recommendations.

The Planning Commission has also given us certain recommendations as to how the CGHS could be made to function better and make it more efficient. They have also asked us to restructure the reforms and rejuvenate the CGHS. We are looking into all these issues.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there is a shortage of space in various CGHS dispensaries, particularly, with reference to Kolkata. I would also like to know what steps he is contemplating to remove these obstacles so that proper service is given to the CGHS beneficiaries.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you provide more space?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in fact, I have visited CGHS centres when I visited Kolkata last year. We will, definitely, still be improving the facilities provided to Kolkata centre.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Sir, what about the shortage of space? I have particularly mentioned it.

MR. SPEAKER: Improvement will mean more space also.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is really very good that the hon. Minister is spending on the expansion and modernisation of the CGHS dispensaries, which are in existence. But I would like to know about those dispensaries which are sanctioned in the Tenth Five Year Plan but not yet opened.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister which are the C.G.H.S. dispensaries particularly in Madhya Pradesh which have been sanctioned in the Tenth Five Year Plan but have not been opened so far? What steps the Minister is going to take with a view to start such dispensaries.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Department of Health asked the Planning Commission for approximately Rs. 300 crore for the plan budget in the Tenth Plan, but only a sum of Rs. 90 crore was sanctioned for five years. We do not see how we could expand and out of Rs. 90 crore, already literally about Rs. 82 crore to Rs. 83 crore have been spent in these three-and-a-half years. We want this expansion to occur.

There are a couple of dispensaries which have been promised in the Tenth Plan and we will try to talk to the Planning Commission and take all steps possible to have more of these dispensaries.

Simplifying Passport Issuance procedure

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*144. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to issue new passports to the applicants within three weeks and simplify the police verification procedures;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the matter;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the same;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open Regional Passport Offices in more States;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in West Bengal and Uttaranchal;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of pending passport applications as on date, RPO-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (g) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government has issued instructions for issue of passports within 30 days, subject to receipt of clear police verification report;

(b) and (c) The Government has taken several steps towards its implementation:

(i) The specified time period for issue of fresh passports under Tatkaal Scheme has been revised from 1-10 days and 11-35 days to 1-10 days respectively.

(ii) In case of reissue of passports the specified time period for Tatkaal has been revised from 1-10 days to 1-5 days.

(iii) The Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to instruct State Governments to expedite the police verification process and send the reports to the Passport Offices within a period of two weeks.

(iv) Introduction of process re-engineering in Passport offices to reduce the time taken for issuance of passports.

(d) to (f) The Government has taken a decision to open Passport Offices at Dehradun and Raipur and to upgrade the existing Passport Application Collection Centre to a full-fledged Passport office at Shimla. Due to shortage of staff in the Central Passport Organization (CPO), this decision has not been implemented. At present, there is no decision to open a new Passport Office in West Bengal.

(g) The details of pending passport applications as on 15.7.2005 are given at Annexure.

Annexure

Statement showing the pendency in RPO/POs as on 15.07.2005

Sl.No.	Name of RPO/PO	No. of Applications pending
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	1194
2.	Bangalore	8637
3.	Bareilly	1505
4.	Bhopal	1927
5.	Bhubaneshwar	1450
6.	Chandigarh	14895
7.	Chennai	8495
8.	Cochin	3265
9.	Delhi	7444
10.	Ghaziabad	—
11.	Guwahati	1270
12.	Hyderabad	90
13.	Jaipur	14255
14.	Jalandhar	2628
15.	Jammu	Nil
16.	Kolkata	376
17.	Kozhikode	7931
18.	Lucknow	7834
19.	Mumbai	776

1	2	3
20.	Nagpur	964
21.	Panaji	281
22.	Patna	873
23.	Pune	340
24.	Ranchi	181
25.	Srinagar	—
26.	Surat	2669
27.	Thane	658
28.	Trichy	14861
29.	Trivandrum	1336
30.	Visakhapatnam	3215
	Total	109350

[English]

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, the major problem faced by the applicants for passports all over the country is that police takes months to send the police verification report to the Passport Office. According to the rules, police have to send the verification report within 21 day's time. But this is not mandatory, with the result it takes indefinite delay in receiving the passport by applicants.

Would the hon. Minister make the period of sending the verification report by the police to the Passport Office mandatory?

[Translation]

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry has requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to send for the verification report from the department of Home within a timeframe of 15-21 days after consulting the State Government.

[English]

The Home Ministry, I am told, has taken it up with the State Governments, and they will be doing it. Unless the police verification report is submitted, the foreign office cannot issue a passport in regard to normal passports. As far as passports under the Tatkal Scheme are concerned, if a Deputy Secretary or above signs the application of the applicant, then that can be done without police verification, which will be post-issuance of passport. In the event of a verification report coming after issuance of passport that says that the fellow is not entitled to a passport, then the passport will be cancelled.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say 'fellow', say 'person'.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: In Andhra Pradesh, there are only two Regional Passport Offices; one is there is Hyderabad and another is there in Visakhapatnam. There is only one collection centre in Vijayawada. Regional Passport Office in Hyderabad receives every day 1200 to 1500 passport applications, which is the largest in the country. It is very difficult for the persons to travel a long distance to get their passports in only two Offices.

Would the Minister consider opening Regional Passport office in Guntur and Cuddapah so that the people from surrounding areas can make use of it and avoid long distance travelling to get passports?

There are complaints about forgery in passports. A lot of news items have come in the recent past about it. Is the Ministry thinking of introducing the biometric technology so that forgery of passports it stopped?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: At present, there are only three Passport offices under consideration to be made as Regional Passport Offices. They are in Shimla, Dehradun and Raipur. There is, at the moment, shortage of staff. We cannot increase the number of Regional Passport Offices further till the staff is increased. However, there are over 200 Speed Post Centres in the country which have been designated as places where passport applications can be submitted. Apart from this, there are also 430-odd District Passport Centres operating in the country where a person can put in his passport application. Request has been made to the District Collection Centres that police verification should be made before submitting the passport application to the Regional Passport Office. Once the Regional Passport Office receives one's application, within thirty days one will be issued a passport.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: According to the statement made by the Minister, there is only one Regional Passport Office in West Bengal at Kolkata. For the six districts of

West Bengal, namely, Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, North and South Dinajpur, Malda etc. there is no Regional Passport Office. Due to this, people are harassed to collect their passports from Kolkata.

MR. SPEAKER: There is not much time left. Put your question.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: In northern West Bengal, there are three check-posts in the Indo-Bangladesh Border. People of the northern West Bengal go to Bangladesh by these three check-posts. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, to open a new Passport Office in northern West Bengal as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will you open it?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: At the moment, it is not under consideration. If and when staff is augmented, it can be considered.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering the proposal to privatise some of the activities of the Passport Offices, particularly in Delhi. There is now huge backlog in Passport Office in Delhi and other Passport offices. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some of the activities are being privatised in Passport Offices.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: This matter came up for consideration before the Government. A decision has been taken that there will be no privatisation or outsourcing. It will be done within the Department itself.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many passport holders go abroad from where they are deported in case of losing their passport. After having returned to India when those persons apply afresh for passport, a verification is sent from the passport office to the country where their passport was lost or from where they were deported. It takes two-three months to get the information from those countries. Whether any time limit will be fixed for the above verification and whether the information will be deemed to have been received if it does not reach in a given period and the person will be issued a new passport?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, a decision has been taken that verification will not be required for re-issuance of passport whether it is lost, destroyed or the address is changed. If a person applies in the same passport office from where the passport was issued, a new passport will be issued to him within ten days.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Storage of Coal for Power Plants

*145. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated domestic production and consumption of coal in the country during the year 2005-06;

(b) whether certain power plants are facing difficulties on account of shortage of coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to overcome their difficulties;

(d) whether there is any proposal to store sufficient quantity of coal for the requirement of various power plants in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per projections made by the Planning Commission, the coal demand during 2005-06 has been estimated at 445.65 million tonnes and production as 406.48 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the power houses have critical coal stocks for the following reasons:

(i) Unloading constraints resulting in congestion in the rail movement, which in turn force Railways to impose restriction in movement of rakes till congestion in cleared.

(ii) Delayed release of payment by power plants for coal value as well as railway freight leading to regulation in movement of coal.

(iii) Constraints in transport logistics coming in the way of movement of coal.

(iv) Power stations often consuming more coal than the allocated quantity given by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short Term).

(v) Lesser import than projected due to high price of coal in the international market.

The measures taken/being taken to improve the coal availability in power utilities include:

1. Advancing of planned production in CIL.
2. Import of Coal by major Power utilities & major CPPs in a planned time schedule.
3. Improvement of unloading infrastructure at Power House end to reduce turnaround time of Railway wagons.
4. Improvement in coal movement through augmentation of wagons in circuits where more coal is available.
5. Allocation of captive blocks to consumers in power sector.

(d) and (e) Coal stock in thermal power stations at present is about 10 million tonnes. Import of 13.45 million tonnes during the year 2005-06 and 20 million tonnes during 2006-07 is envisaged for improving the coal stock availability position in power stations.

Use of Sub-Standard Cardiac Valves in Hospitals

*146. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some hospitals obtain sub-standard Cardiac Valves close to expiry dates free or at nominal rates and then charge patients the full amounts or even a premium as reported in the 'Times of India' dated June 06, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any enquiry to check these unethical practices being resorted to by the doctors in these hospitals;

(d) if so, the findings of the said enquiry;

(e) whether the Government has found any nexus between the Doctors/Hospitals and the manufacturers in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government against the guilty doctors/hospitals/ manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the news item published in 'Times of India' dated 6th June, 2005, titled "Heart of Darkness: The Valve Con".

Health being a State subject, it is for the State government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals, including private hospitals as well as to ensure that they comply with the norms/regulations prescribed by respective State Governments as well as to take punitive action against private hospitals/doctors in cases of proven unethical and unscrupulous conduct. In cases of overcharging of price of supply of sub-standard devices, the aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which covers the private hospitals/private medical practitioners.

In addition, the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, complaints with regard to professional misconduct can be brought before the Medical Council of India or the concerned State Medical Council, as the case may be, for disciplinary action. If found guilty, appropriate Medical Council may award such punishment as deemed necessary or may direct the removal altogether or for a specified period the name of the delinquent from the register of registered medical practitioners.

In so far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its associated hospitals are concerned, no proven incident has come to the notice of this Ministry regarding procurement of sub-standard Cardiac Valves close to expiry dates free or at nominal rates and then charging patients the full amount or even a premium.

Medicines/medical equipments for these hospitals are procured after following prescribed codal formalities for which Purchase Committees are set up in these hospitals. No report regarding nexus between these hospitals and the manufacturers has come to the notice of this Ministry.

[Translation]

Performance of National Cancer Control Programme

*147. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance for detecting/creating awareness for cancer under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP);

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided during the last two years and till date;

(c) whether the Union Government has any machinery to ascertain whether the funds are actually being utilized for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the performance of NCCP is unsatisfactory;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the efforts being made by the Government to make the programme successful?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (g) Health being a State Subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments through the National Cancer Control Programme by providing financial assistance, under various schemes of the National Cancer Control Programme, which includes procurement of equipment for detection and treatment of cancer and creating awareness among the masses about the cancer. With the objective of Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment of Cancer in the country, the National Cancer Control Programme was launched in 1975 and revised in 1984-85. On the basis of evaluation by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), it was further revised in December, 2004, with the focus on early detection and creating awareness through community based strategies as a part of District Cancer Control Programme (DCCP). Under the revised schemes, quantum of financial assistance and the scope have also been increased.

Under National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), Central Government provides financial assistance to the Regional Cancer Centres (22 in number) and the Government Medical College hospitals/Government Hospitals for the procurement of equipments as well for the purpose of detection and treatment of Cancer. The details regarding grant released under the RCC Scheme and the Oncology Wing Development Scheme over the past two years are given in the enclosed statement.

Increasing awareness about Cancer is one of the components of the DCCP. In addition to these, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities at state level, the health awareness measures about cancer is also carried out at the Central level through mass media, audiovisual publicity, health melas etc. Cancer and tobacco control are among the important components covered under "Kalyani", a health magazine of half an hour duration which is telecast in 8 states—Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan through Prasar Bharati.

Linkages have been established with the nodal agencies identified by the respective State Governments (RCC/Oncology Wing) for the monitoring of activities under various Schemes of National Cancer Control Programme.

Statement

Financial Assistance to Regional Cancer Centres

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Name of the Institution	Funds released
1	2	3
2003-2004		
1.	CNCI, Kolkata Plan	600.00
2.	IRCH, (AIIMS) New Delhi	75.00

1	2	3
3.	Gujarat Cancer Res. Instt., Ahmedabad	75.00
4.	Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvanathapuram	75.00
5.	Cancer Institute, Chennai	75.00
6.	Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore	75.00
7.	RST Cancer Hospital, Nagpur	75.00
8.	Cancer Hospital Research Institute, Gwalior	75.00
9.	Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad	75.00
10.	PGIMS, Rohtak	75.00
11.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla	75.00
12.	MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad	75.00
13.	Acharya Tulsi RCC, Bikaner	75.00
14.	RCC, Pondicherry (JIPMER)	75.00
15.	Pt. JNM Medical College & Hospital (RCC) Chhattisgarh	75.00
16.	RCC, Aizawl (NER)	72.88
17.	RCC, Cuttack	Nil
18.	RCC, Patna	Nil
	2004-05	
	RCC Trivandrum	3.00 crore
	RCC Bangalore	3.00 crore
	RCC Ahmedabad	3.00 crore
	RCC Chennai	3.00 crore
	RCC Guwahati	2.84 crore
	RCC Allahabad	3.00 crore
	RCC Pondicherry	3.00 crore
	RCC Bikaner	3.00 crore
	CAAA, M/o Finance for JICA eqpt. on behalf of RCC Chennai	7.88 lakh
	RCC Gwalior	3.00 crore

Oncology Grant to Government Medical College/Hospitals

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Name of the Institution	Funds released
2002-2003		
1.	Government of Tamil Nadu -Onc. grant to Stanley Medical College, Chennai	200.00
2.	Government of West Bengal SSKM Hospital (Cabalt)	138.00
	2004-05 (Named as Oncology grant)	
2004-2005		
1.	Malabar Cancer Centre, Kannur	1.50 cr.
2.	Civil Hospital, Agartala	1.60 cr.
3.	GMCH, Trichur	1.20 cr.
4.	GMCH, Allahabad	3.00 cr.
5.	Arignar Anna Hospital, Kachipuram	2.88 cr.
6.	GMCH, Nagpur	2.88 cr.
7.	GMCH Medinipur & Dt. Hospital, Malda (from 3601 through RBI)	3.00 cr.
8.	GMCH, Trivandrum (from 3601 through RBI)	3.00 cr.
9.	RCC Trivandrum (Onc.)	2.00 cr.
10.	RCC Bangalore (Onc.)	2.00 cr.
11.	IRCS, Nellore (Onc.)	2.50 cr.
12.	RCC Guwahati (Onc.)	3.00 cr.
13.	Civil Hospital Mokokchung, Nagaland	2.21 cr.
14.	Civil Hospital, Shillong	3.00 cr.

Norms/Rules for Testing Packed Food Items and Soft Drinks

*148. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the specified norms and rules for testing the packed food items and soft drinks;

(b) the number of said items tested during the last three years;

(c) the details of the items which have failed to meet the specified norms alongwith the names of the companies that manufactured them; and

(d) the rules under which the Government has taken action against the companies whose products have failed to meet the specified norms during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Standard/specifications for various food articles including packed food items and soft drinks have been laid down in Appendix 'B' of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 19955. The procedure for taking, sealing, despatch and testing of food samples has also been prescribed under the said Rules.

The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954, and Rules framed thereunder are entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.Ts. draw random samples of different food articles including packed food items and soft drinks suspected to be adulterated for analysis from all levels *viz.* manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.

The details of the number of food samples of all commodities including packed food items and soft drinks examined; and the number of food samples found adulterated during the years 2001 to 2003, based on the information furnished by Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.Ts. are enclosed as statement.

In respect of food samples that are not found to be conforming with the prescribed standards, action is taken by the Food Health Authority of the State/UT under Sections 7 & 16 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, and Rules framed thereunder.

Statement

Details of Food Samples Examined and Found Adulterated (Commodity-wise) Including Packed Food Articles for the Years 2001-2003

Year	Beverages alcoholic/non alcoholic		Spices and condiments		Sweetening agents		Tea, coffee, cocoa and chicory		Milk		Butter, ghee, ice-cream and milk products		Edible oils, fats and vanaspati		Cereals, cereal products and pulses		Fruit products		Infant food		Other miscellaneous food products	
	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)	(E)	(A)
2001*	3914	718	14823	1068	3451	409	9285	312	6372	2111	5367	913	15918	1790	15228	1416	1499	158	412	18	17056	2134
2002**	3906	750	15103	1076	4064	416	8571	327	6199	2066	5062	874	12096	1255	15414	1190	1979	126	435	21	12340	2044
2003***	4577	494	12666	780	3898	406	7026	237	7358	2425	4744	795	12429	1356	12736	938	2142	185	523	17	12676	1988

Indications:

(E) No. of food samples examined

(A) No. of food samples found adulterated

* Does not include information from the State of Gujarat

** Does not include information from the States of Gujarat, Bihar and Jharkhand

*** Does not include information from the States/U.Ts. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

[English]

Share of Private Telecom Firms in Rural Areas

*149. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether private telecom firms hold about 43 per cent market share of the total telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private telecom firms do not have significant share in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage private telecom firms to expand their business in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The share of private telecom operators in the total phones provided in the country is 48.93% as on 30.6.2005. Of the 103.29 million total phones, private sector has provided about 50.54 million phones as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Total as on 30.6.2005
1.	Reliance Telecom	13367153
2.	Bharti Infotel Ltd/Bharti/Hexacom	12251749
3.	Hutchison	5594665
4.	IDEA	5552347
5.	Aircel	3394125
6.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	3317563
7.	BPL	2629251
8.	Spice	1473350
9.	Fascel	1314041
10.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	1184363
11.	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	265936
12.	Shyam Telelink Ltd.	192606
13.	Reliable Internet	1671
	Total	50538820

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The licences for unified access services/cellular services do not stipulate mandatory rural roll-out obligations. There is no private Basic Service Operator at present.

(e) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support. the private sector has also been awarded tenders for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (R-DELs) through the support from USOF apart from support for maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and setting up of Rural Community Phones (RCPs).

Anti-AIDS Drugs at Concessional Rates

*150. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the Indian Drug Manufactures to provide anti-AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for increased involvement of private sector in HIV/AIDS prevention measures?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons are following:

- The Government is already giving the ARV drugs recommended by WHO free of cost through selected government hospitals spread over different parts of the country.
- The Government has already reduced the cost of ten generic ARV drugs by exempting the payment of central excise duty on them such as Stavudine, Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Nevirapine, Efavirenz, Didanosine, Indinavir, Ritonavir, Nelfinavir and Saquinavir.
- NACO has been able to purchase ARV drugs at very competitive rates through open competitive bidding.

(d) The National AIDS Control Programme is implementing preventive measures among the High Risk Groups through NGOs. Presently 922 NGOs are implementing 965 Targeted Intervention Projects among the High Risk Groups, such as the Female Sex Workers, Injecting Drug Users, migrant workers, truckers and Men

having Sex with Men. 58 NGOs are running 60 Community Care Centres. NGOs are also running Drop-in-Centres for HIV positive individuals and School AIDS Education Programme. Under the Global Fund for Prevention of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project, they are involved in conducting counselling, outreach services and providing referral linkages with institutions providing Anti Retroviral Therapy.

Complaints against Functioning of TRAI

*151. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from the public and their representatives against the functioning of the TRAI, in connection with giving benefit of ADC collected from Mobile operators to BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The representations relate to consultation paper issued by TRAI on the Access Deficit Charge (ADC). It was also suggested in the representations that the ADC might be abolished. Some of the representations also alleged that TRAI is bent upon imposing the proposed burden in the form of ADC and benefiting the BSNL. Action against TRAI was also urged for prescribing ADC on per minute basis instead of Revenue Sharing.

(c) The amount of Access Deficit Charge had been prescribed by TRAI after due consultation process of seeking comments of various stake-holders, holding open house sessions and addressing various issues including eligibility of various service providers to receive such subsidies. It is not out of context to mention that the Government has also received representations in favour of continuance for Access Deficit Charge for providing affordable services.

Incidents of Kidney/Organ Transplantation

*152. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of frequent incidents of illegal kidney and other organ transplantations in various Government/private hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases reported during the last two years and till date, State-wise;

(c) whether action has been initiated in all such cases and the guilty punished;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to enact stringent legislation against such unethical practices; and

(f) if so, the time by when such a legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) Some incidents of alleged illegal transplant of kidneys have come to the notice of the Government of India. The Government of India, however, do not centrally maintain details of such incidents. Information supplied by various States during last two years regarding such incidents is enclosed as statement.

Sale and purchase of human organs including kidneys is already banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Under Section 13 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the Central and the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act. The Appropriate Authorities appointed by the Central and the State Governments are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs, including kidneys. The Director General of Health Services is the Appropriate Authority in respect of the Union Territories including National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, in respect of the States, action under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, has to be taken by the concerned Appropriate Authority. This Act already contains stringent provisions for punishing removal of human organ without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs.

Statement

Details of Cases of Illegal Kidney and Other Organ Transplantations in Various Government/Private Hospitals Reported during the Last Two Years and Till Date, from Various States

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Details of cases reported
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Government of Chhattisgarh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
5.	NCT of Delhi	Delhi Police has registered six FIRs in respect of illegal kidney transplantations in Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi and Kakkar Hospital, Amritsar. As a result, ten people were arrested by the Delhi Police. The Commissioner, Delhi Police has informed on 31.07.2005 that the cases included in the five out of the six FIRs are currently under investigation. The case included in the sixth FIR (No. 186 dated 29.03.2004) has been filed as untraced for want of evidence.
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil
8.	Haryana	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
10.	Maharashtra	Government of Maharashtra have informed that in January 2004 Dr. S.P. Trivedi of Bombay Hospital, Mumbai has been prosecuted for the charges of cheating and forgery that deal with illegal trafficking of human organs. The matter was *sub-judice* as on 3.12.2004
11.	Manipur	Nil
12.	Mizoram	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	Nil
14.	Nagaland	Nil
15.	Pondicherry	Nil

1	2	3
16.	Punjab	Government of Punjab have reported that sale of human organs for transplant, particularly kidneys was detected in a few cases in the State which are under investigation of the Special Investigating Team constituted for this purpose. As a result of the investigations, many people have been arrested and one hospital, namely, Ram Saran Dass Kishorilal Charitable Trust Hospital, Amritsar has been deregistered. However, there is no large scale exploitation of the poor in the name of organ transplant in the State.
17.	Sikkim	Nil
18.	Tamil Nadu	Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
19.	Tripura	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light between 1.1.2004 and 30.11.2004.
21.	West Bengal	Government of West Bengal have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
22.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil
23.	Chandigarh	Nil
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil
25.	Daman and Diu	Nil
26.	Lakshadweep	Nil

[Translation]

Recommendations for Revival of Sick PSUs

*153. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission after mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended the revival of the sick Public Sector Undertakings;'

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps have been taken by the Government to get a detailed report from consultants appointed to look into the viability of those undertakings that can be revived;

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

(e) whether the Government has received list of the sick PSUs that are to be revived;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the procedure/norms laid down for this purpose?

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

In the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan as agreed by the National Development Council (UNDC) in its meeting on 28th and 28th June, 2005, the Planning Commission has made a policy recommendation for revival of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

(b) to (d) details are given in statement-I enclosed.

(e) and (f) A Ministry-wise list of Sick CPSEs identified for the purpose of making reference to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been prepared. The decision on revival is taken by Government taking into consideration the recommendations of BRPSE on case to case basis. Seventeen Public Sector Enterprises have been cleared by BRPSE for revival/ rehabilitation. List is given in enclosed statement-II.

(g) The procedure/norms are spelt out in Resolution issued by Department of Public Enterprises on 6th December 2004. A copy of Resolution is enclosed as statement-III.

Statement I

In considering revival of sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), it is necessary to bear in mind the past experience of failed attempts to rehabilitate several undertakings despite repeated infusion of government funds. chances of yet another failure must be minimized by putting in position adequate safeguards in the procedure for considering a sick CPSE for rehabilitation. To start with, the CPSE concerned must obtain a report from a professional consultant of repute recommending that is revivable. If the administrative ministry or department consider turnaround to be technically feasible and commercially viable, it should seek the participation of financial institutions in the financial package for the revival. Project appraisal by financial institutions, which would be a pre-requisite for their agreement to participate, would provide a second opinion about the viability of the proposal for revival. In other words, the administrative Ministry should check whether the proposal for revival of a sick CPSE is bankable. The norm in developing a financial package must be that the government takes the responsibility for strengthening the equity base while the financial institutions provide the loans (without the need for government guarantee). The government may also have to bear the burden of waiver of interest and even the principal amount of outstanding loans, penalties and taxes. Bankability must be a pre-requisite before rehabilitation proposals of sick CPSEs can go forward.

In the course of developing the financial package for rehabilitation, private sector involvement should be sought through transparent means such as inviting expressions of interest. Such a step should be envisaged particularly in those cases in which it is felt that the CPSE would benefit from the technical, managerial and commercial expertise available in the private sector.

Statement II

List of PSEs whose revival/rehabilitation proposals have been cleared by BRPSE

(As on 22.7.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of CPSE	Name of the Ministry/Department
1	2	3
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
5.	British India Corporation Ltd.	Ministry of Textiles

1	2	3
6.	National Textiles Corporation Ltd. and its subsidiaries	Ministry of Textiles
7.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	Department of Fertilizers
8.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
9.	Praga Tools Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
10.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
11.	NEPA Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
12.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
13.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	Department of Shipping
14.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
15.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
16*.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industry
17*.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

*Considered by BRPSE, but final approval awaited.

Statement III

Resolution

Whereas the Government of India have committed themselves to having a strong and effective public sector;

Whereas they have mandated to undertake strengthening, modernizing, reviving, and restructuring of public sector enterprises; and

Whereas Government have decided to establish a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to address the above mentioned tasks and advise the Government on strategies, measures and schemes related to them.

2. Now, therefore, the following is resolved:

That there shall be constituted a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises.

2.1 **Locus of the Board:**

The Board will be located in the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), the nodal Department of Central Public Sector Enterprises. DPE will provide necessary secretarial assistance to the Board. The establishment cost will be met through appropriate provision in the budget of DPE.

2.2 **Composition of the Board:**

The Board shall comprise the following:

Dr. Prahlad K. Basu, former Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation — Chairman

Shri T.S. Vijayaraghavan, former Secretary, Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	—	Member
Shri Arvind Pande, former Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited	—	Member
Shri Sushil Khanna, Prof. of Economics and Strategic Management, IIM Calcutta	—	Member
Secretary to the Government, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance	—	Member
Secretary to the Government, Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance	—	Member
Secretary to the Government, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	—	Member-Secretary

The Chairman and the Members shall hold office till further orders.

2.3 **Permanent Invitee:**

Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board shall be a permanent invitee to the meetings of the BRPSE.

2.4 **Special Invitee:**

Secretary to the Government in the Administrative Ministry/Department concerned with the PSE being taken up for consideration shall be specially invited to participate in the deliberations.

2.5 The Chairman, the members, and the Permanent and Special Invitees shall work on the Board on part-time basis.

3. **Terms of reference:**

Following shall be the terms of reference to the Board:

(a) To advise the Government on ways and means for strengthening public sector enterprises in general and making them more autonomous and professional;

(b) To consider restructuring-financial, organizational and business (including diversification, joint ventures, seeking strategic partners, merger and acquisition)—of CPSEs and suggest ways and means for funding such schemes;

(c) To examine the proposals of the administrative Ministries for revival/restructuring of sick/loss making CPSEs for their turn around and to make suitable recommendations related thereto;

(d) To advise the Government on divinvestment/ closure/sale, in full or part, in respect of chronically sick/loss making companies which cannot be revived. In respect of such unviable companies the Board would also advise the Government about sources of fund including sale of surplus assets of the enterprise for the payment of all legitimate dues and compensation to workers and other costs of closure;

(e) To monitor incipient sickness (incurring loss for two consecutive years) in CPSEs; and

(f) To make recommendations and advise the Government on such other matters as may be assigned to it from time to time.

4. **Operational Modalities:**

In the context of the Board's functioning and in making recommendations on revival matters the Board and the Ministries concerned shall observe the following modalities:

(a) All sick CPSEs will be referred to the Board for revival/restructuring. For the purposes of the Board's consideration, company will be

considered 'sick' if it has accumulated losses in any financial year equal to 50% or more of its average net worth during 4 years immediately preceding such financial year and/or a company which is a sick company within the meaning of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(b) Other loss making CPSEs may be considered by the Board either *suo moto* or upon reference by the administrative Ministry, if it is of the opinion that revival/restructuring is necessary for checking the incipient sickness (incurring loss for two consecutive years) and making the CPSE profitable, keeping the industry specific business environment in view.

(c) The administrative Ministry/Department would be responsible for preparing a comprehensive package for revival/rehabilitation or closure of loss making CPSEs after due consultations with all the stake holders including the concerned Ministries and the CPSE in a prescribed time frame. The package would necessarily indicate the statutory dues and the suggested manner to liquidate them. The cost of revival/rehabilitation vis-à-vis the closure of a CPSE would also be indicated in the package.

(d) The proposal will be referred to the Board through the Department of Public Enterprises. The Department of Public Enterprises, working as secretariat to the Board, will examine the presentability of the proposal and call for further information, as may be necessary and present the case to the Board.

(e) The Board may also take the advice of experts in the relevant field, if considered necessary.

(f) The Board may accept, modify or reject the proposal or remand it to the concerned administrative Ministry for re-examination and re-submission.

(g) The Board may, after consultation with all relevant authorities including Ministries of Finance, and Labour, Banking and other Financial Institutions and State Government(s), as may be necessary, in each case, recommend concessions like waiver of interest, penalties, taxes, loans and other reliefs in statutory dues, etc. as considered appropriate for revival/ restructuring of the CPSE through a package which should preferably, with required reliefs and concessions, pass the muster of being 'bankable'. The Board would also be expected to indicate the source of funds for the revival/ restructuring package.

(h) The Board would be expected to make recommendations within two months from the date of receipt of the complete proposal from the administrative Ministry/Department and will also fix reasonable time limit for implementation of the recommended package.

(i) The recommendations of the Board shall be advisory in nature.

(j) The recommendations of the Board will be communicated by DPE to the concerned administrative Ministry who will process it for obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority.

(k) Cases related to re-structuring will be processed by the concerned Administrative Ministry. The Department of Public Enterprises in consultation with the Department of Disinvestment and Administrative Ministry concerned will decide the agency which will be responsible for processing the recommendations for sale/disinvestments in each case.

(l) The implementation of the recommendations of the Board will essentially be the responsibility of the concerned administrative Ministry/Department, which shall, in consultation with DPE, monitor their timely implementation.

5. The Board shall start operating with immediate effect.

(ADARSH KISHORE))
Secretary to the Government of India.

Order

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1.

Ordered also that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Central Public Sector Enterprises and all other concerned organizations/persons.

(ADARSH KISHORE))
Secretary to the Government of India

(DPE Resolution No. 16 (25)/2004-Fin. dated the 6th December, 2004)

Sethusamudram Project

*154. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is launching the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objectives of the project;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on this project; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project envisages cutting of a ship channel to connect the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal through Palk Bay/Palk Strait, so that most of the ships, depending on draft required, moving between east and west coast of India could have a continuous navigable sea route around the Peninsula within India's own territorial waters. This will save navigable distance upto 424 nautical miles and upto 30 hours of sailing time for ships sailing between the east and the west coast. The commencement of work on this project was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 2nd July, 2005.

(d) The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 2427.40 crores.

(e) The work on the project has already commenced and is scheduled to be completed in about three and a half years time.

[English]

Janani Suraksha Yojana

*155. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the various loopholes in Janani Suraksha Yojana, a scheme launched under the National Rural Health Mission as reported in the 'Times of India' dated May 25, 2005;

(b) if so the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the alleged loopholes for effective implementation of the said Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Janani Suraksha Yojana has been launched under the overall umbrella of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) by modifying the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) to promote institutional deliveries and to reduce maternal mortality in the country. Under the Yojana, the benefits are available to pregnant women from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, who are of the age of 19 years or above up to two live births. The benefits under the scheme would be extended to women from BPL families of 10 low performing States (Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir) even after the third live birth if the mother, of her own accord chooses to undergo sterilization in the health facility immediately after the delivery.

The report in 'Times of India' dated 25.5.2005 questions the rationale of extending the benefit to the pregnant women of age 19 or above whereas the mean age of girls in 50% of all marriages in India is below 18. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 as amended from time to time has prescribed the minimum age at marriage for girls as 18 years. The limitation of the benefits to pregnant women who are of the age of 19 or above has been kept in view of this legislation passed by the Parliament. The age limit was kept at 19 in the NMBS also which has been modified as the Janani Suraksha Yojana.

The report in 'Times of India' also states that the extension of benefit to those undergoing sterilization after the third live birth goes against the National Population Policy which promotes voluntary choice and informed counselling. The extension of the benefit under the Janani Suraksha Yojana even after the birth of the third child has been made to provide facility of a hospital based

care to BPL women in case the beneficiary on her own choice comes forward to limit her family.

Status of Golden Quadrilateral Project

*156. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1218 dated December 8, 2004 and state:

(a) the current status of the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) North-South & East-West Corridors;

(b) the targeted length to be completed by 31 March, 2006 of each of these corridors;

(c) the target fixed for completion of the GQ project;

(d) the status of land acquisition of each one of these, as on 30 June, 2005;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives for timely completion and penalty for delayed completion of each of the sections of the project;

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

(g) the effective measures undertaken by the Government to get the entire project completed at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The status of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), North-South & East-West Corridors as on 30.06.2005 is as under:

(Length in Km)

Sl.No.	Project	Total Length	Completed	Under Implementation	To be awarded
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5846	4912	934	—
2.	North-South and East-West Corridors	7300 (Actual length 7274)	707	2459	4058

(b) The details of targeted length to be completed by 31st March 2006 of each of these corridors are as under:

Sl.No.	Component	Cumulative target to be completed by March 2006
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5491
2.	North-south and East-West Corridors	906

(c) 92% length of the GQ is likely to be completed by the end of December, 2005. Except 157 km length involving 4 terminated contracts and 84 km length involving Allahabad bypass which was awarded only in 2004, rest of GQ (96%) is likely to be completed by June, 2006.

(d) For the Golden Quadrilateral, 92.5% of the land acquisition has been completed as on 30.6.2005. For North-South and East-West Corridors, total requirement of land would be known only after the Detailed Project Reports for all the stretches have been completed; however, 2232.64 hectares of land for North-South & East-West Corridors has been acquired till 30.6.2005.

(e) and (f) Under National Highway Authority of India funded/externally aided projects pertaining to the National Highway Development Project Phase-I & Phase-II, there is generally a provision of Bonus clause in the contracts for early completion which varies fro contract to contract. However, this is generally 1% for each month of early completion subject to maximum of 6% of contract value. There is also a provision of penalty clause in the contracts for delay which varies from contract to contract. However, this is generally 0.05% per day of contract value subject to maximum 10% of final contract value. In BOT funded projects, period of concession includes period of construction also which acts as Bonus for early completion and penalty for delay in construction as the period of recovery of money invested by concessionaire by way of

levy of road user fee (toll) increases or decreases depending on period of construction.

(g) Measures undertaken by the Government to get the entire project, completed at the earliest are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Measures undertaken by the Government to get the entire Project, completed at the earliest

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/ Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.

(ii) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/ environment clearances, etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road over Bridges, etc.

(iv) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.

[Translation]

Coal Reserves and Its Demand

*157. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the coal reserves in the country, mine-wise and company-wise;

(b) the demand of coal at the end of 10th and 11th Five Year Plan respectively;

(c) whether the Government has a plan to meet this demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the investment made in coal sector during each of the last three years;

(f) whether the temporary coal linkage given to companies is still continuing; and

(g) if so, the year-wise details thereof during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal inventory is assessed by Geological Survey of India annually for different coalfields and not mine wise of coal companies. A total of 247,847 Million tonnes coal resources have been estimated in India, upto 1200m depth, as per the latest estimate of Geological Survey of India (as on 1.1.05). The company command are wise distribution of these coal resources is given below:

Company	Resources (Million Tonnes)	Company	Resources (Million Tonnes)	Company	Resources (Million Tonnes)
Eastern Coal fields Ltd.	43888	Western Coalfields Ltd.	11509	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	60983
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	19430	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd	44838	North Eastern Coalfields	910
Central Coalfields Ltd.	36860	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	12503	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	16926

Note: A small quantity of reserves in Raniganj coalfield belongs to BCCL but has been included in ECL as detailing are not available.

(b) The demand of coal by end of 10th Plan 11th Plan is assessed as 473.18 Million tonnes (as assessed by Planning Commission during mid-term appraisal) and 676 Million tonnes (as assessed now) respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. As per the plan a production level of 431.50 Million tonnes and 593 Million tonnes will be achieved by the end of Xth and XIth Plan period respectively. To bridge the gap between demand and availability of coal, besides import of coal, following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of coal:

(i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.

(ii) 146 coal mine blocks have been identified for allocation for captive mining. Out of these, 86 coal blocks have been allotted/decided for allocation to different consumers and more and under process.

(iii) State and Central Government companies are being allotted coal mining blocks without restriction of captive mining.

(iv) Exploration for new coal blocks has been expedited.

(v) Procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.

(vi) Ministry of Power has been advised to import about 14 million-tonnes of Coal during 2005-06.

(e) The capital investment made by CIL during last three years is furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (prov.)
1192.18	1277.59@	1170.26

@Includes VRS.

(f) As per existing policy no temporary coal linkage was granted to any consumers during last two years.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply given to Part (f) above.

Royalty on Coal

*158. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the existing regime on royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date by which the revised rate of royalty is likely to be effected;

(d) the State-wise details of losses incurred by the State governments due to non revision of royalty;

(e) whether the Government proposes to pay compensation to States in lieu of these losses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a committee on 2.6.2005 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal to consider revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite in all its aspects. The Committee has been given three months time to submit its report to the Government.

(d) to (f) Section 9(3) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification in the Official Gazette with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification. However, proviso to Section 9(3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The royalty rates on coal were last revised on 16.08.2002 and the next revision can be effected only after 15.08.2005. Revision of royalty rate is permitted once in three years but it is not mandatory. Decision to revise or not to revise royalty has to be taken keeping in mind general health of economy and impact of such revision on the overall economic growth of the country. As such the question of losses incurred by State Governments due to non revision of royalty does not arise.

[English]

Relevance of SAARC

*159. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAARC has yet to achieve the purpose for which it was established;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the initiatives taken by the Government to make it a real instrument of cooperation in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen its relations with neighbouring countries, particularly who are members of SAARC;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) SAARC was established with the objectives of promoting the economic, social and cultural cooperation, as well as to promote mutual understanding and strengthen collective self-reliance among the peoples of South Asia. The activities in SAARC have undoubtedly brought about much greater contact and awareness amongst governments, businesses, cultural and media organizations, scholars, experts, students, and non-governmental organizations dealing with specialized activities. SAARC has also assisted in enabling training and information exchange in a variety of disciplines.

India's efforts, along with those of other member states, are to orient SAARC programmes towards project activities in areas of economic and social development and regional economic integration, which can bring tangible benefits to the people of the region. India has proposed 'SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund', for financing poverty alleviation projects in SAARC countries outside India. India has also proposed an Infrastructure Fund to finance large projects to improve cross border communications and infrastructure, including ports and energy, and a High Economic Council to deliberate on economic, trade, investment, fiscal and monetary issues associated with regional economic integration.

The Government of India reiterates its continuing and consistent commitment to the SAARC process, and to increasing regional cooperation among Member States towards enhancing prosperity of the SAARC region through economic and social development and regional economic integration. Government is convinced that greater economic integration in south Asia will be beneficial to all countries in the region.

Since its inception in 1985, SAARC has contributed to greater understanding, accommodation and information flow, which has led, first to a preferential trading arrangement, SAPTA, and subsequently to the signing of a framework agreement for free trade, SAFTA, currently under negotiation with a view to bringing it into force from January 1, 2006. The Social Charter and Conventions signed on issues such as trade, food security, terrorism, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution, and promotion of child welfare in South Asia offer instruments for Member States to formulate programmes and implement joint strategies in these key areas. People-to-people contacts, one of SAARC's avowed objectives has also increased, as non-State actors—NGOs and civil society—are playing a dynamic and incremental role in nurturing inter-State cooperation and are activating ideas on distributive justice and developmental objectives. The number of diverse associations and professional bodies seeking recognition and apex-body status has registered manifold increase and includes architects, chartered accountants, doctors, engineers, teachers, town planners, women academics, writers and poets, and professional associations dealing with insurance, law and management development. The increasing role played by national Chambers of Commerce as stakeholders in promoting freer trade among South Asian countries is another manifestation of such involvement.

Indian Brides Deserted by NRIs

*160. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

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

(a) whether a number of cases of NRIs getting married in India and deserting their brides have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last two years and till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide protection and render necessary assistance to these hapless women; and

(d) the success achieved in the direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Some cases have been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) One case each from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan two cases each from Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, and six cases from Delhi have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) The action taken so far has been to request the State Governments to take remedial measures, including creation of separate cells to provide free legal counselling for the prospective brides. Indian diplomatic Missions render all possible assistance in such cases. Also, Government is in the process of finalizing an information booklet for the guidance of prospective brides and their families. The booklet would contain suggestions on the need to get the antecedents of the grooms to be verified, on the legal rights of women married to NRI grooms, etc.

[Translation]

Action on Letters

1444. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received in the Prime Minister's Office from Members of Parliament between October 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005;

(b) the action taken thereon;'

(c) the time taken to inform the Members of Parliament about the action taken on their letters by the various departments of the Government;

(d) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament during the above period in the Prime Minister's Office regarding the Advisory Committee of Department of Communications and Department of Railways;

(e) the action taken thereon; and

(f) the reasons for action not being taken on them?

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) Prime Minister's Office has received 2688 letters received from MPs between 1.10.2004 and 30.6.2005.

(b) Members of Parliament's letters are acknowledged under the signature of Prime Minister except those recommending cases for financial assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. After acknowledgement the letters are forwarded to the Ministers/Departments concerned for comments/appropriate action and in most of the cases Ministries/Departments are advised to give a suitable reply to the Members of Parliament concerned under intimation to Prime Minister's Office.

(c) In terms of the extant instructions contained in the manual of Office Procedure, references received from a Member of Parliament are attended to promptly.

(d) Nine letters were received on advisory Committee of Department of Communications and four letters on advisory Committee of Department of Railways.

(e) Seven letters were sent to Department of Communication for action as appropriate and two letters were field since they were only copies endorsed to PM. Four letters were sent to Ministry of Railways for appropriate action.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

North East National Adventure Academy

1445. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed the setting up of "North East National Adventure Academy" for the youths of North-Eastern States during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the first Ascent of Everest on May 20, 2003;

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

(c) the total outlays, target and location finalized for its establishment; and

(d) the time by which this Academy is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Working Committee had been constituted by the Ministry of Defence for preparing a detailed feasibility report for setting up of the proposed Institute. A Sub-Committee of this Committee, has already carried out the reconnaissance of the areas and has identified the proposed site for the Institute in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) As reported by the Ministry of Defence, the issues pertaining to availability of land for the Institute are yet to be resolved by the State Government and no budgetary provisions have been worked out.

(d) No timeframe can be given at this stage as the issue pertaining to availability of land for the proposed Institute is yet to be resolved by the State Government.

Diluting Norms Governing Obscenity

1446. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to dilute the norms governing obscenity under the Information Technology Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any review panel has been set up for examination of the same;

(d) if so, the details of the deliberations of the review panel and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Indian IT Act is incompatible with foreign laws; and

(f) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to counter the said situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Indian IT Act 2000 is based on model law on Electronic Commerce adopted by United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws.

[Translation]

Reduction in Income of Urban Areas

1447. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income in urban areas of many States during 2004 has declined in comparison to the national average during 2003;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) According to the Central Statistical Organisation, the Directorates of Economics and Statistics of the State Governments are responsible for compiling the estimates of state income. They, however, do not compile estimates of income separately for the urban areas. In the absence of such estimates, no comparison can be made of income variations in urban areas in different states.

[English]

National Family Welfare Programme

1448. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has released funds under the National Family Welfare Programme to the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of this programme;

(c) the funds allocated to the State Government of Karnataka during the last three years;

(d) the total number of cases pending under the said programme; and

(e) by when all the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the National Family Welfare Programme, the Government was releasing funds under National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) to poor families.

From the current year 2005-06, the scheme of NMBS has been modified as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Under the scheme, cash assistance of Rs. 500 per live birth is provided to all BPL (Below Poverty Line) pregnant women of age 19 years & above, for first two live births on their registration with health care institutions. Additional financial benefit is also provided to the beneficiaries if they opt for institutional delivery. For 10 low performing States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir), the benefit is also available to the pregnant women even for third live birth provided the beneficiaries on their own accord choose to undergo sterilization immediately after delivery in health facility where she delivered. Emergency obsteric services are also provided to the beneficiary at Government Primary Health Care Institutions. Where Government specialists are not available, assistance upto Rs. 1500 per case is to be provided for hiring services of private experts to carry out the surgery either in Government medical facility or in private hospital, nursing home, etc.

(c) The funds released under this scheme to the State of Karnataka during the last three years are as below:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
2002-03	336.14
2003-04	174.51
2004-05	296.04

(d) and (e) during 2004-05, proposals for release of 2nd installment from 2 districts of Karnataka could not be considered due to non-fulfillment of prescribed criterion and hence lapsed.

Corruption Cases in CBI

1449. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that graft and corruption cases in the CBI are on the rise as reported in the 'Times of India' dated June 21, 2005;

(b) if so, the total number of cases registered against officers of CBI on charges of corruption; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or being taken by the Government 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Sports Sub-Centres

1450. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sports Sub-Centres at present, location-wise;

(b) the details of position of Sports Sub-Centres under construction at present, district-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated to Maharashtra for the said Sub-Centres; and

(d) the time by which the construction of Sports Sub-Centres are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There are two Sports Sub-Centres being run at present by Sports Authority of India (SAI):

1. SAI North-East Sub-Centre, Guwahati (Assam)

2. SAI Sub-Centre, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

(b) In addition, three Sub-Centres at Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), Pune (Maharashtra) and Negercoil (Tamil Nadu) are proposed. The construction in respect of Sub-Centre at Hazaribagh is in progress. As regards Sub-Centre at Pune, the Maharashtra Government has not provided the required 50 acres of land and its share of Rs. 1 crore, hence the Sub-Centre at Pune could not take off. The matter with regard to Sub-Centre at Pune could not take off. The matter with regard to Sub-Centre at Nagercoil, the Government of Tamil Nadu has yet to provide the suitable land at Nagercoil.

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

(d) The construction work of sports Sub-Centre at Hazaribagh is expected to be completed during 2006-07.

Recognition of Medical Colleges

1451. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Medical Colleges recognised in the country during the last three years, till date;

(b) the total number of MBBS, Dental and Ayurvedic Colleges in the country, category-wise;

(c) whether there are adequate number of lecturers in these colleges;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore and its impact on the quality of medical education; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) On the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, 10 medical colleges have been recognized for running MBBS course during the last three years.

(b) Medical College—241

Dental College—205

Ayurvedic College—221.

(c) to (e) The concerned professional Councils who are responsible to maintain the standard of medical education inspect these colleges to see whether infrastructure including teaching staff is available as per the norms prescribed. After satisfying itself about the availability of infrastructure, the respective Councils send their recommendations to the Central Government to grant permission or renewal of permission for admission of fresh batch of students in such colleges. The Councils also conduct periodical inspection of recognized medical colleges to see whether the institutions concerned is maintaining the required standard of medical education. If an institution is not maintaining the required standard, the Council may recommend to the Government for de-recognition of the institutions concerned as per the provision of respective Acts.

Targets for Opening of Post Offices

1452. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether any target had been fixed to open new post offices and branch post offices in West Bengal and Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the targets achieved in this regard, district-wise;

(c) whether all the targets have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) In 2003-04 West Bengal was given target for opening of 6 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, which was fully achieved.

Gujarat was given a target for opening of 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and one Departmental Sub Post office in the same year, out of which 9 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and one Departmental

Sub Post Office were opened. One Extra Departmental Branch Post Office could not be opened as no proposal for opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office in Tribal area was found justified as per the Departmental norms for opening Post Offices.

In 2004-05 no targets were given under Plan for any circle. However, where proposals were found to be justified, post offices were opened by relocation of post offices which are located at a lesser distance than the prescribed norm. Accordingly, two Departmental Sub Post Offices in West Bengal and 03 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 05 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Gujarat have been opened during the year. This approach is in consonance with the policy directives in the 10th Plan.

The district-wise details of Post Offices opened in West Bengal and Gujarat during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in enclosed Statement I & II.

Statement I

District-wise details of Post Offices opened in West Bengal during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of District	Type of Post Offices opened	Number of Post Office Opened
2003-04			
1.	North 24 Parganas	EDBO	01
2.	South 24 Parganas	EDBO	01
3.	Murshidabad	EDBO	01
4.	Midnapur	EDBO	01
5.	Bankura	EDBO	01
6.	Darjeeling	EDBO	01
2004-05			
1.	Kolkata	DSO	02

EDBO—Extra Departmental Branch Post Office
DSO—Departmental Sub Post office

Statement II

District-wise details of Post Offices opened in Gujarat during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of District	Type of Post Offices Opened	Number of Post Offices Opened
1	2	3	4
2003-2004			
1.	Panchmahal	EDBO	02
2.	Navsari	EDBO	01

1	2	3	4
3.	Valsad	EDBO	02
4.	Vadodara (East)	EDBO	01
5.	Narmada	EDBO	01
6.	Surat	EDBO	01
7.	Banaskantha	EDBO	01
8.	Valsad	Upgradation of EDBO into DSO	01
2004-05			
1.	Surat	DSO	02
2.	Panchmahal	EDBO	01
3.	Kutch	DSO	01
4.	Kutch	EDBO	02
5.	Bhavnagar	DSO	01
6.	Amreli	DSO	01

EDBO—Extra Departmental Branch Post office
DSO—Departmental Sub Post Office.

Establishment of Mental Hospitals in Rural Areas

1453. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 5 crore people are suffering from some mental disease in the country;

(b) if so, whether there are only 47 mental hospitals for the treatment of large number of mental patients whereas there are only 3500 psychiatrists working in these hospitals which are lesser than the requirement;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether the most of these mental hospitals are operating in big cities to the disadvantage of the rural people;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish mental hospitals in the rural areas also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorder.

(b) and (c) There are 37 Governmental Mental Health Hospitals for the treatment of mental patients and over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country working in these hospitals.

(d) to (f) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in promoting mental

health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. The focus is on community based mental health care delivery, using appropriately trained primary care physicians. The Government does not, therefore, propose to open any new mental hospital. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government's National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, modernise the 37 government medical colleges and also strengthen the psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges.

[English]

Disconnection of Telephones in J&K

1454. SHRI ABUDL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are disconnected for non-payment of dues, without informing the subscribers in Jammu & Kashmir;

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

(c) the number of telephones disconnected/re-connected after making the payment during the last one year in J&K, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per the policy guidelines, field units have to ensure that before telephones are disconnected for non payment, subscriber is informed about the outstanding dues through a telephonic reminder/Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

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

(c) During last one year 121759 telephones were disconnected and 110695 were reconnected after receiving payments in J&K Circle.

Development of Ports

1455. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to develop large and small ports of the country to boost shipping and fishing;

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

(c) whether the recently launched Sethusamudram project would promote trade, coastal shipping and generate employment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There are 12 major ports and 185 minor/intermediate ports in India. Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, while responsibility for the development of the major ports vests with the Central Government, the State Governments have overall jurisdiction on other ports and are responsible for their development.

Development of major ports is an on-going process keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. Schemes/ projects for development of the major ports are included in the Five Year Plans, which are indicative in nature. An outlay of Rs. 4531.29 crore has been provided under the Tenth Plan for development of the major ports. In addition, private sector investment to the tune of Rs. 11257 crore is also envisaged for development of major ports during the Tenth Plan period. The schemes for development of the major ports include deepening of channels to facilitate berthing of large size vessels, construction of new berths, upgradation/expansion of existing berths, modernization of cargo handling equipments through fresh procurement as also upgradation/replacement of existing equipments, improvement in storage capacities, upgradation of internal circulation systems for smooth cargo movement within the port area, improved rail and road connectivity to hinterland, etc.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations administered by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying

and Fisheries), central assistance is given for construction of minor fishing harbours, major fishing harbours and fish landing centres as also for repair and renovation/ modernization of existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres. Coastal State Governments, Union Territories, Port Trusts and Fishermen Associations and Organisations are eligible, depending upon the nature of work involved, for assistance under the scheme. Extent of assistance, i.e. 50%/100% of the project cost is dependent on the nature of work involved as also on the proponents of the project proposal. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is interacting with the coastal State Governments as also major ports for implementing the scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Once the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project is completed, the channel will provide a shorter navigational route by saving upto 424 nautical miles of distance and upto 30 hours of sailing time for ships between east and west coasts. Reduction in maritime transportation cost due to saving in distance and time would promote international trade of the country as well as coastal movement of domestic cargo. The project will generate employment opportunities, direct and indirect, in the region.

[Translation]

Road Safety Council

1456. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for the membership of the Road Safety Council alongwith the number of members in it at present;

(b) whether the Government lays emphasis on road safety in all its projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Road Safety Council is constituted in exercise of powers conferred under Section 215 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Besides Minister, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways as Chairman and Minister of State, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways as Vice-Chairman, there are 81 official members and 25 non-official co-opted members. Transport Ministers and Director General/Inspector General of police of States/ Union Territories, representatives of various Central Ministries/Department *i.e.* Home Affairs, Human Resource Development, Railways, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Heavy Industry, Environment & Forests and Planning Commission etc. are official members. The Non-Official Co-opted members are selected taking into account various factors including their interest and awareness in road safety matters.

(b) and (c) Road Safety features are an integral part of road engineering projects both at design and construction stages. Apart form this, some of the other important steps taken by the Government to check the road accidents are as under:

(1) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.

(2) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(3) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.

(4) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of Road safety.

(5) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.

(6) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

(7) Widening and improvements of National Highways, etc.

Expansion/Upgradation of Telecommunication Works in A.P.

1457. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works related to progress, expansion and upgradation of telecommunications in the rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the progress in the rural areas is very slow;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of the works undertaken for development, expansion and upgradation of telecom services in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) For the faster development of telecom network in rural area, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Large-scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas to substitute the landline network.

(ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 Kms. against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms for landline connectivity wherever such demand exists.

(iii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is deploying its mobile network in all the Highways, important towns, pitgrim centers and State highways in that order of priority, which gives incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.

Statement

Details of the Works Undertaken for Development, Expansion and Upgradation of Telecom Services in Rural and Urban Areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years

Sl.No.	Work Item		Year 2002-03	Year 2003-04	Year 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Development					
1.	New Telephone Exchange	Urban	13	11	12
		Rural	141	65	24
		Total	154	76	36
2.	OFC (RKMs.)		3868	804	400
3.	VPT Provided	Rural	0	0	180
4.	Broadband	Urban	—	—	37 DSLAMs installed
5.	WLL (No. of BTSs Commissioned)		07	107	—
II. Expansion					
Expansion of L/L Switches		Urban	24,186	(-) 1,37,973	21,248
		Rural	1,29,793	2,44,235	20,010
Expansion of WLL Capacity			3,500	1,13,500	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
III. Upgradation					
1.	SBM to RSU conversion		121	180	202
2.	C256 conversion to AN RAX		0	308 Boards	838 Boards

Note: OFC- Optical Fibre Cable
RKMS Route Kilometers
BTS- Base Transmitting Station
L/L- Land Line
SBM- Single Base Module
RSU- Remote Switching Unit
AN RAX- Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange
DSLAM- Digital Subscriber Line Access Module

Developing National Keyboard in Hindi

1458. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is any National 'Key-board' in Hindi to work on computers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various types of Hindi 'Key-boards' being manufactured result in employees and officers, facing problems while working on them;

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

(e) whether there is difference in the Key-boards of Aryan, Kritideo and Akshar fonts;

(f) if so, the types of Hindi 'Key-boards' available at present; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to develop a National Key-board in Hindi like English?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) India Inscript (INSCRIPT) keyboard was devised in the year 1988 by the Department of Electronics (now Department of Information Technology).

(b) This was published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with details.

(c) and (d) Various types of Hindi keyboard are available for inputting Indian languages. No major difficulty is faced by the user.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The types of Hindi keyboard available are:

(i) INSCRIPT Keyboard

(ii) Phonetic keyboard

(iii) typewriter layout

(g) This is already done by way of standardizing the INSCRIPT keyboard layout.

Promotion of Sports

1459. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sports for promotion of which grants are provided by the Government;

(b) the amount released for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the results achieved in respect of these sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has recognized various disciplines and categorized them in three categories- 'Priority', 'General' and 'Others', as per Statement-I. The Government provides financial assistance to the recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for promotion of the related sports under the scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations'. The details of assistance provided to recognized NSFs for these disciplines during the last three years are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

The central grants had also been provided for development of sport infrastructure. Details of central assistance released under the Scheme for Creation of Sports Infrastructure for the last three years are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

In addition, assistance is provided for promotion of sports & games in schools, All India Rural Sports Tournaments and for conducting National Sports Festival for Women. The details of amounts released for these schemes during the last three years are given in the Statement IV, V & VI enclosed.

(c) The details of medals won by sportspersons in various sports in the last Olympic, Asian and Commonwealth Games as well as other recent important international championships is given in the Statement-VII enclosed.

Statement I

Categorisation of Sports Disciplines

Sports Discipline		
	Priority (A)	
1.	Archery	Priority
2.	Athletics	Priority
3.	Badminton	Priority
4.	Billiards and Snooker	Priority
5.	Boxing	Priority
6.	Chess	Priority
7.	Football	Priority
8.	Hockey (Men)	Priority
9.	Hockey (Women)	Priority
10.	Kabaddi	Priority
11.	Rowing	Priority
12.	Shooting	Priority
13.	Tennis	Priority
14.	Cycling	Priority
15.	Wrestling	Priority
16.	Weightlifting	Priority
17.	Swimming	Priority
	General (B)	
1.	Baseketball	General
2.	Kayaking & Canoeing	General
3.	Equestrian	General
4.	Fencing	General
5.	Golf	General
6.	Gymnastics	General
7.	Handball	General
8.	Judo	General
9.	School Games (SGFI)	General
10.	Squash	General
11.	Table Tennis	General
12.	Volleyball	General
13.	Yachting	General
14.	Winter Games (WGFI)	General
	Others (C)	
1.	Areo Club	Others
2.	Atya Patya	Others
3.	Ball Badminton	Others

4.	Baseball	Others	19.	Power lifting	Others
5.	Body Building	Others	20.	Roller Skating	Others
6.	Bowling	Others	21.	Sepak Takraw	Others
7.	Bridge	Others	22.	Softball	Others
8.	Carrom	Others	23.	Shooting Ball	Others
9.	Cricket	Others	24.	Sports for the Deaf	Others
10.	Cricket (Women)	Others	25.	Taekwondo	Others
11.	Cycle Polo	Others	26.	Tenni-Koit	Others
12.	Karate	Others	27.	Tennis Ball Cricket	Others
13.	Korfball	Others	28.	Throwball	Others
14.	Kho-Kho	Others	29.	Triathlon	Others
15.	Mallakhamb	Others	30.	Tug of War	Others
16.	Motor-Sports	Others	31.	Ten-Pin Bowling	Others
17.	Netball	Others	32.	Wrestling (Indian Style)	Others
18.	Polo	Others	33.	Wushu	Others

Statement II

Financial Assistance given to National Sports Federations during 2002-03 to 2004-05 under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

(Amount in Rupees)

Recognized National Sports Federations

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	1500974	662657	1424960
2.	All India Chess Federation	11681426	16681512	11190285
3.	All India Football Federation	2795514	1598625	11936264
4.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	1511417	0	0
5.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	871899	1177522	3001819
6.	Amateur Athletics Federation of India	9069998	7025325	21508199
7.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	700000	1600000	1250000

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	1475000	1775000	1400000
9.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	1737015	34857700	2500000
10.	Archery Association of India	2626548	6883370	5894567
11.	Atya Patya Federation of India	1200000	1650000	750000
12.	Badminton Association of India	13155431	15980746	16016311
13.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	1240000	1050000	550000
14.	Basketball Federation of India	3232936	4396382	4960748
15.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	3009347	2416455	2352264
16.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	1251489	1000000	675000
17.	Cycle Federation of India	2640253	2808508	1637993
18.	Equestrain Federation of India	6805902	2539252	3276426
19.	Fencing Association of India	8065684	1959832	1707407
20.	Gymnastics Federation of India	12687301	3601507	1887622
21.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	8984951	10842412	8127806
22.	Indian Body Building Federation	50000	0	0
23.	Indian Golf Union	3343796	1853785	3247660
24.	Indian Hockey Federation	7017214	12878010	19421032
25.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	2086136	2720945	1606414
26.	Indian Olympic Association	44491859	5877202	124145335
27.	Indian Polo Association	176913	20241738	161657
28.	Indian Power Lifting Federation	1200000	1750000	1300000
29.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	3488197	5995302	7987832
30.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	3510110	3087071	11034974
31.	Judo Federation of India	2986892	4435620	5637239
32.	Kho-kho Federation of India	1450000	1250000	1891700
33.	Korfball Federation of India	1334539	1150000	1250000
34.	All India Tennis Association	7085207	5918312	13687594
35.	National Rifle Association of India	17436465	17455572	21837241

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Netball Federation of India	1200000	1645900	750000
37.	Roller Skating Federation of India	0	900000	1500000
38.	Rowing Federation of India	3642641	4839159	118433540
39.	School Games Federation of India	1484869	1962015	0
40.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	1200000	1000000	750000
41.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	0	2100000	1200000
42.	Softball Federation of India	1699291	1000000	1400000
43.	Squash Racket Federation of India	9646888	1858975	11936866
44.	Swimming Federation of India	4602717	6012609	1176457
45.	Table Tennis Federation of India	7100759	7490815	11678239
46.	Taekwondo Federation of India	1756800	2321784	600000
47.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	1200000	1150000	1050000
48.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	1650000	1200000	700000
49.	Tug of War Federation of India	1650000	1150000	1250000
50.	Volleyball Federation of India	5061449	7655295	3216953
51.	Women Cricket Association of India	300000	0	500000
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	10977678	23488942	22535117
53.	Yachting Association of India	10549498	15988068	15988462
54.	Wushu Association of India	750000	150000	1050000
55.	Winter Games Federation of India	212000	1227400	964437
	Total	265579954	364349456	416356420

Statement III

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.74	1	484.527	14	123.75	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.44	6	191.00	5	27.00	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	73.50	3	17	2	188.09	8
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0	0	65.00	2
8.	Haryana	1.20	1	40.17	2	118.135	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.61	3	100.213	8	118.6365	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.02	5	26.823	18	22.50	1
11.	Karnataka	82.20	14	58.7	8	101.3	9
12.	Kerala	0.124	1	13.018	4	1.50	1
13.	Madhya	62.40	4	152.27	13	115.40	6
14.	Maharashtra	165.00	7	238.437	13	169.04	9
15.	Manipur	62.50	5	0	0	22.50	3
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	100.11	5	234.555	5
17.	Mizoram	57.75	11	136.323	21	30.00	1
18.	Nagaland	194.00	8	962.463	21	115.98	12
19.	Orissa	15.50	2	0.05	1	0.75	1
20.	Punjab	10.00	1	45.00	1	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	10.71	2	25.00	2	8.725	1
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamilnadu.	97.011	8	170.369	22	81.15475	13
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16.29	1	46.94	3	69.23	6
26.	West Bengal	28.00	2	20.07	15	49.70	4
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	78.50	4	0	0
28.	Jharhand	0	0	0	0	30.00	1
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	94.80325	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1057.995	85	2906.983	182	1787.999	122

State-wise details of Central assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.12	1	0.37	1	2.76	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	4.35	4	7.74	7
3.	Assam	8.67	14	30.88	41	22.18	38
4.	Bihar	1.71	2	3.29	3	7.53	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.39	7	1.13	2	3.32	4
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Goa	0.85	3	0.00	0	1.08	1
8.	Gujarat	1.54	3	2.98	4	1.42	2
9.	Haryana	12.64	24	43.36	59	24.17	41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9.97	12	5.72	15	10.21	14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.00	2	3.17	3	9.64	14
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	Karnataka	25.08	29	16.75	26	12.10	18
14.	Kerala	2.26	4	0.00	0	15.48	17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14.12	24	22.95	29	17.67	20
16.	Maharashtra	35.76	46	51.63	58	54.19	71
17.	Manipur	6.30	6	3.26	5	1.48	2
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	1.08	1	9.37	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Mizoram	0.75	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
20.	Nagaland	5.12	17	0.00	0	3.80	5
21.	Orissa	27.53	39	44.21	55	61.99	80
22.	Punjab	4.78	6	2.56	3	0.63	2
23.	Rajasthan	11.71	17	25.19	29	18.76	30
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Tamilnadu	15.93	45	7.65	21	3.70	6
26.	Tripura	0.73	2	0.37	1	0.40	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	21.05	29	39.60	47	51.11	75
28.	Uttaranchal	8.33	8	11.04	12	18.44	26
29.	West Bengal	88.55	102	77.98	106	127.15	167
	UTs						
30.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
	Total	310.99	443	399.63	525	482.45	662

State-wise Details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.08	16	87.82	27	97.22	36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
3.	Assam	3.45	2	26.81	10	126.31	48
4.	Bihar	0.26	1	20.60	4	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	20.70	9
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.70	1
7.	Gujarat	8.00	3	18.27	10	28.20	1
8.	Haryana	3.02	3	10.31	9	26.86	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.16	1	5.85	3	7.37	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.70	1
12.	Karnataka	50.94	22	39.35	35	149.87	63
13.	Kerala	8.27	5	39.80	18	45.07	24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.65	3	10.80	4	26.10	7
15.	Maharashtra	186.81	79	197.53	98	244.15	115
16.	Manipur	28.48	2	25.03	3	17.80	5
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0	10.72	4	0.00	0
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	10.80	4
19.	Nagaland	20.40	3	22.50	11	19.20	10
20.	Orissa	58.98	24	83.60	40	57.98	32
21.	Punjab	28.48	11	52.68	13	29.45	11
22.	Rajasthan	1.10	1	4.20	2	7.20	3
23.	Tamilandu	75.66	17	164.81	27	169.80	29
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	60.24	14	101.56	41	158.65	62
26.	Uttaranchal	5.40	2	24.60	10	16.80	8
27.	West Bengal	44.09	19	79.86	42	141.28	63
28.	Delhi@	22.50	1	53.50	2	62.64	1
29.	UTs—Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	1
	Total	665.98	229	1080.25	413	1472.00	555

State-wise Details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	1	00.00	0	20.00	1
2.	Haryana	0.00	0	30.00	1	0.00	0
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	0	50.00	1	15.00	1
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Orissa	0.00	0	0.00	0	50.00	1
10.	Punjab	20.67	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Tamilnadu	0.00	0	0.00	0	65.00	1
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Delhi	0.00	0	20.00	1	0.00	0
15.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	100.00	1	0.00	0
	Total	120.67	2	200.00	4	150	4

Statement IV

Promotion of Sports and Games in School

Details of Funds Released to States from 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sikkim	Nil	4.00	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	13.50	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Manipur	6.50	Nil	Nil
4.	Tripura	4.00	Nil	6.00
5.	Maharashtra	19.50	Nil	Nil
6.	Uttaranchal	8.50	Nil	Nil
7.	Orissa	17.00	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	8.00	12.00
9.	Nagaland	Nil	6.00	12.25
10.	Daman and Diu	Nil	3.00	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	21.40
12.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	3.00

Statement V

All India Rural Sports Tournament

Details of Financial Assistance Released the States/UTs for the Lower Level Competitions for the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	2002-03 (Amount in Rs.)	2003-04 (Amount in Rs.)	2004-05 (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Nil	3,00,000 (2001-02) 3,00,000 (2003-04)	8,00,000/-
2.	Bihar	2,40,000/-	2,40,000/-	6,40,000/-
3.	Haryana	2,10,000/-	Nil	Nil
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,70,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,20,000/-	Nil	3,20,000/-
6.	Punjab	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
7.	Kerala	3,00,000/-	Nil	Nil
8.	Rajasthan	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	Nil
9.	Nagaland	1,50,000/- (2001-02)	1,50,000/-	8,00,000/-
10.	Goa	1,50,000/-	2,10,000/-	3,00,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Orissa	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
12.	Karnataka	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
13.	Tripura	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
14.	Tamil Nadu	2,10,000/- (99-2000) 2,10,000/-	2,10,000/-	Nil
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
16.	Maharashtra	1,80,000/-	Nil	Nil
17.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	2,00,000/-
18.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Uttaranchal	1,80,000/-	2,70,000/-	7,20,000/-
20.	Lakshadweep	60,000/-	Nil	Nil
21.	Chandigarh	60,000/-	Nil	Nil
22.	Pondicherry	Nil	30,000/-	Nil
	Total	41,40,000/-	38,10,000/-	85,80,000/-

Statement VI

National Sports Festival for Women

Details of Funds/Financial Assistance Released to the States/UTs for Lower Level Competitions during the last three years i.e. from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Nil	2,09,000/- (2001-02)	2,09,000/- (2003-04) 2,09,000/-
2.	Bihar	4,40,800/- (2001-2002)	4,46,000/-	4,46,000/-
3.	Chhattisgarh	1,45,600/-	Nil	Nil
4.	Goa	Nil	22,600/-	Nil
5.	Himachal Pradesh	91,000/-	91,000/-	91,000/-
6.	Haryana	Nil	1,33,600/-	Nil
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	74,800/-

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Rajasthan	2,48,200/- (2000-2001)	2,48.200/-	Nil
9.	Kerala	Nil	Nil (2003-04)	1,43,200/-
10.	Orissa	1,00,000/-	Request for funds not Received	1,93,600/- (2003-04)
11.	Punjab	1,43,000/-	Nil	10,000/-(for state level competition only)
12.	Tripura	45,000/-	45,000/-	46,000/-
13.	Karnataka	1,96,000/-	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	49,000/-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	14,09,800/-	11,95,400/-	14,71,600/-

Statement VII

Sl.No.	Name of the event	Discipline	Medals		
			G	B	S
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Olympics-2004	Shooting	0	1	0
2.	Asian Games-2002	Athletics	7	6	4
3.	Asian Games-2002	Billiards	1	1	1
4.	Asian Games-2002	Equestrian	0	0	1
5.	Asian Games-2002	Golf	1	0	0
6.	Asian Games-2002	Hockey	0	1	0
7.	Asian Games-2002	Kabaddi	1	0	0
8.	Asian Games-2002	Rowing	0	0	1
9.	Asian Games-2002	Shooting	0	2	0
10.	Asian Games-2002	Taekwondo	0	0	1
11.	Asian Games-2002	Tennis	1	1	2
12.	Asian Games-2002	Wrestling	0	0	1
13.	Asian Games-2002	Yachting	0	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Athletics	0	1	1
15.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Boxing	1	1	1
16.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Badminton	0	0	1
17.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Wrestling	3	3	0
18.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Weightlifting	11	9	7
19.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Shooting	14	7	3
20.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Judo	0	1	1
21.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Table Tennis	0	0	3
22.	Commonwealth Games-2002	Hockey (W)	1	0	0

- Shri Pankaj Advani won the World and Asian Men Billiards Championships held this year.
- Ms. Joshna Chinnappa reached the finals of the Junior World Squash Championship played in Belgium in July, 2005.
- Indian Junior Wrestling team won 2 Silver Medals in the World Championship held in Lithuania in July, 2005.
- Indian Men's Archery team won a Silver Medal in the World Archery Championship at Madrid (Spain) in June, 2005
- Indian Athletics Team won 6 Gold, 11 Silver and 18 Bronze Medals in the Asian Grand prix held in June 2005.
- Indian Youth Boys Volleyball team won the Bronze Medal at the Asian Championship held in Iran in May, 2005.
- Indian Wrestling Team won 2 Silver and 5 Bronze Medals at Sr. Wrestling Championship held in China in May, 2005.
- Ms. Sania Mirza won the ITF Hyderabad Open Tennis Tournament in February, 2005. She is currently ranked 64th in the world.
- Shri Ritwik Bhatacharya and Shri Sourav Ghosal won a Silver Medal in the doubles event in the 2nd World Squash Championship held at Chennai in December, 2004.
- India won 2 Gold and 2 Bronze Medals in the World Chess Championship held at Greece in November, 2004.
- Indian Judo team won 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze medals in the Commonwealth Judo Championship held in New Zealand in November, 2004.
- India won the Gold medal in World Kabaddi Championship held in India in November, 2004.
- Indian Table Tennis Team won 1 Gold and 2 Bronze Medals in ITTF World Sub-Junior Championship held in Portugal in October, 2004.

[English]

Construction of By-Pass and Bridge on NH-52

1460. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had given sanction to construct a by-pass and a bridge on NH-52 near Mangaldoi town in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the said construction work has not started as yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, there is no proposal for construction of bypass near Mangaldoi town. However, construction of a major permanent bridge has been sanctioned near Mangaldoi town on H-52 in Assam.

(b) and (c) The construction of above bridge has yet not been started. The work is likely to commence during financial year 2005-06 and is likely to be completed by March, 2008.

Special Quota for Government Doctors

1461. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special quota for Government Doctors for admission to Post Graduate Medical Courses in the country;

(b) if so, whether this quota is filled fully; 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) Some of the State Governments have provided reservations for in-service doctors for admission to Postgraduate Medical Courses in the State. However, it has come to notice that all the seats reserved for in-service doctors are not fully filled as some of these doctors are not able to secure the minimum qualifying marks as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court which stipulates that admission of candidates including in-service doctors to Postgraduate courses are to be made through a common entrance test only and all the candidates including in-service doctors, are required to obtain the minimum qualifying marks as prescribed in the regulations of the Medical Council of India.

Withdrawal of ECS Charges

1462. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ECS charges proposed and levied by the Postal Department in Mumbai have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, whether small saving agents associations, small investors, investors, investors associations, Members of Parliament, Ex-Members of Parliament etc. have submitted representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

Construction/Upgradation of N.H. No. 215

1463. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enhanced allocation of fund for construction and upgradation of National Highway No. 215;

(b) if so, the details of the fund allocated for the project during the year 2005-06; and

(c) the time by when the entire stretch from Panikoili to Rajamunda is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Funds are allocated for the State as a whole and not NH-wise. During 2005-06,

Rs. 66.00 crore has been allocated for construction and upgradation of National Highways in Orissa State. Panikoili to Roxy section of NH-215 has been approved to be widened to four lane under NHDP Phase-IIIA and is likely to be completed by December, 2009.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats

1464. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided to all Gram Panchayats in Gujarat;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the total number of Gram Panchayats to which telephone facilities are proposed to be provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the time by when the telephone facilities are likely to be provided to all Gram Panchayats in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) 12,370 Gram Panchayats out of 13,160 have been provided with telephone facility. The remaining 790 Gram Panchayats were to be provided with telephone facility by the Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs) whose obligation got liquidated with their migration to Unified Access Service License in 2003. Remaining Gram Panchayats of Gujarat will be covered by the BSNL by November, 2007 with the support from USO Fund.

Approach Paper of Eleventh Five Year Plan

1465. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the approach paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sponsoring of Sports Activities in Orissa

1466. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) sports activities in Orissa sponsored by the Union Government;

(b) the amount allotted for the said purpose during the last two years and proposed to be allotted during the remaining period of the tenth plan; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Government of India sponsors sports activities in States including Orissa. These activities include provision of assistance through Sports Authority of India (SAI). SAI is running the following Training Centres in Orissa.

(1) SAI Training Centre at Dhenkanal and Cuttack.

(2) Special Area Games Centre at Jagatpur and Sundargarh.

(3) National Sports Talent Contest in BS High School, Sundargarh and St. Mary Girls High School, Sundargarh.

(4) Indigenous Games & Martial Arts in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Bhubaneswar and DAV Primary School, District Angul.

(5) Navodaya Vidyalayas of JNV, Zinc Nagar, Sundargarh, JNV, Mayurbhanj, and JNV, Sundargarh.

(6) Akharas adopted in Gurukul Ashram, Nuapada.

In addition, Sports Authority of India provides coaches at the State Coaching Centre for the training of sportspersons in some disciplines. The Government of India operates the Scheme for Promotion of Rural Sports through SAI. The Scheme envisages holding of rural sports tournaments in selected disciplines at Block, District, State and National level. The assistance of Government of India is available for State/UT level and National level Tournaments whereas the tournaments at Block and

District level are required to be organized by the State/ UT Governments from their own resources. The Government of India also provides assistance for setting up State Sports Academies under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Assistance under the above schemes are available to all the States including Orissa.

Till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering Central assistance to the State Governments including Orissa, Non Government Organisations, Universities/Colleges, Schools, etc. in accordance with the approved pattern, subject to the receipt of viable proposals. However, the Government has decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Schemes to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. As such, now proposals for new sports infrastructure have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All chief Secretaries of States including Orissa have been informed on 28.2.2005.

(b) and (c) There was no provision of State-wise allocation of funds under the Sports Infrastructure Schemes. Upon receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments and other agencies indicated in part (a), admissible Central assistance was being provided. However, during the period 2003-04 to 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 298.58 lakhs was released by Government of India for development of Sports Infrastructure in Orissa. Under the scheme of Rural Sports Programme also, there is no provision of state-wise allocation of funds. However, during 2003-04 and 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 11.00 lakhs has been provided to Orissa. Under the Scheme of Promotion of Sports & Games in schools, an amount of Rs. 17.00 lakhs has been provided to Orissa during 2002-03.

[English]

Damages to National Highways and Bridges

1467. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the National Highways and Bridges have been damaged due to recent rains in various States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken steps for repairing of these damaged highways and bridges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. There have been damages ranging from minor surface distress to the major damages like breaches on the road etc. on various National Highways due to the recent rain/flood. The State-wise details of National Highways affected and the damages as per reports received so far from various States and the steps taken to repair the same are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	NH No.	Extent of Damages to National Highways	Steps Taken for Repair of NHs & Bridges
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214, 214A, 219, 221, 222	Damages to Protection works, Erosion of berms, Embankments and Pot holes	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52A, 153	Damage to Pavements due to Land slides, Erosions of Berms & Pot holes	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 38, 52, 54 152, 153	Erosion of Shoulders, Depressions, Potholes, Damage to Pavements due to Land slides, Subgrade Failures, Damages to Approaches of Culverts, Bridges	
4.	Bihar	28, 28A, 31, 57, 57A, 77, 104, 105, 106, 107	Pot holes, Minor damages to Bridges	
5.	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 200, 216	Damages to Wing Wall, Aprons, Superstructure of Bridges/ Culverts	
6.	Goa	4A, 17, 17A	Damage to Pavements due to Land slides, Washing out of Embankment and Pot holes	
7.	Gujarat	6, 8, 8A, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8E (Ext), 59, NE-1	Potholes, Patches, Erosion of Shoulders, Rain Cuts	Restoration works like filling of potholes, restoration of embankment, provision of Bailey Bridges, repair of cross drainage works & retaining/parapet walls, removal of debris wherever required are provided immediately to make the road in traffic worthy condition. Traffic is temporarily diverted wherever required.
8.	Haryana	21A, 73	Pot holes, Erosion of Berms and Surface damage	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72, 88	Road Blockage due to slip and erosion of berms	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A, 1B	Road Blockage due to slip and erosion of berms	
11.	Jharkhand	23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 80, 99, 100	Pot holes, Berms Erosion, Damage to CD Works	
12.	Karnataka	4, 4A, 9, 13, 17 48, 63, 206, 207, 209, 212, 218	Damages to Protection works, berms, Embankments and Pot holes	
13.	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 210, 213, 220	Damages to Protection works, Erosion of Berms & Embankments and Pot holes	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12, 25, 75, 76, 86 Ext., 78, 69	Damages to Approaches of Bridges/Culverts, Erosion of Embankments, Pot holes	
15.	Maharashtra	3, 6, 9, 13, 17, 50, 69, 204, 211, 222,	Damage to formation & Pavements of roads due to Land slides, Washing out of Embankment, Damages to Parapet Walls, Retaining Walls, Pot holes, Submergence, Settlement of Approaches	

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	39, 53, 150,	Damage to Pavement, Potholes, Depressions due to Land slides, Damages to Retaining Structures	
17.	Meghalaya	62, 40, 40E, 51	Submergence, Damage to Pavements due to Land slides, Erosion of Berms	
18.	Mizoram	44A, 54, 150, 154	Road Blockage and Formation Breaching	
19.	Nagaland	61	Submergence, Damage to Pavements due to Land slides, Formation Breaching, Collapse of Retaining Structures	
20.	Orissa	5, 6, 23, 42, 43, 75 Ext., 200, 201, 203, 215, 217, 224	Pot holes, Depressions, Erosion of Berms, Rain Cuts, Patches, Washing out of Formations, Damages to Protection Works, Embankments and Abutments	Restoration works like filling of potholes, restoration of embankment, provision of Bailey Bridges, repair of cross drainage works & retaining/parapet walls, removal of debris wherever required are provided immediately to make the road in traffic worthy condition. Traffic is temporarily diverted wherever required.
21.	Punjab	21	Erosion of Berms, Pot holes	
22.	Rajasthan	8, 11, 12, 65, 90, 116	Pot Holes, Patches, Erosion of Shoulders	
23.	Sikkim	31A	Formation washed away, Damage to Retaining wall	
24.	Tamil Nadu	45A, 45 Ext., 45B, 47, 49, 49 Ext., 66, 67, 68, 205, 208, 209, 210, 220	Pot Holes, Patches, Berm Erosion	
25.	Tripura	44	Culvert damage	
26.	Uttaranchal	58, 72, 74, 87 87E, 94, 119, 121, 123, 125	Damages to Wing Walls and Approaches of bridges, Damage to Pavements due to Land slides	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	11, 19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 56, 76, 86	Pot holes, Minor Damages to Bridges, Rain Cuts	
28.	West Bengal	2, 31, 31C	Pot holes, Minor Damages to Bridges	

[Translation]

Basic Facilities for Development of Sports

1468. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of the Union Government to provide basic amenities/facilities for the development of sports in the country;

(b) the basic amenities/facilities provided in the States with Central assistance during the current year;

(c) the number of stadia completed or yet to be completed with Central assistance, State-wise; and

(d) the central assistance likely to be provided for the completion of these stadia during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Ministry is implementing a scheme to promote rural sports which envisages holding of rural sports tournaments in selected discipline at Block, District, State and National level. The assistance of Government of India is available for State/UT level and National level Tournaments whereas the rural sports tournaments at Block and District level are required to be organized by the State/UT Governments from their own resources. The Ministry also renders assistance to recognized National Sports Federations for participation in international tournaments, organizing international tournaments in India and national championships for senior, junior and sub-junior (Men & Women), purchase of sports equipment, training of sportspersons through Indian and foreign coaches, etc. Sports Authority of India is implementing schemes for promotion of sports namely (i) National Sports Talent Contest; (ii) Army Boys Sports Company; (iii) Special Area Games; (iv) SAI Training Centres; and (v) Centres for Excellence.

In addition, till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering central assistance to the State Governments, non-government organisations, universities/ colleges, schools etc. for creation of basic sports facilities in accordance with the approved pattern, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments and other agencies for promotion of sports. However, the Government has decided to transfer the sports infrastructure Schemes to State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, non funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for these schemes. As such, now proposals for new sports infrastructure have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States have been informed accordingly on 28.2.2005.

(b) All the schemes mentioned in (a) above, except the schemes for sports infrastructure, are being implemented in the current year.

(c) State-wise details of sports infrastructure projects including stadia completed with central assistance during the last three years i.e. 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 under the schemes of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" and "Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges" have been indicated in the enclosed Statement-I. State-wise details for sports infrastructure including stadia yet to be completed under the aforementioned two schemes have been given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Planning Commission has recently informed that funds may be provided for the on-going approved sports infrastructure projects. Subject to availability of funds the Central admissible assistance will be considered for release for the incomplete projects on the receipt of documents required *viz.* utilization certificates, progress reports, completion certificates etc. from the State Governments and other agencies.

Statement I

Number of Sports Infrastructure Projects completed under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-2003 to 2004-05 (as on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Andhra Pradesh	0	10	2
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	5
9.	Haryana	1	0	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	12	4	4
13.	Kerala	1	3	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	1
15.	Maharashtra	0	7	2
16.	Manipur	0	0	2
17.	Meghalaya	0	4	0
18.	Mizoram	4	14	0
19.	Nagaland	0	17	11
20.	Orissa	0	1	0
21.	Punjab	1	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	1	1
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tripura	0	0	0
25.	Tamilnadu	4	19	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	2	0
29.	Delhi	0	0	0
30.	UT Chandigarh	0	0	0
	Total	27	85	42

Number of Sports Infrastructure Projects Completed under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges

From 2002-2003 to 2004-05 (As on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	0	2	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2	6
4.	Bihar	0	1	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
9.	Haryana	2	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	2	2	1
13.	Kerala	1	0	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	3
16.	Manipur	0	0	2
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	1	1
21.	Punjab	0	3	3
22.	Rajasthan	0	2	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tripura	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tamilnadu	3	6	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	5	1
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0
29.	Delhi	0	0	0
30.	UT Chandigarh	0	0	0
	Total	9	24	31

Statement II

Statement Indicating State-wise Approved Projects Pending for Completion under the Scheme of Creation of Sports Infrastructure

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	State	No. of approved pending projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15
3.	Assam	23
4.	Bihar	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	1
9.	Haryana	40
10.	Himachal Pradesh	26
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	42
12.	Jharkhand	4
13.	Karnataka	17
14.	Kerala	18
15.	Madhya Pradesh	64
16.	Maharashtra	36
17.	Manipur	15
18.	Meghalaya	9
19.	Mizoram	9
20.	Nagaland	14
21.	Orissa	20
22.	Punjab	18
23.	Rajasthan	12
24.	Sikkim	2
25.	Tamilnadu	17
26.	Tripura	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	25
28.	Uttaranchal	7
29.	West Bengal	38
	Total	505

Statement Indicating State-wise Approved Pending Projects under the Scheme of Grants to Universities & Colleges

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	State	No. of approved pending projects
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Assam	10
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Goa	2
5.	Gujarat	2
6.	Haryana	8
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
9.	Karnataka	15
10.	Kerala	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6
12.	Maharashtra	17
13.	Manipur	7
14.	Nagaland	1
15.	Orissa	10
16.	Punjab	12
17.	Rajasthan	3
18.	Tamilnadu	26
19.	Tripura	1
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4
21.	West Bengal	14
	Total	155

[English]

Viability of Dankuni Coal Unit

1469. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any viability study in respect of Dankuni Coal unit situated in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for making the said unit viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal India Limited has initiated a proposal for revival/turnaround of Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC).

(b) and (c) The steps initiated and proposed for revival of Dankuni Coal Complex are as under:

(i) Price revision of gas produced by DCC;

(ii) Revision of price of DCC products—Coke and Tar;

(iii) Availability of right/appropriate quality of coal for the plant;

(iv) Aggressive sales and marketing of DCC products;

(v) Improvement in plant capacity utilization;

(vi) Rationalization of manpower;

(vii) Various cost reduction measures;

(viii) The capital rebuilding scheme envisaging a capital outlay of Rs. 58.83 crores in phases to boost up gas production.

[Translation]

Funds for Sports Events

1470. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Himachal Pradesh for organising Kabaddi and Kho-Kho events during 2002-03 and 2004-05;

(b) whether funds for organising the events of volleyball, football and cricket have also been provided to the States by Sports Authority of India (SAI);

(c) if so, the details of the funds allocated indicating the date of allocation, district-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Kabaddi and Kho-kho are among the identified sport disciplines under the schemes of All India Rural Sports Tournaments, National Sports Festival for Women and Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools. The details of financial assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh under these schemes from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as under:

(i) All India Rural Sports Tournament:

Discipline	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Kabaddi	Rs. 30,000/-	Nil	Rs. 80,000/-
Kho-kho	Not conducted	Not conducted	Not conducted

(ii) National Sports Festival for Women: Under this scheme, funds have been released to Himachal Pradesh for 12 sports including Kabaddi & Kho-Kho.

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Rs. 91,000/-	Rs. 91,000/-	Rs. 91,000/-

(iii) Promotion of Sports & Games in Schools:

Under this scheme, funds have been released to Himachal Pradesh for sports disciplines including Kabaddi & Kho-kho:

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Nil	Rs. 8.00 lakhs	Rs. 12.00 lakhs

(b) Cricket is not the identified discipline for the sports promotional schemes being implemented by Sports Authority of India. However, Volleyball and Football are among the identified sports disciplines under the schemes mentioned at (a) above.

(c) State-wise and district-wise allocations are not made by the Government of India. However, statements giving details of financial assistance released to various states under the Scheme of All India Rural Sports Tournament, National Sports Festival for Women and Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools during the last three years are attached as Statement I, II & III.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement I

All India Rural Sports Tournament

Details of Financial Assistance Released the States/UTs. for the Lower Level Competitions for the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	2002-03 (Amount in Rs.)	2003-04 (Amount in Rs.)	2004-05 (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Nil	3,00,000 (2001-02) 3,00,000 (2003-04)	8,00,000/-
2.	Bihar	2,40,000/-	2,40,000/-	6,40,000/-
3.	Haryana	2,10,000/-	Nil	Nil
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,70,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,20,000/-	Nil	3,20,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Punjab	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
7.	Kerala	3,00,000/-	Nil	Nil
8.	Rajasthan	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	Nil
9.	Nagaland	1,50,000/- (2001-02)	1,50,000/-	8,00,000/-
10.	Goa	1,50,000/-	2,10,000/-	3,00,000/-
11.	Orissa	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
12.	Karnataka	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
13.	Tripura	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
14.	Tamil Nadu	2,10,000/- (99-2000) 2,10,000/-	2,10,000/-	Nil
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
16.	Maharashtra	1,80,000/-	Nil	Nil
17.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	2,00,000/-
18.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Uttaranchal	1,80,000/-	2,70,000/-	7,20,000/-
20.	Lakshadweep	60,000/-	Nil	Nil
21.	Chandigarh	60,000/-	Nil	Nil
22.	Pondicherry	Nil	30,000/-	Nil
	Total	41,40,000/-	38,10,000/-	85,80,000/-

Statement II

National Sports Festival for Women

Details of Funds/Financial Assistance Released to the States/UTs for Lower Level Competitions during the Last three years i.e. from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Nil	2,09,000/- (2001-02)	2,09,000/- (2003-04) 2,09,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bihar	4,40,800/- (2001-2002)	4,46,000/-	4,46,000/-
3.	Chhattisgarh	1,45,600/-	Nil	Nil
4.	Goa	Nil	22,600/-	Nil
5.	Himachal Pradesh	91,000/-	91,000/-	91,000/-
6.	Haryana	Nil	1,33,600/-	Nil
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	74,800/-
8.	Rajasthan	2,48,200/- (2000-2001)	2,48,200/-	Nil
9.	Kerala	Nil (2003-04)	Nil	1,43,200/-
10.	Orissa	1,00,000/-	Nil	1,93,600/- (2003-04)
11.	Punjab	1,43,000/-	Nil	10,000/-(for state level competition only)
12.	Tripura	45,000/-	45,000/-	46,000/-
13.	Karnataka	1,96,000/-	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	49,000/-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	14,09,800/-	11,95,400/-	14,71,600/-

Statement III

Promotion of Sports and Games in School

Details of Funds Released to States from 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sikkim	Nil	4.00	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	13.50	Nil
3.	Manipur	6.50	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Tripura	4.00	4.00	6.00
5.	Maharashtra	19.50	Nil	Nil
6.	Uttaranchal	8.50	Nil	Nil
7.	Orissa	17.00	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	8.00	12.00
9.	Nagaland	Nil	6.00	11.25
10.	Daman and Diu	Nil	3.00	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	21.40
12.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	3.00

[English]

Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha

1471. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) under Department of AYUSH is recognised as scientific Organisation by Department of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, whether the time bound promotional scheme is available in other Scientific/Medical Organisations like CSIR, ICMR/CGHS has been extended to CCRAS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Dept. of AYUSH to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The CCRAS has been recognized as a Scientific & Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

(b) to (d) The promotional Schemes available in CSIR/ ICMR/CGHS, etc. have not been extended to the CCRAS. A proposal for extension of Flexible Complimentary Scheme to the CCRAS is under consideration.

Capacity of Paradip Port for Non-Coking Coal

1472. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of Paradip Port for handling Non-coking coal at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the capacity of the port; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Paradip port is capable of handling 3.5 Million Tonnes of imported Non-coking coal during the current year. Apart from this, the port is also capable of handling thermal coal of 20 Million Tonnes per annum.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Capacity enhancement of infrastructure in the ports is an ongoing process. However, in order to increase the capacity of Paradip Port steps like construction of Deep draft iron ore berth on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis for handling of cape size vessels of 1,25,000 Metric Tonnes (MT) and

construction of clean cargo berth on BOT basis to handle Dry Bulk cargo such as fertilizer, food grains and containers have been initiated. Apart from this, deepening of channel to 16.9 metres depth is planned to be taken up after obtaining necessary approvals.

Health Economics as a Medical Subject

1473. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increased use of Health Economics in the area of Health Policy and Development;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce Health Economics as a compulsory paper in the Under Graduate Medical Education Course;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish a National Institute of Health Economics in the country to train medical professionals in this emerging area; and

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done?

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

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) There is no such proposal at present. However the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, offers training programs in the area of applied health economics and financing.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assessment of BPL Persons

1474. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of persons living below poverty line in India is increasing constantly;

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

(c) whether inspite of globalization and economic reforms, no success is being achieved in removing the poverty from the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of the Schemes made and being implemented by the Union Government in the country to eliminate poverty and remove social and economic disparities;

(f) the number of persons brought above the poverty line by providing Central assistance, State-wise;

(g) the number of persons still living below the poverty line as on date, State-wise;

(h) the fund allocated under the Poverty Alleviation Programmes during the current year, State-wise;

(i) whether tribal dominated districts are given preference in the allocation of fund; and

(j) if so, the criteria laid down for granting such preference to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The percentage of people living below the poverty line using data from the quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation on household consumption expenditure, conducted in the years 1993-94 (50th Round) and 1999-2000 (55th Round) are given below in the table.

Year	Percentage of poor (%)			Number of Poor (million)		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0	244.0	76.3	320.3
1999-2000	27.1	23.6	26.1	193.2	67.0	260.2

The percentage of poor persons living below the poverty line, as observed from the above table, has come down from 36.0 percent in the year 1993-94 to 26.1 percent in 1999-2000.

(e) The details of the Schemes/programmes made and being implemented by the Union Government in the country to eliminate poverty and remove social and economic disparities are as follows:

In *rural areas* the programmes which are being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and (iv) National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP).

In *urban areas* the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally Sponsored Scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) for the benefit of urban poor living below poverty line. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets.

A note on major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes is attached in Statement-I enclosed.

(f) The State-wise details of the rural poor assisted under SGSY is given in Statement-II, and the urban poor assisted under SJSRY for setting-up micro enterprises and imparted skill training and also the man-days of work generated under the wage-employment component of SJSRY is given at Statement-III enclosed.

(g) The State-wise information on the number of persons living below the poverty line estimated from the latest large sample survey of NSS (55th round) during the year 1999-2000 is given at Statement-IV enclosed.

(h) The State-wise central allocations for the Schemes of Ministry of Rural Development are given in Statement-V. And, the state-wise tentative allocations under SJSRY being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation for the current year 2005-06 is given at Statement-VI enclosed.

(i) and (j) The State-wise allocation under SGSY and SGSY is made on the basis of incidence of poverty. At the district level under SGRY, the allocation is made on the index of backwardness formulated on the basis of the rural SC/ST population and inverse of per capita production of the agricultural workers with equal weightage to both the criteria. Under IAY the criteria for allocation of funds to States/UTs is 25 per cent poverty ratio and 75 per cent housing shortage in the State. Similarly, the criteria for allocation of funds to a district in a State under IAY is the 25% weightage to SC/ST population and 75% weightage to housing shortage. National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is being implemented in 150 most backward districts of the country on the basis of prevalence of poverty indicated by SC/ST population, agricultural productivity per worker and agricultural wage rate.

Under SJSRY central funds are allocated to the States/UTs in proportion to the incidence of urban poverty in the States/UTs. Therefore, no such preference is given for the tribal population in the States/UTs.

Statement I

Note on Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes

SWARANJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGSY)

The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched in April, 1999 following the restructuring of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied programmes along with Million Wells Schemes (MWS). The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty

line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of Bank credit and Government subsidy. The SGSY programme is conceived as a process oriented programme for the poor with emphasis on social mobilization and formation of SHGs.

SAMPOORNA GRAMEEN ROZGAR YOJANA (SGRY)

The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) announced by the Prime Minister on 15.8.2001 was launched in September 2001. The schemes of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) have been merged under this programme w.e.f. 1.4.2002. The primary objective of the scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in rural areas. The SGRY is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village/habitat. The programme is self-targeting in nature. While providing wage employment, preference is given to agricultural wage earners, non agricultural unskilled wage earners, marginal farmers, women, members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, parents of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupations, parents of handicapped children or adults with handicapped parents. The programme is implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

RURAL HOUSING—INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA (IAY)

The composite multi pronged strategy for housing has been operationalised w.e.f. 1999-2000. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor, free of cost. It has an additional component, namely, conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to semi-pucca houses. Further, a Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for rural housing was launched from 1.4.1999 targetting rural families having annual income up to Rs. 32,000.

NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

The National Food for Work Programme is being implemented in 150 most backward districts of the country from November, 2004. The objective of the programme is to provide additional resources to 150 most backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and provision of food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts is further intensified. Foodgrains are provided to the States free of cost. Works are taken up under the programme in accordance with the Five Year Perspective Plan. The Collector is responsible for preparation of the Perspective Plan and programme implementation.

Statement II

State-wise details of the rural poor assisted under SGSY—Swarozgaris above Poverty Line due to SGSY

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	Percapita Poverty Line per year (Rs.)	% Swarozgaris with Income above poverty line*	
			Individuals	Group
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3692	—	16.42
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3155	28.90	42.67
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4385	17.42	6.25
4.	Assam	4385	40.74	1.78
5.	Bihar	3997	54.38	23.82
6.	Chhattisgarh	3736	32.34	1.83

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3827	53.03	—
8.	Daman and Diu	3715	50.94	—
9.	Goa	3715	49.64	20.00
10.	Gujarat	3827	27.77	28.20
11.	Haryana	4354	33.19	18.72
12.	Himachal Pradesh	4409	33.33	30.60
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	4409	46.38	6.46
14.	Jharkhand	3997	48.17	2.66
15.	Karnataka	3715	34.05	26.75
16.	Kerala	4497	48.38	26.56
17.	Lakshadweep	4497	—	—
18.	Madhya Pradesh	3736	47.08	13.26
19.	Maharashtra	3824	39.32	11.41
20.	Manipur	4385	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	4385	—	—
22.	Mizoram	4385	46.67	12.99
23.	Nagaland	4385	14.29	—
24.	Orissa	3887	54.84	10.25
25.	Pondicherry	3692	—	1.10
26.	Punjab	4352	54.38	65.22
27.	Rajasthan	4128	45.89	5.68
28.	Sikkim	4385	23.60	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	3692	37.85	32.53
30.	Tripura	4385	40.51	2.12
31.	Uttar Pradesh	4043	4.03	7.68
32.	Uttaranchal	4043	46.18	4.15
33.	West Bengal	4202	17.36	0.69
	Total	3931	37.24	15.09

* % to the total beneficiaries who have begun their economic activities and have reported income.

Source: Concurrent Evaluation Report (All India) 2003-04.

Statement III

Urban Poor Assisted under SJSRY

State-wise Cumulative Physical Achievement

(As on 30.06.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)				No. of mandays of work generated under Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) (in lakhs)
		No. of beneficiaries assisted under USEP	No. of Women beneficiaries under DWCUAs	Total Number of Micro Enterprises set up	No. of Persons Trained	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84385	46760	131145	35894	88.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	414	39	453	211	8.64
3.	Assam	5746	195	5941	5819	6.05
4.	Bihar	590	0	590	629	24.87
5.	Chhattisgarh	5960	738	6698	5955	3.73
6.	Goa	480	30	510	996	1.41
7.	Gujarat	29699	78	29777	47315	21.88
8.	Haryana	12408	2137	14545	14488	2.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1564	367	1931	3421	6.05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10001	284	10285	14285	10.11
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	N.R.
12.	Karnataka	33396	10318	43714	112726	72.18
13.	Kerala	15382	13537	26919	33536	20.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	92149	7692	99841	79762	27.70
15.	Maharashtra	61981	6009	67990	121994	33.13
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	2506	2.77
17.	Meghalaya	1710	1	1711	1345	1.83
18.	Mizoram	112	0	112	2117	5.72
19.	Nagaland	1357	2783	4140	1970	1.57
20.	Orissa	19034	10361	29395	18387	23.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Punjab	8549	220	8769	13464	5.05
22.	Rajasthan	36832	763	37595	15226	22.42
23.	Sikkim	435	0	435	1360	3.58
24.	Tamil Nadu	24229	8721	32950	16225	64.37
25.	Tripura	3692	820	4512	7448	4.72
26.	Uttaranchal	812	20	832	1414	0.07
27.	Uttar Pradesh	118258	8952	1271210	91995	59.68
28.	West Bengal	12647	1330	1397	73714	34.62
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	26	0	26	0	3.69
30.	Chandigarh	208	23	231	2130	Not Applicable
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	67	0	67	219	0.94
32.	Daman and Diu	68	0	68	0	0.04
33.	Delhi	914	26	940	1995	Not Applicable
34.	Pondicherry	620	408	1028	3052	2.26
	Total	583725	122612	706337	731598	545.22

Statement IV

Number of Persons Living Below Poverty Line in 1999-2000

(in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/U.T.'s	Rural	Urban	Combined
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	60.88	119.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	0.18	3.98
3.	Assam	92.17	2.38	94.55
4.	Bihar	376.51	49.13	425.64
5.	Goa	0.11	0.59	0.70
6.	Gujarat	39.80	28.09	67.89
7.	Haryana	11.94	5.39	17.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	0.29	5.12

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.97	0.49	3.46
10.	Karnataka	59.91	44.49	104.40
11.	Kerala	20.97	20.07	41.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	81.22	298.54
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	102.87	—
14.	Manipur	6.53	0.66	7.19
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	0.34	8.23
16.	Mizoram	1.40	0.45	1.85
17.	Nagaland	5.21	0.28	5.49
18.	Orissa	143.69	25.40	169.09
19.	Punjab	10.20	4.29	14.49
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	26.78	81.83
21.	Sikkim	2.00	0.04	2.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	49.97	130.48
23.	Tripura	12.53	0.49	13.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	117.88	529.89
25.	West Bengal	180.11	33.38	213.49
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.58	0.24	0.82
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	0.45	0.51
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	0.03	0.33
29.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.05	0.06
30.	Delhi	0.07	11.42	11.49
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.08	0.11
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	1.77	2.41
	All India	1932.43	670.07	2602.50

Note:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu and Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Statement V

State-wise Central Allocation for the Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development

Year: 2005-06 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State Name	All Programmes	SGRY	SGSY	IAY	NFFWP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	118019.04	28139.33	5305.97	21215.00	27199.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17833.42	1524.09	276.91	897.36	425.26
3.	Assam	138402.95	39560.89	7195.18	20774.38	37100.61
4.	Bihar	235302.32	558724.88	12623.79	57958.38	58812.89
5.	Chhattisgarh	86189.90	15705.09	2802.45	5217.17	23181.35
6.	Goa	1779.53	403.44	50.00	170.00	—
7.	Gujarat	53908.87	12320.13	1997.27	10152.19	8895.33
8.	Haryana	17503.35	6490.41	1175.03	2237.22	627.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29655.69	2733.38	484.85	865.31	676.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	33452.88	3212.07	612.44	1785.75	1100.60
11.	Jharkhand	129533.49	37791.40	4757.98	10767.79	50315.90
12.	Karnataka	64796.42	21013.87	4006.76	9908.79	0.00
13.	Kerala	26211.56	9428.94	1797.92	5125.42	1218.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	159356.47	33915.78	6007.91	10833.12	35201.76
15.	Maharashtra	1440995.03	41539.76	7920.39	16984.84	34504.70
16.	Manipur	11165.75	2655.18	482.36	997.83	889.78
17.	Meghalaya	13962.35	2974.57	540.42	1464.44	1212.16
18.	Mizoram	6821.60	688.33	125.06	325.87	212.89
19.	Nagaland	9845.50	2040.38	370.70	980.77	1015.71
20.	Orissa	143632.47	31829.53	6068.93	14948.58	49621.06
21.	Punjab	19283.56	7219.10	571.05	2628.78	1595.09
22.	Rajasthan	109758.73	15956.71	3042.47	6767.31	7866.58
23.	Sikkim	5468.91	762.08	138.45	251.53	703.70
24.	Tamil Nadu	72919.98	24606.12	4691.65	10769.45	10803.45
25.	Tripura	17950.11	4794.48	870.92	2047.82	3439.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	282071.93	94042.72	18173.71	37804.24	58738.53
27.	Uttaranchal	27767.68	6281.04	955.10	2162.19	2259.88
28.	West Bengal	123083.98	35372.18	6744.42	19164.90	25496.32
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	634.70	264.70	25.00	253.21	—
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	310.82	174.27	25.00	64.09	—
31.	Daman and Diu	180.89	84.46	25.00	30.22	—
32.	Delhi	4.69	—	—	—	—
33.	Lakshadweep	235.02	132.39	25.00	36.42	—
34.	Pondicherry	573.69	268.30	100.00	149.63	—
	Total	2101713.26	539650.00	100000.09	275740.00	443115.80

Statement VI

Allocation under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

2005-2006

Sl.No.	State/.U.T's	No. of Urban Poor (in lakhs)	Allocation under SJSRY (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.88	1126.17
2.	Bihar	36.85	681.66
3.	Jharkhand	12.28	227.16
4.	Goa	0.59	10.91
5.	Gujarat	28.09	519.62
6.	Haryana	5.39	99.71
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.29	5.36
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.49	9.06
9.	Karnataka	44.49	822.99
10.	Kerala	20.07	371.26
11.	Madhya Pradesh	59.29	1096.76
12.	Chhattisgarh	21.93	405.67
13.	Maharashtra	102.87	1902.92
14.	Orissa	25.40	469.86
15.	Punjab	4.29	79.36
16.	Rajasthan	26.78	495.38
17.	Tamil Nadu	49.97	924.36
18.	Uttar Pradesh	111.97	2071.43
19.	Uttaranchal	5.90	109.14
20.	West Bengal	33.38	617.47
	Total	651.21	12046.25
Jammu & Kashmir (Under Special Package)		—	1443.75
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	60.76
22.	Assam	2.30	776.37
23.	Manipur	0.66	222.78
24.	Meghalaya	0.34	114.77
25.	Mizoram	0.45	151.90
26.	Nagaland	0.28	94.51

1	2	3	4
27.	Sikkim	0.04	13.50
28.	Tripura	0.49	165.40
	Total	4.74	1600.00
29.	Delhi	11.42	165.37
30.	Pondicherry	1.77	25.63
	Total	13.19	191.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.2	55.48
32.	Chandigarh	0.45	104.03
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	6.94
34.	Daman and Diu	0.05	11.56
	Total	0.77	178.00
	Grand Total	669.91	15459.00

Construction of By-Pass Road on NH-80

1475. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the construction of a by-pass road from Ashok Dham (Bihar) to Lakshisarai (Bihar) on National Highway No. 80 has been included under NHDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has sought approval of the Union Government on the aforesaid project; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government is this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Bihar.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Lowering Down Target of Economic Growth

1476. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is scaling down its projected target of economic growth after the completion of Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Five Year Plan as agreed to by the National Development Council has scaled down the target of economic growth from 8.1% per annum during the period 2002-03—2006-07 to 7% for this period.

(b) The major reason for scaling down the target has been less than expected growth rate in the first three years of the Plan, mainly on account of negative growth in the agriculture sector due to poor monsoon that resulted in poor overall performance in the first year of Tenth Plan i.e. 2002-03, As a result, the likely achievement in the first three years of the Plan was estimated to be 6.5% per annum. In light of this, the acceleration in the growth rate needed for achieving 8.1% was too high to achieve in the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan.

National Illness Fund

1477. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Illness fund alongwith the date on which it was set up;

(b) whether the financial assistance from the fund is provided to patients all over the country;

(c) if so, the norms fixed for grant of such assistance; and

(d) the total amount released for the fund so far during the last three years, illness-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of National Illness Assistance Fund renamed Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, including the date on which National Illness Assistance Fund/Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi was established, the extent of its implementation in the country are enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Details are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF RASHITRYA AROGYA NIDHI

The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development in its 31st Report on the functioning of the Central Government Hospitals under the Department of Health, had expressed concern about inadequate facilities for the treatment of poor patients for major illness. The committee felt that it was essential to explore all appropriate sources of funds to assist poor patients coming to AIIMS or other Central Government Hospitals for their treatment of specific life threatening illness. In view of the recommendations of the above Committee, it was decided to set up a National Illness Assistance Fund under the Department of Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Committee on non-Plan Expenditure in its meeting held on 17th October 1996 approved the proposal for setting up of the fund. Accordingly the National Illness Assistance Fund was set up *vide* Resolution No. F-7-2/96-Fin-II, dated 13/1/97 and was also registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860, as an autonomous Society. The name of National Illness Assistance Fund has now been changed as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) *vide* Resolution dated 8th April, 2003.

2. ADMISSIBILITY UNDER THE SCHEME

The scheme provides for financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line who are 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 Supdt. of the Hospital in which the treatment is being received.

3.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AROGYA NIDHI (STATE ILLNESS ASSISTANCE FUND)

All State Govts./UT Administrations have been advised *vide* Ministry of Health & Family Welfare letter dated 11/11/96 to set up an Illness Assistance Fund in their respective States/UTs. It has been decided that grant-in-aid from Central Government would be released to each of these States/UTs (with Legislature) where such Funds are set up. The Grant-in-aid to States/UTs would be to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the State Govts./UTs to the State Fund/ Society subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crores to States with larger number and percentage of population below poverty line *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Rs. 2 crores to other States/UTs. The State/UT level Funds could also receive contributions/donations from donors, as mentioned for RAN. The Illness Assistance Fund at the State/UT level would release financial assistance to patients living in their respective States/UT upto Rs. 1.5 lakhs in an individual case and forward all such cases to RAN, where the quantum of financial assistance is likely to exceed Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

3.2 The following States/UTs (with Legislature) have set up Illness Assistance Fund:—Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Goa, Gujarat, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, the NCT of Delhi and Pondicherry.

3.3 As per recent decision taken by HFM, all applicants receiving treatment in Delhi Hospitals would be eligible for receiving grants of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

3.4 The following States/UTs have not yet set up the States Illness Assistance Fund in spite of repeated reminders.

1. Assam
2. Haryana
3. Manipur
4. Arunachal Pradesh
5. Meghalaya
6. Orissa
7. Punjab
8. Uttar Pradesh
9. Nagaland.

4. MANAGING COMMITTEE OF RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi is managed by a Management Committee, consisting of the following members:

1. Health Minister—Chairman
2. Secretary (Health/Min. of Health & FW)—Member
3. DGHS—Member
4. Financial Advisor, M/o Health & F.W.—Member Secretary
5. C.C.A., M/o Health & F.W.—Treasurer

There is also a provision of two non-official members to be co-opted from amongst the prominent donors to the fund.

5. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI

There is a Technical Committee to advise the Managing Committee on technical matters, such as nature of illness to be covered for assistance under the Scheme and other ancillary issues.

The Technical Committee comprises of the following:

1. DGHS
2. Financial Advisor
3. Medical Superintendent, Dr. RML Hospital
4. HOD, Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.

6. UTS. WITHOUT LEGISLATURE

It has also been provided in the scheme that Union Territories (which do not have a legislature) will be sanctioned a budget outlay out of the NIF, as and when the UT administration have set up an Illness Assistance Society/Committee. It was decided in the first meeting of the Managing Committee held on 21-10-98 that each UT will be sanctioned a budget outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs. Accordingly the following UTs have been sanctioned a budget outlay of Rs. 50 Lakhs each, during the year 1998-99.

1. Lakshadweep
2. Daman and Diu
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
5. Chandigarh.

An illustrative list of categories of treatment to be provided from the fund is given in the Annexure-I.

An illustrative list of categories of treatment to be provided from the fund is as follows: (This list could be modified by the Technical Committee):

1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aheretomy, Heatsurgery for Congenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation, etc.

2. Cancer

Radiation treatment of all kinds. Anti-Cancer Chemotherapy

3. Urology/Nephrology

Dialysis alongwith consumable goods (coils and dialysis solution etc.). Vascular shunts for Dialysis, P.C.N. & P.C.N.L. Kits, Lithotripsy (for stones)-disposable and stents for endoscopic surgical procedure in Urology and Gastroenterology, Renal & Hepatee transplantation.

4. Orthopaedics

Artificial prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixaters, AO implants used in the treatment of bone disease and fractures.

5. Miscellaneous

Intra-ocular lens implants, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

6. Investigations

Ultra-sound, Doppler shidres, Radiooneulcolide scans, CT scan, Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.I., E.E.G., EM.G., Urodynamic studies.

7. Drugs

Immuno-supressive drugs, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophilie globulin, Erythropoiten, Blood & Blood products/Plasma for patients of burn.

Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

Statement I

Year	Total amount released (Rupees in lakhs)
2002-03	437.05
2003-04	564.54
2004-05	739.72

1. The Government of India releases assistance to States/UTs as Grant-in-aid who are expected to utilise the fund for treatment of patients in accordance with the guidelines of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.
2. The expenditure incurred is not maintained illness-wise.

[Translation]

Special Central Assistance to UP Government

1478. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of the Government of U.P. for Rs. 18,230 crores as special Central assistance is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which this special assistance amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in a letter dated 12.6.2004 had requested for one time Special Economic Package of Rs. 18,230 crores. The issue was examined and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission sent a reply to the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh on 30th September, 2004.

The size of the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Uttar Pradesh was approved at Rs. 13,500 crores, keeping in view the estimated State's own resources and Central assistance, as compared to the approved Annual Plan 2004-05 of Rs. 9,661.51 crores.

Migration of Indian Labourers

1479. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian labourers working in the Gulf countries, Mauritius, etc. at present, country-wise;

(b) the main reasons for the migration of Indian labourers to foreign countries;

(c) whether the Government is taking steps to check the migration of Indian labourers to foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) An estimated 3.7 million Indians are working in the various countries of the Gulf. The number of Indians working in Mauritius is not significant. A statement indicating the country-wise break-up is enclosed.

(b) There are several reasons which include shortage of manpower in several foreign countries, better salaries and working and opportunities for savings abroad.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	No. if Indian workers (in Lac)
1.	Saudi Arabia	14.00
2.	U.A.E.	12.00
3.	Oman	3.50
4.	Kuwait	4.65
5.	Qatar	1.72
6.	Bahrain	1.40
7.	Jordan	0.04
	Total	37.31

[English]

Accelerating Economic Growth Rate

1480. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to introduce contract farming, relax Essential Commodities Act and consolidate food processing laws in a bid to step up the economic growth in the remaining part of the Tenth Plan period and prepare the ground for more than 8% growth rate in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government has agreed to implement these recommendations;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up the issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Commission has also recommended that the Essential Commodities Act should be amended to delete the provisions that discourage development of private sector; and

(f) if so, the extent to which these steps would be helpful to ensure growth rate of 7.5% during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In its Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the Planning Commission has recommended introduction of contract farming, amendment of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) as well as introduction of a new consolidated Food Processing Act which form part of the many corrective steps suggested for rejuvenating the agriculture sector. These steps together are expected to contribute to higher growth rate of the economy in the future.

(b) to (d) The main agenda for the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 27-28th June, 2005 was approval of the MTA. There was broad agreement at the NDC with the goals and policy recommendations contained in the MTA.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has recommended removal of those aspects of the ECA which serve to discourage the development of modern private trades while strengthening the ability of the Act to intervene on occasion of genuine emergency or scarcity.

(f) These steps along with others listed in the MTA are expected to accelerate growth of the agriculture sector, which would be helpful in pushing economic growth rate to 7.5% in 2005-06.

Academic Exchanges between India and Pakistan

1481. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider allowing academic exchanges between India and Pakistan to fulfil a long standing demand of intellectuals on both sides of the border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) It is policy of the Government to promote exchange of visits in the fields of academic, culture, sports etc. to increase people to people contact between India and Pakistan. This has been reflected in the Secretary (Culture) level talks held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2004 and again on July 26-277, 2005 at Islamabad. Government has also announced a liberalized visa regime in September 2004, for academicians, Professors and Vice-Chancellors from Pakistan coming to attend seminars, conferences etc. at the invitation of reputed/eminent universities and institutions in India.

(b) In the context of improved relations, academic exchanges and already taking place at the initiative of the individual universities, colleges and educational institutions of both India and Pakistan which are facilitated by the Government. A delegation from Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is expected to visit India shortly which will interact with University Grants Commission and other Universities in India.

International Status to Kabaddi

1482. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to secure international status for Kabaddi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring out the talents in this sport from rural India;

(d) whether the Government is making any efforts to include Kabaddi in the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in 2010;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Kabaddi is already included in the Asian Games. In fact, the first World Cup for Kabaddi was organized in India in November, 2004.

(c) Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), the Government is providing financial assistance for organizing national and international Kabaddi events in India as well as for participation in international Kabaddi tournaments abroad, etc.

(d) There is no proposal to include Kabaddi in the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in 2010.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Kabaddi is not included in the sports programme of the Commonwealth Games.

Shortage of Qualified Anaesthetists

1483. DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of qualified Anaesthetists are effecting the health care facilities in rural as well as urban hospitals;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a task force to study this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

North-South and East-West Corridor Scheme

1484. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometre of area of Madhya Pradesh to be covered in North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor scheme;

(b) its percentage *vis-à-vis* other States;

(c) whether this percentage is less as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase its length; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) About 621 km. length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh has been covered under North-South and East-West Corridor Scheme. This is about nine percent of the total length.

(c) No Sir. The percentage range of coverage of North-South and East-West corridor in various States is zero to twelve percent.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Survey for Production of Electricity from Atomic Energy

1485. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey at any place for production of electricity from atomic energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on the basis of above survey the Government has any proposal for setting up of atomic power centres in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Site Selection Committee has evaluated various sites in the country and has submitted its report. However, no decision has been taken by the Government on the setting up of future nuclear power plants.

Gas based Engines for Small Boats

1486. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given clearance for commercial use of out board gas-based engines for small boats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of fuel for small fishing boats is expected to be minimized by such engines;

(d) if so, the present commercial status of such engines;

(e) whether the Government has any programme to promote such ventures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has recognized the use of LPG Kit by fishermen in the outboard engine of fishing boats subject to the satisfaction of conditions stipulated by Directorate General of Shipping in this regard.

(c) and (d) Government has looked at the LPG Kit from safety point of view only and not from the point of view of fuel efficiency. It is entirely up to the user (fisherman) to take a view on fuel efficiency aspect and decide on its use.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Local Call Facility

1487. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has provided local call facility to its subscribers in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal for landline to mobile and mobile to mobile calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the subscribers of Ghaziabad and Noida (U.P.) which falls in NCR have been deprived of this facility;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide the said facility in all the districts under NCR; and

(f) if so, the time by when this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) For the purpose of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) License, erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh except Ghaziabad and Noida is divided into two service areas namely, Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West). Uttar Pradesh (West) service area includes the State of Uttaranchal also.

In May 2005, Government has decided that the calls between Uttar Pradesh (East) & Uttar Pradesh (West) service areas would be treated as intra-service area calls and permitted dialing of mobile to mobile and landline to mobile calls between Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) without prefixing '0'. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has also implemented the said dialing facility.

(c) and (d) Ghaziabad and Noida Telephone Systems being part of National Capital Region (NCR) are included in the Delhi Metro Service Area for the purpose of CMTS License. The same concept of service area is also applicable for Unified Access Services (UAS) License.

Since, subscribers of CMTS/UAS located in Ghaziabad and Noida are part of Delhi Metro Service Area, they have the same dialing facility as that of any other subscriber of Delhi Metro Service area.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No timeframe has been fixed.

Filling of Pits and Afforestation of Mined Areas

1488. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the mine-wise and company-wise details of the expenditure incurred in filling of the ditches and afforestation of mined areas;

(b) the total area of land on which the work of filling ditches and afforestation requires to be done; and

(c) the time by when the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The cost of filling of mine voids is included in the cost of production. No separate expenditure account is maintained for cost incurred in filling the voids of mines. However, company-wise details of expenditure for afforestation is as under:

Sl.No.	Company	Expenditure on afforestation (in Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited	530.08
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	104.50
3.	Central Coalfields Limited	381.20
4.	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	750.00
5.	Northern Coalfields Limited	1322.79
6.	South Eastern Coalfields Limited	4753.26
7.	Western Coalfields Limited	443.53

(b) and (c) During the process of opencast mining, initially, certain amount of void is not filled up because of technical reasons like movement of men, machinery in the active areas. Whenever the mine advances, the other available void is back filled and afforestation is taken up on the reclaimed land. This is a continuous process. Some portion of excavated land remains unfilled in coal mines at the time of closure of the mines. These voids are generally converted into water bodies, which cater to the domestic and industrial use of nearby mines, colonies and villages.

[English]

Foreign Collaboration in Ship Building Sector

1489. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy for foreign collaboration, either as direct investment or Government to Government venture in the Ship Building Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new 'Comprehensive Marine Policy' is ready for consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) 100% Foreign direct investment is allowed in the shipbuilding sector. Therefore, interested companies, both foreign and Indian, can set up shipyards either on their own or with a joint venture partner.

(c) to (e) A comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector which includes Ship Building Sector, Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport is under finalization. The policy seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of our maritime assets like ports, shipping, inland water transport systems and ship building and ship repair industries. After factoring in the comments of the Appraising agencies, approval of the competent authority would be taken.

[Translation]

Losses of Coal India Limited

1490. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Coal India Ltd. is running in losses for over many years;

(b) if so, the details of estimated loss incurred by the CIL so far and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce and check the losses; and

(d) if so, the details of the achievements made as a result of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The Coal India Ltd. (CIL) as a whole is running in profit for last several years. However, it had sustained loss in 2000-2001. The details of profit/loss before tax and dividend for the last ten years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Profit/Loss
1995-1996	611.44
1996-1997	1,137.42
1997-1998	1,803.99
1998-1999	1,451.79
1999-2000	693.87
2000-2001	(-) 1,414.47
2001-2002	1,754.56
2002-2003	2,865.50
2003-2004	4,889.16
2004-2005 (Prov.)	6,959.25

Loss for the year 2000-01 was mainly due to provision of Rs. 3,031.66 crore in 2000-2001 towards arrears of pay, pursuant to upward revision in salaries and wages of staff, officers and workers.

[English]

Wage Revision of Coal Sector Employees

1491. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various issues pertaining to the workers of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) were discussed in the recent meeting between the Hon'ble Minister of coal and the Central Trade Union leaders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to increase the wages of the employees in the Coal India Limited, its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Co. Limited;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of employees who will be benefited by the wage revision; and

(f) the total increase in wage bill as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following issues were discussed in the meeting held on 9-7-2005 and 10-7-2005 between the Minister of State (Coal) and Central Trade Union leaders:

1. The clauses for employment on compassionate ground as per National Coal Wage Agreement-VI (NCWA-VI) will be operative in NCWA-VII till revised schemes is jointly prepared.

2. The payment of arrears will be made to the employees who have already separated and shall separate on any account. For remaining employees of all the Subsidiaries/Companies, modalities shall be jointly worked out taking into consideration of revival package of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

3. The minimum guaranteed benefit will be 15% of basic pay as on 30-06-2001 plus Rs. 300 or Rs. 1185.39 whichever is higher.

4. It was agreed that unions will not press for their strike notice dated 31-5-2005 to go on strike with effect from 18-7-2005 to 24-7-2005.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to increase the wages of employees in Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies including Singareni Collieries Company Limited as under:

I. All employees covered by the agreement will be given minimum guaranteed benefit of 15% of basic pay as on 30.6.2001 plus Rs. 300 or Rs. 1185.39 whichever is higher.

II. The number of employees who will be benefited by the agreement signed on 15.7.2005 will be 5,15,000 as on 1.7.2001 in Coal India and its Subsidiaries.

III. The financial impact during 5 years period i.e. 1.7.2001 to 3.6.2006 will be for Rs. 7,293 crore.

IV. As far as Singareni Collieries Company Limited is concerned, 1,03,009 employees will be benefited with the financial impact of upward pay revision of about Rs. 835 crore during its operation period from 01.07.2001 to 30.06.2006.

Popularization of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic Medicines

1492. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to popularize the Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic Systems of medicine in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic hospitals/ dispensaries in the country as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up some new hospitals/dispensaries in the country during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated during the current year, location-wise?

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 and Homoeopathy (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, etc.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Health is a State subject. However, a Centrally sponsored scheme (Hospitals and Dispensaries) at an allocated budget of Rs. 90 crores during 2005-06 is in operation. Under this scheme financial aid is provided to State Governments for establishment of AYUSH wing in district hospitals and supply of essential drugs to AYUSH dispensaries.

Statement

State-wise No. of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic Hospitals/Dispensaries

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Ayurvedic Hosp.	No. of Ayurvedic Disp.	No. of Homoeo. Hosp.	No. of Homoeo. Disp.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	620	6	283
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	1	44
3.	Assam	1	268	3	75
4.	Bihar	11	311	11	179
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	632	4	52
6.	Delhi	10	148	2	98
7.	Goa	1	11	1	3
8.	Gujarat	48	490	14	216
9.	Haryana	8	460	0	20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24	1118	1	14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	253	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	1	122	2	54
13.	Karnataka	122	589	20	42
14.	Kerala	120	730	35	580
15.	Madhya Pradesh	32	1427	21	146
16.	Maharashtra	51	490	44	0
17.	Manipur	0	0	1	9
18.	Meghalaya	0	2	1	10
19.	Mizoram	0	0	0	1
20.	Orissa	8	624	6	603
21.	Punjab	15	507	5	107

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Rajasthan	84	3482	7	114
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	24	9	41
25.	Tripura	1	40	1	66
26.	Uttar Pradesh	151	1821	8	1342
27.	Uttaranchal	7	467	1	60
28.	West Bengal	5	298	12	1220
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0	8
30.	Chandigarh	1	6	1	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	1
32.	Daman and Diu	0	1	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	2	0	1
34.	Pondicherry	0	15	0	7
	Total	728	14962	217	5402

Note: Figures are provisional.

Over Aged Indian Fleets

1493. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over aged Indian fleets are resulting in high operating cost of water transport in the country; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to enhance their viability and cost effectiveness?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Substitute for Nimuslide Syrup

1494. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Nimuslide syrup is dangerous to the children;

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating a substitute for the said drug;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to become available in the market together with its likely price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The question of rationality of Drugs formulations of Nimesulide for adult as well as for pediatric use was examined by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, on the directions of the High Court of Delhi. DTAB after examination opined that there is no ground for banning of the drug Nimesulide for Adult or Pediatric use. The drug is considered to be

as safe or as unsafe as any other commonly used Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drug (NSAID). The recommendations of DTAB were also accepted by the Hon'ble Court.

(c) to (e) Syrups of other similar drugs like Paracetamol are available in the market for pediatric use.

[English]

Surrender of Landline Connections

1495. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed the phone companies to refund money within 60 days after surrender of landline connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any directions to MTNL also in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the number of cases of surrender of landline telephone connections has outnumbered the total number of existing telephones; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 8.7.2005 has directed the telecom operators including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to refund security deposit within 60 days after disconnection of telephone. The service provider has now to pay interest at a rate of 10% per annum for any delay in making the refund within the stipulated period.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Establishing Universities and a Centre for NRIs/PIOs

1496. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up full fledged universities for the NRIs/PIOs;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to establish an NRI Centre in Delhi for the welfare of NRIs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the said centre is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Such universities may be set up by the private sector with the approval of the regulatory agencies concerned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government is in the process of finalizing the site for the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi. Once the land is acquired, steps regarding the design and construction of the Kendra will commence. The Kendra is likely to be operational in about 3 years time.

Development of Ports

1497. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to allow private participation in development of minor/major ports in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Union Government would extend financial assistance for the development of ports in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, while responsibility for the development of the major ports vests with the Central Government, the State Governments have overall jurisdiction on other ports and are responsible for their

development. The Central Government has issued comprehensive guidelines for private sector participation in major ports. A number of private sector projects are already in operation and the Central Government continues to encourage the private sector to participate in projects for development of major ports including at New Mangalore Port which is the only major port in the State of Karnataka.

It is open for the Government of Karnataka to allow private sector participation in development of minor ports in the State.

[Translation]

Declaration of National Highways

1498. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) the names of the State roads in the country proposed to be upgraded and declared as National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the names of the State roads proposed to be declared as National Highways during the year 2005-06; and

(c) the details of the proposals pertaining to the construction of bridges over National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) During the 10th Plan, it was envisaged that the National Highways network will be expanded by 2000 kms all over the country. No State-wise target was fixed. As against this, 7457 kms of State roads of various States were declared as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

(c) The target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan period included construction and rehabilitation of 600 Bridges on National Highways. During 2005-06, it has been targeted to construct 161 Bridges.

[English]

NHDP Phase-III

1499. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

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

(a) the length of National Highways in Kilometres approved under Phase-III of the National Highways Development Project in Bihar alongwith the names of these Highways;

(b) the length of Road in Kilometres approved under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in Bihar alongwith the names of these roads; and

(c) the estimated expenditure for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) An aggregate length of 89 Kms. has been identified in Bihar under National Highways Development Project Phase III. The names of National Highways are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of National Highway	National Highway Number	Length (Km)
1	2	3	4
1.	Purnea-Khagaria-Begusarai-Barh-Bhaktiarpur	31	255
2.	Bhaktiarpur-Fatuha-Patna	30	53

1	2	3	4
3.	Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur	19, 77	60
4.	Motihari-Raxaul	28A	67
5.	Forbesganj-Jogbani	57A	13
6.	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	85, 19	153
7.	Buxar-Patna	84	130
8.	Sonbersa-Muzaffarpur	77	89
9.	Mokama-Munger	80	70
		Total	890

(b) and (c) No such programme is under implementation by this Ministry.

Mysore-Bangalore Express Corridor Project

1500. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Mysore-Bangalore express corridor project has come to a standstill;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Union Government and the Government of Karnataka to restart the construction work immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) the Ministry is responsible for maintenance and development of National Highways. Mysore-Bangaore Express Corridor is a State road project. Therefore, Karnataka Government is responsible for construction work of this road.

However, as per the information received from State Government of Karnataka the construction of Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Projects involves 111 km. long road and development of 5 townships. Out of which, work in 41 km. of peripheral road, 12 km. of expressway and development of 1 township has been earmarked for Phase-1. Even in Phase-1, development is proposed to be taken up in stages. In stage-1, work of 41 km. of peripheral road has been taken up. The work has commenced on 5th February, 2004 and is in progress. There are some problems related to land acquisition in Stage-1 for which, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has taken steps for acquisition of private land. The State Revenue Department is taking action to transfer Government land on lease basis and Ministry of Environment and Forests is taking necessary steps pertaining to forest land.

Social Audit of Departments

1501. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to have social audit of its public dealing departments as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 19, 2005;

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

(c) the guidelines laid down for it; and

(d) the work plan drawn by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Funds Provided by Foreign Financial Institutions

1502. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided to Gujarat by the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions for construction, improvement, repairing, maintenance and widening of the National Highways during the last two years;

(b) the details of achievement made in this regard;

(c) whether the grants provided by these financial institutions have been spent; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Rs. 298.05 crore has been received during 2003-04 and 2004-05 out of US $ 165 million total loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Surat-Manor Tollway Project under which National Highways from Surat to Manor (km 263.4 to km 439 on NH-8) has been 4-laned. Km 263.4-km 381.6 of NH-8 pertains to Gujarat and km 381-6 to km 439 pertains to the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Surat-Manor Section of NH-8 has been 4-laned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cell-Phone Services of BSNL and MTNL

1503. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the services of Cell-phone provided by the MTNL and the BSNL are inferior in comparison to the other private cell-phone operators; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to undertake to improve the cell-phone services of MTNL and BSNL users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is, *inter-alia*, mandated for monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) provided by the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers. As per the TRAI report for quarter ending March 2005, like other Private Operators, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also meeting most of the QoS benchmarks. However, congestion in BSNL's Mobile network has been observed in some service areas due to limitation in network capacity.

(b) BSNL is optimising its Mobile network continuously for improved performance. Monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. BSNL has been augmenting its mobile network continuously and action has been taken to augment the network capacity by around 14 million in the country to meet the overwhelming demand. Similarly, MTNL has also planned to add 0.4 million cellular mobile capacity in the current financial year 2005-06.

[English]

Condition of N.Hs. in Uttaranchal

1504. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the National Highways in Uttaranchal are in dilapidated condition resulting in accidents and hindrance in movement of traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise details of funds provided to the State for the repair and maintenance of N.Hs during the last three years till date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to improve the condition of N.Hs alongwith the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Highways in Uttaranchal are in traffic-worthy condition. There are 14 numbers of National Highways passing through the State of Uttaranchal. Out of these, condition of 9 National Highways is good. The remaining 5 National Highways namely NH-119, NH-121, NH-123, NH-87 Ext. and NH-125 were in dilapidated condition before entrustment to the State Government in November 2004. These have been brought to traffic-worthy condition within the available resources keeping in view the safety of the traffic.

(c) Year-wise funds provided to the State of Uttaranchal during the last three years is given below:

Year	M&R (Rs. in Cr.)
2002-03	5.84
2003-04	3.66
2004-05	14.60
2005-06 till 31st July, 05	11.60

(d) Improvement of riding quality in 108 Km. length amounting to Rs. 29.90 crore under National Highways (Original works) and improvement of 119.95 Km. length amounting to Rs. 13.38 crore under Maintenance and Repair works have been approved during the last two years.

Impact of Regular Mining

1505. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the impact of the order authorizing Government companies or undertakings to do regular coal or lignite mining;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allow mining of coal for captive purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The policy circular dated 12.12.2001 whereby State Government undertakings have been allowed to do mining of coal anywhere in the country without the restriction of working only small and isolated deposits has been well received by the States. The following State Government undertakings/companies have been allocated coal blocks under the above policy:

Sl.No.	Name	Block
1.	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation	Tara
2.	Orissa Mining Corporation	Utakal-D
3.	West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation	Transdamodar Sector

Further the NTPC, a Central Government Undertaking has been allocated Pakriburwadih coal block, under the above policy. A number of applications have been received under the policy from various State Government undertakings/companies for allocation of coal blocks.

(c) and (d) The provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended in 1993, *inter-alia*, allow an Indian company do captive mining of coal for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production.

[Translation]

Eradication of T.B. and Polio

1506. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) the details of the programmes being run by the Government to eradicate T.B. and Polio;

(b) the details of the success achieved under the said programmes; and

(c) the amount spent during each of the last three years and during the current year for the said programmes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, is being implemented in the country since year 1997 in a phased manner. Presently, about 1038-million populations in more than 585 districts/reporting units has been covered under the revised strategy. The Project districts have reported cure rate of more than 85%. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 44.5 lac patients, on treatment averting more than 7.5 lac death. It is envisaged to cover the entire country under the Revised Strategy during the current year (2005).

The Government of India is implementing the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in the country with support from WHO and donor agencies for eradication of polio. Under this programme, national and sub-national (in high-risk States/districts) rounds are conducted for giving polio vaccine to children between 0-5 years of age. Considerable progress has been achieved. The number of polio cases declined from 1600 in 2002 to 225 in 2003, 134 in 2004 and 23 cases in 2005 (as on 21st July, 2005).

(c) The State-wise details of amount spent under National TB Control Programme during last three years and current year are given at statement-I enclosed.

The polio rounds are conducted by the States/UTs for which the Government of India (i) supplies oral polio vaccine (OPV) to the States in kind and (ii) provides funds to meet operational expenses to the States.

Operational Cost of Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme during last three years (State-wise) and current year has been given at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise expenditure under the National TB Control Programme during the last three years including current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (till July, 05)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	952.66	635.47	775.42	1100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.09	114.13	123.52	51.76
3.	Assam	256.81	448.95	536.17	163.53
4.	Bihar	285.01	393.29	669.11	398.96
5.	Goa	11.37	22.50	24.00	25.49
6.	Gujarat	239.74	301.97	710.10	486.01
7.	Haryana	137.13	148.91	200.05	156.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	91.20	133.65	173.84	128.98
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	31.95	125.21	195.20	117.36

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Karnataka	455.28	636.25	482.85	459.48
11.	Kerala	156.31	252.85	327.12	176.42
12.	Madhya Pradesh	663.03	412.35	752.73	498.84
13.	Maharashtra	627.18	1399.29	1038.69	655.58
14.	Manipur	77.14	126.83	95.07	60.58
15.	Meghalaya	70.19	58.39	45.19	40.65
16.	Mizoram	84.09	97.94	72.14	37.58
17.	Nagaland	28.48	68.72	65.67	38.85
18.	Orissa	785.45	364.13	100.20	167.73
19.	Punjab	202.79	267.01	226.93	186.40
20.	Rajasthan	497.23	502.29	643.99	634.13
21.	Sikkim	34.28	42.25	53.25	20.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	350.10	982.42	995.96	417.69
23.	Tripura	44.61	30.80	49.05	5.12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1142.25	1275.78	1476.21	1466.48
25.	West Bengal	677.95	889.30	978.17	659.94
26.	Delhi	393.55	384.15	479.11	294.72
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.39	15.00	0.13
28.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	13.00	0.21	18.00	27.60
29.	Chandigarh	16.00	30.17	38.00	27.60
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	5.00	10.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.21	5.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	9.34	3.27	0.00	0.01
33.	Jharkhand	78.32	373.60	261.45	247.35
34.	Uttaranchal	97.16	273.39	128.09	148.76
35.	Chhattisgarh	196.55	513.91	349.38	294.17
	Total	8746.22	11309.98	12109.66	9188.91

Statement II

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

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-03 Expenditure	2003-04 Expenditure	2004-2005 Released	2005-2006 Released till date (25.9.05)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.35	10.97	21.38	14.98
2.	Andhra Pradesh	720.991	802.72	1523.91	853.31
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.04	38.36	57.41	42.85
4.	Assam	312.56	482.31	943.30	471.81
5.	Bihar	1477.54	2117.19	3345.36	2076.71
6.	Chandigarh	8.51	9.34	14.37	9.27
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.18	2.97	4.40	2.95
8.	Daman and Diu	2.02	2.16	3.24	2.21
9.	Delhi	318.29	480.36	489.50	535.11
10.	Goa	3.26	10.10	14.97	9.78
11.	Gujarat	446.22	1603.44	1117.02	530.82
12.	Haryana	304.17	558.91	610.59	327.83
13.	Himachal Pradesh	70.81	100.45	156.09	102.93
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	139.95	209.48	316.91	203.13
15.	Karnataka	465.19	511.82	1015.83	505.87
16.	Kerala	193.92	209.48	316.91	203.13
17.	Lakshadweep	1.55	2.86	4.27	2.31
18.	Madhya Pradesh	696.31	1811.35	1459.43	755.65
19.	Maharashtra	870.97	792.27	1627.20	1138.06
20.	Manipur	59.70	66.13	98.96	65.00
21.	Meghalaya	54.97	67.21	111.13	77.92
22.	Mizoram	22.23	24.35	36.44	24.19
23.	Nagaland	41.60	50.01	74.84	49.52
24.	Orissa	323.30	272.64	513.33	326.14

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Pondicherry	3.54	9.17	13.29	8.57216
26.	Punjab	234.64	247.84	391.33	254.56308
27.	Rajasthan	640.22	2002.19	1653.38	781.71528
28.	Sikkim	13.31	14.33	21.54	14.03431
29.	Tamil Nadu	504.92	535.66	808.14	512.35472
30.	Tripura	67.74	73.38	114.59	76.02799
31.	Uttar Pradesh	4584.92	8909.50	10877.36	7342.9086
32.	West Bengal	734.32	1902.27	2004.03	804.90215
33.	Uttaranchal	129.30	276.95	326.37	256.68817
34.	Chhatttisgarh	214.03	232.09	351.93	231.52032
35.	Jharkhand	252.70	914.27	841.65	352.82472
	Total	13968.18	25277.13	31224.10	18944.82

2002-03 and 2003-04—expenditure reported by States

2004-05—funds released to the States

2005-06—funds released to the States till date.

[English]

Study of IT Services in World Market

1507. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any study of IT services and India's achievements in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning for higher targets for the achievement of greater IT services in world market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government is working proactively with the industry for growth of IT sector. NASSCOM along with McKinsey & Co. has conducted a detailed study to draw a ten-year aspiration for the industry in the year 1999. The study had stated that the Indian Software and BPO industry could aggregate revenues of US$ 50 billion by exports in the world market, by 2008-09. This study was revalidated in 2002 after the slowdown in the technology industry worldwide and it was felt that this aspiration is still achievable.

The Indian IT software and services sector is on right track and achieved exports revenue of US$ 17.2 billion, registering growth of 34.5% in FY 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The targets for the world market are set keeping in view various factors in their realization and strengths of India's IT sector, and Government is working proactively with industry to achieve the set targets for 2008-09. As part of this, various incentives given by the Government to promote IT sector are enclosed in the statement.

Statement

Incentives for the development of Information Technology Sector

1. Approvals for all Foreign Direct Investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.

4. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 20% to 15%. Customs duty on project imports with investment of at least Rs. 5 crores in plants and machinery is @ 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. Customs duty on Metals (Ferrous & Non-ferrous), chemicals and plastics has been reduced from 15% to 10%. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs duty on specified electronic components has been exempted except Deflection parts, Air cored & ferrite cored transformers, RF/IF coils and Loudspeakers (cone type). An additional duty of 4% has been imposed on items bound by IT agreement (except IT Software) and their inputs, raw materials, parts, capital goods covered under various customs notifications. Specified capital goods required in the manufacture of capacitors, electronic fuses, TDM, DC micromotors, PCBs, Relays, Switches have been exempted from customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%. Specified infrastructure equipment for basic/cellular/internet, V-SAT, radio paging and public mobile radio trunked services and parts of such equipment are exempted from basic customs duty. Customs duty exemption to mobile switching centres presently available to cellular mobile telephone service providers has been extended to imports by universal access service providers. Customs duty on cellphones, parts of Set Top Box continues at 0%. Laptops brought as part of baggage are exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on passenger baggage has been reduced from 40% to 35%.

5. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives continue to be exempt from excise duty. Pre-loaded software on PCs, Audio CDs, Recorded VCDs and DVDs, Cellular Phones, Radio trunking terminals, Portable receivers for calling, alerting of paging; parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones, Set Top Box remain exempted from excise duty.

6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. Import of second hand capital goods and import of capital goods for pre-production facilities are permitted under the scheme. Import of spares is also permitted to facilitate upgradation of existing plant and machinery. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange. EPCG licence holders can opt for Technological Upgradation of the existing capital goods imported under the EPCG licence.

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

8. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for all units under EOU/EHTP/Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zones (SEZ) schemes.

9. EOU/STP/EHTP/Bio Technology Park (BTP) units have been exempted from service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.

10. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.

11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.

12. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.

13. EOU/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

14. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/ special facilities:

- 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;

- Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.

15. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/STP/EHTP units to Government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations, two years after their use by the said units is permitted.

16. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations are exempted from customs duties.

17. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) of Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity share in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

18. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act (Infrastructure Status) is available to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

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

20. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

[Translation]

Embezzlement of Funds

1508. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several sports federations indulge in large scale embezzlement of funds received from the Government as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated June 14, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has ascertained the amount provided for various sports and games during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, sports/games-wise; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that funds are provided to sports/games which are on a progress path rather than to those which do not have a future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) National Sports Federations (NSFs) are autonomous societies registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 under different State Governments. Government of India gives assistance to recognized NSFs for organising national and international events in India participation in international tournaments abroad, procurement of equipment, training of national teams/ sportspersons under Indian and foreign coaches, etc. There have been some complaints against NSFs about embezzlement of funds received from the Government. Any complaint against any NSF about misutilisation of funds etc., is processed promptly after ascertaining the comments of the concerned NSF. Financial assistance is provided to recognized NSFs for various sports activities as per laid down criteria and scale. To ensure proper utilization of Government assistance, utilization certificates, statement of accounts duly audited by Chartered Accountants are received and further assistance is released only on receipt of these documents. Further, this Ministry has issued sanction for audit of NSFs getting assistance exceeding Rs. one crore in a year through Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of financial assistance provided to various National Sports Federations during last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Financial assistance is provided to recognized National Sports Federations which have been categorized as 'Priority', 'General' and 'Others'. A dynamic criteria for the categorization has been adopted, based on performance of the sports at international level, the recognized NSFs receive assistance admissible as per their category.

Statement

Recognized National Sports Federations

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	(Amount in Rupees) 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	1500974	662657	1424960
2.	All India Chess Federation	11681426	16681512	11190285
3.	All India Football Federation	2795514	1598625	11936264
4.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	1511417	0	0
5.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	871899	1177522	3001819
6.	Amateur Athletics Federation of India	9069998	7025325	21508199
7.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	700000	1600000	1250000
8.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	1475000	1775000	1400000
9.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	1737015	34857700	2500000
10.	Archery Association of India	2626548	6883370	5894567
11.	Atya Patya Federation of India	1200000	1650000	750000
12.	Badminton Association of India	13155431	15980746	16016311

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	1240000	1050000	550000
14.	Basketball Federation of India	3232936	4396382	4960748
15.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	3009347	2416455	2352264
16.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	1251489	1000000	675000
17.	Cycle Federation of India	2640253	2808508	1637993
18.	Equestrain Federation of India	6805902	2539252	3276426
19.	Fencing Association of India	8065684	1959832	1707407
20.	Gymnastics Federation of India	12687301	3601507	1887622
21.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	8984951	10842412	8127808
22.	Indian Body Building Federation	50000	0	0
23.	Indian Golf Union	3343796	1853785	3247660
24.	Indian Hockey Federation	7017214	12878010	19421032
25.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	2086136	2720945	1606414
26.	Indian Olympic Association	44491859	5877202	124145335
27.	Indian Polo Association	176913	20241738	161657
28.	Indian Power Lifting Federation	1200000	1750000	1300000
29.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	3488197	5995302	7987832
30.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	3510110	3087071	11034974
31.	Judo Federation of India	2986892	4435620	5637239
32.	Kho-kho Federation of India	1450000	1250000	1891700
33.	Korfball Federation of India	1334539	1150000	1250000
34.	All India Tennis Association	7085207	5918312	13687594
35.	National Rifle Association of India	17436465	17455572	21837241
36.	Netball Federation of India	1200000	1645900	750000
37.	Roller Skating Federation of India	0	900000	1500000
38.	Rowing-Federation of India	3642641	4839159	118433540
39.	School Games Federation of India	1484869	1962015	0
40.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	1200000	1000000	750000
41.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	0	2100000	1200000

1	2	3	4	5
42.	Softball Federation of India	1699291	1000000	1400000
43.	Squash Racket Federation of India	9646888	1858975	11936866
44.	Swimming Federation of India	4602717	6012609	1176457
45.	Table Tennis Federation of India	7100759	7490815	11678239
46.	Taekwondo Federation of India	1756800	2321784	600000
47.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	1200000	1150000	1050000
48.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	1650000	1200000	700000
49.	Tug of War Federation of India	1650000	1150000	1250000
50.	Volleyball Federation of India	5061449	7655295	3216953
51.	Women Cricket Association of India	300000	0	500000
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	10977678	23488942	22535117
53.	Yachting Association of India	10549498	15988068	15988462
54.	Wushu Association of India	750000	150000	1050000
55.	Winter Games Federation of India	212000	1227400	964437
	Total	265579954	364349456	416356420

[English]

Assistance for Promotion of Sports

1509. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the Union Government to various institutions associated with the promotion of sports in the country, State-wise especially in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the methods being adopted to utilize the amounts granted to the institutions;

(c) the number of proposals for development of sports pending consideration of the Union Government, State-wise especially from Rajasthan;

(d) the time by when the proposals are likely to be approved; and

(e) the details of institutions which are funded or run by the Union Government for promotion of sports, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) State-wise details of funds provided during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 under the four Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes for promotion of sports in the country including the assistance released to institutions such as NGOs, Universities/Colleges, Schools etc. have been given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Schemes stand transferred to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

There is a scheme of Government of India to promote Rural Sports. The Scheme envisages holding of Rural Sports Tournaments in selected disciplines at Block, District, State and National level. The assistance of Government of India is available for State/UT level and

National level Tournaments whereas the Rural Sports Tournaments at Block and District level are required to be organized by the State/UT Governments from their own resources. The State-wise details of financial assistance released for All India Rural Sports Tournaments during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 have been given in the enclosed Statement II. Government also provides funds to the States for Promotion of Sports & Games in Schools. The details of assistance provided during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 have been given in the enclosed Statement-III. In addition, SAI provides coaches at the State Coaching Centres for the training of sports persons in some disciplines.

(b) Under the Sports Infrastructure Schemes, except for purchase of sport equipments, the first instalment was released by the Government of India after the grantee had spent at least 50% of their share towards the cost of the project and had furnished the progress report, audited accounts etc. Again, with a view to ensuring proper utilization of funds by the States and other agencies, utilization certificates, audited accounts etc. were invariably obtained in respect of the grant already released, before release of further grant. Under Sports Authority of India (SAI) Schemes, funds sanctioned are released on reimbursement basis to those who have conducted Sub-National level tournaments. However, National level tournaments are organized by SAI itself.

(c) and (d) Till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering Central assistance to the State Governments including Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, non governmental organisations, universities/colleges and schools in accordance with the approved pattern of the Scheme. The scheme stands transferred to the state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated in budget for 2005-2006 for Sports infrastructure schemes. As such, now proposals for new sports infrastructure have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States were informed accordingly on 28.2.2005.

(e) Sports Authority of India (SAI) a registered body under the Societies Registration Act, is fully funded by the Government of India. SAI, through its Regional Centres located at Bangalore, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Chandigarh (being shifted to Sonepat, Haryana) and Imphal and one Sub-Centre at Guwahati and Lucknow besides the Academic Wings located at NS, NIS, Patiala and the Laxmibai National Centre for Physical Education (LNCPE), Trivandrum is working for promotion, development and achieving excellence in sports at National/International level. Apart from SAI, Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, a deemed University, is also fully funded by the Government.

Statement I

State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.74	1	484.527	14	123.75	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.44	6	191.00	5	27.00	1
3.	Assam	73.50	3	17	2	188.09	8
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0	0	65.00	2
8.	Haryana	1.20	1	40.17	2	118.13	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.61	3	100.21	8	118.63	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.02	5	26.82	18	22.50	1
11.	Karnataka	82.20	14	58.7	8	101.3	9
12.	Kerala	0.124	1	13.01	4	1.50	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	62.40	4	152.27	13	115.40	6
14.	Maharashtra	165.00	7	238.43	13	169.04	9
15.	Manipur	62.50	5	0	0	22.50	3
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	100.11	5	234.55	5
17.	Mizoram	57.75	11	138.32	21	30.00	1
18.	Nagaland	194.00	8	962.46	21	115.98	12
19.	Orissa	15.50	2	0.05	1	0.75	1
20.	Punjab	10.00	1	45.00	1	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	10.71	2	25.00	2	8.72	1
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	97.011	8	170.36	22	81.15	13
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16.29	1	46.94	3	69.23	6
26.	West Bengal	28.00	2	20.07	15	49.70	4
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	78.50	4	0	0
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	30.00	1
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	94.80	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1057.99	85	2906.98	182	1787.99	122

State-wise details of Central assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (as on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.12	1	0.37	1	2.76	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	4.35	4	7.74	7
3.	Assam	8.67	14	30.88	41	22.18	38
4.	Bihar	1.71	2	3.29	3	7.53	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.39	7	1.13	2	3.32	4
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Goa	0.85	3	0.00	0	1.08	1
8.	Gujarat	1.54	3	2.98	4	1.42	2
9.	Haryana	12.64	24	43.36	59	24.17	41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9.97	12	5.72	15	10.21	14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.00	2	3.17	3	9.64	14
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	Karnataka	25.08	29	16.75	26	12.10	18
14.	Kerala	2.26	4	0.00	0	15.48	17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14.12	24	22.95	29	13.67	20
16.	Maharashtra	35.76	46	51.63	58	54.19	71
17.	Manipur	6.30	6	3.26	5	1.48	2
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	1.08	1	9.37	10
19.	Mizoram	0.75	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
20.	Nagaland	5.12	17	0.00	0	3.80	5
21.	Orissa	27.53	39	44.21	55	61.99	80
22.	Punjab	4.78	6	2.56	3	0.63	2
23.	Rajasthan	11.71	17	25.19	29	18.76	30
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Tamilnadu	15.93	45	7.65	21	3.70	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Tripura	0.73	2	0.37	1	0.40	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	21.05	29	39.60	47	51.11	75
28.	Uttaranchal	8.33	8	11.04	12	18.44	26
29.	West Bengal	88.55	102	77.98	106	127.15	167
	UTs						
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
	Total	310.99	443	399.63	525	482.45	662

State-wise Details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.08	16	87.82	27	97.22	36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
3.	Assam	3.45	2	26.81	10	126.31	48
4.	Bihar	0.26	1	20.60	4	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	20.70	9
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.70	1
7.	Gujarat	8.00	3	18.27	10	28.20	1
8.	Haryana	3.02	3	10.31	9	26.86	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.16	1	5.85	3	7.37	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.70	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	50.94	22	39.35	35	149.87	63
13.	Kerala	8.27	5	39.80	18	45.07	24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.65	3	10.80	4	26.10	7
15.	Maharashtra	186.81	79	197.53	98	244.15	115
16.	Manipur	28.48	2	25.03	3	17.80	5
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0	10.72	4	0.00	0
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	10.80	4
19.	Nagaland	20.40	3	22.50	11	19.20	10
20.	Orissa	58.98	24	83.60	40	57.98	32
21.	Punjab	28.48	11	52.68	13	29.45	11
22.	Rajasthan	1.10	1	4.20	2	7.20	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	75.66	17	164.81	27	169.80	29
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	60.24	14	101.56	41	158.65	62
26.	Uttaranchal	5.40	2	24.60	10	16.80	8
27.	West Bengal	44.09	19	79.86	42	141.28	63
28.	Delhi@	22.50	1	53.50	2	62.64	1
29.	UTs—Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	1
	Total	665.98	229	1080.25	413	1472.00	555

State-wise Details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools	Amount released	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	1	00.00	0	20.00	1
2.	Haryana	0.00	0	30.00	1	0.00	0
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	0	50.00	1	15.00	1
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Orissa	0.00	0	0.00	0	50.00	1
10.	Punjab	20.67	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Tamilnadu	0.00	0	0.00	0	65.00	1
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Delhi	0.00	0	20.00	1	0.00	0
15.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	100.00	1	0.00	0
	Total	120.67	2	200.00	4	150	4

Statement II

All India Rural Sports Tournament

Details of Financial Assistance Released the States/UTs for the Lower Level Competitions for the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Nil	3,00,000 (2001-02) 3,00,000 (2003-04)	8,00,000/-
2.	Bihar	2,40,000/-	2,40,000/-	6,40,000/-
3.	Haryana	2,10,000/-	00	00
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,70,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,20,000/-	00	3,00,000/-
6.	Punjab	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
7.	Kerala	3,00,000/-	00	00
8.	Rajasthan	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	00
9.	Nagaland	1,50,000/- (2001-02)	1,50,000/-	8,00,000/-
10.	Goa	1,50,000/-	2,10,000/-	3,00,000/-
11.	Orissa	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
12.	Karnataka	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
13.	Tripura	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
14.	Tamil Nadu	2,10,000/- (99-2000) 2,10,000/-	2,10,000/-	00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3,00,000/-	3,00,000/-	8,00,000/-
16.	Maharashtra	1,80,000/-	00	00
17.	Mizoram	Request for funds not received	Request for funds not received	2,00,000/-
18.	West Bengal	Request for funds not received	Request for funds not received	Request for funds not received
19.	Uttaranchal	1,80,000/-	2,70,000/-	7,20,000/-
20.	Lakshadweep	60,000/-	Request for funds not received	Request for funds not received
21.	Chandigarh	60,000/-	Request for funds not received	Request for funds not received
22.	Pondicherry	Request for funds not received	30,000/-	Request for funds not received
	Total	41,40,000/-	38,10,000/-	85,80,000/-

Statement III

Promotion of Sports and Games in School

(Amount rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Sikkim	00	4.00	00
2.	Assam	00	13.50	00
3.	Manipur	6.50	00	00
4.	Tripura	4.00	4.00	6.00
5.	Maharashtra	19.50	00	00
6.	Uttaranchal	8.50	00	00
7.	Orissa	17.00	00	00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	00	8.00	12.00
9.	Nagaland	00	6.00	11.25
10.	Daman and Diu	00	3.00	00
11.	Chandigarh	00	00	3.00
12.	Tamilnadu	00	00	21.39
	Total	54.5	37.5	53.64

[Translation]

Pending Works in H.P.

1510. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the four proposals relating to the completion of the work of the Ramshila-Bijli Mahadev road in Kullu district, double laning of Thiyog-Khotkhai-Hatkoti road, construction of Manali by-pass and Chakki bridge amounting to Rs. 3.04, 4.03 crore and 448.35 lakhs given on 24.6.03, 4.6.02, 23.7.03 and 28.7.03 respectively by the Himachal Pradesh Government are lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for keeping them pending so far; and

(c) the time by which a final decision would be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for completing remaining work of Ramshila-Bijli Mahadev road in Kullu District received vide letter dated 4th June, 2002 cannot be sanctioned under Central Road Fund since this road is a rural road and, therefore, has since been returned to PWD. The proposal for double laning of Thiyog-Khotkhai-Hathkoti road has already been sanctioned on 5.1.2004 for an amount of Rs. 4.03 crores. The proposal for construction of Manali bye-pass has been returned to the State PWD since this work has not been included in this Ministry's current Annual Plan.

A modified proposal for construction of Chakki bridge on NH-20 has recently been received in this Ministry vide State PWD's letter dated 22.7.2005 and has been included in the current year's Annual Plan.

[English]

Spectrum Allocation to Cellular Operators

1511. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked the Government in May, 2005 to resolve the issue concerning spectrum allocation to cellular operators by constituting a high level panel to deal with it;

(b) if so, the terms articulated by the TRAI; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In para 3.9.3 of their recommendations on Spectrum Related Issues, the TRAI has recommended the following:

"In view of the gravity of the situation in regard to spectrum availability for various operators even in the short term of 2007 to meet the targets set by the Government for cellular telephones and at the same time the nearly insurmountable difficulties faced by Defence in vacating the spectrum in such a short timeframe, we strongly recommend immediate constitution of a group at the level of Ministers of

the Union Government assisted by professionals from Defence, Department of Telecom and TRAI to draw up a detailed time bound step-by-step programme and monitor its implementation. The mandate of the Group would have to include identification of alternative band, assessing and making available requisite funds and assisting users on procedural aspects of quick procurement and installation of new equipment."

(c) The spectrum issues are very complex, necessitating in-depth analysis. Government are examining the recommendations of the TRAI, taking into account views of all stakeholders, appropriately.

Expansion of Telemedicine System

1512. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that a pilot project to provide telemedicine system on a mobile van to take healthcare facilities to the doorsteps of the villages has been undertaken in the Thenni District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to provide such facilities throughout the country to help the common man;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to launch telemedicine centres in the country; and

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

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

(b) ISRO, along with Messrs Phillps India, Apollo Hospital (Madurai) and Dhan Foundation has established a tele-medicine system on a mobile van in the Theni District of Tamilnadu.

(c) to (f) It is planned to establish more such telemedicine mobile units in association with NGOs. With a view to promote information technology in health care pilot projects have been initiated by Department of Information Technology in the area of Telemedicine in Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

[Translation]

Private Telecom Companies in Rajasthan

1513. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private sector telecom companies functioning in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the private sector telecom companies have provided telephone services in villages as per the agreement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the name (s) of the defaulting companies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against these private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Six private sector telecom companies are providing services in Rajasthan service areas.

(b) to (d) M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd., as per basic service license agreement was to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 31834 villages. M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd., failed to provide such VPTs and Rs. 8.00 crores were recovered as liquidated damages from M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. for delay in commencement of service and non-provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines and VPTs. M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. has migrated to Unified Access Service License in November, 2003 and the roll out obligations have been changed to coverage of 50% of total number of District Headquarters in the service area.

Connecting Ports with Railway Network

1514. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to connect all the ports of the country with railway network;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) All Major Ports of the country are already connected to the Indian railway network. Augmentation of Rail connectivity of the Ports is an ongoing process depending on the traffic requirements. For strengthening rail connectivity of Ports with the hinterland, following projects covered under the National Rail Vikas Yojana are being implemented by the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited:

- Panvel-JNPT double line
- Nargundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur double line
- Haridaspur-Paradeep new line
- Banspani-Daitari new line
- Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project
- Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion project
- Panskura-Haldia (Phase I) double line.

[English]

Special Cell to Handle Corrupt Officials

1515. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Cell takes long time to dispose of corruption cases of Government officials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ask all State Governments to set up a special cell in order to weed out the corrupt officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption in Government offices?

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) No such vigilance cell has been established by the Government. However, there are vigilance units in different Ministries/Departments/Organizations, which initiate disciplinary proceedings against erring officers working under them. The Disciplinary proceedings are required to be completed as per the timeframe prescribed under the relevant rules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Steps taken by the Government in recent times to check corruptions in Government offices include enacting the Right to Information Act, 2005 and Whistle Blowers Resolution 2004; the pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance; issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; enactment of CVC Act and, strengthening the CBI to discharge its anti corruption functioning etc.

Phasing-out of Commercial Vehicles

1516. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to phase-out commercial vehicles registered prior to 1990 to check increasing level of pollution in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Revenue and Royalty Received by Major Ports

1517. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenue and royalty received by various major ports from private terminals during the last three years;

(b) the port-wise and year-wise details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the amount so received by each port has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The year-wise details of total amount of revenue and royalty received by major ports from private terminals during the last three years are as under:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

Income received from Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
18.46	36.81	45.62	100.90

Income received from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
0.09	34.80	6.74	41.63

Income received from Gateway Terminal India Pvt. Ltd. (Maersk Concor Joint Venture) (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
—	—	16.08	16.08

2. Kandla Port Trust

Income received from Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited Jetty (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
17.52	16.99	16.24	50.75

Income received from Indian Oil Corporation Jetty (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
5.33	5.67	10.65	21.65

Income received from Container Freight Station of Container Warehousing Corporation (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
0.39	0.42	0.50	1.31

Income received from construction of Marine related facilities by M/s. ESSAR Oil Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
0.34	0.34	1.89	2.57

3. Visakhapatnam Port Trust

Income received from Visakha Container Terminal (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
3.19 Upfront premium	1.55	1.33	6.07

Income received from M/s Vizag Seaport Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
8.30 Upfront premium	0.20	0.79	9.29

4. Kolkata Port Trust

Income received from Tata Matrade International Logistics Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
2.05	2.08	2.41	6.54

Income received from International Sea Ports Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
0.37	5.77	15.71	21.86

5. Tuticorin Port Trust

Income received from Port of Singapore and South India Corporation (Agencies) Limited (PSA SICAL)

(Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
5.86	8.55	11.71	26.12

6. Chennai Port Trust

Income received from Chennai Container Terminal Ltd. (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
50.65	64.96	68.38	183.99

7. Mormugao Port Trust

Income received from South-West Port Ltd (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
—	—	4.49	4.49

8. Ennore Port Ltd.

Income received from MMTC for use of Iron Ore Terminal (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
—	—	2.78	2.78

Income received from Consortium of IMC and L&T Construction for Marine Liquid Terminal (Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
—	—	4.00 Upfront premium	4.00

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Port	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Amount
9.	Paradip	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	New Mangalore	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Mumbai	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Cochin	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) The revenue received from the private terminals is treated as part of the operating income of the Port and utilized for port operations and development.

[Translation]

Modern Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh

1518. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of latest technology based telephone exchanges set up in Arunachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish more such exchanges during the year 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of latest technology based telephone exchanges set up in Arunachal Pradesh, district-wise, are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to establish more such exchanges during 2005-06.

Statement

List of District-wise Latest Technology Based Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of Revenue District	No. of latest technology based Telephone Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Anjaw	1
2.	Changlang	8
3.	Dibang Valley	2
4.	East Kameng	3
5.	East Siang	9
6.	Kurung Kurme	2
7.	Lohit	9
8.	Lower Dibang Valley	4

1	2	3
9.	Lower Subansiri	8
10.	Papum Pare	15
11.	Tawang	6
12.	Tirap	7
13.	Upper Siang	5
14.	Upper Subansiri	3
15.	West Kameng	10
16.	West Siang	11

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in Uttar Pradesh

1519. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the names of the districts of Uttar Pradesh covered under the Yojana;

(c) whether the Government is aware that Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh is very backward;

(d) if so, whether this district has been covered under the Yojana; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, initiated in the Tenth Plan, covered 147 districts. The following 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh are covered under the scheme: Sonbhadra, Raebareli, Unnao, Sitapur, Banda, Hardoi, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Barabanki, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Lalitpur, Jaunpur, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Mahoba, Kaushambi, Azamgarh, Pratapgarh and Chandauli.

(c) to (e) As per the criteria adopted for selection of districts for coverage under the scheme, Maharajganj did not qualify for coverage.

[English]

Holding of Biennial All India Conference of Passport Employees Association

1520. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had denied permission regarding holding of the biennial All India Conference of Passport Employees Association, which was scheduled to be held at Chennai on the 26th and 27th February 2005; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Ministry did not deny permission to the All India Passport Employees Association (AIPEA) to hold their biennial Conference on 26th and 27th February, 2005.

During February-April 2005, in several Passport Offices, the number of pending applications had increased substantially, thereby causing hardship to the applicants. Keeping in view the public interest, the Ministry took the initiative to launch a special pendency clearance drive in several Passport Offices. To ensure success of the clearance drive, it was decided for a brief period during the pendency clearance drive that no employee at any level would be granted leave. As per the information available with the Ministry, the All India Passport Employees Association (AIPEA), on their own, decided to postpone their Conference to a later date.

[Translation]

Providing Export Subsidy to Farmers

1521. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to provide exports subsidy to the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) There is no proposal of the Planning Commission to provide export subsidies to the farmers.

(b) Does not arise.

Recovery of Dues

1522. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether dues to the tune of crores of rupees of a large number of telephone subscribers are outstanding against BSNL in Rajasthan for the last three years;

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

(c) whether any legal action has been initiated against such subscribers in order to recover outstanding amount; 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) The Gross cumulative outstanding to Gross cumulative amount billed, as on 31.03.2005 is less than 1% amounting to Rs. 59.01 crores including disputed amount. This amount has accumulated over a long period of time in respect of customers some of whom are not traceable as well. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Legal action is initiated in deserving cases. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Telecom District-wise details of Gross Outstanding Amount as on 31.03.2005 and Number of Cases where Legal Action initiated in Rajasthan Circle

Name of Telecom. District	Outstanding amount (in Crores of Rupees)	Total No. of cases wherein legal action initiated
1	2	3
Ajmer	2.31	93
Alwar	2.71	37
Banswara	0.61	9
Barmer	0.52	6
Bharatpur	1.14	27
Bhilwara	1.52	33
Bikaner	1.16	27
Bundi	0.38	2
Chittorgarh	0.82	18
Churu	0.61	3
Jaipur	21.27	202
Jaisalmer	0.18	5
Jhalwar	0.47	33
Jhunjhunu	1.17	17
Jodhpur	4.51	91
Kota	3.60	40
Nagore	0.63	13
Pali	0.86	6
Sawaimadhopur	0.89	24
Sikar	0.81	13
Sirohi	1.80	23
Sriganganagar	7.63	57
Tonk	0.28	7
Udaipur	3.13	58
Total	59.01	844

[English]

Construction of Six Lane Expressways

1523. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to construct six lane expressways connecting Delhi to major commercial and tourist centres in the National Capital Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Pre-feasibility for construction of six lane expressways of the following portion of National Highways passing through Delhi is in proposal stage:

(i) Delhi-Chandigarh,

(ii) Delhi-Jaipur,

(iii) Delhi-Meerut.

It is too early to give any details at present.

[Translation]

Patronage of Traditional Games

1524. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are so many traditional games in rural areas like Gilli-Danda, Chikka, Kabaddi etc. which are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any step in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to include such traditional games of the country in this category of national games;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the details of the games which have been included in the category of national games during the last three years; and

(h) the names of the games that are to be included in the category of national games in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) 'Sports' is a State Subject and promotion of sports including the indigenous and regional games is the responsibility of respective States, various National Sports Federations and State Sports Associations within their respective jurisdiction. However, the Government of India through its various schemes and the schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI) augments the efforts of the State Governments and National Sports Federations in promotion of sports all over the country. National Sports Policy, 2001, inter-alia states that indigenous games will be promoted through schemes related to rural sports. Rural Sports Tournament scheme includes traditional games like Archery, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Tug of War and Wrestling. Under the various schemes of Sports Authority of India, traditional Indian sports like Archery, Kabaddi, Kho-kho, Wrestling etc are also being promoted.

(d) to (h) The Government of India through its scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations' gives financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations as per the provisions of the scheme. Disciplines recognized for this purpose, so far, by the Government of India also include indigenous games like Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Tug of War and Atya Patya. A list of recognized sports disciplines, category-wise is enclosed as Statement.

The recognition to National Sports Federations is given after scrutinizing their applications on various prescribed parameters which include the prevalence/ popularity of the Games in the country, presence of State level associations promoting and supporting such games, efforts made by the federation in last 3 years preceding the date of application in broad basing the discipline etc. Any discipline, including the indigenous ones, which complies with prescribed conditions can qualify for recognition.

Statement

Categorisation of Sports Disciplines

	Sports Discipline	*Priority (A)*
1.	Archery	Priority
2.	Athletics	Priority
3.	Badminton	Priority
4.	Billiards and Snooker	Priority
5.	Boxing	Priority
6.	Chess	Priority
7.	Football	Priority
8.	Hockey (Men)	Priority

9.	Hockey (Women)	Priority
10.	Kabaddi	Priority
11.	Rowing	Priority
12.	Shooting	Priority
13.	Tennis	Priority
14.	Cycling	Priority
15.	Wrestling	Priority
16.	Weightlifting	Priority
17.	Swimming	Priority

General (B)

1.	Baseketball	General
2.	Kayaking & Canoeing	General
3.	Equestrian	General
4.	Fencing	General
5.	Golf	General
6.	Gymnastics	General
7.	Handball	General
8.	Judo	General
9.	School Games (SGFI)	General
10.	Squash	General
11.	Table Tennis	General
12.	Volleyball	General
13.	Yachting	General
14.	Winter Games (WGFI)	General

Others (C)

1.	Aero Club	Others
2.	Atya Patya	Others
3.	Ball Badminton	Others
4.	Baseball	Others
5.	Body Building	Others
6.	Bowling	Others
7.	Bridge	Others
8.	Carrom	Others
9.	Cricket	Others
10.	Cricket (Women)	Others
11.	Cycle Polo	Others
12.	Karate	Others
13.	Korfball	Others
14.	Kho-Kho	Others
15.	Mallakhamb	Others
16.	Motor-Sports	Others
17.	Netball	Others
18.	Polo	Others
19.	Powerlifting	Others
20.	Roller Skating	Others
21.	Sepak Takraw	Others
22.	Softball	Others
23.	Shootingball	Others
24.	Sports for the Deaf	Others
25.	Taekwondo	Others
26.	Tenni-Koit	Others
27.	Tennisball Cricket	Others
28.	Throwball	Others
29.	Triathlon	Others
30.	Tug of War	Others
31.	Ten-Pin Bowling	Others
32.	Wrestling (Indian Style)	Others
33.	Wushu	Others

NHAI Contracts to Multinational Companies

1525. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has awarded contracts to multinational/private companies for the maintenance of Delhi-Agra corridor of National Highway No. 2;

(b) if so, the details of the contracts awarded during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether it is a fact that regular maintenance work is not being carried out between Ballabhgarh and Palwal stretch specially near Baghola village at National Highway No. 2; and

(d) if so, the action being proposed by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) M/s. Intertoll ICS Cecons O&M Co. Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded the contract of operation and maintenance work of Delhi-Agra Section of NH-2 for a period of 8 years starting from June 2002.

(c) The maintenance is being done in the stretch of Ballabhgarh to Palwal of NH-2 including Baghola village regularly.

(d) In addition to routine maintenance, it is proposed to do periodic maintenance of the section, by providing one layer of bituminous concrete in the section.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

1526. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) telephone exchanges in Maharashtra which have not been converted into electronic telephone exchanges so far;

(b) by when these telephone exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges;

(c) whether the Government is aware that telecommunication service in the rural areas is disrupted due to the non-conversion of most of the telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges of Nasik district in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all Telephone Exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) working in Maharashtra and also in MTNL, Mumbai are electronic exchanges.

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. All exchange in Nasik district are electronic exchanges. However, due to prolonged failure/ unstable power supply in far flung rural areas of the district, the telecom services gets disrupted for brief periods.

[English]

STD/ISD/PCO Booths to Handicapped

1527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with the Government for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths under physically handicapped category in the country, State-wise and the date since when such applications are pending;

(b) the details of norms for opening of STD/ISD/PCO Booths under this category; and

(c) the time by when these pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, as on 30.06.2005 a total number of 196 STD/ISD PCOs and 752 Local PCOs applications are pending under physically handicapped category with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The state-wise details of these applications and the date since when these applications are pending are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) PCOs are allotted liberally without any restriction to all applicants of 18 years of age or above subject to technical feasibility. However, where there is waiting list, 50% of the STD/ISD PCOs allotment is reserved for the following categories:

(i) War Widows/dependants.

(ii) SC/STs

(iii) Handicapped persons.

(iv) Ex-Servicemen.

(c) In BSNL, the pending applications for PCOs are likely to be cleared by June 2006, progressively except in J&K where demand in some cases is scattered and not covered under the existing system.

In MTNL only one case is pending in Delhi due to applicant reasons.

Statement

Number of Applications Pending for Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths Under Physically Handicapped Category

Sl.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Local PCOs		STD/ISD/PCOs	
		Number of applications pending under Handicapped category	Date of oldest application pending	Number of applications pending under Handicapped category	Date of oldest application pending
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	40	01.10.2002	6	05.02.2004
3.	Assam	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
4.	Bihar	7	19.11.2004	16	31.01.2005
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
6.	Gujarat	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
8.	Daman & Diu	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
9.	Haryana	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	15.04.2004	7	11.09.2001
12.	Jharkhand	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
13.	Karnataka	3	01.09.2003	Nil	N.A.
14.	Kerala	152	25.08.2002	85	16.02.2002
15.	Lakshadweep	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Maharashtra excluding MTNL, Mumbai	482	01.08.2003	7	15.07.2002
18.	Goa	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
19.	Meghalaya	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
20.	Mizoram	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
21.	Tripura	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
22.	Nagaland	13	25.02.2005	Nil	N.A.
23.	Manipur	Nil	N.A.	41	25.05.1997
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
25.	Orissa	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
26.	Punjab including U/T of Chandigarh	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
27.	Rajasthan	1	18.08.2004	1	20.05.2002
28.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
29.	Pondicherry	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
30.	Uttar Pradesh	7	20.05.2005	3	25.04.2003
31.	Uttaranchal	1	08.01.2002	8	27.06.2002
32.	West Bengal	30	07.01.2004	21	20.04.2004
33.	Sikkim	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A
34.	MTNL, Delhi	Nil	N.A.	1	18.06.2005
35.	MTNL, Mumbai	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
	Total	752		196	

Sale of Illegal Stents

1528. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA"

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

(a) the details of the quantity of Drug Eluting Stents (DES) being imported in the country every year;

(b) the name of the countries from where the stents are being imported;

(c) whether the Government is aware that different brands of stents manufactured abroad are freely available in the country without any approval or licence from the Drug Controller of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof with names of the companies selling the illegal stents; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such companies and medical professional using such stents?

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

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the item 'Drug Eluting Stents (DES)' is not separately classified under ITC (HS) classification. Therefore, the data in respect of import of this item is not maintained.

(c) Internationally DES are classified as medical devices not as drugs. However, under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 to regulate any medical device, it is to be notified as a 'drug' under Section 3 b (iv) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Since DES has not been notified as a drug under D&C Act, therefore, the office of Drugs Controller (India) is not issuing approval or licences for manufacture, sale and distribution of the same.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Lok Pal Bill

1529. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 909 dated March 9, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Lok Pal Bill is likely to be brought forward in the Monsoon Session of Parliament;

(b) 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) Lok Pal Bill is presently under consideration of the GOM.

[Translation]

District Advisory Committees

1530. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Yuvak Kendras have constituted district advisory Committees, State-wise especially in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of the persons nominated to these Committees alongwith the criteria followed in regard to their nomination to these Committees, district-wise; and

(c) the role being played/likely to be played by these Committee in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir, District Advisory Committees on Youth Programmes (DACYP) have been constituted for all the Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) including in Uttaranchal State.

(b) District-wise details of both officials and nominated members and criteria for nomination/selection of the District Advisory Committee on Youth Programmes (DACYPs) constituted for the Nehru Yuva Kendras including in Uttaranchal State, are placed at Annexure-I & Annexure-II.*

(c) The role of DACYP is to help and guide Nehru Yuva Kendras in implementation of its programmes and its coordination with other Government and Non-Government agencies in programme implementation. The committee also reviews and evaluates the work of NYK and suggests measures for further improvements.

*(Pleased in Library. See-No. LT-2407-A/2005)

[English]

Shifting of SAI Office

1531. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Sports Authority of India has been shifted from Chandigarh and its name has also been changed;

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

(c) the date when the decision was taken to shift the SAI office from Chandigarh and change its name and the date of actual shifting;

(d) whether in the process, the importance of Chandigarh as the capital of Punjab and Haryana and an excellent education city has been compromised;

(e) whether the premises at the new place are not adequate to house the office and is also located in an unconducive environment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government Body of Sports Authority of India (SAI) approved the proposal to shift and rename the SAI Northern Regional Centre in 2001. The reason for this decision was non-availability of sufficient vacant land and associated infrastructure for the Centre at Chandigarh. The Centre has been shifted to Sonepat though the formal notification by the Government is yet to be issued.

(d) and (e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

National Highways Development Projects

1532. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the sectors of National Highways undertaken under four phases of National Highways Development Projects;

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

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government for selection of sectors in this regard; and

(d) the details of the Highway Development Projects received from various States especially Tamil Nadu and pending for approval with the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Development of about 14,000 km of National Highways is being carried out by National Highways Authority of India under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I & II. The details are given in statement-I enclosed.

A total of 78 stretches covering 11294 km details given in Statement-II have been identified for upgradation of National Highways on BOT (Toll) basis under NHDP Phase-III. Govenrment has also approved upgradation of 4000 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase IIIA at a cost of Rs. 22,000 crores on BOT (Toll) basis. A total of 45 projects covering a length of 4014.25 km details given in Statement-III have been identified under NHDP Phase III A. Approval has also been given for initiating advance action in the form of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for another 6,000 km of NHs under NHDP Phase IIIB. NHDP Phase-IV is in proposal stage and it is too early to give the details.

(c) Various criteria e.g., selection of high density corridors, connection to Tourism, Pilgrimage & Heritage Centers, State Capital Connectivity, Places of economic importance have been adopted.

(d) Proposals from various States including Tamil Nadu in respect of the above NHDP phases have been received. These were considered & finalized in consultation with State Governments based on traffic intensity, importance of the places to be connected and inter-se-priority.

Statement I

Total Length under NHDP Phase I & II

Sl.No.	State	Length (in km)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1873.80
2.	Assam	700.00
3.	Bihar	717.24
4.	Chhattisgarh	18.00
5.	Delhi	56.00
6.	Goa	13.00
7.	Gujarat	1175.00
8.	Haryana	353.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	448.00
11.	Jharkhand	192.00
12.	Karnataka	752.00
13.	Kerala	178.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	638.00
15.	Maharashtra	826.40
16.	Orissa	520.00
17.	Punjab	290.00
18.	Rajasthan	1278.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	1657.15
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1756.00
21.	West Bengal	781.85
	Total	14234.44

Statement II

List of Identified/Selected Stretches under NHDP Phase-III

Stretch/ Corridor No.	NH No.	Stretch/Corridor	Length (km)	States involved
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49	Punjab
2.	1A	Srinagar-Baramula-Uri	101	Jammu & Kashmir
3.	3	Guna Bypass	14	Madhya Pradesh
4.	3	Indore-Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule-Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	546	MP/Maharashtra
5	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore -Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105	Karnataka
6.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20	Maharashtra
7.	4A	Balgaum-Panji	153	Goa/Karnataka
8.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/ Orissa Border	88	Orissa
9	6	Aurang-Raipur	45	Chhattisgarh
10.	6	Nagpur-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	226	Maharashtra/ Chhattisgarh
11.	6	Nagpur-Talegaon-Amravati	148	Maharashtra
12.	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat	84	Gujarat
13.	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25	Karnataka
14.	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82	Rajasthan
15.	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127	Gujarat
16.	9	Pune-Sholapur	170	Maharashtra
17.	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	240.5	Andhra Pradesh
18.	10	Delhi-Hissar	160	Delhi/Haryana
19.	11	Agra-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus	282	UP/Rajasthan
20.	12	Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur	297	Madhya Pradesh
21.	12	Jaipur-Tonk	86	Rajasthan

1	2	3	4	5
22.	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246	Rajasthan
23.	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101	Punjab
24.	17	Panvel-Indapur	84	Maharashtra
25.	17	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji-Goa-KNT Border	139	Goa
26.	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71	Goa/Karnataka/Kerala
27.	17	Mangalore-Khozikode-Eddapally	469	Karnataka/Kerala
28.	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	192.5	Andhra Pradesh
29.	19 & 77	Patna-Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	149	Bihar
30.	19 & 85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153	Bihar
31.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73	Chandigarh/Punjab
32.	22	Ambala-Kalka-Shimla	168	Haryana/Punjab/ Himachal Pradesh
33.	24	Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow	322	Uttar Pradesh
34.	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67	Bihar
35.	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53	Bihar
36.	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255	Bihar
37.	33	Barhi-Ranchi-Jamshedpur	265	Jharkhand
38.	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60	West Bengal
39.	36, 39	Doboka-Dimapur	124	Assam, Nagaland
40.	31, 52 & 52A	Baihata Chariali (on EW corridor)-Itanagar	345	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh
41.	39	Kohima-Imphal	140	Nagaland/Manipur
42.	43	Kurnud-Dhamtari	23	Chhattisgarh
43.	44, 53	Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shillong Bypass)	447	Meghalaya/Assam/ Tripura
44.	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80	Tamil Nadu
45.	45B	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144	Tamil Nadu
46.	45 Ex	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni	73	Tamil Nadu
47.	47	Cherthalai-Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari	265	Kerala/Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4	5
48.	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154	Karnataka
49	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186	Tamil Nadu
50.	50	Pune-Khed	30	Maharashtra
51.	54	Silchar (on E-W corridor)-Aizawl	190	Assam/Mizoram
52.	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13	Bihar
53.	1, 24, 58, 72	Delhi-Dehradun	280	Delhi/Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal
54.	59.	Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad	379	Madhya Pradesh/Gujarat
55.	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam-Pondicherry	210	Tamil Nadu/ Pondicherry
56.	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy-Karur	180	Tamil Nadu
57.	67 Ex	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45	Tamil Nadu
58.	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134	Tamil Nadu
59	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13	Madhya Pradesh
60.	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100	Madhya Pradesh
61.	80	Mokama-Munger	70	Bihar
62.	84	Patna-Buxar	130	Bihar
63.	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40	Madhya Pradesh
64.	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106	Uttar Pradesh
65.	200	Raipur-Simga	28	Chhattisgarh
66.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39	Orissa
67.	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30	Andhra Pradesh
68.	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59	Orissa
69.	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138	Andhra Pradesh/ Tamil Nadu
70.	215	Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy	249	Orissa
71.	220	Theni-Kumili	57	Tamil Nadu
72.	210	Trichy-Pudukkottai-Ramanathanpuram	210	Tamil Nadu
73.	200	Dubri-Talchar	98	Orissa

1	2	3	4	5
74.	13	Bijapur-Hospet	194	Karnataka
75.	11	Reengus-Sikar	41	Rajasthan
76.	12	Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar	242	Rajasthan
77.	6	Surat-Hazira Port	29	Gujarat
78.	8A Ext.	Kandla-Mundra Port	73	Gujarat
		Total	11294	

Statement III

List of stretches identified under NHDP Phase IIIA

Sl.No.	NH No.	State	Stretch	Length (in km.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Punjab	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49
2.	3	Maharashtra	Dhule-Pimpalgaon	118
3.	3	Maharashtra	Vadape-Gonde	100
4.	3	Mahdya Pradesh	Indore-Khalaghat	83
5.	3	Madhya Pradesh	Guna Bypass	12.25
6.	4	Karnataka	Neelamangala-Bangalore	30
7.	4	Karnataka	Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudabagal	75
8.	4A	Karnataka	Belgaum-Goa/Karnataka Border	84
9.	6	Chhattisgarh	Raipur-Aurang	45
10.	6	Maharashtra	Nagpur-Wainganga Br	60
11.	6	Maharashtra	Wainganga Br-Maharashtra/ Chhattisgarh Border	76
12.	6.	Chhattisgarh	Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	90
13.	6	Maharashtra	Nagpur-Kondhali	40
14.	6	Maharashtra	Kondhali-Talegone	50
15.	7	Karnataka	Bangalore-Hosur	25
16.	9	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad-Vijayawada	176
17.	9	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	65

1	2	3	4	5
18.	10	Delhi/Haryana	Delhi-Hissar	160
19.	11	Uttar Pradesh/Rajasthan	Agra-Bharatpur	63
20.	11	Rajasthan	Bharatpur-Mahua	57
21.	11	Rajasthan	Mahua-Jaipur	108
22.	17	Karnataka	Kundapur-Surathkal	71
23.	17	Karnataka	Mangalore-Karnataka/Kerala Border	18
24.	21	Punjab	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73
25.	21 & 22	Haryana/Punjab	Ambala-Zirakpur	35
26.	22	Punjab/Haryana	Zirakpur-Kalka-Simla	133
27.	24	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow-Sitapur	76
28.	33	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	75
29.	45	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul-Trichy	80
30.	45-B	Tamil Nadu	Madurai-Tuticorin	144
31.	47	Kerala	Charthala-Thiruvananthapuram	187
32.	47	Kerala/Tamil Nadu	Trivendrum-Kanyakumari	113
33.	48	Karnataka	Neelmangla-Hassan	154
34.	50	Maharashtra	Pune-Khed	30
35.	58	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi-Meerut	46
36.	58	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut-Muzaffernagar	79
37.	58 & 72	Uttaranchal/ Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffernagar-Dehradun	146
38.	66	Pondicherry/Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry-Tindivanam	40
39.	66	Tamil Nadu	Krishnagiri-Tindivanam	170
40.	67	Tamil Nadu	Nagapatnam-Thanjavur-Trichy	130
41.	67	Tamil Nadu	Trichy-Karur (including Trichy Bypass)	88
42.	68	Tamil Nadu	Salem-Ulundrupet	134
43.	200	Orissa	Chandikhole-Duburi	39
44.	205	Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138
45.	215	Orissa	Panikoili-Roxy	249
			Total	4014.25

[Translation]

Norms for Assistance to States

1533. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the basic norms for giving assistance to the States by the Union Government;

(b) the date of formulation of the same;

(c) whether any State has requested to change the same or include other parameters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Central Assistance allocated for Annual Plans of States consists of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for Special & Other Programmes. While allocation under NCA is based on the Gadgil formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991, allocation under ACA for EAPs and Special & Other Programmes are based on their own specific criteria and guidelines. The Gadgil formula takes into account, inter alia, population, per capita income, performance in tax effort, fiscal management and progress in respect of national objectives specifically in the area of population control, elimination of illiteracy, on time completion of EAPs and land reforms. Allocation of ACA for EAPs is based on utilization of funds for projects. Allocation for Special and Other Programmes depends on the needs of states and sectoral priorities under each programme.

(c) There is no proposal pending on this subject.

(d) Does not apply.

[English]

Funds Disbursed under MPLADS

1534. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated under MPLADS during 2004-05 have been disbursed to all the districts of Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) the funds actually disbursed to the district, State-wise;

(d) the names of Members whose funds have not been utilised so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During 2004-05, Rs. 80 crore were allocated, out of which Rs. 69 crore have been released to the district authorities of Madhya Pradesh and Rs. 11 crore remain to be released as an when the eligible criteria laid down under the Guidelines on MPLADS, are fulfilled.

(c) to (e) State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed. Nodal District/Constituency-wise details are available in the monthly report for the period ending 30.06.2005. A copy has been supplied to the Parliament Library and the same is also available on the website (www.mplads.nic.in).

The implementation of the MPLADS is continuous and funds allocated are non lapsable. The eligible works are recommended by MPs for which funds are released by the District authorities to the implementing agencies. The details of unspent balance as on 30.06.2005 as reported by the District authorities has been given in the monthly report, a copy of which has been kept in the Parliament Library and on the website of this Ministry.

The entitled funds of the MPs concerned will be released on the basis of fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

Statement

State-wise Cumulative Release of Funds/Expenditure of Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) as on 30.06.20005

Sl.No.	State	Released by G.O.I. (Rs. Crore)	Amount available with Nodal District with Interest etc. (Rs Crore)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)	%Sanctioned over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Crore)	% Utilisation over Release	Unspent Balance (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Nominated	192.05	194.22	169.43	88.22	148.01	77.07	46.21
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1115.95	1137.02	1087.29	97.43	966.00	86.56	171.02
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.15	57.84	53.65	93.88	53.63	93.84	4.22
4.	Assam	397.55	405.52	366.82	92.27	350.05	88.05	55.48
5.	Bihar	1005.35	1020.11	939.53	93.45	856.35	85.18	163.76
6.	Goa	51.15	53.66	55.88	109.24	46.47	90.84	7.20
7.	Gujarat	644.35	659.94	637.95	99.01	571.86	88.75	88.08
8.	Haryana	274.25	278.30	251.36	91.65	234.93	85.66	43.37
9.	Himachal Pradesh	125.30	127.46	117.19	93.53	112.03	89.41	15.44
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	142.50	146.31	136.95	96.10	112.59	79.01	32.72
11.	Karnataka	727.00	744.74	710.78	97.77	662.92	91.19	81.82
12.	Kerala	477.95	502.63	507.36	106.15	414.88	86.80	87.75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	752.60	765.68	706.51	93.88	664.40	88.28	101.28
14.	Maharashtra	1182.75	1224.54	1194.70	101.01	1042.65	88.15	181.89
15.	Manipur	57.15	57.58	53.81	94.16	48.64	85.12	8.93
16.	Meghalaya	53.15	53.69	49.47	93.08	49.47	93.08	4.22
17.	Mizoram	38.10	38.30	36.06	94.64	36.11	94.77	2.20
18.	Nagaland	38.10	38.18	33.10	86.88	33.10	86.88	5.08
19.	Orissa	565.00	573.33	521.43	92.29	471.52	83.45	101.81
20.	Punjab	357.55	363.69	339.12	94.85	299.71	83.82	63.98
21.	Rajasthan	646.25	654.55	610.27	94.43	566.38	87.64	88.18
22.	Sikkim	38.10	38.63	36.12	94.80	32.37	84.68	6.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23.	Tamil Nadu	1067.35	1090.65	1029.52	96.46	998.55	93.55	92.10
24.	Tripura	56.15	56.37	53.17	94.69	47.99	85.47	8.38
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2067.70	2091.35	1890.87	91.45	1794.28	86.78	297.06
26.	West Bengal	933.35	955.76	923.40	98.93	805.71	86.32	150.05
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	19.05	19.50	17.12	89.88	17.42	91.46	2.08
28.	Chandigarh	19.05	19.54	17.50	91.84	17.30	90.82	2.24
29.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	17.05	17.61	16.38	96.05	15.76	92.43	1.85
30.	Daman & Diu	19.05	19.20	17.52	91.96	16.58	87.04	2.65
31.	Delhi	157.95	162.19	155.19	98.25	134.51	85.16	27.68
32.	Lakshadweep	15.05	16.37	1247	82.83	11.26	74.84	5.11
33.	Pondicherry	33.10	35.71	36.12	109.12	27.76	83.87	7.95
34.	Chhattisgarh	280.65	284.29	261.53	93.19	250.20	89.15	34.09
35.	Uttaranchal	131.25	132.90	117.78	89.74	108.19	82.43	24.71
36.	Jharkhand	302.75	307.53	283.64	93.69	263.66	87.09	43.86
	Total	14058.80	14343.91	13446.99	95.65	12283.26	87.37	2060.65

[Translation]

Cases Pending with CBI

1535. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with the CBI during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to reorganise the present structure of the CBI to clear all the pending cases; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to clear all the pending cases within a stipulated time frame?

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 pendency of cases under investigation and those under trial for the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Pending under Investigation	Pending under trial
2003	1435	6327
2004	1354	6614
2005 (upto 30.06.05)	1466	6764

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to reorganize the present structure of CBI. However, efforts are being made on each and every stage and level to clear the pending cases.

[English]

Development of Impactor

1536. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre proposes to develop any impactor to analyse the moon's atmosphere;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impactor weighing 28 Kg. attached as a separate module to Chandrayaan-1 will be de-orbited. It will follow a parabolic path of 18 minutes duration before crash landing on the surface of the moon. During this descent, the impactor will make measurements related to the lunar environment and photograph the moon's surface at close quarters.

(c) The development work has been initiated and progress is as per project schedule.

4-Laning of N.H. 58 between Meerut and Dehradun

1537. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was/is a plan to convert N.H. 58 to a 4-Lane Highway between Meerut and Dehradun; and

(b) if so, the details of the present status of the project?

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

(b) There is proposal to convert National Highway portion of NH-58 between Meerut and Dehradun into 4-laning on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The work for 4-laning between Meerut and Muzaffernagar has already been awarded to M/s NCC-Maytas Consortium. Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been completed and BOT bids are under preparation for remaining portion.

Restoration of Commuted Pension

1538. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Central Government Pensioners Associations have urged the Government to restore the commuted pension after 12 years instead of 15 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government Pensioners' Associations have been requesting the Government to restore commuted portion of pension after 12 years.

(c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended for restoration of commuted pension after 12 years instead of present 15 years. The recommendation of the Pay Commission and the demand by a number of Pensioners' Associations in this regard were examined by the Government. However, after taking into account various factors, including financial implications, the Government decided not to accept the reduction in the period of restoration of commuted portion from 15 years to 12 years.

Computer and Internet Facility in Villages

1539. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country where the Union Government has provided computer and internet facility, as on June 30, 2005;

(b) the time by which this facility would be made available to all States/Villages in the country; 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) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), a public Sector under the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), provides Internet Service throughout the country on local call basis. BSNL under its 'Internet Dhabas' scheme provides one free Internet Access Connection to the franchisees of Internet Dhabas in each of rural Block Head Quarters. As on June 30, 2005, a total of 4121 Internet Dhabas have been provided

in 3792 (BHQs) out of a total of 6343 Block Headquarters (BHQs) in the country.

In addition, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes.

— National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established 487 community Information Centres (CIC) at block level in the eight northern eastern states with the objective of providing internet access, email, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 60 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

— NIC in collaboration with Maharashtra State Government has provided computers and internet facility at 70 villages under Warana project.

— Under the Vidya Vahini pilot project 140 Govt./ Govt. aided schools in the 7 districts across 6 States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra have been provided computer with Internet connection.

— Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) a Society under the Department of Information Technology has established 45 Centres in district Head Quarters including High Speed Data Communication Facility across the country.

(b) and (c) This is a continuing activity which is dependent on resource allocation in each plan and demand generation in the market.

[Translation]

Atomic Power Plants

1540. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Atomic Power Plants in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Atomic Power Plants in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount proposed to be spent to set up these Atomic Power Plants;

(e) whether any proposal has been received by the Government for setting up of a Atomic Power Plant in Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There are 14 nuclear power reactors in operations in the country. The state-wise details are:

State	No. of reactors	Capacity in MWe
Rajasthan	4	740
Maharashtra	2	320
Gujarat	2	440
Uttar Pradesh	2	440
Karnataka	2	440
Tamil Nadu	2	390
Total	14	2770

(b) Yes Sir. Work on setting up of 9 nuclear power reactors is going in full swing. In fact the work on TAPP unit 4 (540 MWe) in Maharashtra has been completed and the unit is connected to grid on 4.6.2005.

(c) The details are:

State	No. of reactors	Capacity in MWe
Maharashtra	2	1080
Rajasthan	2	440
Karnataka	2	440
Tamil Nadu	3	2500

(d) The completion cost of above nine reactors is Rs. 29,542 crore.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Not applicable.

[English]

Migration of Psychiatrists

1541. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one out of every seven Psychiatrists in the west is an Indian;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that nearly 8000 Psychiatrists have migrated to west and are practicing there;

(c) if so, whether migration of Psychiatrists has adversely affected the national mental health;

(d) if so, whether the Government has chalked out any strategy in consultation with National Psychiatrists Association to improve the national mental health;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being 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) The data relating to the number of Psychiatrists in west, the number of psychiatrists migrated to west and practicing there is not Centrally maintained.

(c) to (f) Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government's National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, strengthen the 37 Government medical colleges and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and research and training. So far 94 districts have been covered under the District Mental Health Programme; funds have been released for upgradation of psychiatric wings of 9 medical colleges and strengthening of one mental health institute. Further, funds have also been released for undertaking research and IEC activities.

[Translation]

Programmes for Rural Youths

1542. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes being implemented by the Government for the rural youths;

(b) whether the cooperation of the Non-Governmental Organisations is sought for the implementation of the programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing the following programmes whose coverage also extends to rural youth:

(i) The Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training.

(ii) The Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youths and Sports Club and Evaluation.

(iii) Scheme for Financial Assistance for Development and Empowerment of Adolescents.

(iv) The Rashtriya Sadbhavna Yojana.

(v) National Service Volunteer Scheme.

(vi) Scheme of Promotion of National Integration.

(vii) Scheme of Promotion of Adventure.

(viii) Programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).

(ix) Rural Sports Programme.

(x) Scheme for Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools.

(xi) National Sports Festival for Women.

(xii) North East Sports Festival.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The co-operation of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is sought in the implementation of the following Schemes.

(i) Financial Assistance is provided to NGOs for conducting vocational training, enterpreneurship development programmes and exhibition of various activities under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities & Training.

(ii) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Development and Empowerment of Adolescents, financial assistance is provided to NGOs for conducting programmes of environment building, seminars and workshops, life skill education, counselling, organising out-reach programmes in schools, setting up of counselling/career guidance centres, residential camps, telephone helplines, etc.

(iii) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Rural Youths and Sports Clubs and Evaluation one time grant of Rs. 30,000/- in normal areas and Rs. 45,000/- in tribal Areas is provided to registered Rural Sports Club affiliated to NYKS. One time grant of Rs. 30,000/- is also provided to registered Youth Development Centre (YDC) and Rs. 1,20,000/- to upgraded Rural Information Technology Youth Development Centre (RITYDC) which are affiliated to NYKS.

(iv) Under the Scheme of the promotion of National Integration financial assistance is provided to NGOs for conducting National Integration Camps for youth in the age group of 13-35 from different parts of the country and from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, a common platform to interact with each other, understand each other's custom and life styles and to strengthen a secular and eclectic out look on their part.

(v) Under the Scheme of Promotion of Adventure, financial assistance is provided to NGOs to create and foster amongst the youth, in the age group of 13-35 years, a spirit of risk taking and co-operative team work.

(vi) Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation (NSFs) assistance is provided to recognised NSFs for training and participation of sportspersons (which could also include rural youth), organisation of National and International Tournaments in India, procurement of equipments, training of National level sportspersons and team under Indian and Foreign Coaches etc.

(vii) Under the scheme of incentives for promotion of sports activities for rural sports programme financial assistance of Rs. 30,000/- is provided per discipline to NGOs including NYKS for organising district level competitions.

Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana

1543. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country allocated special funds under the Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana;

(b) whether Chandrapur and Garhchiroli districts of Maharashtra are covered under the Yojana;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has received reports of alleged irregularities under the Yojana especially in Garhchiroli district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana covers 147 districts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. No such reports have been received in respect of these two districts.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Improvement of BSNL Services

1544. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has formulated any plan for improving its services in and around Nagpur city in near future;

(b) if so, the details of the waiting list for 'Cellone' and 'excell' mobile services connections of BSNL in Nagpur division; and

(c) the time by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) As on date, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has a waiting list around of 8210 number for prepaid cellular connections in Nagpur. Post-paid connections of cellone are available on demand.

(c) The present waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of current financial year subject to availability of equipment.

Development of Tuticorin Port as International Hub

1545. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand to develop the Tuticorin Port as an international hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the cargo mix, traffic potential of the port and other relevant factors, a project for Outer Harbour Development—Phase I at an estimated cost of Rs. 1200 crores at Tuticorin port has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). The project, for which a token outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs has been provided in Annual Plan 2005-06, is in preliminary stages.

A hub port, to be viable, needs to fulfil certain basic requirements such as aggregation of traffic, proximity to international routes and markets, availability of deep draft capable of receiving and berthing mother ships, longer water front, high level of road/rail connectivity, large back-up area and supporting hinter-land. An international Consultancy firm engaged by the Tuticorin Hub Port Development Council for preparation of report on the development of tuticorin hub port has submitted its final report during March, 2005 which is being followed up by Tuticorin Port Trust.

[Translation]

Length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

1546. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of each of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the targets fixed regarding the development projects for Andhra Pradesh for 2004-05 and the percentage of work completed so far;

(c) whether the targeted length regarding development projects in Andhra Pradesh has not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to been taken by the Union Government to expedite the development of national highways network in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 15 National Highways in Andhra Pradesh with a total length of 4472 km. The length of each of the National Highway in Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of Stretch	Length (km)
1	2	3	4
1.	4	Chennai-Chittor-Bangalore	83
2.	5	Chennai-Vijayawada-Calcutta	1000
3.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad-Bangalore	753

1	2	3	4
4.	9	Pune-Sholapur-Hyderabad-Machhalipatnam	430
5.	16	Nizamabad-Mancheral-Jagdalpur	220
6.	18	Chittoor-Cuddapah-Kurnool	369
7.	43	Raipur-Vizianagaram	83
8.	63	Ankola-Hospet-Gooty	62
9.	202	Hyderabad-Warrangal-Bhoopalapatnam	244
10.	205	Anantapur-Renigunta-Chennai	360
11.	214	Kathipudi-Kakinada-Pamarru	270
12.	214A	Digmarru-Ongole	255
13	219	Madanapalli-Kuppam-Krishnagiri	128
14.	221	Vijayawada-Jagdalpur	155
15.	222	Kalyan-Nirmal	60
		Total	4472

(b) The details of the targets fixed regarding the development projects for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2004-05 and the percentage of works completed are as below:

Sl.No.	Name of the activity/project	Targets Length (km)	Achievement Length (km)	Percentage (%)
1.	Widening to four-lane	602	499	83
2.	Widening to two-lane	60	90	150
3.	Strengthening weak two lane stretches	100	135	135
4.	Improvement of Riding Quality	81	81	100

(c) and (d) For widening to four-lane, the target fixed could not be achieved fully due to contractual problem, non clearance of ROB (Road Over Bridge) by Railways, land acquisition and law & order problem.

(e) Development & Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Development works such as widening to 2-lane, strengthening of weak stretches, improvement to low grade sections, reconstruction of weak structures, road safety works etc. are being carried out through various Annual Plans in a phased manner within the available resources and inter-se priority of works through State PWD (Public Works Department). In addition, widening of 2-lane National Highways to 4/6 lanes has also been taken up under NHDP phase-I, II & III through National Highways Authority of India.

In Andhra Pradesh, 1085 km length of National Highways has been widened to 4-lane under NHDP Phase-I & II and plan schemes during last three years. In addition, 168 works covering a length of 968 km have

been sanctioned for improvement works on National Highways at a total cost of Rs. 335 crores during the last three years.

Injudicious Re-appropriations

1547. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2433 dated 15.12.2004 regarding injudicious re-appropriations and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in the collections of the information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The information has since been collected and is as under:

Safdarjung Hospital

The corrected figures for allocation, re-appropriation, expenditure and savings in the funds under the Plan and the Non-Plan Budget for the year 2002-03 in respect of Safdarjung Hospital are as under;

(Rupees in Crores)

Budget	B.E.	F.E.	Reapp.	Expr.	Savings
Plan	37.00	36.09	(-) 0.91	31.21	4.88
Non Plan	59.67	64.99	5.32	64.71	0.28
Total	96.67	101.08	4.41	95.92	5.16

While the re-appropriation was to augment the funds in the Non-Plan Budget of the Hospital to meet the committed expenditure on salaries etc., the savings was mainly, in the Plan Budget under the head—Machinery & Equipment.' Savings have occurred as the Debits against the letters of Credits issued for procurement of imported equipment, were not received from the foreign supplies upto 31.3.2003. Also procurement of equipment (both imported and indigenous) is done after following the prescribed codal formalities which sometimes results in delay in the final procurement and consequent savings of the provisions made.

Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli

The corrected figures for allocation, expenditure and savings for the year 2002-03 in respect of CRI, Kasauli are as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

B.E.	F.E.	Re-appr.	Expdr.	Saving
15.70	16.76	1.06	15.05	1.71

A sum of Rs. 2.00 crores under the Plan Scheme, was estimated for carrying out minor works. The expenditure was subject to the approval of the SFC Memo. Sanction for Rs. 0.38 crores was received. Hence, the remaining sum of Rs. 1.62 crores was surrendered. Further, under the Non-Plan scheme, the savings of Rs. 0.09 crores was attributed to salary (due to retirement/ transfer) and other charges (non receipt of electricity and water-bills).

Flyovers on National Highways

1548. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of flyovers proposed to be constructed along National Highways during the current financial year, especially in Gujarat;

(b) the total amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by when construction of these flyovers will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Fifty flyovers [Forty eight under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) and two on Non-NHDP National Highways] are proposed to be taken up for construction during the current financial year. However no flyovers is proposed to be constructed during the current financial year in the state of Gujarat. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) The estimated cost of flyovers mentioned at (a) above is Rs. 550.60 lakhs, excluding the cost of flyovers proposed to be constructed under NHDP. In NHDP stretches, the flyovers from part of road packages. However, the allocation to executing agencies including State Public Works Departments is made as lump sum for all works and not for flyovers separately.

(c) The proposals for flyovers to be constructed on Non-NHDP National Highways have already been sanctioned and are targeted for completion by March, 2006. As regards the flyovers under NHDP, their completion is linked with the overall road packages.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Flyovers proposed to be taken up on non NHDP for construction during current financial year 2005-06	Flyover proposed to be constructed during 2005-06 under NHDP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1
2.	Bihar	Nil	5
3.	Delhi	Nil	4
4.	Haryana	Nil	7
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Nil
6.	Karnataka	1	12
7.	Maharashtra	Nil	2
8.	Orissa	Nil	4
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	11
10.	West Bengal	Nil	2
	Total	2	48

Mobile PCOs to Handicapped

1549. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken steps for the allotment of mobile PCOs to the physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the number of PCOs allotted to handicapped in Karnataka, especially in Davangere and Chitradurga Districts;

(c) the target fixed by BSNL for allotment of mobile PCOs during the 2004-05; and

(d) the extent to which this target has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have taken policy decision for the allotment of Mobile PCOs in their respective services areas. All persons of 18 years and above, including handicapped persons are eligible to apply for the same.

(b) No Mobile PCO has yet been allotted to any persons in Karnataka including Davangere and Chitradurga Districts.

(c) and (d) Do not arise as the scheme has been announced by BSNL only in May, 2005 which is after the year 2004-2005.

[Translation]

Low Surface of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh

1550. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway passing through Satna, Reeva and Chattarpur in Madhya Pradesh is located at every low surface;

(b) if so, whether this National Highway gets blocked even during minor floods;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to uplift this National Highway;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding construction of culverts and road upliftment in Madhavgarh and Kripalpur areas of Satna district; and

(f) if so, the present status thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Youth Hostels

1551. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Youth Hostels functioning in the country, State-wise and location-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more Youth Hostels in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Sixty five Youth Hostels, including two Hostels at Bhopal and Jabalpur in the State of Madhya Pradesh are functioning in the country. The State-wise and location-wise details of Youth Hostels are given at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions laid down in the Youth Hostel Manual, the setting up of new Youth Hostels is considered on the basis of viable proposals received from the concerned State Governments and Union Territories Administrations. At present, 24 Youth Hostels including one at Khajuraho, are under construction. In addition, 33 proposals for setting up of new Youth Hostels including 5 at Indore, Gwalior, Mandu, Chitrakoot and Orchha in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been given in-principle approval. The State-wise and location-wise details of these Youth Hostels are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Youth Hostel Constructed	Location of Youth Hostels
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi, Visakhapatnam, Nagarjunasagar
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Naharlagun
3.	Assam	4	Nawgaon, Guwahati, Golaghat, Tezpur
4.	Bihar	1	Patna
5.	Gujarat	1	Gandhinagar
6.	Haryana	4	Panchukla, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Gurgaon
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Dalhousie, Bilaspur
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	Patintop, Nagrota, Srinagar
9.	Karnataka	3	Mysore, Hasan, Thirtharameshwar
10.	Kerala	3	Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Calicut (Kozhikode)
11.	Maharashtra	2	Auranagabad, Buldana

1	2	3	4
12.	Manipur	2	Imphal, Ukhrul
13.	Meghalaya	2	Shillong, Tura
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Jabalpur
15.	Nagaland	2	Mokokchung, Dimapur
16.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
17.	Punjab	4	Ropar, Amritsar, Sangrur, Patiala
18.	Rajasthan	2	Jaipur, Jodhpur
19.	Tamil Nadu	4	Chennai, Madurai, Thanjavaur, Trichy
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1	Agra
21.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	Port Blair
22.	West Bengal	3	Darjeeling, Churulia, Burdwan
23.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
24.	Tripura	1	Agartala
25.	Orissa	4	Puri, Joshipur, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Koraput
26.	Goa	2	Panaji, Padam Mapusa
27.	Sikkim	1	Namchi
28.	Uttaranchal	3	Mussoorie, Uttarkashi, Nainital
	Total	65	

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of State	Youth Hostels under construction	In-principle approval granted (construction not started)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Warangal	1. Chemmumuiapheta (Cuddapah) 2. Karimnagar 3. Rangandanapally of Mittapally Siddipt Mandal, Medak 4. K.A. Peta (Vizianagaram) 5. Dowleswaram, Village of Rajahmundry (East Godavari)

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2. Roing	
3.	Bihar	—	6. Kishanganj
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	7. Raipur
5.	Gujarat	—	8. Junagarh
			9. Bhavnagar
			10. Saputara
			11. Pavagadh
6.	Haryana	3. Sirsa	—
		4. Rewari	—
		5. Yamunanagar	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6. Dharmsala	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	12. Leh
9.	Jharkhand	—	13. Hazaribagh
10.	Karnataka	7. Karwar	—
		8. Sogalu	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9. Khajuraho	14. Indore
			15. Gwalior
			16. Mandu
			17. Chitrakoot
			18. Orchha
12.	Maharashtra		19. Navegaon
13.	Manipur	10. Thoubal	—
		11. Bishnupur	—
		12. Churachandpur	—
14.	Meghalaya	—	20. Cherrapunji
15.	Mizoram	—	21. Kolasib
16.	Orissa	13. Bhubaneswar	—
17.	Punjab	14. Jalandhar	22. Muktasar
		15. Anandpur Sahib	—

1	2	3	4
18.	Rajasthan	16. Ajmer	23. Kota
		17. Udaipur	—
19.	Sikkim	18. Gangtok	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	19. Uthagamandalam (Ooty)	24. Rameshwaram
			25. Coimbatore
			26. Kanyakumari
21.	Tripura	—	27. Udaipur
22.	Uttar Pradesh	20. Allahabad	28. Bareilli
		21. Lucknow	29. Ballia
			30. Varanasi
			31. Kushinagar
23.	Uttaranchal	22. Almorah	32. Kedarnath
		23. Badrinath	
24.	West Bengal	24. Kalkhali	33. Bakkhali

E-Auction of Coal

1552. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed the floor price for e-auction of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the coal availability to non-core sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Government has fixed the floor price for E-auction of coal at 20% above the notified price of a particular grade of coal.

(c) Government has increased the quantity earmarked for allocation to State Government undertakings by one million tonne of coal so as to reserve a total quantity of three million tonnes of coal for the year 2005-06. In addition to this, another two million tonnes of coal has been earmarked to M/s NCCF, an apex body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 2005-06.

[Translation]

Nuclear Tests

1553. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided not to conduct nuclear tests in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the country has become self-reliant in the field of nuclear power; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a)

Government has continued the policy of voluntary moratorium on Nuclear Explosive Testing.

(b) Tests done in May 1998 fully met the expected parameters.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

India as Nucleus of Stem Cell Research

1554. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has examined the possibility of the country becoming a nucleus of stem cell research; 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) India has emerged as one of the major countries involved in Stem Cell research. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) around 15 institutions and three premier health centres in the country are involved in stem cell research and related activities. Some of these are:

- the Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) undertaking peripheral blood stem cell therapy in plastic anemia patients;
- the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi involved in clinical studies on stem cell therapies particularly in cardiovascular diseases;
- the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad successful in transplanting a stem cell derived cornea to a patient who had lost his cornea;
- the National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon involved extensively on neural stem cell useful in several congenital and acquired disorder, including Parkinson's disease;
- the National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune has been working on developing a repository of cell cultures and cell lines, cryo-preservation technology for bone marrow and development of skin for burns and vitiligo patients.

The ICMR has also informed that considering the wider acceptability of umbilical cord blood stem cell, they are also setting up various blood stem cell banks. Reliance Life Sciences established sought Asia's first Umbilical Cord Blood Repository in June, 2000. Recently Asia Cryo-Cell in collaboration with Florida based Cryo-Cell International has set up India's first Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank with 24 collection centres across the country near Chennai. The ICMR has also proposed to establish Cord Blood Stem Cell Banks in seven regional centres with coordinating unit at ICMR's Institute of Immunohaematology (IIH), Mumbai.

Setting up of Power Plant at IB Valley, Orissa

1555. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley in Orissa in joint collaboration with Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the target fixed for the commencement of the commercial, production of power from this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) has proposed to set up a 2000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley in Orissa. There is a proposal to form a Joint Venture Company between Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) & Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited for implementation of both the mine and power projects. The Government of Orissa is yet to give its consent for the allotment of land for power plant and other facilities.

(b) The estimated cost of the proposed thermal power plant is about Rs. 8000 crores.

(c) The target date of commencement of the commercial production will be available only after the preparation of the feasibility report and approval of the project by the competent authority.

Easing Restrictions of Travel Abroad

1556. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the sharp rise in barriers imposed on the movement of people from our country to advanced nations;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regards; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ease these restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that a number of countries have visa regimes that do not always encourage the movement of legitimate travellers.

The Government has been taking up this issue at various fora as appropriate. However, the issue of visa is a sovereign right of all nations.

Widening of Byepass

1557. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to widen the Vadakara byepass of NH 17; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Mangalore to Kozhikode section of NH-17 has been identified for upgradation to 4 lane on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. Vadakara bypass is a part of this section. For preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this section bids have been invited.

[Translation]

Foreign Countries Assisting Atomic Institutes

1558. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign countries assisting Atomic Institute in the country;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian scientists are also working in the said Institutes; and

(d) if so, the amount spent by the Union Government on these Institutes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian Atomic Energy Programme is self reliant and there are no foreign countries assisting Atomic Institutes in the country. We, however, have bilateral collaboration with some countries as equal partners.

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

[English]

Telecom Facility to Gram Panchayats in NER

1559. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided telephone facility to all village Panchayats of the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages Panchayats where telephone facility has been provided so far, particularly in Assam; and

(c) the time by when the telephone facility is likely to be provided to all the village Panchayats in North Eastern Region?

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

(b) 2,30,788 Gram Panchayats in the country including 2,319 Gram Panchayats in Assam have been provided with telephone facility.

(c) Office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007 in remaining unconnected villages including Gram Panchayat

of N.E. Region. This does not include villages which are lying in thick forest/nexalite infected area, villages having less than 100 population etc.

Restructure of National Highways Authority of India

1560. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the National Highways Authority of India;

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

(c) the present stage of the proposal and the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A presentation was made by the Planning Commission before the Committee on Infrastructure, set up by the Government, for upgradation of National Highways in next seven years (2005-2012) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,72,000 crore. The Committee observed that given the magnitute of proposed investment, this required strengthening of the capacity of National Highways Authority of India.

(c) The programme is in proposal stage. It is too early to give a time frame in this regard.

[Translation]

Manufacture of Mobile Sets

1561. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey/study has been conducted to explore the possibilities of manufacturing mobiles sets in the telecom factories in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to manufacture the mobile sets in the telecom factories situated in Jabalpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), a Government of India Enterprise, has a proposal to take up manufacture of CDMA Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWT) and handsets at one of the Telecom Factories namely; Kolkata or Jabalpur, or Mumbai, through a joint venture company.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Monitoring Utilization of Funds for Projects

1562. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any authority to monitor the utilization of funds allocated for different projects undertaken by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the works done by the monitoring body;

(d) the details of irregularities/shortcomings observed during the last three years by the monitoring body; and

(e) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There is no specific Authority set up in the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to monitor utilization of funds allocated for projects. Ministry implements various youth welfare and sports promotion schemes and not projects as such. Under such schemes financial assistance is provided to State Governments/Union Territories, autonomous organisations, voluntary organisations etc. The Ministry monitors the effective and proper utilization of grants released to organisations under various schemes through the following mechanisms:

1. Submission of Utilization Certificates before release the next instalment.
2. Verification reports from the filed agencies of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme, and from State Governments.

3. Ministry also takes note of inputs from the reports received from Information Development and Resource Agency (IDARA) from time to time in monitoring the progress of implementation of youth development programmes undertaken by various agencies.

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

Setting up of Hospitals

1563. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up state-of-art hospitals in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any emphasis is being laid by the Government to set up such hospitals in the rural areas also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it is proposed to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. These states were chosen as they were under served in terms of medical infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, inadequate facilities for superspeciality services etc. Necessary clearances for the Scheme are being obtained.

(d) to (f) Under National Rural Health Mission, there is a proposal to upgrade more than 2000 PHCs/CHCs to 30-50 bedded hospitals conforming to the norms called Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

[Translation]

Deficient Services of Postal Department

1564. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the services provided by the Department of Posts have become substandard and unsatisfactory after the entry of private companies in this field;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any estimate or conducted any survey to find out the loss suffered;

(c) whether the Department of Posts still continues to suffer due to the entry of private players;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same;

(f) whether the employee's salary, perks, pension etc., are paid from the Consolidated Fund of India or from the account of the Department of Posts; 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. The services have not become substandard and unsatisfactory as can be seen from the revenue generated and the ratio of complaints of traffic for various services provided by the Department, given in the enclosed Statement. Even where the number of complaints have increased, it is indicative of the greater accessibility through customer care centers and the website and responsiveness of the Department to customer needs.

(b) Yes, Sir. Market surveys are conducted from time to time to get information about the market, user perception, industry over view etc. Direct feedback from the customers is also obtained through questionnaires, telephone calls, visits and customer meets.

(c) As can be seen from the revenue figures in the Statement enclosed, the Department has not suffered losses. On the basis of results of market surveys, action to modify existing products or introduce new products is taken from time to time. In fact, it is to meet the competition from couriers that premium products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post and Business Post have been progressively introduced. A number of value additions like free pick up, door-to-door delivery, Internet based track and trace, volume based discount and credit facility have been provided for Speed Post. As a result of these initiatives, premium products have shown a sustained increase in revenue over the years.

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

(e) As pointed out above, the Government has taken various steps to improve the quality of its services and increase its competitiveness. It has been making all out efforts to control expenditure and enhance revenue. It is mobilizing additional resources through better marketing of all its products. It is taking pro-active steps to reach out to its customers and is concentrating on improvement of its quality of services and better customer care.

(f) Yes, salary, perks etc. including pension are paid from the Consolidated Fund of India and from the Budget of the Department of Posts. In other Civil Ministries Pension is paid from a common head of accounts *i.e.* 2071, whereas in Department of Posts pension is paid from the Budget of Department of Posts.

(g) The details are as below:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Salary and Wages	Pension
2003-04	3938.47	1107.02

Statement

Details of Revenue Generated during the Last Five Years by Departments of Posts

Rs. in Crores	2003-2004	2002-2003	2001-2002	2000-2001	1999-2000
Revenue	4256.93	4009.65	3697.11	3297.81	2020.12

Percentage of Complaints In terms of Total Traffic during the last five years

Service	Complaint Traffic Ratio for 2003-04	Complaint Traffic Ratio for 2002-03	Complaint Traffic Ratio for 2001-02	Complaint Traffic Ratio for 2000-01	Complaint Traffic Ratio for 1999-2000
Speed Post	0.064%	0.059%	0.063%	0.072%	0.078%
Registered Letters	0.123%	0.080%	0.111%	0.106%	0.108%
Registered Parcels	0.050%	0.043%	0.034%	0.040%	0.045%
VPP	0.353%	0.463%	0.350%	0.320%	0.394%
MOs	0.359%	0.584%	0.451%	0.389%	0.371%
SB&CC	0.008%	0.011%	0.012%	0.013%	0.015%

[English]

Job Opportunities to Unemployed Sports Persons

1565. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) various schemes being implemented for the development of sports and to provide job opportunities to the Unemployed sports persons in the country; and

(b) the number of employed sports persons benefited under the scheme, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during each of the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing the following umbrella schemes for the development of sports in the country:—

1. Scheme relating to Institutions
2. Scheme relating to Awards
3. Scheme of Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities
4. Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training
5. Scheme relating to Events

In addition, the following schemes are being implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body functioning under the Ministry.

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. Special Area Games (SAG)
4. SAI Training Centre (STC)
5. Centre of Excellence (COX)

No scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for providing job to the unemployed sports persons in the country. However, in accordance with existing orders/instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, 5% vacancies in Groups 'C' and 'D' posts are filed in Ministries/Departments by appointment of meritorious sports persons in relaxation of the procedure. The sportspersons seeking employment are required to apply for these posts as and when they are advertised by respective organizations.

Waiting List for Landline Connections

1566. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons awaiting landline connections, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing the landline connections; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide the same expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The state-wise waiting list for landline connections as on 30.06.2005 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Most of the waiting list is in the rural areas, which are generally far flung. In such area, laying of cable and installation of line materials takes lot of time. Sometimes, denial of permission for digging by local authorities also causes delay in installation of telephones.

The following steps are taken to clear the waiting list:

(i) Relaxation by BSNL for laying outdoor cable from 2.5 Kms to 5.0 Kms for landline Exchanges.

(ii) Efforts are made to lay cables and install time materials at a faster pace.

(iii) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to give financial support to the telecom operators (both public and private) to encourage them, inter-alia, to provide phones in rural areas.

(iv) Increased provision of WLL and mobile phones.

Statement

State-wise waiting list of landline connections as on 30.06.2005

Sl.No.	Name of State/Circle	Waiting list (Fixed) as on 30.06.2005
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	248
2.	Andhra Pradesh	34484
3.	Assam	24056
4.	Biahr	103059
5.	Chhattisgarh	2512
6.	Gujarat	63324
7.	Haryana	75818
8.	Himachal Pradesh	46358
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	74251
10.	Jharkhand	16781
11.	Karnataka	85270
12.	Kerala	376228
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9262
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	156153
15.	North East	9603
16.	Orissa	27589
17.	Punjab	44724
18.	Rajasthan	144925
19.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	108234
20.	Uttaranchal	4974
21.	Uttar Pradesh	150375
22.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	135531
23.	Kolkata	3117
24.	Chennai	1122
25.	Delhi	0
26.	Mumbai	0
	Total	1697998

[Translation]

Alleged Irregularities in Purchase of Medicines

1567. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether medicines worth Rs. 150 crore are purchased each year under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there has been alleged irregularity in the purchase of the said medicines by the Government and certain firms were favoured;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these have been investigated by the Government; and

(f) if so, the name of the agency conducting the investigation and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Expenditure for procuring medicines for the CGHS dispensaries is met under the Sub-Head Supplies and Materials and the amount incurred during the last four financial years under this Sub-Head is as under:—

Year	Amount in Rupees
2001-2002	Rs. 165.38 crore
2002-2003	Rs. 186.04 crore
2003-2004	Rs. 222.94 crore
2004-2005	Rs. 161.40 crore (approx.)

The CGHS Delhi procures its bulk supply of medicines through Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC), a Public Sector Undertaking and for CGHS cities outside Delhi, the bulk supply is procured through the Medical Stores Organisation of the Dte. GHS. No complaint has been received by the Govt. regarding irregularity in the purchase of medicines by the HSCC/ MSO.

(d) to (f) In view of (a) to (c) above, the questions do not arise.

Installation of new Equipment

1568. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the equipment in the major hospitals of the country are lying out of order as a result of which patients have to bear undue hassels and expenses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to install new equipment to remedy the situation; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective Governments to ensure proper maintenance of machines available in the Hospitals under their control.

Maintenance of medical machines installed in various Central Government Hospital is satisfactory. Most of the equipments are put under Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC). In case the machines become non-functional due to wear and tear, immediate steps are taken to get the machines repaired in the minimum possible time. As regards installation of new equipments, it is a regular process and new machines are procured on the basis of requirement of the Hospitals and availability of resources.

[English]

Indo-Nepal Ties

1569. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Nepal relations are at a low ebb due to several contentious issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large scale infiltration has been noticed from Nepal recently;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Nepal Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

India and Nepal share a long tradition of cordial and mutually beneficial relations. Government of India has consistently stated that the current difficulties facing Nepal, including the Maoist insurgency can only be resolved by a political settlement. We believe that the measures taken by His Majesty's Government of Nepal since 1st February 2005 represent a serious setback to democracy and to the efforts for a political settlement in Nepal. India is ready to support all efforts for dialogue and reconciliation between the constitutional forces in Nepal.

As a result of the troubled situation in Nepal, there has been an increase in the influx of Nepali nationals into India through the open border. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been asked to step up patrolling and vigilance along the border.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal is aware of our concerns about the continuing insurgency in Nepal and its adverse implications for our security, particularly in our bordering States.

[Translation]

Reproductive and Child Health Care Programmes

1570. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the amount spent by the Union Government under the Reproductive and Child Health Care Programmes during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount so sanctioned has been spent by each State during the period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the programmes effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The funds released and the expenditure incurred under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme during the last three years State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. Against a sum of Rs. 146234.45 lakhs released under the RCH programme during the last three years the State have reported an expenditure of Rs. 112471.91 lakhs as detailed State-wise in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Since RCH is an ongoing programme, the States provide updates on expenditure from time to time. As a result some unspent balances are always available with them. These balances are necessary for continuous implementation of the programme. However, fresh releases are made to the States taking into account unspent balances available with them.

(d) To improve financial management and programme implementation under the second phase of the RCH programme specific steps have been taken to strengthen the programme management capabilities both at the State as well as District level including induction of skilled management and finance personnel on contractual basis in the needy States.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Total	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1590.69	2043.85	3344.30	3010.95	3133.38	2444.89	8068.37	7499.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	269.20	160.03	145.50	203.24	319.46	350.37	734.16	713.65
3.	Assam	745.28	1275.98	1462.12	621.30	2810.76	1448.80	5018.15	3346.08
4.	Bihar	3834.74	1776.14	3731.31	2705.27	3895.36	370.51	11461.40	4851.92
5.	Jharkhand	781.05	356.87	1003.11	31.78	1341.65	2285.24	3125.81	2673.89
6.	Goa	15.47	51.03	16.67	13.55	16.37	1.12	48.51	65.70
7.	Gujarat	1399.12	1617.02	1742.49	2452.34	8718.02	3098.38	11859.64	7167.74
8.	Haryana	1007.86	1196.68	2177.80	1379.46	1976.01	2363.34	5161.68	4939.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	411.41	365.65	665.90	222.99	497.32	124.73	1574.63	713.37
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	426.53	215.15	206.20	354.92	264.31	371.41	897.04	941.49
11.	Karnataka	2883.78	1981.92	827.02	1440.54	1057.00	1862.95	4767.80	5285.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Kerala	711.76	1251.04	819.95	884.63	638.32	678.81	2242.03	2614.48
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1582.10	1670.20	2517.87	2701.81	4059.46	782.97	8159.44	5154.99
14.	Chhattisgarh	1190.93	379.86	1305.46	1056.58	1137.00	1439.30	3633.39	2875.74
15.	Maharashtra	1528.13	2318.96	3472.98	1756.31	3486.68	1685.74	8487.79	5761.00
16.	Manipur	402.44	573.13	434.24	288.96	258.46	2.09	1095.13	864.19
17.	Meghalaya	70.80	118.02	78.79	53.18	111.33	205.23	260.92	376.43
18.	Mizoram	733.36	415.55	335.18	319.01	502.19	324.21	1570.72	1058.77
19.	Nagaland	173.62	237.81	253.43	230.96	246.51	66.82	673.56	535.59
20.	Orissa	690.55	1449.09	954.70	563.24	1854.70	904.66	3499.93	2916.99
21.	Punjab	275.45	628.29	376.52	498.65	559.06	236.01	1211.04	1362.95
22.	Rajasthan	1610.99	1919.09	4119.19	3012.99	2797.98	2935.16	8528.16	7867.24
23.	Sikkim	91.10	71.99	15.10	111.99	328.35	167.82	434.56	351.81
24.	Tamil Nadu	1688.99	1953.92	1220.86	937.01	1447.41	371.19	4357.19	3212.11
25.	Tripura	154.22	88.59	76.61	92.98	119.38	6.10	352.21	187.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9569.69	7777.81	12525.56	10645.49	14577.83	10595.83	36673.08	29019.14
27.	Uttaranchal	424.61	332.36	703.83	651.67	410.38	535.03	1538.82	1519.06
28.	West Bengal	1640.14	1879.33	3278.19	2620.25	3356.74	2247.11	8275.08	6746.69
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.53	28.27	26.43	13.70	25.79	47.66	65.72	89.63
30.	Chandigarh	17.86	27.81	19.11	22.17	19.58	32.55	56.55	82.54
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.18	9.30	9.66	16.76	5.30	29.50	24.13	55.57
32.	Daman and Diu	25.41	11.59	7.31	6.31	13.48	42.35	46.20	60.26
33.	Delhi	354.06	449.00	770.61	520.70	1044.45	182.37	2169.12	1152.07
34.	Lakshadweep	14.16	9.44	10.24	7.85	7.31	43.26	31.72	60.57
35.	Pondicherry	25.85	40.95	25.78	21.14	82.13	35.70	133.76	97.79
	Total	36360.98	34681.98	48754.01	39470.69	61119.46	38319.24	146234.45	112471.91

Figures provisional

[English]

Lignite Reserves

1571. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of lignite blocks alongwith total reserves of coal in the country;

(b) whether the Government has decided to allocate lignite block to private companies for mining;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The state-wise details of lignite blocks alongwith total reserves of lignite in the country are as under:—

State	No. of blocks explored	Gross Reserve in Million tonnes
Tamil Nadu	20	29458.03
Rajasthan	36	2292.06
Gujarat	22	1747.25
Jammu and Kashmir	1	20.25
Kerala	2	10.80
Total	81	33528.39

As regards coal, a cumulative total of 245.69 billion tonnes of coal resources have been estimated in the country as on 01.01.2004.

(b) to (e) Lignite is a form of coal and therefore coal includes lignite. The captive mining policy being pursued in case of coal is equally applicable to lignite. So far one lignite block has been allocated to a private company under this policy.

Alleged Corruption in MCI

1572. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government has received representations from Members of Parliament and general public about alleged rampant corruption in the Medical Council of India;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to bring changes in the functioning of Medical Council of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Government has been receiving both verbal and written complaints regarding the functioning of MCI from number of persons including Members of Parliament. Such complaints as and when received, are dealt as per the relevant rule provisions.

To ensure transparency and smooth functioning of MCI, the Government has moved a proposal for amending the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

Instructions by TRAI

1573. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the TRAI has issued fresh instructions to Mobile and Basic telephone service providers regarding the protection of rights of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the problems being faced by the customers of basic and mobile telephones?

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

(b) and (c) TRAI has during last three months issued following directions to cellular mobile and basic service providers regarding protection of rights of consumers:

1. Refund of security deposit—dated 8th July, 2005.
2. Information to customer about complete detail of the tariff plan—dated 29th June, 2005.
3. Credit limit for post paid subscribers—dated 27th June, 2005.
4. Premium Rate Services—dated 3rd May, 2005.
5. Value Added Services—dated 3rd May, 2005.
6. Publication/advertisement of tariffs for consumer information—dated 2nd May, 2005.

In addition, TRAI after discussions with the services providers and consumers organizations had notified the Common Charter of Telecom Services, 2005 on 24th February, 2005. The above directions from S. No. 1 to 6 and Common Charter of Telecom Services, 2005 are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in.

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Hepatitis-B and C Vaccines in CGHS Dispensaries

1574. SHRI HEMLAL MUMRU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vaccines for Hepatitis-B and C are not available in the CGHS Dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the said vaccines available in the CGHS Dispensaries in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Hepatitis 'B' vaccine is available in CGHS dispensaries under the regular National Immunization Programme for children up to the age of one year. Hepatitis 'C' vaccine is not available in CGHS dispensaries as it is not included in the National Immunisation Programme.

Rehabilitation of Residents of Coal Mining Areas

1575. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided to persons living within the unsafe zones of the coal mines of the country for their rehabilitation during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of families rehabilitated year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The unsafe zones of the mines are mainly in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) respectively, where mining was done in unscientific manner for more than a century by the erstwhile private owners prior to Nationalization of coal mines. The long history of unscientific mining in the past in these coalfields had led to increase in the number of sites prone to danger of fire and subsidence. These problems have been receiving attention of all concerned from time to time and mitigation measures have been taken on case to case basis at different times.

To deal with problem of fire and subsidence in a comprehensive manner, Master Plans have been drawn for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the leasehold of BCCL and ECL for an amount of Rs. 5792.21 crores and Rs. 1769.40 crores respectively. The Master Plans provide a sum of Rs. 2446.91 crores for Jharia coalfields of BCCL and Rs. 1317.18 crores for Raniganj Coalfields of ECL for rehabilitation of persons from unsafe areas of mines. Measures envisaged in the Master Plan are to be implemented in a period of 20 years. No amount has been provided to persons living in unsafe zones in Jharia coalfield & Raniganj coalfield.

However, BCCL has taken up one demonstration scheme for rehabilitation of 1500 BCCL people and 3100 non-BCCL people from unsafe areas of mines. For BCCL employees, 344 houses have already been constructed and 150 families have been shifted. The non-BCCL part

has been taken up by State Government and work order of 900 non-BCCL houses has been issued and work has been started.

Similarly one demonstration scheme for rehabilitation of people from unsafe areas of mines have been taken up in ECL also. The work of rehabilitation has been taken by the State Govt. and entrusted to Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA). Work is in progress and Rs. 50 lakhs has already been paid to ADDA by ECL for taking up the rehabilitation work.

(c) The details of families rehabilitated from unsafe areas in the Jharkhand state by BCCL during last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of families rehabilitated
2001-02	32
2002-03	48
2003-04	70
	150

[English]

BSNL Cell Towers in Tamil Nadu

1576. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more BSNL Towers, Cell Towers for better connectivity of phones in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the districts of Tamil Nadu where these are to be set up;

(c) whether any time limit for providing the same has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date on which the above services are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of installing round 1186 additional Base Stations (Towers) in the State of Tamil Nadu for expansion of it's cellular network. The details of the Base Station (Towers) proposed to be installed in the State of Tamil Nadu are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The installation of these Base Stations are targeted during current financial year and is expected to be functional progressively from August, 2005 onwards.

Statement

List of Towers proposed in the State of Tamil Nadu

Name of the SSA	No. of Towers
Chengalput	56
Coimbatore	131
Coonoor	23
CRDA	50
Cuddalore	70
Dharmapuri	46
Erode	72
Karaikudi	61
Madurai	101
Nagercoil	62
Salem	104
Thanjavur	53
Trichy	126
Tuticorin	51
Tirunelveli	66
Virudhunagar	35
Vellore	79
Chennai Telecom District	350
Total	1186

Distribution of SIM Cards in Maharashtra

1577. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint from the public regarding serious corruption in distribution of SIM Cards by the BSNL Centre at Akola (Maharashtra); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being 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) BSNL is ensuring distribution of SIM cards strictly on the basis of seniority of registration in Akola District. In all cases the bonafide of customer are verified before issuance of SIM cards. BSNL has also planned expansion of Cellular network to overcome the problem of shortage of capacity.

New Guidelines for MPLADS

1578. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to prescribe new guidelines for the allocation and utilization of funds under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme;

(b) if so, the main objective of the new guidelines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to revise the Guidelines on MPLADS.

(b) and (c) The main objectives of the revision are (i) to simplify the MPLADS implementation, and (ii) to identify responsibility and accountability at different administrative levels in the MPLADS implementation. The draft revised MPLADS Guidelines has been referred to the Committees of MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Posting of Senior Administrative/Police Officer

1579. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether the consent of State Government is sought for the posting of Senior Administrative Officer or Police Officer; and

(b) 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) Yes, Sir. Under rule 6 of the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954 and Indian Police Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954, IAS officers and IPS officers are taken on central deputation with the consent of the State Government concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities to Every Citizen

1580. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission after the mid term review of Tenth Five Year Plan has given suggestions for establishing future arrangement for providing medical facilities to every citizen of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to implement these suggestions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Planning Commission after the Mid Term Review have

recommended, the following interventions for early attention.

- Augment resources for health.
- Focus on the monitorable targets of the Tenth Plan and develop a functioning primary health care system.
- Introduce a cadre of skilled birth attendants.
- Map the districts across the country to identify and register each health provider and bring within an accredited network;
- Integrate the National AIDS Control Programme with primary health care.
- Implement a National Mission on Sanitation and Public Health.
- Introduce a maternity health insurance scheme.
- Introduce small risk pools to administer financial help at village levels.
- Reform CGHS into a social security and health insurance scheme.
- Develop a basket of MOUs for carrying forward multiple partnerships at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

(c) and (d) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It has as its key components provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS); and integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary health care.

The total outlay for the National Rural Health Mission for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 6731.156 crore. The major components of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) have been targeted to be implemented during 2005-08.

[English]

Amount Spent on Construction of National Highways

1581. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

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

(a) the total amount spent on construction of National Highways in the country by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the length in kilometers of the National Highways constructed during the above period;

(c) the target set for construction of the National Highways during the current year; and

(d) the length in kilometers of the National Highways constructed in the country, State-wise till June 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The total amount spent on development of National Highways in the country by the Government during the last three years is Rs. 15649.18 crore, and about 20178.17 Km length of National Highways was developed during this period.

(c) The target set for various works for development of the National Highways during the current year is placed at Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The State-wise details of achievements of various development works on National Highways for the current year upto June 2005 is at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Targets set for construction of National Highways during the current year 2005-2006

Sl.No.	Type of Works	Units (Km/No.)
1.	Improvement of low grade sections (Kms.)	43
2.	Widening single lane to two lane (Kms.)	1113
3.	Strengthening weak two lane (Kms.)	755
4.	Widening to four lane (Kms.)	1456
5.	Const. of By-pass (Nos.)	9
6.	Const. of Major Bridges (Nos.)	35
7.	Const. of Minor Bridges (Nos.)	126
8.	Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (Kms.)	2534

Statement II

State-wise Length of National Highways Constructed during 2005-06 (till June, 2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Improvement to low grade section (km)	Widening to four lane (km)	Widening to two lane (km)	Strengthening weak two lane (km)	Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (km)	Major Bridges (Nos.)	Minor Bridges (Nos.)	Construction of By passes (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	25.67	6.00	44.67	0.00	0	6	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.91	0.00	0.68	2.00	0.00	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0.02	0.00	4.42	2.00	29.55	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0.00	32.56	17.00	32.56	50.00	0	0	0
5.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	9.85	0.00	34.05	0	1	0
7.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
8.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0	0	0
9.	Gujarat	0.00	16.21	12.00	32.21	8.00	0	0	0
10.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	29.65	0.00	2.00	1	0	0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.58	0	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	1.87	0.00	0.00	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Jharkhand	0.00	23.77	0.00	23.77	46.00	0	0	0
14.	Karnataka	0.00	33.00	12.00	33.00	20.00	0	10	0
15.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	113.31	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	12.00	8.00	118.00	0	0	0
17.	Maharashtra	0.00	42.79	17.04	65.93	13.70	0	11	0
18.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.25	0	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	5.64	0	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	9.33	0	0	0
21.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	3.84	0	0	0
22.	Orissa	0.00	14.42	15.00	16.92	37.00	0	0	0
23.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
24.	Punjab	2.87	0.00	0.00	11.77	79.50	0	0	0
25.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	48.40	42.00	0.00	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	9.91	8.00	54.96	18.43	0	3	0
27.	Tripura	1.25	0.00	5.33	0.00	7.21	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	41.67	12.00	40.67	185.00	0	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	16.10	0.00	38.50	0	0	0
30.	West Bengal	0.00	7.60	4.50	17.60	17.00	0	0	0

Appointments on Compassionate Ground

1582. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representations received by different Ministries for appointment in various posts on compassionate grounds during the last three years; and

(b) the number of representations considered and given appointment during the last three years, Ministry-wise?

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) Department of Personnel & Training lays down the policy on compassionate appointment which is implemented by the administrative Ministries/Departments. Compassionate appointments can be made only in most deserving cases, upto a maximum of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts. A request for compassionate appointment can be kept under consideration for a maximum period of 3 years. Information on total number of representations considered and appointments made by different Ministries is not maintained centrally.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance under CRF

1583. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent requests during the last two years for financial assistance under the Central Road Fund by sending estimates as per the guidelines for the renovation and upgradation of some of important and major roads;

(b) if so, when the said requests were made and the details of the said roads;

(c) the action taken so far by the Government on the said requests; and

(d) the time by which the said requests are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

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

(b) to (d) A list of proposals received from State Government of Himachal Pradesh during last 2 years along with details and action taken/to be taken is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Road along with brief description of work	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Month of receipt of the proposal	Action taken/to be taken
1.	Improvement and Upgradation of Theog Kothai Hatkoti road from km. 0/0 to 19/705 (SH: Improvement/Upgradation from km. 8/0 to 13/255)	207.46	Feb. 2004	Sanctioned
2.	Improvement and Upgradation of Theog Kothai Hatkoti road from 23/705 to 72/800 (SH: Improvement/Upgradation from km. 34/0 to 39/0)	288.32	Feb. 2004	Sanctioned
3.	Improvement and strengthening of Holta Rajpur Kallu road from km 0/0 to 4/33	95.90	Feb. 2004	Sanctioned
4.	Improvement and Upgradation of Theog Kothai Hatkoti road from 23/705 to 72/800 (SH: Improvement/Upgradation from km. 68/0 to 72/705)	227.29	Feb. 2004	The clearance of these proposals will depend upon the criteria/guidelines of the Ministry, inter-se priority of works and availability of funds.
5.	Construction of Kangra Bypass from km 0/0 to 4/487	234.60	Nov. 2004	
6.	Improvement of Banethi-Bagthan Rajgarh Chandol Road from km 61/00 to 95/00	285.40	March, 2005	

[English]

Rules Governing Family Pension

1584. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal under consideration to change rules governing the Family Pension for disabled dependents of deceased Government pensioners in order to be commensurate with the definition of disability under Equal Opportunity Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act 1995;

(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) Government is not considering any change in the rules governing family pension relating to disabled dependents of deceased Government pensioners as the scope of the provision under the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 is wide enough to cover the disabilities defined in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protections of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

[Translation]

Scheme for Redemption of State Liabilities

1585. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of internal loan of the Union Government and its financial institutions outstanding against various States along with the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the schemes drawn up by the Government to bail out the States of their debt;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme to redeem the States of their old liabilities by offering them interest free new loans;

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

(e) the largest indebted State of the country along with the reasons therefor; and

(f) the per capita internal debt of State Governments together with that of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Loans from the Union Government to States primarily consist of Plan loans by Ministry of Finance. Additionally, there are some small savings loans given before 1999, Medium Term Loans and loans consolidated earlier. A total amount of Rs. 155147.76 crores was outstanding as on 31st March 2005 against the States for loans provided by Ministry of Finance. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Government of India had allowed the States to swap their high cost loans carrying rate of interest of 13% and above under Debt Swap Scheme. Rs. 102033.59 crores of high cost loans were swapped during 2002-05.

Central Government has also accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) to consolidate all Government of India loans given to States before March 31, 2004 and outstanding on March 31, 2005 in a new twenty year loan at 7.5% interest and waiver to outstanding GOI loans subject to State's adopting Fiscal Responsibility Law.

This Scheme would benefit the States with lower interest of Rs. 21275.65 crores, lower repayment of Rs. 11928.91 crore and debt waiver of Rs. 32196.69 crores during 2005-10, if the States meet the necessary conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Uttar Pradesh has the largest portfolio of outstanding loan against loans provided by Ministry of Finance. This is due to backwardness and larger population of the State.

(f) The per capita internal debt of the State Governments together with that of the Central Government was Rs. 17618/- as at March, 2005 (BE).

Statement

Amounts Outstanding as on 31.03.2005 against States for Loans provided by Ministry of Finance

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15889.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	468.80
3.	Assam	2336.45
4.	Bihar	8984.81
5.	Chhattisgarh	2297.46
6.	Goa	750.26
7.	Gujarat	11269.93
8.	Haryana	2206.60
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1029.69
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2215.30
11.	Jharkhand	2898.70
12.	Karnataka	8697.95
13.	Kerala	5298.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8874.97
15.	Maharashtra	8253.54
16.	Manipur	1437.66
17.	Meghalaya	359.30
18.	Mizoram	330.22
19.	Nagaland	373.53
20.	Orissa	9037.54
21.	Punjab	7182.29
22.	Rajasthan	7627.98
23.	Sikkim	217.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	6290.23
25.	Tripura	524.62
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24094.70
27.	Uttaranchal	391.69
28.	West Bengal	15807.89
	Total	155147.76

[English]

Release of Funds for N.Hs

1586. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released the sanctioned funds for the construction of National Highways in North and Western regions;

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

(c) the details of pending projects alongwith the stretches in Maharashtra in particular and North and West regions in general under construction as on March 31, 2005; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry sanctions funds for the work for development of National Highways implemented by the State Governments. State-wise details of the funds allocated and released to the State for construction of National Highways by the State Governments in North and Western regions during 2004-05 are given in the Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of the number of on-going projects being implemented by the respective State Governments, of North and Western regions including those of Maharashtra, pending for completion as on 31.03.2005 are given in Statement-II. The period of completion of the National Highways works depends on the nature and the time of the sanction of works and generally spreads over more than one financial year.

Statement I

Details of Funds Allocated and Released for the Construction of National Highways in States of North and Western Regions

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	
		Allocation	Release (Expenditure)
1	2	3	4
	Northern Region		
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.22	0.21
2.	Punjab	53.00	50.72
3.	Himachal Pradesh	45.00	40.48
4.	Haryana	46.00	37.87
5.	Chandigarh	1.00	1.00
6.	Uttaranchal	27.00	26.48
7.	Uttar Pradesh	172.00	171.97
8.	Delhi	4.00	3.95
	Western Region		
9.	Rajasthan	60.00	46.34
10.	Madhya Pradesh	83.00	82.86
11.	Chhattisgarh	35.00	34.89
12.	Maharashtra	70.00	65.07
13.	Gujarat	60.00	53.64
14.	Goa	5.00	5.00

Statement II

State-wise length of National Highways under construction as on 31.3.2005

Sl.No.	Name of State	No of works	Sanctioned amount (Rs. in crores)	Length under construction (in km.)
1	2	3	4	5
	Northern Region			
1.	Chandigarh	2	3.20	6.230
2.	Haryana	27	101.41	169.455
3.	Himachal Pradesh	51	152.88	304.155
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	0.000
5.	Punjab	31	80.94	241.470
6.	Delhi	3	17.04	2.800
7.	Uttaranchal	23	72.50	171.755
8.	Uttar Pradesh	110	441.17	759.980

1	2	3	4	5
	Western Region			
9.	Gujarat	46	132.26	268.835
10.	Rajasthan	35	143.52	458.850
11.	Chhattisgarh	72	118.66	488.330
12.	Madhya Pradesh	68	167.71	620.710
13.	Maharashtra	90	221.95	734.595
14.	Goa	21	61.60	199.300

Improvement of Wireless Technology

1587. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve existing wireless technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government has signed pact with any other country to develop wireless technology in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) (i) Wireless technology is being progressively upgraded to the Next Generation system *i.e.* towards 3G;

(ii) Operators are being encouraged to use the most modern technologies available for capacity enhancement and improvement in coverage;

(iii) Government is working on new spectrum policy to make available spectrum for wireless services, which include services like Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, 3G and beyond 3G technologies.

(d) and (e) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous body under Department of Telecommunications and M/s Alcatel of France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March, 2005 to form a joint venture to set up global research centre in Chennai for development of WIMAX technologies. Both the parties presently are actively involved in formalizing the agreement for setting up joint venture within the framework of MOU. C-DOT is also having wireless research with Canadian Research Centre, Canada.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Medical Colleges and North-Eastern States

1588. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade the medical colleges functioning in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide any special grant to the States for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Rural Communication Service Scheme

1589. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Rural Communication Service Scheme provides communication facilities to villagers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of BSNL mobile and WLL towers in Uttar Pradesh under various telephone centres;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase these towers in the State during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(e) the time by when these towers are likely to become functional?

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

(b) The total number of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Global Switching Module (GSM) Mobile and Wireless in Local Loop Base Transmitting Stations (WLL) BTSs) towers in Uttar Pradesh is 1,259.

(c) Yes, Sir. 1,388 Mobile BTS and 247 WLL Towers are planned in the State during the current financial year.

(d) The Secondary Switching Area (SSA)-wise details of GSM and WLL towers planned for the year 2005-06 in UP is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) These BTSs towers are likely to become functional by 31.3.2006.

Statement

The Secondary Switching Area (SSA)—wise details of GSM and WLL Towers Planned for the year 2005-06 in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	Mobile BTS	WLL Towers
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	78	6
2.	Aligarh	38	3
3.	Allahabad	56	4
4.	Azamgarh	24	6
5.	Badaun	21	3
6.	Bahraich	7	7
7.	Ballia	18	4
8.	Banda	19	2
9.	Barabanki	15	3
10.	Bareilly	50	1
11.	Basti	20	6
12.	Bijnore	41	6
13.	Bulandsahar	30	14
14.	Deoria	23	7
15.	Etah	23	6
16.	Etawah	31	4
17.	Faizabad	21	7
18.	Farrukhabad	14	3
19.	Fatehpur	12	5
20.	Gazipur	16	4
21.	Ghaziabad	27	7
22.	Gonda	32	7
23.	Gorakhpur	33	7
24.	Hamirpur	15	6
25.	Hardoi	15	2

1	2	3	4
26.	Jaunpur	24	4
27.	Jhansi	14	10
28.	Kanpur	62	2
29.	Lakhimpur	7	6
30.	Lucknow	45	6
31.	Mainpuri	24	6
32.	Mathura	36	5
33.	Mau	18	3
34.	Meerut	76	6
35.	Mirzapur	27	10
36.	Moradabad	76	5
37.	Muzaffarnagar	51	5
38.	Noida	11	0
39.	Orai	8	4
40.	Pillibhit	15	1
41.	Pratapgarh	7	2
42.	Raebareili	16	4
43.	Rampur	20	2
44.	Saharanpur	33	3
45.	Shahjahanpur	15	7
46.	Sitapur	12	4
47.	Sultanpur	21	6
48.	Unnao	13	6
49.	Varanasi	78	10
	Total	1,388	247

Implementation of Arbitration Awards

1590. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) the details of arbitration awards by Board of Joint Consultative Machinery pending implementation as on date;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the details of awards implemented or rejected by Parliament during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) As on date, 12 Awards of Board of Arbitration under Joint Consultative Machinery are pending. 4 of these Awards are pending with the Government, while 8 Awards have been submitted by the Government for the consideration of the Parliament. Action on the pending Awards both with the Government as well as with Parliament is being taken in accordance with the prescribed Procedure under JCM Scheme.

(c) During the last three years, two Awards have been accepted and implemented by the Government and four Awards have been rejected by the Parliament.

Non-Affiliated Private Medical Colleges

1591. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that private medical institutes are admitting students for MBBS & BDS Courses, even when they do not have affiliation with any University on the MCI;

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

(c) whether the Medical Institute of Meerut (U.P.) was running their institutions without such affiliation till July 2004;

(d) if so, the details of the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such private medical institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) University affiliation is a precondition for consideration of scheme for establishment of new medical/dental colleges as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act/Dentists Act and Regulations made thereunder. It is also required to be maintained at the time of renewal of permission.

(c) and (d) Government have no information about running of such institute at Meerut.

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

Cooperation with USA in Health Sector

1592. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance co-operation between India and USA in the health sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The on-going cooperation between India and USA in the health sector is in the field of vaccine development, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and Child Health, Contraceptives, Environmental and Occupational Health.

Recently, India and USA have signed a Joint Statement on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases and Disease Surveillance to boost infectious disease control programme in India. Under this, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), USA would collaborate with National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), New Delhi and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi for disease surveillance as well as prevention and control of communicable diseases.

The Indo-US Joint Statement issued during the Prime Minister of India's visit to USA in July 2005 commits both the countries to strengthen cooperation and combating HIV/AIDS at a global level through an initiative that mobilizes private sector and Government resources, knowledge and expertise.

(c) The Indo-US collaboration in the health sector has facilitated collaborative research, expert consultations, training and exchange of scientists, technology transfer and joint publications, research capacity building, infrastructure development, collaboration on disease outbreak investigation and response.

[Translation]

Pending Applications for STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Rajasthan

1593. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for providing STD/ISD/PCO booths in Rajasthan during the last two years district-wise, particularly in Jaipur;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the disposal of these pending applications; and

(c) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths proposed to be opened in the State during the year 2005-06 district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of applications pending as on 30.6.2005 for provisioning of PCOs out of the applications received during the last two years are:

	STD/ISD/PCOs	Local PCOs
Rajasthan	593	96
Jaipur District	59	1

District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Steps taken/proposed for early clearance of the pending applications are:

(i) Making technically non-feasible (TNF) areas feasible by laying underground cables.

(ii) Planning of WLL systems and expansion of existing systems in areas where it is not feasible to lay underground cable.

(iii) Planning to additional WLL-Towers (BTSs) to cover areas with weak signals.

(iv) Procurement of Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs).

(c) PCOs are liberally allotted to all the applicants of 18 years of age or above without any restriction and are on demand in feasible areas. The number of PCOs to be installed in State during the year 2005-06 will depend on the number of applicants.

Statement

Details of pending applications for STD/ISD/PCOs out of applications received during last two years

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of pending applications as on 30.6.2005		
		STD/ISD/PCOs	Local PCOs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	Nil	Nil	0
2.	Alwar	Nil	Nil	0
3.	Banswara	10	Nil	10
4.	Dungarpur	20	1	21
5.	Barmer	Nil	Nil	0
6.	Bharatpur	Nil	Nil	0
7.	Dholpur	Nil	Nil	0
8.	Bhilwara	Nil	Nil	0
9.	Bikaner	Nil	Nil	0
10.	Bundi	2	Nil	2
11.	Chittorgarh	81	Nil	81
12.	Churu	Nil	Nil	0
13.	Jaisalmer	Nil	Nil	0
14.	Jaipur	59	1	60
15.	Dausa	Nil	Nil	0
16.	Jhalawar	Nil	1	1
17.	Jhunjhunu	Nil	Nil	0
18.	Jodhpur	57	86	143
19.	Kota	Nil	Nil	0
20.	Baran	Nil	Nil	0
21.	Nagaur	86	Nil	86
22.	Pali	39	3	42
23.	Sawai Madhopur	203	3	206
24.	Karauli	Nil	Nil	0
25.	Sikar	Nil	Nil	0

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Sirohi	Nil	Nil	0
27.	Jalore	Nil	Nil	0
28.	Sriganganagar	Nil	Nil	0
29.	Hanumangarh	Nil	Nil	0
30.	Tonk	Nil	Nil	0
31.	Udaipur+Rajsamand	36	1	37
	Total	593	96	689

[English]

Management of Gurdwaras in Pakistan

1594. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the management of the historic Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan is still under the control of non-Sikhs;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received representations in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard along with the time frame decided for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) consists of both Sikhs and non-Sikhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

1595. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in rural areas in the country, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of post-offices in rural areas on the basis of population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the performance of post-offices in rural areas has been affected due to shortage of postmen;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of postmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Post Offices in rural areas of the country, Circle-wise, including those in Maharashtra, is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opened on the basis of distance, population and income norms and subject to availability of resources. The norms are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) Delivery of mails in rural areas is primarily undertaken through extra departmental delivery agents. There is no shortage of either extra departmental delivery men or postmen in relation to the workload in rural areas.

Statement I

State-wise number of Rural POs as on 31.03.2004

Sl.No.	Circle	No. of Rural Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14845
2.	Assam	3709
3.	Bihar	8622
4.	Chhattisgarh	5397
5.	Delhi	81
6.	Gujarat	8191
	Daman and Diu	15
	Dadar Nagar Haveli	37
7.	Haryana	2329
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2658
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1495
10.	Jharkhand	2772
11.	Karnataka	8582
12.	Kerala	4187
	Lakshadweep	10
	Mahe	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4995
14.	Maharashtra	11294
	Goa	204
15.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	292
	Manipur	686
	Meghalaya	460
	Mizoram	337
	Nagaland	299
	Tripura	659
16.	Orissa	7572
17.	Punjab	3430
	Chandigarh	7
18.	Rajasthan	9659
19.	Tamil Nadu	10153
	Pondicherry	58
20.	Uttar Pradesh	15693
21.	Uttaranchal	2496
22.	West Bengal	7639
	Andaman and Nicobar Island	89
	Sikkim	197
	Total	139149

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.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

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.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(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 office 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]

Assessment of Annual Growth Rate

1596. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the annual growth rate in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors in the country has been made by Government in order to achieve the target fixed for annual growth rate during the current Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate necessary for these sectors; and

(c) the details of results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan had targeted to achieve a growth rate of 4.0%, 8.9% and 9.3% for agriculture, industry and service sector respectively. The achievement in the first three years of the Plan works out to 1%, 7% and 8.6% per annum respectively for these three sectors. This would imply that in order to achieve the original targets of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the average annual rate of growth of these sectors would have to be 8.5%, 11.7% and 10.3% respectively for agriculture, industry and services sector in the last two years of the Plan.

Verification of ICCR Publications

1597. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to the reply given to Starred Question No. 655 on May 11, 2005 and state:

(a) whether any further action has been taken in the matter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Further action is still under consideration of the Government.

Traffic on Ambala-Chandigarh Road

1598. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of traffic on the Ambala-Chandigarh road;

(b) whether the Union Government has decided to widen the said road and make it four lane;

(c) if so, the action taken so far, if any, in the matter;

(d) the reasons for the delay in widening the road; and

(e) the time by when the widening is likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The average annual daily traffic volume count for Ambala-Dera Bassi section is about 43400 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) and Dera Bassi to Zirakpur (near Chandigarh) section is about 45,300 PCUs.

(b) to (e) The four laning work of Ambala-Zirakpur section of NH-22 has been awarded on BOT basis under National Highway Development Programme-Phase III. The work is scheduled to commence by March 2006. The period of construction would be 30 months from the date of commencement.

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

1599. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has handed over land for construction of Delhi-Gurgaon expressway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been delay in transfer of land;

(d) if so, the details of the cost of the project escalated due to such delay; and

(e) the steps taken to streamline the process of transfer of land for National Highways Projects to avoid such a delay in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 89900 sq. meter of land has been handed over by Airport Authority of India to NHAI.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The project is being implemented on BOT basis. The delay in handing over land may have some impact on completion of the project.

(e) The following steps have been taken to streamline the process of transfer of land for National Highway Projects:—

(i) Standard format for acquisition of land has been approved by the Ministry of Law to avoid delay in notification for acquisition of land.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as Nodal officers for resolving problems in land acquisition.

(iii) In pursuance of decision of Committee on Infrastructure, an Empowered Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter Ministerial and Centre-State issues regarding land acquisition and utility shifting etc.

National Highways Development Project in NER

1600. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the progress made in the implementation of the NHDP in the NER showing sectoral targets and achievements during Tenth Five Year Plan and the targets fixed for future;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating conversion of the proposed two-lane bridge at Saraighat to a four lane bridge under NHDP;

(c) if so, the details of the status of the project;

(d) if not, the means by which the Government proposes to manage future growth of traffic on this bridge; and

(e) the status of the proposal for improvement of NH-52 from Pasighat in order to connect Dirak-Rupai as well as four laning of NH-52 upto Banderdowa under NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A total 690 km length of National Highways (NHs) forming the part of East-West (E-W) corridor has been taken up for four laning under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in the North Eastern Region. Out of this, 19 km length has already been four laned, 423 kms length is under the implementation and for the rest 248 km length, action for award of work has already been initiated. The entire work of four laning is likely to be completed by year 2008. The work of preparation of detailed project report (DPR) is in progress for four laning of NHs under NHDP-Phase-III under Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(b) to (d) There is a proposal to construct a new three lane road bridge across river Brahmaputra at downstream of the existing Rail-cum-Road bridge at Saraighat (near Guwahati) on NH-31.

(e) Double laning of NH-52 from Passighat to Rupai has been included in a proposed 'Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE)', of the Ministry. The preparation of DPR for four laning from Baihatacharali to Banderdewa section of NH-52 is in progress under NHDP-Phase-III on BOT basis.

[Translation]

Pending Proposal of Works on N.H.-11

1601. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal pertaining to the works on NH-11 (Agra-Jaipur) is pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the time by when NHAI is likely to acquire land and undertake the four-laning of the portion of the highway from 42/500 to 228/0 kilometres at NH-11;

(c) whether orders to accomplish the job have been placed by the Government to the concerned firm;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when clearance for renewal work in a time bound manner is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The work has been approved by the Government for four-laning under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIA to be executed on Build-Operate Transfer (BOT) basis.

(b) to (e) For considerable stretch adequate land is available for widening it to 4-lane. For the balance length, wherever required, land acquisition process has been initiated. The Agra-Jaipur Section is being taken up in three construction packages. Letter of Acceptance has already been issued to concessionaires for two construction packages. The work will be initiated as per the Concession scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

[English]

Cutting Down Expenses

1602. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of employees working in all the departments of the Central Government as on 30.06.05 excluding IFS, IAS, IPS cadres;

(b) the total amount of expenditure incurred per month on the salaries and other allowances of these employees as on 30.06.05;

(c) the total number of IFS, IAS, IPS officers working in various departments of Central and State Governments all over the country as on 30.06.05;

(d) the total amount of expenditure incurred per month on the salaries and other allowances of IFS, IAS, IPS officers as on 30.06.05;

(e) the total amount of expenditure incurred per month on the vehicles, TA and DA of IFS, IAS, IPS officers as on 30.06.05;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to cut down the expenses on vehicles, TA, DA of officers as part of austerity measures; and

(g) 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 (e) The information as desired in part (a) to (e) of the question is not centrally maintained.

(f) and (g) As an austerity measure, there is ban on purchase of vehicles, as also for replacement of condemned vehicles, except in case of operational requirements of Defence, Central Para Military Forces etc.

Regarding TA and DA, all Central Government Ministries/Departments have been advised not to exceed budgetary allocations made for the purpose.

Assistance to Bhutan

1603. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to assist Bhutan in certain projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projects covered thereunder;

(d) whether these projects will help in inviting cooperation from Indian companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) India and Bhutan share a long tradition of mutually beneficial economic cooperation and partnership. For Bhutan's Ninth Five Year Plan (July 2002-June 2007) Government of India has committed financial assistance of Rs. 734 crore for specific projects. The broad sectors covered include power, roads, health, human resources development, civil aviation, telecommunications and IT.

Government of India is also implementing high investment mega projects in Bhutan, which includes 1020 MW Tata Hydroelectric Project and Dungsum Cement Plant.

Under the Project Implementation Mechanism agreed between the two Governments, only Indian and Bhutanese companies or Indo-Bhutanese Joint Ventures are eligible to execute projects. A large number of Indian companies are involved in executing projects in Bhutan. These include WAPCOS, NHPC, BHEL, Jaiprakash Industries, Hindustan Construction Company, Larsen and Tubro, Powergrid Corporation of India and Bharat Petroleum.

Collection of Toll Tax on National Highways

1604. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is collecting money from vehicles playing on National Highways in the form of Toll Tax;

(b) if so, the facilities/compensation provided to the road users by the National Highways Authority of India in case of road accidents; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check accidents on National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of National Highways Act 1956, user fee is being collected from vehicles playing on improved sections of National Highways.

(b) Patrol vehicles, ambulances with first-aid facilities are provided on completed four/six lane sections of National Highways to help the accidents victims. Besides this emergency call boxes have been installed on certain sections of National Highways which can be used by road users in case of any accident/emergency/problem on the road to help the accident victims.

(c) Some of the important steps taken by the Government, besides incorporating safety aspects in road design, to check the road accidents are as under:

1. Widening and improvements including provision of proper signage, road markings to guide the road users to ensure road safety on National Highways.

2. Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.

3. Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

4. Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.

5. Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

6. Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

Death-Cum-Retirement Gratuity

1605. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) the maximum amount of Death-cum-Retirement (DCR) gratuity payable to the Central Government Employees and the year in which it was fixed;

(b) the percentage of dearness allowance (DA) at the time of fixation of DCR gratuity;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the maximum amount of DCR gratuity;

(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) Government issued orders on 27th October 1997 revising the maximum amount of Death Gratuity/Retirement Gratuity payable to the Central Government Employees to Rs. 3.50 lakhs with effect from 01.01.1996.

(b) Death Gratuity/Retirement Gratuity is calculated by merging Dearness Pay (which is 50% of Basic Pay) with Basic Pay plus Dearness Allowance as applicable on the merged amount at the time of death/retirement. Currently the rate of such Dearness Allowance is 17% with effect from 01.01.2005.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the maximum amount of Death Gratuity. Government does not intend to alter the maximum amount admissible, as this is the approach being adopted with regard to other allowances also.

Task Force for Medical Education and Registration of Clinics

1606. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a meeting with nearly 50 national Medical bodies to examine the issues relating continuing medical education for doctors and registration of clinical establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a task force to examine the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the IMA and other medical bodies have opposed the move of the Government on this issue; and

(f) if so, the time by when the task force is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Recently national consultations were held with representatives of various Professional Bodies regarding regulations of clinical establishments and continuing medical education. The follow up actions are being taken in the light of the deliberations of the meeting.

Opening of Bridge on N.H.-58

1607. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a bridge on NH-58 at Gauchar, in district Chamoli (Uttaranchal) has not been opened to public even after its completion;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the date when the bridge was completed and the date fixed for its opening for public use;

(d) whether similar cases have also been noticed in Uttaranchal, during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The permanent bridge over Loda Gad on NH-58 at Gaucher in district Chamoli (Uttaranchal) has been opened to traffic on 6th May, 2005 after its completion.

(d) There is no such case in Uttaranchal.

(e) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds to Nehru Yuva Kendras

1608. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the Nehru Yuva Kendras in Gujarat during 2004-05;

(b) whether the funds allocated to these kendras during the last three years have been utilised;

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

(d) whether the performance of these kendras has been evaluated;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether these kendras have achieved the targets assigned to them;

(g) if not, whether the Union Government intends to restructure the functioning of these kendras; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated to Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) in Gujarat and their utilisation during the last three years (2002-2003 to 2004-2005) are given Statement-I enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Regular monitoring and periodic inspections are carried out by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). An evaluation study of Nehru Yuva Kendras in five states, including Gujarat was sponsored by Planning Commission in 2002. The details of their observations are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

Statement I

The details of funds allocated to the Nehru Yuva Kendras in Gujarat and their utilisation during the last three years from 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Figures in Rupees)

	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
Name of NYK	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bharuch	7,26,353	6,89,735	6,95,648	5,76,443	14,75,031	15,00,501
Nadiad	6,73,054	6,11,125	5,89,256	5,44,654	7,59,923	6,88,619
Bhuj	20,30,272	17,88,091	6,08,129	6,08,125	5,76,060	4,72,420
Godhra	15,88,171	14,85,389	7,37,607	7,29,270	8,85,261	8,78,025
Himmatnagar	7,98,290	7,45,810	6,57,081	6,52,540	5,33,894	4,81,046
Junagarh	8,20,333	7,70,093	7,38,989	6,24,563	6,07,594	5,88,493

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mehsana	5,79,473	4,82,368	6,55,238	6,31,392	7,71,711	7,66,711
Surendranagar	7,26,473	6,80,002	7,11,750	6,95,450	7,24,050	6,88,884
Jamnagar	6,82,333	6,49,278	6,32,048	6,28,163	6,99,013	6,67,733
Bhavnagar	7,67,557	6,94,295	7,81,132	9,34,869	4,64,857	4,60,857
Valsad	4,91,219	4,32,848	5,85,532	5,32,213	6,73,544	6,29,355
Surat	7,97,700	7,70,500	7,01,924	6,76,997	25,30,400	7,77,969
Gandhinagar	20,28,783	17,44,454	8,12,711	6,49,062	8,21,803	8,47,769
Ahmedabad	5,29,397	5,43,372	5,62,093	5,01,014	22,42,837	22,03,973
Vadodara	9,40,794	9,05,969	5,71,866	5,48,004	19,36,505	17,88,977
Dang	5,84,007	5,20,926	5,52,529	4,20,142	6,21,409	5,84,243
Amreli (Saurashtra)	6,02,780	5,71,286	4,56,063	4,58,063	5,14,246	5,07,903
Palanpur	6,77,730	6,00,183	6,43,169	6,29,384	7,37,821	7,27,962
Rajkot	5,94,991	4,77,461	6,39,066	6,16,760	6,06,732	5,86,417
Total	1,66,39,535	1,51,63,185	1,23,31,831	1,16,57,108	1,81,82,691	1,58,47,857

Statement II

Findings of Evaluation of NYKs conducted by independent agencies sponsored by Planning Commission in 2002

(i) Most of the targeted goals of the NYKs have been achieved.

(ii) There was very good coordination among the central, regional and district offices of the Sangathan.

(iii) The programmes and activities in NYKs are effectively implemented to the advantage of the non-student rural youths.

(iv) The Youth Club attached to NYKs in the four States covered by the study have played a significant role in creation of assets of villages in the area of their operation.

(v) The work of Youth Clubs in village development is satisfactory in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra but poor in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

(vi) Nehru Yuva Kendras have created a very good impact on the rural youth to a great extent. The youth and the public were the real beneficiaries of the NYK Scheme.

(vii) The review of programmes and activities in Nehru Yuva Kendras shows that employment promotion, income generation, enterprise creation and village development programmes were given top priority in all the five states covered by the study.

(viii) The study of achievements of NYKs in providing training to non-student youth for inducting necessary skills to take up leadership in the field of community development shows that the NYKs have made a significant contribution in the field of youth empowerment.

(ix) Better administrative, financial and infrastructural support is required to be provided to NYKS.

(x) It is reported that 96% of respondents have been benefited by NYK programmes. Awareness programmes conducted by NYKs in 92% of the selected villages have made significant positive changes in the community.

Employment to Land Oustees of MCL

1609. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the land oustees of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) have not been provided employment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review each case and provide employment to all the affected persons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Land oustees of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) are being provided employment as per guidelines of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (R&R Policy) of Government of Orissa.

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

(c) Employment is provided to the land oustees falling under category A, B & C. As per R&R Policy of Government of Orissa, employment is to be provided to category "A" on priority basis, Category "B" on second priority. In case of category C & D, it is subject to availability of vacancy. It is not mandatory to provide employment to all the affected persons. An exercise is being made to identify "A" and "B" category out of pending list.

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

[Translation]

Official Status to Hindi in UNO

1610. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in its efforts to secure for Hindi language the status of authorised language at the United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to make Hindi as a world language within the country and abroad;

(d) whether the Government has taken a decision to set up a World Hindi Centre in Mauritius; and

(e) if so, the duties to be assigned to this center for the spread and propagation of Hindi all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India have continued their endeavour to popularise Hindi, both in India and abroad. Special efforts are being made for teaching Hindi in foreign countries. A number of Hindi teaching centers are being run by our Missions. In addition, Missions also recommend a number of foreign nationals to enroll in Hindi courses organized by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, and scholarships are provided for such students enrolled in this Institute. Teaching material, including software, are provided to Missions. A multimedia language lab is being established in Trinidad and Tobago. Books and magazines in Hindi are supplied to our Missions on a regular basis while some Missions publish their own Hindi magazines. The Ministry and ICCR, through Indian Missions, provide financial assistance for propagation of Hindi by organising regional Hindi Conferences. It has already been decided to celebrate 10th January as the World Hindi Day by our Missions abroad.

(d) and (e) The Government of India have decided to set up a World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius has passed the necessary World Hindi Secretariat Act in their National Assembly, and a bilateral agreement between Mauritius and India has been signed in November 2003. The Governing Body and Executive Board have already been constituted and efforts are on to select the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. Soon after the Government of Mauritius nominates the Secretary General, a meeting of the Governing Council would be held. The objectives of the World Hindi Secretariat would, inter alia, be:

(i) To promote Hindi as an international language and further the cause of Hindi towards its recognition at the United Nations as an Official Language.

(ii) To organize International Conferences, Seminars, Group discussions through the medium of Hindi Language, as well as organising cultural programmes, Kavi Sammelan and similar other activities.

(iii) To confer international Awards upon outstanding Scholars for their contribution in the promotion of Hindi all over the world.

(iv) Establishing Hindi Chairs in Universities all over the world where presently they do not exit.

(v) To set up documentation center for research in multi-media and information technology and to serve as data bank relating to Hindi authors, poets, scholars, institutions, universities and NGOs involved in the promotion of Hindi.

(vi) To establish an international Hindi library (print as well as audio and visual).

(vii) To organize international Hindi Book fairs and computer exhibitions at selected places globally.

(viii) To do all such acts and things incidental to or conducive to the attainment of its objectives.

[English]

Unscrupulous use of Pesticides in Hospitals

1611. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether unscrupulous use of heavy doses of pesticides have been detected in one of the Government hospitals and four leading hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to determine pesticide abuse in city hospitals resulting in diseases such as Cancer, genetic damages etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being the State subject, it is for the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi to look into such matters in respect of private hospitals. As regards Central Government hospitals in Delhi, unscrupulous use of heavy doses of pesticides have not been detected and no study has been conducted by the Government in this regard.

Emergency/Casualty Wings in Hospitals

1612. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether specialists are generally not available in emergency/casualty wings of Delhi hospitals, such as AIIMS, Safdarjung, RML., etc. resulting in deaths of accidental/serious patients;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to man these wings by experienced and competent doctors all the time to ensure timely and speedy medical aid to serious patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Specialists are deployed for emergency duty on regular basis, round the clock, by roster, to attend to the cases reported in emergency/ casualty wings of AIIMS, RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital and other Central Government Hospitals.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Training of Sportspersons Abroad

1613. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to send sportspersons abroad for improving their level of performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the countries from where Indian sportspersons have received training in different disciplines so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The teams and sportspersons are provided financial assistance for training and participation abroad under the following schemes.

(i) **Assistance to National Sports Federations:** Under this scheme, the Government provides assistance to National Sports Federations for training-cum-competition as well as for participation in international events abroad for improving their level of performance. During the last three years, 290 sportspersons have been sent for training abroad.

(ii) **Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training:** Under this scheme, financial assistance of upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided for training and participation of national champions as well as elite players in international events to improve their performance. During the last three years, assistance has been provided to 68 sportspersons under this scheme.

(iii) **National Sports Development Fund:** Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to elite sportspersons who are medal hopes in major international events for training and participation abroad. Under this scheme, during the last 3 years, 10 sportspersons have been assisted including Lt. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, silver medallist of Athens Olympic 2004.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian sportspersons have received training at all the leading sporting countries which are traditionally strong in a particular discipline. In the recent past Indian sportspersons/teams have been sent to the following countries for advanced training: USA, UK, Italy, China, Uzbekistan, Germany, Ukraine, Solvenia, France, Netherlands, Hungary, Japan, Kuwait, Bulgaria, Kazakhastan, Spain and Australia.

[English]

High Security Number Plates

1614. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are required to implement high security number plates for all vehicles as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

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

(c) the number of State Governments which have implemented the said directives?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court have upheld the rules for introduction of High Security Registration Plates in their judgment on 30.11.2004 and have also upheld the right of the States to select a capable vendor to implement the scheme.

The role of the Central Government is limited to prescribing the specifications of the High Security Registration Plates, authorising the testing agencies to give Type Approval to the vendors and notifying the date of implementation of these plates. The States are responsible to implement the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rules made thereunder.

(b) Some of the States had requested for further extension of time beyond 31st May, 2005 to implement the scheme. It has been clarified to all States/Union Territories that no postponement of the prescribed date for introduction of high security registration plates is envisaged.

(c) As per the information available, so far, none of the States/Union Territories have implemented the scheme.

[Translation]

Illegal Sale of Medicines

1615. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines and certain other medical stuff are provided free of cost in Government hospitals to needy persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost of medicines provided by the Government to the hospitals during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that life saving drugs, supplied to hospitals for needy persons are sold in the market illegally;

(e) if so, the number of such incidents detected during each of the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(f) whether the Government has any estimate of the quantity and the cost of such medicines sold in the market;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to check such malpractices in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Monhar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its associated hospitals are concerned, all the medicines as per hospital formulary, are provided to the patients free of cost.

So far as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is concerned, all life saving emergency medicines and surgical items as per Institute's formulary, are issued to all patients irrespective of their social and economic status. Certain essential drugs which are stocked in the Institute in limited quantity are issued only to those patients who cannot afford to buy such medicines. Patients admitted in private wards are however required to buy the medicines (other than life saving/emergency medicines) themselves. Further, costly supplement and essential drugs (such as anti-cancer drugs, higher antibiotics) nutritional supplement and high cost surgical disposable etc. are required to be procured by the patients from their sources. For poor and indigent patient, there is a provision for financial help from Hospital Poor Patient's Fund; and National Illness Assistance Fund etc.

(c) Health being a state subject under the Constitution of India, such information is not maintained. Moreover, there is no separate budget allocation for medicines and consumables are made in Government In Hospitals and the expenditure on medicines etc. are incurred from the total budget allocation of the respective hospitals.

(d) to (h) No report regarding illegal sale of life saving drugs in the open market, supplied to hospitals for needy persons has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Setting up of Task Force on Medical Education

1616. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there is a dearth of specialists in Community Health Centres (CHCs);

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a task force to look into rural postings and continuing medical education;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said task force will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of Specialists in the Community Health Centres (CHCs). There are 3222 CHCs functioning in the country as on September, 2004. There are 3953 Specialists in position against the sanctioned strength of 7061.

(b) to (d) In order to address the shortage of specialists a Task Group was constituted recently. The Task Group discussed, inter alia, issues, concerning availability of doctors in rural areas, delays in recruitment, lack of basic amenities and incentives for working in the rural areas. The Task Group has submitted its recommendations. A one day Consultative Meeting was held, on 6.7.2005, with representatives of professional medical bodies, who expressed their views on Continuing Medical Education.

Setting up of Medical Curriculum Committee

1617. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change in the medical curriculum is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether a proposal to set up a Curriculum Committee to revise the curriculum is also under the consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to have a compulsory rural stint for medical students before they get their degrees and the same during practice also for a fixed period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Chance in the Medical curriculum is a continuous process so as to keep pace with developments in the field of Medical Science. Certain proposals in this regard have been received from the Medical Council of India. The same would be approved by the Government after completing the process of consultation with various stakeholders.

(d) and (e) In view of the need for making medical services available to the rural population, several options including compulsory rural staint for medical students are being deliberated upon.

[Translation]

Declaration of National Highways

1618. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) whether proposals from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Rajasthan seeking to declare various important roads of their States as National Highways are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared and the roads notified as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal for declaration of seventeen State roads as National Highways. A proposal has also been received from the State Government of Maharashtra to declare coastal road as National Highway.

(b) to (d) In February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 Kms of State roads as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

[English]

Investment by Private Companies in Telecommunication Sector

1619. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) whether private sector companies have evinced the interest for investment in telecommunication sector in the country;

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

(c) whether Private Sector and Multinational telecommunication companies have also shown interest to make investment for development of telecommunication facilities in the rural and backward districts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise foreign direct investment (FDI) approval in

telecommunication sector during the period January, 2002 to May, 2005 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Agreements have been signed with six private service providers, namely Tata Teleservices Ltd., Reliance Infocomm Ltd., Bharti Infotel, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd., HFCL and Shyam Telelink Ltd., for providing subsidy towards operation and maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) installed by them. Agreement has also been signed with M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., for installation of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with a population more than 2000.

The tender for providing new Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in the identified 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) has been finalized and agreements have been signed with Reliance Infocomm Ltd., (203 SDCAs), Tata Teleservices Ltd., (172 SDCAs) and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. (43 SDCAs).

Multinational telecommunication companies participate in the provision of telecom services in India as per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.

Statement

State-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved during January, 2002 to May, 2005 in Telecommunications Sector

(Rupees in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Financial Approvals	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved	% of Total
1.	Himachal Pradesh	2	810.83	40.32
2.	Delhi	70	482.24	23.98
3.	West Bengal	5	218.06	10.84
4.	Maharashtra	46	186.28	9.26
5.	State not Indicated	28	143.09	7.12
6.	Punjab	2	53.83	2.68
7.	Tamil Nadu	16	38.81	1.93
8.	Kerala	2	30.03	1.49
9.	Gujarat	1	22.27	1.11
10.	Karnataka	13	21.27	1.06
11.	Uttar Pradesh	2	3.28	0.16
12.	Pondicherry	2	0.49	0.02
13.	Haryana	6	0.28	0.01
14.	Rajasthan	1	0.00	0.00
15.	Goa	2	0.00	0.00
16.	Chandigarh	1	0.00	0.00
	Grand Total	199	2010.76	

Construction of National Highways

1620. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has released the sanctioned funds for the construction of the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the length of National Highways sanctioned for North and Western Region, State-wise;

(c) the sector-wise names of the projects pending in these regions particularly in Madhya Pradesh as on date alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government plans to convert more State roads into National Highways in the country specially in Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the amount likely to be spent, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry releases funds to the States for development works of National Highways being implemented by the respective State Governments. The State-wise details of number, length and amount of works sanctioned in the North and Western regions during the year 2004-05 are at Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The State-wise details, including those of Madhya Pradesh, of number and amount of projects received during the current financial year pending for sanctions as on 31.07.2005 are given in Statement-II. The pendency of the projects is due to the reasons like availability of adequate sanctions with the State vis-a-vis allocation, time taken for technical and financial scrutiny, and inclusion of works in the Annual Plan of the Ministry.

(d) At present priority is being given in the country including Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka for the development of the roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more State roads as National Highways.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement I

Details of Projects Sanctioned during 2004-05 in North and Western Regions

(Rs. In crores)

Name of the State/UT	2004-05		
	No	Length (km)	Sanctioned cost
1	2	3	4
	North Region		
Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
Punjab	20	174.78	63.90
Himachal Pradesh	30	171.23	52.61
Haryana	25	143.92	78.15
Chandigarh	01	0.5	0.62
Uttaranchal	11	62.4	24.22
Uttar Pradesh	81	395.91	187.45
Delhi	3	2.80	15.89

1	2	3	4
	Western Region		
Rajasthan	25	267.00	105.12
Madhya Pradesh	46	417.69	118.58
Chhattisgarh	29	130.80	37.72
Gujarat	39	21.00	87.41
Maharashtra	63	561.2	161.01
Goa	06	50.50	9.98

Statement II

Details of Projects Pending in States of North and Western Regions as on 31.07.2005

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of projects pending	Project cost
	North Region		
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
2.	Punjab	09	20.10
3.	Himachal Pradesh	10	6.56
4.	Haryana	5	24.00
5.	Chandigarh	—	—
6.	Uttaranchal	9	25.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	26	50.00
8.	Delhi	3	8.50
	Western Region		
9.	Rajasthan	11	41.74
10.	Madhya Pradesh	21	78.53
11.	Chhattisgarh	21	27.93
12.	Gujarat	16	53.11
13.	Maharashtra	2	150.00
14.	Goa	—	—

NHDP Phase V to VII

1621. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up the National Highway Development Project (Phases V to VII) envisaging the upgradation of roads and construction of new express ways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work on many of the National Highways and expressways is yet to be completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the cost escalation as a result of non-completion of the said work on time;

(f) whether the Government proposes to ensure that before taking up the task of new highways and expressways, the work on the existing highways and expressways is completed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Committee on Infrastructure, set up by the Government, has considered a presentation made by the Planning Commission involving programmes with a total investment of Rs. 1,72,000 crore for upgradation of National Highways in next seven years (2005-2012). Six-laning of around 5000 kms under

National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase V, identification and construction of around 1000 km Expressways under NHDP Phase VI and construction of Bypasses, Flyovers, Road Over Bridges etc. at required locations under NHDP Phase VII are included in the proposal.

(b) It is too early to give the details for NHDP Phase V to VII.

(c) and (d) The status of the projects as on 30.06.2005 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) It is the estimated that actual expenditure on the projects will not differ much from the estimated cost allowing for escalation.

(f) and (g) Taking up the task of new highways and expressways would go parallel to the work on the existing highways and expressways.

Statement

Status of the Projects as on 30.06.2005

Sl.No.	Project	Total Length	Completed	Under implementation (including LOA issued)	To be awarded
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5846	4912	934	—
2.	North South and East West Corridor	7300 (Actual 7274)	707	2459	4058
3.	Port Connectivity and other Projects	1167	386	417	364
4.	NHDP Phase IIIA	4000	Nil	636	3364

Allocation from CRF

1622. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government collects cess for the Central Road Fund (CRF);

(b) if so, the details of the cess collected for the CRF during each of the last three years till date;

(c) the manner in which the Government allocates funds to the States from the CRF;

(d) the details of the funds allocated to the States during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the major development projects sanctioned/undertaken by the Government from the CRF?

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

(b) The amount of funds made available from the Central Road Funds (CRF) during the last three financial years and the current financial year are as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2002-2003	6030.00
2003-2004	5761.76
2004-2005	5361.00
2005-2006	9496.00

(c) The funds earmarked for the development of State roads (excluding rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna (PMGSY) are distributed to the States based on 60 per cent fuel consumption in the State and 40 per cent geographical area of the State.

(d) State-wise details of funds allocated to States by this Ministry for development of State roads during the last three years and for the current financial year are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(e) State-wise details of proposals for development of State roads by this Ministry approved during the last three years for improvement of roads financed from CRF are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Allocations of Funds under CRF

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81.45	77.08	74.70	131.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.87	9.71	9.25	16.22
3.	Assam	15.40	14.44	13.57	24.72
4.	Bihar	33.90	24.49	21.91	39.57
5.	Chhattisgarh	17.8	20.79	20.28	37.13
6.	Goa	4.09	4.02	4.02	7.54
7.	Gujarat	68.13	59.83	55.21	97.72
8.	Haryana	35.75	33.56	32.09	53.51
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10.75	10.13	9.75	17.23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31.05	28.37	27.43	48.60
11.	Jharkhand	11.25	16.15	17.44	32.09
12.	Karnataka	58.13	55.11	52.76	95.13
13.	Kerala	27.71	25.68	25.20	46.21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	66.59	55.35	52.01	93.29
15.	Maharashtra	101.41	98.87	91.60	158.71
16.	Manipur	3.24	2.83	3.06	5.07
17.	Meghalaya	4.29	3.96	3.96	7.57
18.	Mizoram	2.96	2.68	2.55	4.59
19.	Nagaland	2.47	2.22	2.13	3.82
20.	Orissa	29.82	27.31	27.27	48.87
21.	Punjab	40.43	38.48	37.36	63.05
22.	Rajasthan	76.71	71.02	67.87	121.16

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	1.10	0.99	1.06	1.99
24.	Tamil Nadu	67.22	62.46	57.98	103.50
25.	Tripura	1.93	1.78	1.74	3.16
26.	Uttaranchal	7.59	10.81	10.13	18.25
27.	Uttar Pradesh	96.43	82.47	80.61	142.00
28.	West Bengal	36.88	35.01	32.59	56.14
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1.83	1.83	1.69	2.90
30.	Chandigarh	2.21	2.21	2.04	3.47
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.07	1.07	0.99	1.69
32.	Daman and Diu	0.76	0.76	0.70	1.22
33.	Delhi	27.05	27.05	24.98	43.84
34.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.09
35.	Pondicherry	2.19	2.19	2.02	3.60

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2002-03 to 2004-05 Number of length of roads approved (Km)	
		Number	Length
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100	976.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	126.51
3.	Assam	37	317.83
4.	Bihar	17	109.00
5.	Chandigarh	06	28.50
6.	Chhattisgarh	08	367.17
7.	Delhi	37	6.51
8.	Goa	01	7.20
9.	Gujarat	226	2565.00
10.	Haryana	21	428.02
11.	Himachal Pradesh	18	144.075
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	108.20
13.	Jharkhand	02	100.40
14.	Karnataka	432	4064.13
15.	Kerala	13	180.31
16.	Madhya Pradesh	34	898.80
17.	Maharashtra	169	1245.65
18.	Manipur	04	58.00
19.	Meghalaya	09	70.00
20.	Mizoram	13	99.95
21.	Nagaland	07	78.00
22.	Orissa	13	84.23

1	2	3	4
23.	Punjab	13	158.05
24.	Pondicherry	01	11.00
25.	Rajasthan	189	4234.43
26.	Sikkim	05	26.00
27.	Tamil Nadu	297	2147.00
28.	Tripura	04	22.01
29.	Uttar Pradesh	48	955.815
30.	Uttaranchal	29	304.65
31.	West Bengal	06	108.30
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Administration	02	28.50
	Total	1794	20059.61

[Translation]

Approval of Projects of State Governments

1623. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects proposed by the Governments of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat are pending for approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such pendency;

(d) whether the Governments of these States have requested for the approval of the pending projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when the projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected.

[English]

Deaths in Coal Mines

1624. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the mine-wise details of persons died while working in coal mines during the year 2004-2005 up to June, 2005 and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the details of these persons were caused due to lapse in safety norms; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The mine-wise details of persons died in coal mine accidents in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the period April 2004 to June 2005 and the reasons of the accidents are given in the Statement-I & II enclosed.

(b) Accidents in coal mines take place due to non-implementation of safety measures or due to human error/ negligence.

(c) To avoid recurrence of such accidents in future and to improve the status of safety in mines, following steps have been taken by the coal companies:—

— Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, supervisors and managers to increase safety awareness.

— Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars.

— Promoting participation of workers in safety management.

— Promoting self regulation by management.

— Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.

— Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.

— Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.

— National Conference on Safety in Mines.

— National Safety Awards.

— Interactions at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.

— Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.

— Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.

Statement I

Company	Accident Date	Mine	Name of Victim	Designation	Cause
1	2	3	4	5	6
BCCL	20-May-04	Muraidih OCP	Tulsi Kumhar	Contractor Worker	Trucks
BCCL	27-Jul-04	Bastacolla	Ramdeo Prajapati	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
BCCL	27-Jul-04	Bastacolla	Nirmal Saw	Timber Mazdoor	Roof Fall
BCCL	26-Aug-04	Dobari	Indradeo Paswan	Miner Loader Working as Cableman	M/c other than Transport
BCCL	31-Aug-04	Muraidih OCP	Ram Chandra Modi	Cont. Khalasi	Dumper
BCCL	09-Oct-04	AKWM OC	Sudaroo Jana	Dumper Operator	Fall of Objects
BCCL	30-Oct-04	Bhatdih	Jaipal Rawani	Trammer	Haulage
BCCL	06-Nov-04	Moonidih Project	Mudrika Singh	Mechanical Fitter	Fall of Objects
BCCL	27-Nov-04	Katras Chaitudih	Ramlal Mahto	Timber Mistry	Side Fall
BCCL	09-Jan-05	Godhur	Raghubar Nonia	Mech. Fitter	Misc.
BCCL	16-Jan-05	Katras Choitudih	Murli Dhobi	SDL Helper	Roof Fall
BCCL	16-Jan-05	Katras Choitudih	Anandi Prasad	SDL Operator	Roof Fall
BCCL	21-Jan-05	Tetulmari	A.P. Mahato	Miner Loader	Roof Fall
BCCL	08-Feb-05	Begunia	Naru Bouri	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
BCCL	10-Feb-05	Sudamidh Shaft	Laxmi Khatik	Miner	Misc.
BCCL	03-Mar-05	Kustore	B.P. Singh	Electrician	Electricity
BCCL	31-Mar-05	Pootki	B. Mahato	UG Trammer	Haulage
BCCL	03-Apr-05	Nichitpur OCP	M. Kumhar	Explosive Carrier working as Fitter Helper	M/c other than Transport

1	2	3	4	5	6
BCCL	12-May-05	Bhowrah (North)	Subhash Mahato	Miner Loader	Roof Fall
CCL	03-Apr-04	Ray-Bachra	Manglu Mahto	Driller	Misc.
CCL	25-Apr-04	K.D.H. OC	Dhanu Orson	Dumper Operator	Dumper
CCL	20-May-04	Dhori	Budga Ram	EP Electrician	M/c other than Transport
CCL	01-Aug-04	Urimari	K.P. Mehta	Shovel Operator	Gas. Dust Etc.
CCL	18-Aug-04	Tapin North	Puran Bhuia	Cableman	Fall of Persons
CCL	08-Sep-04	Jarangdih UG	Amarika Mehar	Loader	Roof Fall
CCL	04-Nov-04	Urimari	Sitan Matho	Trammer	Haulage
CCL	15-Dec-04	Bhurkunda Mine-B	Ram Das	PR Loader	Roof Fall
CCL	21-Dec-04	KDP OCP	Ramashish Singh	Asst. Loading Inspector	M/c other than Transport
CCL	10-Mar-05	Tapin North	Chamari Nonia	Dumer Operator	Trucks
CCL	20-Apr-05	TOPA OC	Karma Mahto	Drill Helper	M/c other than Transport
CCL	26-May-05	Bermo Seam Incline	Hiramon Mahto	PR Trammer	Haulage
CCL	07-Jun-05	Parej East	Mukhtar Ansari	Dumper Operator	Dumper
ECL	07-Apr-05	Sodepur 9 & 10 Pits	B.K. Mani Mishra	Overman	Roof Fall
ECL	15-Apr-05	Sonepur Bazar OCP	S.K. Naim	Sr. Dumper Operator	Fall of Persons
ECL	03-Jan-04	Chapui Khas	Paran Majhi	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
ECL	22-Jul-04	Lowre Kenda (7 Pit)	Shyam Majhi	Loader	Fall of Persons
ECL	24-Aug-04	Rajmahal Project	Arjun Singh	Dumper Operator	Dumper
ECL	12-Sep-04	Shankarpur	Kirtan Swain	Driller	Explosives
ECL	20-Sep-04	Kumardih A	A.C. Sharma	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
ECL	07-Oct-04	Naba Kajora	Sheikh Anwar	Contractor's Worker	Roof Fall

1	2	3	4	5	6
ECL	05-Dec-04	Sonepur Bazari OCP	Sitaram Majhi	EP Helper	Trucks
ECL	02-Jan-05	Chinakuri-III	Kailash Jadab	UG Loader	Roof Fall
ECL	26-Feb-05	Naba Kajora	Shew Moni Bhor	U/G Loader	Side Fall
ECL	28-Feb-05	Lakhimata	Bhagwan Mahto	P.R. Trammer	Haulage
ECL	30-Apr-05	Gourangdih Begonia	Swapan Banerjee	Electrical Supervisor	Fall of Persons
MCL	27-May-04	Deulbera	Braja Singh	P.R. Loader	Roof Fall
MCL	03-Jul-04	Hingir Rampur	Ishwar Kissan	Timber Mistry	Fall of Objects
MCL	27-Jan-05	Balanda OC	Mangulu Bhutia	Dozer Operator	Fall of Objects
MCL	05-Mar-05	Orient 1 & 2	Gundicha Nahak	Timber Mistry	M/c other than Transport
MCL	27-Apr-05	Belpahar OC	Motilal Pradhan	Dumper Operator	Dumper
MCL	28-Apr-05	Hingir Rampur	Samaru Badhai	Stone Cutter	Roof Fall
NCL	21-Jun-04	Bina	GaneshRam	Contractor's Worker	Electricity
NCL	16-Aug-04	Nigahi OC	R.N. Rawat	Contractor Worker	Misc.
NCL	16-Aug-04	Nigahi OC	M.B. Rawat	Contractor Worker	Misc.
NCL	22-Oct.-04	Bina	Baikunth Singh	Auto Electrician	Fire
NCL	18-Nov-04	Dudhichua	Jaswant	Hired Jeep Driver	Dumper
NCL	05-Apr-05	Khadia OC	Rakesh Soni	Contractor Worker	Fall of Persons
NEC	18-May-04	Ledo	R. Chenaiya	Mining Sirdar	Roof Fall
NEC	11-Jun-05	Tipong	Dhiren Konwar	Coal Cutter	Fall of Persons
SECL	16-May-04	Kusmunda OCP	Ant Ram Rathore	Sr. Dumper Operator	Dumper
SECL	11-Aug-04	Jhilimili	Suresh M. Nair	Welder Helper	Electricity
SECL	05 Oct.-04	Bartarai UG	Ghasi Singh	Loader Working as Trammer	Conveyor
SECL	25-Oct-04	North Chirimiri	Makhan Lal	SDL Operator	Roof Fall
SECL	25-Oct-04	North Chirimiri	Ram Lakhan	SDL Operator	Roof Fall
SECL	25-Nov-04	Jamuna 11 & 12 Inc.	Mahangood Singh	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
SECL	10-Jan-05	Manikpur OCP	D.N. Dewangan	SPA/Mining Sirdar	Dumper
SECL	08-Mar-05	Govinda Colliery	Pothi Lal	Trammer	Haulage

1	2	3	4	5	6
SECL	26-Mar-05	Dipka Expansion	Istekhar Ansari	Contractor's Worker	Trucks
SECL	30-Mar-05	Bartunga Hill Mine	D. Cgharu	Private Security Guard	M/c Other than Transport
SECL	09-Jan-05	Gevra OCP	Anuj Ram	Driver Cat-VI	Dumper
SECL	15-Jan-05	Malga	Jagdish	Explosive Carrier	Roof Fall
SECL	15-Jan-05	Malga	Bharat Lal	Explosive Carrier	Roof Fall
WCL	06-Apr-04	Manna Incline	Lataru Ramteke	Roof Bolting Crew	Roof Fall
WCL	22-May-04	Durgapur OC	R.B. Munjewar	Contractor's Worker	Dumper
WCL	28-Jun-04	Kamptee OC	R.S. Singh	Mining Sirdar	Fall of Persons
WCL	16-Jul-04	Bhatadi Opencast	Sonu Naik	Mining Sirdar	Misc.
WCL	20-Jul-04	Patansaongi	B.D. Yadav	Haulage Khalasi	Haulage
WCL	13-Aug-04	Nandan No. 2	Bhura Prasad	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
WCL	22-Sep-04	Mahakali	D.B. Zade	Timber Mazdoor	Roof Fall
WCL	27-Sep-04	Vishnupuri No. 1	Shivmuni	Loader Working as Time Rated Worker	Fall of Objects
WCL	03-Oct-04	Ghugus OC	R.K. Yadav	Contractor Worker (Maintenance Helper)	Trucks
WCL	05-Oct-04	Durgapur OC	A.T. Khatke	Mechanical Fitter (PC Section)	M/c other than Transport
WCL	17-Nov-04	AB Incline	Maiyadin	Timber Mistry	Roof Fall
WCL	12-Feb-05	Mohan Colliery	Sri Gajraj Yadav	Electrician	Side Fall
WCL	14-Feb-05	Gauri-I OC	Vasant Sahare	Dumper Operator	M/c other than Transport
WCL	13-Mar-05	Mohan Colliery	Sambhal	Loader Working as Belt Operator	Conveyor
WCL	18-Apr-05	Nandan No. 2	Mohanlal	Friction Roller Mazdoor	Haulage
WCL	23-Apr-05	Padampur OCM	R.S. Dhop Pande	Dumper Operator	Misc.
WCL	19-Jun-05	Mungoli OC	Ashoke M Fulzele	Shovel Fitter	Dumper

Note: Information subject to reconciliation with DGMS & excluding disaster at Central Saunda colliery in CCL on 15.06.05 in which 14 persons lost their lives.

Abbreviations- BCCL: Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., CCL: Central Coalfields Ltd., Eastern Coalfields Ltd., MCL: Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., NCL: Northern Coalfields Ltd., NEC: North Eastern Coalfields., SECL: South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., WCL: Western Coalfields Ltd.

Statement II

Company	Name & Designations of victim	Mine/Area	Date of Accident	Cause of Accident
SCCL	Sukka. Rayamallu, Support Mazdoor	KK-5/ MM.	15.05.04	Roof Fall—While preparing place of erection of Prop.
SCCL	K. Sambaiah, Coal cutter	SMG1/ MM.	22.05.04	Explosives—While dealing with misfire, the charge got exploded.
SCCL	D. Thirupathi Goud, CC, Trainne	SMG-1/ MM.	22.05.04	-do-
SCCL	Engu Hanumanthu, Coal filler	MK. 4 Inc/MM	26.06.04	Roof Fall—While filling work.
SCCL	Devulapalli Mallaiah Coal Cutter	SRP 3 & 3A/ SRP	11.08.04	Roof Fall-While breaking a big lump.
SCCL	Toka Kiran Badli Filler	GDK6A/RG1	24.08.04	Side Fall—While shovelling the coal.
SCCL	Senigaram Ramulu, Shot Firer	SMG-1/MMR	02.11.04	Explosives—While priming the first cartridge.
SCCL	Saini Sathaiah Coal Filler M. Ram Mohan Rao, Coal Filler	RK5/SRP	06.11.04	Roof Fall—While withdrawal of supports.
SCCL	Avula Mallaiah Timberman	RK7/SRP	13.11.04	Roof Fall—While shifting the stowing pipe.
SCCL	Gogarla Babu, Trammer	Goleti-1/Bpa	23.02.05	Fall of person—while cleaning the stopped belt, fell down from belt.
SCCL	Md. Akbhar Pasha FEL Optr.	COC/MNG	24.02.05	Other Machinery—While operating the crane it hit to berm and got toppled.
SCCL	Shaik Hameed Trammer	MK4/MMR	11.03.05	Rope Haulage—While escaping from uncontrolled moving tubs.
SCCL	More Mallaiah Coal Filler	MK4/MMR	15.03.05	Side Fall—While shovelling the coal.
SCCL	Pujari Shankari Coal Filler	CHNR 1 & 1A/IKC	15.03.05	Roof Fall—While walking after cleaning the blasted matma.
SCCL	Botla Venkaty Coal Filler	VK7/KGM	29.03.05	Rope Haulage—While walking along haulage road way ran away tubs hit.
SCCL	Madarapu Rajaiah Trammer	RK5/SRP	26.05.05	Rope Haulage—While hauling the tubs, rope snapped.
SCCL	Padala Ramaswamy Coal Cutter	RK6/SRP	28.05.05	Electric Shcok—While drilling the holes.
SCCL	Guguloth Panthulya Lineman	21 Inc/YLD	18.06.05	Other Machinery (LHD)—While shifting the machine surface to underground.

[Translation]

Traffic on National Highways

1625. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether dense population and commercial construction on the sides of National Highways are causing adverse impact on the movement of traffic on National Highways;

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

(c) the results achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Instances of affecting the traffic adversely on National Highways due to dense population and commercial construction along National Highways have been noticed.

(b) and (c) Several steps such as demolition of unauthorized construction, construction of by-passes of congested city/towns, provision of service roads, construction of lay byes, grade separators etc. are being taken up along various stretches of National Highways as per the availability of funds. To deal with the menace of encroachments and to prevent unauthorized construction Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002 has been brought into force with effect from 27.1.2005 to deal with the problem of enforcement on the National Highways land. Under this Act, 192 Highway Administrations have been set up which are empowered to remove encroachments/unauthorized constructions. These measures result in smooth flow of traffic on National Highways.

[English]

Match Fixing and Betting in Sports/Games

1626. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the match fixing and betting in sports/games including Cricket and Tennis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in respect of match fixing and betting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such malpractices in sports/games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Government had, in 2000, received allegations of match fixing in Cricket. An enquiry into allegations of match fixing and related malpractices in Cricket prevalent at that point of time was entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Based on the CBI report, the BCCI enforced ban on four indicted players. Two of these players challenged the ban in the Court and the matter is still sub-judice.

(e) "Sports" being a state subject, only the State Governments can consider enacting a legislation to check such malpractices in sports.

Cleaning Bureaucratic Stable

1627. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to enforce a new law to keep its officials in line and clean bureaucratic stable as reported in 'The Indian Express' dated June 26, 2005;

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

(c) the details of plan drawn up in this regard; and

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

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) Preliminary discussions are being held to

assess the feasibility of enacting a comprehensive Public Service Act covering all aspects of functioning of the Civil Services.

(c) and (d) In view of the above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Deportation of Indians

1628. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia and some other countries have started sending back Indians working there by breaching the contract mid-way;

(b) if so, the names of the concerned countries along with the number of Indians being sent back, country-wise;

(c) the reasons for this deportation; and

(d) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes. Some instances of deportation of Indian workers mid-way through the currency of their contracts have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Recently, 179 Indian workers were sent back from Qatar in violation of the contracts entered into between the Indian workers and their foreign employers.

(d) It is the policy of the Government of India to blacklist defaulting firms/companies or put them in the Prior Approval Category (PAC) apart from informing the local Government.

[English]

Allocation for Development Projects in Madhya Pradesh

1629. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the development projects in Madhya Pradesh during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the allocated funds are sufficient for the projects;

(c) if not, the details in this regard;

(d) the total population of Madhya Pradesh and the percentage of people living below the poverty line;

(e) the amount spent on the people living below poverty line during the current plan so far and the benefit accrued to them; and

(f) the criteria followed by the Union Government for allocation of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The size of the Five Year Plan of a State is determined and approved by the Planning Commission on the basis of Plan Proposals received from the State Government, which take into account not only the specific needs and also constraints of availability of resources, viz. the State's Own Resources (SOR) and the Central Assistance from the Union Government. The Tenth Plan allocation of Madhya Pradesh was finalized at Rs. 26,189.93 crores at 2001-02 prices.

(d) The total population of Madhya Pradesh as per 2001 Census was 6.03 crores.

Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on 'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000.

The percentage of population living below poverty line in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) as in 1999-2000 was 37.43.

(e) and (f) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty in the country. It comprises of (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

Expenditure and Physical performance under major rural development programmes for the State of Madhya Pradesh during the first three years of current Five Year Plan is given below:

Sl.No.	Programme	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	Achievement
1.	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)*	197.48	126,991 Swarozgaris assisted
2.	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)*	1048.46	1,594.72 lakh mandays employment generated
3.	Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)	348.37	204,824 Houses constructed
4.	National Food for Work Programme NFFWP	67.88	—

*Upto February 2005

The State-wise allocation under SGSY and SGRY is made on the basis of incidence of poverty. Under IAY the criteria for allocation of funds to States/UTs is 25 per cent poverty ratio and 75 per cent housing shortage in the State. National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is being implemented in 150 most backward districts of the country on the basis of prevalence of poverty indicated by SC/ST population, agricultural productivity per worker and agricultural wage rate.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana aims to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under employed through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. Upto March 2005, Rs. 120.65 crore cumulative (Centre and State share) expenditure was incurred and 87,896 beneficiaries were assisted, 7035 women beneficiaries were assisted and 74,892 persons trained and 26.97 lakh of mandays of work generated under SJSRY.

Visually Impaired Children

1630. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that three out of five children in the age group of 0-9 years are visually impaired as per the census report 2001;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to 2001 Census, the number of disabled in the country is 21.9 million, which is about 2.13 per cent of the total population. When the figure is disaggregated by the type of disability, 1.03 per cent of the population at the national level has been reported as visually impaired, out of which 0.7 per cent are visually disabled between age group of 0-9 years.

(c) Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, the following steps have been taken to reduce visual impairment in children in the country:—

1. Screening of school children for detection of refractive errors and providing free glasses to poor children.
2. Strengthening of Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology by providing assistance for development of pediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units and training infrastructure.
3. Strengthening of Medical Colleges by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units.
4. Imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges in various specialities of ophthalmology including paediatric ophthalmology.

[Translation]

Family Planning Programme

1631. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for family planning programme in various States in the country;

(b) the actual position in this regard in each State; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government of effective implementation of the family planning programme in each State of the country alongwith the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Since April 1st, 1996, Government has adopted 'Target Free Approach (TFA)' for implementation of the Family Welfare Programme all over India and focus is laid on decentralized participatory planning based on a Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA).

(c) The steps being taken by Government for population stabilization in the country include—adoption of National Population (NPP), constitution of the National Commission on Population, registration of the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh and constitution of an Empowered Action Group (EAG) for focused attention to demographically weaker States. Comprehensive reproductive, maternal and child health services are being provided under the RCH Programme.

A National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched on 12th April, 2005 throughout the country, with special emphasis on 18 States. The Government aims to achieve population stabilization through provision of comprehensive integrated primary health care. The major strategic interventions under NRHM include provision of trained female community health worker at village level (ASHA); strengthening hospital and referral care at CHC level measurable as per Indian Public Health Standards; United Fund at Sub Centre Level; decentralized district, block & village level planning; intersectoral convergence among multiple programmes of Health & Family Welfare and for nutrition, sanitation & drinking water; and mainstreaming AYUSH at all levels.

[English]

Transit Corridor between India and China

1632. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans for building a transit corridor between India and China through Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Nepal has agreed with this proposal to use its lands for the said transit corridor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken for the realisation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Under the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal Government of India has made a request to His Majesty's Government of Nepal to provide transit through Nepal for India's trade with China. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has agreed in principle to this request. Further measures will be taken after Nepal offers specific transit routes.

"One India" Telephone Call Rate

1633. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering "One India" telephone call rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Access Deficit Charges (ADC) would continue for the private telecom operator since the infrastructure was built with taxpayers money; and

(d) if not, the loss to BSNL and MTNL due to the use of their infrastructure by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) While Government is working towards One India call rate, the proposed measures is at initial stage. It is too early to determine its impact on Access Deficit Charge or on revenues of BSNL and MTNL.

Popularising Post Office Saving Bank Accounts Scheme

1634. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) Accounts in operation in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that more than 60 per cent of the POSB customers are concentrated in only six States;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps for popularising/creating awareness about POSB scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There were 1,55,669 Post Offices in the country as on 31.03.2004. Circle-wise details of Post Offices are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) There are 14,42,10,145 Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) accounts in operation in the country. Circle-wise details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The steps being taken for popularizing/creating awareness about POSB scheme are given below:

(i) Specific targets are being allotted to field units to mobilize deposits, which are being monitored.

(ii) Widespread publicity is being given to POSB schemes through small saving drives in Urban/ Rural areas/Media Post/Local Dailies/Radio/TV/ Pamphlets/Brochures/Local Dak Mela/Puppet Shows/'Bal Bachat Yojana' for school children/ small savings agents etc.

(iii) Motivational Saving Bank Training is being imparted to postal staff, Branch Postmasters, Gramin Dak Sevaks to educate the POSB customers about the different small savings schemes available in the Post Office and guiding them on investment.

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

Statement I

Circle-wise Post Offices in the country as on 31.03.2004

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of Post Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16197
2.	Assam	4008
3.	Bihar	9055
4.	Chhattisgarh	5830
5.	Delhi	580
6.	Gujarat	9024
7.	Haryana	2649
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2780
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1687
10.	Jharkhand	3049
11.	Karnataka	9909
12.	Kerala	5079
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5665
14.	Maharashtra	12980
15.	North East	2945
16.	Orissa	8175
17.	Punjab	3957
18.	Rajasthan	10453
19.	Tamil Nadu	12196
20.	Uttar Pradesh	17666
21.	Uttaranchal	2722
22.	West Bengal	9063
	Total	155669

Statement II

No. of Post Office Savings Bank Accounts (Postal Circle-wise)—2003-04

Sl.No.	Postal Circles	Total No. of Accounts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	88,04,690
2.	Assam	17,52,005
3.	Bihar	73,35,006
4.	Chhattisgarh	4,48,595
5.	Delhi	23,98,882
6.	Gujarat	94,26,629
7.	Haryana	1,39,83,206
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19,48,165
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20,03,588
10.	Karnataka	59,50,739
11.	Kerala	65,28,962
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33,18,232
13.	Maharashtra	1,37,55,744
14.	North East	6,37,549
15.	Orissa	42,23,063
16.	Punjab	37,33,062
17.	Rajasthan	66,40,133
18.	Tamil Nadu	1,23,13,479
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1,82,41,544
20.	Uttaranchal	17,18,582
21.	West Bengal	1,95,26,582
22.	Base P.O.	4,19,384
	Total	14,42,10,145

Technological Upgradation of Coal Mining

1635. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the technological upgradation of Coal Mining;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to improve the productivity of Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal India (CIL) has planned for technological upgradation of its coal mines. At present there are a total of 305 existing underground mines as detailed below:

(i) 96 mines are already mechanized;

(ii) 209 mines are either manual or mixed *i.e.* having manual as well as mechanized workings. Of these, 80 mines are proposed for mechanization during the Xth Plan period and the remaining in the subsequent Five Year Plan. In opencast almost the entire coal production comes from mechanized mines. Thrust is being given for higher degree of mechanization in opencast mines with bigger size of Heavy Earth Moving Machineries (HEMM).

(c) and (d) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is a subsidiary company of CIL which has predominantly opencast mines. Following steps have been taken in MCL to increase productivity in its mines:—

1. Opencast projects are now being planned considering 330 working days per year against earlier norm of 300 days for better equipment utilization.

2. Opening more Greenfield Projects of high capacity to suit deployment of higher size equipment.

3. Increasing the capacity of the mine wherever possible.

4. Replacing the worn out equipment with higher size fleet to reduce the cost of operation and maintenance.

5. Introduction of Surface Miner to a greater extent in opencast mines eliminating drilling and blasting operation.

6. Increasing the machine availability and utilization percentage to improve productivity of machines.

Facilities to Urological Patients in Hospitals

1636. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of indoor and outdoor urological patients registered in Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise;

(b) the details of the facilities available for the urological patients in the two Hospitals, especially the number of beds earmarked for indoor and outdoor patients, the number of doctors/surgeons available etc.; and

(c) the actual expenditure incurred on the Urological Departments of these two hospitals during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of urological patients registered both OPD & IPD in SJH & RMLH during the last three year is as under:—

Year	Indor		Outdoor	
	SJ	RMLH	SJ	RMLH
2002	650	307	16255	13912
2003	682	333	17443	11455
2004	743	820	17827	13500

(b) 20 Beds manned by one Urologist and other supportings staff are available for Urological patients in Safdarjung Hospital having the facilities of Lithotripsy (ESWL), Urodynamics, Ultrasound, URS, Endoscopic and Holmium Laser. 5 beds are available for Urology patients manned by one Urologist and other supporting staff in Dr. RML Hospital having facilities of General urology, Uro-oncology, Andrology and Prosthetic clinic.

(c) No specific budget is allocated to each of the department. Expenditure for the entire Hospital is booked together and not department-wise and therefore information about the actual expenditure on the Urological Departments is not available.

Allopathic/Homoeopahtic/Ayurvedic/Unani/Naturopathy Dispensaries in NER

1637. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Allopathic, Homoeopathic, Ayurevdic, Unani and Naturopathy dispensaries under CGHS functioning at present in NER, location-wise;

(b) the details of facilities available for diagnosis and specialised treatment, dispensary-wise; and

(c) the names of super speciality hospitals and diagnostic laboratories of the NER recognised as referral hospitals under the CGHS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of CGHS dispensaries/Units functioning in the North-Eastern Region (NER) is given below:—

Name of City	Number of Allopathic dispensaries	Number of Homoeopathic dispensaries/Units
Guwahati	Three	One
Shillong	One	Nil

(b) and (c) CGHS beneficiaries in Guwahati and Shillong can avail Outdoor/OPD facilities at the above dispensaries and Indoor/Specialised treatment in Central/ State Government hospitals in their respective cities. Further, the beneficiaries can avail facilities in the CGHS covered cities.

The CGHS beneficiaries of Shillong can avail Indoor/ IPD treatment and OPD investigations in the private hospitals recognised under CS(MA) Rules, 1944.

[Translation]

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

1638. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the number of proposals received from State Governments, particularly Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand pertaining to National Highways, State Highways and CRF;

(b) the present status of said proposals;

(c) the number of State Highways which the Government has agreed to convert into N.Hs;

(d) the time by which the remaining State Highways are likely to be converted into N.Hs; and

(e) the rules prescribed for clearance of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are referring to the proposals received from the State Governments for conversion of State Roads into National Highways. 116 proposals for declaration of State Roads as National Highways have been received from various State Government after 25.2.2004. While no proposal has been received from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand after 25.2.2004, 17 proposals have been received from the State Government of Rajasthan. In February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Constitutionally the Government of India is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only and the State Roads are the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, funds are provided to the State Governments from the Central Road Fund for the development of State roads.

(e) Selection of State Roads for declaration as National Highways is done on the basis of the criteria given in the Statement enclosed subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

Statement

Criteria for Declaration of New National Highways

1. Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.
2. Roads connecting adjacent countries.
3. Roads connecting the National Capital with State Capital and roads connecting mutually the State Capitals.
4. Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centers or tourist centers.
5. Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
6. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
7. Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.
8. National Highways grid of 100 Km is achieved.
9. The road must be up to the standard laid down for State Highways—both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.
10. The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State Government.
11. The right of way required for the National Highways (preferably 45m, minimum 30m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachments and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months.

[English]

Non-Availability of Blood in Hospitals

1639. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of patients die in Government/Government aided hospitals due to non-availability of blood of various groups on time;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last two years and till date; and

(c) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No report from any of the States/UTs have been received regarding death due to non-availability of blood and various groups on time in Government/Government aided hospitals. However, there could be occasional or seasonal shortage of some rare blood groups which is being addressed by promoting blood donations and voluntary blood donor registry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various measures taken by the Government to enhance Voluntary Blood Donation in the country are as follows:

(i) Promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation Programme across the country.

(ii) Awareness Programmes on Voluntary Blood Donation among the youths.

(iii) Workshops on Voluntary Blood Donation, Self Blood and Donor Motivation.

(iv) Recruitment and retention of regular voluntary blood donors.

(v) IEC materials on Blood Safety and Voluntary Blood Donation.

New National Road Transport Policy

1640. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to introduce a new National Road Transport Policy;

(b) if so, whether the National Transport Policy has been drafted;

(c) whether there is a proposal to abolish the octroi in the new National Road Transport Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has drafted a National Road Transport Policy and circulated the same among key stake holders for consultation.

(c) and (d) The draft policy, inter-alia, dwells on barrier free movement of motor vehicles. Phasing out of octroi has been mentioned in the context of avoidance of detention of vehicles at check posts.

Central Transport Policy

1641. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Transport Ministers was held at Bhopal on 23rd July, 2005;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed in the meeting and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have urged the Union Government to formulate a Central Transport Policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) This Ministry has not received any communication from any of the States regarding the meeting of the State Transport Ministers at Bhopal on 23rd July, 2005.

Schemes for Promoting Sports in Karnataka

1642. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Karnataka has submitted schemes to the Union Governments for promoting sports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when these schemes are likely to be sanctioned;

(d) whether the Union Government has formulated schemes for providing training and sports material to rural sports persons as well as constructing stadia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Union Government for promoting sports in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes by rendering central assistance to the State Governments, Non Government Organisations, Universities/Colleges, Schools etc. in accordance with the approved pattern, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments and other agencies for promotion of sports.

However, the Government has decided to transfer the Sports Infrastructure Schemes to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated during 2005-2006 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. As such, now proposals for new sports infrastructure have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All Chief Secretaries of States have been informed on 28.2.2005. In view thereof, fresh proposals have not been entertained from any State including Karnataka.

(d) and (e) Sports Authority of India is implementing a number of schemes for promotion of sports namely (i) National Sports Talent Contest; (ii) Army Boys Sports Company; (iii) Special Area Games; (iv) SAI Training Centres; and (v) Centres for Excellence. Rural sportspersons are also eligible under the above schemes. Further, this Ministry is also implementing a Scheme to promote rural sports which envisages holding of rural sports tournaments in selected discipline at Block, District, State and National level. The assistance of Government of India is available for State/UT level and National level Tournaments whereas the rural sports tournaments at Block and District level are required to be organized by the State/UT Governments from their own resources. In addition, till 31.3.2005, this Ministry was implementing a Scheme of "Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports equipments and development of playfield" which is exclusively meant for rural areas for the development of sports and games. This apart, the Ministry was also providing grants to States and other agencies for construction of stadia in urban as well as rural areas under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" subject to the receipt of viable proposals of this effect from the State Government.

(f) For promotion of sports in Karnataka, Government has provided the following assistance during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-2003 to 2004-2005:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Amount provided (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure	242.20
2.	Grants for Schools for purchase of Sports equipments and development of playfield	53.94
3.	Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges	240.17
4.	All India Rural Sports Tournament	14.00

This apart, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is running the following training centers in Karnataka:

(i) National Sports Talent Contest Centre at St. Josephs Indian High School Bangalore;

(ii) Centre of Excellence Centre at Bangalore;

(iii) SAI Training Centres at Dharwad, Medikeri and Bangalore;

(iv) Adopted Navodaya Vidyalaya Bagalur, Distt. Bangalure (Urban) and JNV, Galibeedu, Distt. Kodagu under Newly adopted Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya under the NSTC Scheme;

(v) Under Army Boys Sports Company Scheme ASC Bangalore and MEG Bangalore.

NHDP Phase III A and III B

1643. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 26 dated March 2, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of specific projects to be undertaken, including location-wise length and cost, under NHDP Phase III A and III B; and

(b) the time schedule for commencement and completion of these two Phases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A total of 78 stretches covering 11294 km (details given in the Statement-I) have been identified for upgradation of National Highways on BOT (Toll) basis under NHDP Phase-III. So far, Government has approved upgradation of 4000 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase IIIA at a cost of Rs. 22,000 crores on BOT (Toll) basis. A total of 45 projects covering a length of 4014.25 km details given in the Statement-II have been identified under NHDP Phase III A. NHDP Phase III A is scheduled for completion by December, 2009.

Approval has also been given for initiating advance action in the form of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for another 6,000 km of NHs under NHDP Phase III B.

Statement I

List of Identified/Selected Stretches under NHDP Phase-III

Stretch/ Corridor No.	NH No.	Stretch/Corridor	Length (km)	States involved
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49	Punjab
2.	1A	Srinagar-Baramula-Uri	101	Jammu and Kashmir
3.	3	Guna Bypass	14	Madhya Pradesh
4.	3	Indore-Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule-Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	546	MP/Maharashtra
5.	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore -Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105	Karnataka
6.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20	Maharashtra
7.	4A	Balgaum-Panji	153	Goa/Karnataka
8.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/ Orissa Border	88	Orissa
9.	6	Aurang-Raipur	45	Chhattisgarh
10.	6	Nagpur-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	226	Maharashtra/ Chhattisgarh

1	2	3	4	5
11.	6	Nagpur-Talegaon-Amravati	148	Maharashtra
12.	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat	84	Gujarat
13.	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25	Karnataka
14.	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82	Rajasthan
15.	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127	Gujarat
16.	9	Pune-Sholapur	170	Maharashtra
17.	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	240.5	Andhra Pradesh
18.	10	Delhi-Hissar	160	Delhi/Haryana
19.	11	Agra-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus	282	UP/Rajasthan
20.	12	Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur	297	MP
21.	12	Jaipur-Tonk	86	Rajasthan
22.	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246	Rajasthan
23.	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101	Punjab
24.	17	Panvel-Indapur	84	Maharashtra
25.	17	Maharashtra/Goa broder-Panaji-Goa/KNT Border	139	Goa
26.	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71	Goa/Karnataka/Kerala
27.	17	Mangalore-Khozikode-Eddapally	469	Karnataka/Kerala
28.	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	192.5	Andhra Pradesh
29.	19 & 77	Patna-Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	149	Bihar
30.	19 & 85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153	Bihar
31.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73	Chandigarh/Punjab
32.	22	Ambala-Kalka-Shimla	166	Haryana/Punjab/ Himachal Pradesh
33.	24	Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow	322	UP
34.	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67	Bihar
35.	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53	Bihar
36.	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255	Bihar

1	2	3	4	5
37.	33	Barhi-Ranchi-Jamshedpur	265	Jharkhand
38.	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60	West Bengal
39.	36, 39	Doboka-Dimapur	124	Assam, Nagaland
40.	31, 52 & 52A	Baihata Chariali (on EW corridor) Itanagar	345	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh
41.	39	Kohima-Imphal	140	Nagaland/Manipur
42.	43	Kurnud-Dhamtari	23	Chhattisgarh
43.	44, 53	Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shillong Bypass)	447	Meghalaya/Assam/Tripura
44.	45	Dindigual-Trichy	80	Tamil Nadu
45.	45B	Madurai-Arupkottai-Tuticorin	144	Tamil Nadu
46.	45 Ex	Dindigual-Preigulam-Theni	73	Tamil Nadu
47.	47	Cherthalai-Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari	265	Kerala/Tamil Nadu
48.	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154	Karnataka
49.	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186	Tamil Nadu
50.	50	Pune-Khed	30	Maharasthra
51.	54	Silchar (On E-W corridor)-Aizawal	190	Assam/Mizoram
52.	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13	Bihar
53.	1, 24, 58, 72	Delhi-Dehradun	280	Delhi/UP/Uttaranchal
54.	59	Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad	379	MP/Gujarat
55.	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam-Pondicherry	210	Tamil Nadu/ Pondicherry
56.	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy-Karur	180	Tamil Nadu
57.	67 Ex	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45	Tamil Nadu
58.	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134	Tamil Nadu
59.	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13	MP
60.	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100	MP
61.	80	Mokama-Munger	70	Bihar
62.	84	Patna-Buxar	130	Bihar
63.	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40	MP

1	2	3	4	5
64.	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106	UP
65.	200	Raipur-Simga	28	Chhattisgarh
66.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39	Orissa
67.	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30	AP
68.	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59	Orissa
69.	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138	AP/Tamil Nadu
70.	215	Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy	249	Orissa
71.	220	Theni-Kumili	57	Tamil Nadu
72.	210	Trichy-Pudukkottai-Ramanathapuram	210	Tamil Nadu
73.	200	Dubri-Talchar	98	Orissa
74.	13	Bijapur-Hospet	194	Karnataka
75.	11	Reengus-Sikar	41	Rajasthan
76.	12	Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar	242	Rajasthan
77.	6	Surat-Hazira Port	29	Gujarat
78.	8A Ext.	Kandla-Mundra Port	73	Gujarat
		Total	11294	

Statement II

List of stretches identified under NHDP Phase IIIA

Sl.No.	NH No.	State	Stretch	Length (in km.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Punjab	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49
2.	3	Maharashtra	Dhule-Pimpalgan	118
3.	3	Maharashtra	Vadape-Gonde	100
4.	3	Madhya Pradesh	Indore-Khalaghat	83
5.	3	Madhya Pradesh	Guna Bypass	12.25
6.	4	Karnataka	Neelamangala-Bangalore	30
7.	4	Karnataka	Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudabagal	75

1	2	3	4	5
8.	4A	Karnataka	Balgaum-Goa/Karnataka Border	84
9.	6	Chhattisgarh	Raipur-Aurang	45
10.	6	Maharashtra	Nagpur-Wainganga Br	60
11.	6	Maharashtra	Wainganga Br-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	76
12.	6	Chhattisgarh	Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	90
13.	6	Maharashtra	Nagpur-Kondhali	40
14.	6	Maharashtra	Kondhali-Talegone	50
15.	7	Karnataka	Bangalore-Hosur	25
16.	9	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad-Vijayawada	176
17.	9	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada-Machhlipatnam	65
18.	10	Delhi/Haryana	Delhi-Hissar	160
19.	11	Uttar Pradesh/Rajasthan	Agra-Bharatpur	63
20.	11	Rajasthan	Bharatpur-Mahua	57
21.	11	Rajasthan	Mahua-Jaipur	108
22.	17	Karnataka	Kundapur-Surathkal	71
23.	17	Karnataka	Mangalore-Karnataka/Kerala Border	18
24.	21	Punjab	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73
25.	21 & 22	Haryana/Punjab	Ambala-Zirakpur	35
26.	22	Punjab/Haryana	Zirakpur-Kalka-Simla	133
27.	24	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow-Sitapur	76
28.	33	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	75
29.	45	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul-Trichy	80
30.	45-B	Tamil Nadu	Madurai-Tuticorin	144
31.	47	Kerala	Charthala-Thiruvananthapuram	187
32.	47	Kerala/Tamil Nadu	Trivendrum-Kanyakumari	113
33.	48	Karnataka	Neelmangla-Hassan	154
34.	40	Maharashtra	Pune-Khed	30
35.	58	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi-Meerut	46
36.	58	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut-Muzaffernagar	79

1	2	3	4	5
37.	58 & 72	Uttaranchal/UP	Muzaffernagar-Dehradun	146
38.	66	Pondicherry/Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry-Tindivanam	40
39.	66	Tamil Nadu	Krishnagiri-Tindivanam	170
40.	67	Tamil Nadu	Nagapatnma-Thanjavur-Trichy	130
41.	67	Tamil Nadu	Trichy-Karur (including Trichy Bypass)	88
42.	68	Tamil Nadu	Salem-Ulundrupet	134
43.	200	Orissa	Chandikhole-Duburi	39
44.	205	A.P./Tamil Nadu	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138
45.	215	Orissa	Panikoili-Roxy	249
		Total		4014.25

Revenue Earned by Paradip Port

1644. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue earned by Paradip Port from the land given on lease and houses given on rent, annually;

(b) whether encroachment is on the increase in that port;

(c) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(d) the details of the steps taken for the proper utilization of surplus land, houses and commercial complex owned by the port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of the revenue earned by Paradip Port on account of lease hold land and houses let out annually are as under:

(i) Lease Hold Land — Rs. 48.99 lakhs

(ii) Quarters and Houses — Rs. 225.58 lakhs

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no surplus land available with Paradip Port Trust. The port does not own any commercial complex. Houses are allotted to port officials and to Central and State Government employees depending on availability.

Ash Content in Coal

1645. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the proven coal reserve in the country and the off-take level per annum;

(b) the percentage of ash content in Indian coal, grade-wise and the coal imported from different countries;

(c) whether high ash content in Indian coal leads to a huge solid waste disposal problem after it is burnt; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The

proven coal reserves in the country as on 1.1.2005 are 92.96 Billion Tonnes. The total off-take of coal in the country in 2004-05 as per the coal statistics of Coal Controller's Organisation was 378.50 Million Tonnes (provisional).

(b) The percentage of ash content in Indian coal, grade-wise is as follows:—

Coking Coal:

Grade	Ash Content
Steel Grade-I	Not exceeding 15%
Steel Grade-II	Exceeding 15% but not exceeding 18%
Washery Grade-I	Exceeding 18% but not exceeding 21%
Washery Grade-II	Exceeding 21% but not exceeding 24%
Washery Grade-III	Exceeding 24% but not exceeding 28%
Washery Grade-IV	Exceeding 28% but not exceeding 35%

Non-Coking Coal:

Non-coking coal is graded on the basis of Useful Heat Value (UHV) which in turn is a function of ash and moisture content of coal. For a coal of 5% moisture content, the ash % of different grades are as follows:

Grade	ash%
A	Not exceeding 14.5
B	14.6 to 18.8
C	18.9 to 23.6
D	23.7 to 29.0
E	29.1 to 35.0
F	35.1 to 42.0
G	42.1 to 50.0

The ash content in imported coal is generally less than 12%.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It leads to a solid waste disposal problem after burning Indian non-coking coal because of its high ash content.

Following steps have been taken in this regard, such as:

— Use of coal with ash content not exceeding 34% in the Thermal Power Stations located beyond 1000 Km. from pithead and in specified areas has been made mandatory.

— Cement industry, Brick manufacturing and other ash-based ancillary industries are being encouraged for utilisation of fly ash generated after burning of coal in power plants.

— Coal India Limited and its consumers have set up few coal washeries for washing coal with ash content more than 34%. Coal India Limited is also encouraging its consumers to set up non-coking coal washeries. In this connection CIL offers land on lease and other infrastructural facilities like electricity and water during construction and railway siding, if available, on chargeable basis.

[Translation]

Ban on Tinned Milk

1646. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that World Health Organisation in its convention has expressed opinion that tinned milk may prove fatal to infants as reported in Nagpur Edition of 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated May 27, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to impose ban on tinned milk products in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The 58th World Health Assembly Session of World Health Organization held in May 2005 recognized the need for parents and caregivers to be fully informed of evidence based public health risks

of intrinsic contamination of powered infant formula and the potential for introduced contamination, and the need for safe preparation, handling and storage of prepared infant formula.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to impose ban on powered infant formula. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955 prescribes the standard of infant formula which include safety parameters for microbiological contamination and their labeling requirements. The label of the product is required to give statements such as superiority of mother's milk, need of its use, proper method of its use, instruction for appropriate and hygiene preparation, storage conditions, feeding chart, instructions for use, and instructions for discarding left over feed etc.

Power Supply to Coal Mines

1647. PROF. MAHADEO RAO SHIWANKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal mines in the country has declined due to shortage of power;

(b) if so, the names of coal mines where the power supplied by the State is not adequate;

(c) whether the production in Bundar Coal Field and Murpar Mines in Maharashtra has been affected because of power shortage; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no significant decline in coal production due to shortage of power except in some smaller mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and North Eastern Coalfields.

(b) The mines affected in Mugma field ECL are Gopinathpur, Harijam, Badjna, Chapapur, Khoodia, Laximata, Mandaman, Kumar Dhubi, Sampur-B, Barmuri, Rajpura, and in North Eastern Coalfield, Assam Tipong, Bargolai, Ledo/Triap and Tikok Mines.

(c) and (d) The production in Bunder coalfield and Murpar mines in Maharashtra has been affected due to frequent power breakdown as the overhead line traverses through dense forest. However, alternate arrangements have been made from Chimur Sub-Station.

[English]

Setting up of Authority for Disease Surveillance

1648. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate authority for disease surveillance on the lines of the U.S. based centres for Disease Control and prevention to monitor and check the prevalence of communicable, non-communicable and pollution related diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the said authority is likely to be set up;

(d) the names of the States which will be covered by the authority in the first phase; and

(e) the time by when the entire country is likely to be covered by the authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The World Bank assisted Integrated Disease Surveillance Project has already been launched in the country in November 2004 for surveillance of important communicable disease, risk factor of non-communicable diseases, road traffic accidents etc. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering setting up of National Disease Surveillance Authority to strengthen Disease Surveillance in the country.

(d) and (e) States are covered under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project in a phased manner. In Phase-I the States namely Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Mizoram have been taken up. The entire country will be covered by the year 2007.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme

1649. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to associate the private sector for development of skill, wage employment and setting up of rural industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether many Non-Governmental Organizations have also proposed to help the Government to implement Poverty Alleviation Schemes; and

(f) if so, the details of the concessions and assistance proposed to be extended to them for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Review of Poverty Alleviation Programmes is a continuous process. Programmes are reviewed to strengthen and revamp them to increase their efficacy in poverty alleviation. Provision of Supplementary Wage Employment has been the major instrument for poverty reduction. In November 2004 the Government introduced a National Food For Work Programme in the 150 backward districts to provide additional wage employment to rural poor. The proposed National Employment Guarantee Programme to be introduced through an Act of Parliament will be a comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme.

With the enactment of the Bill, the existing Sampoorn Grameen Rozgar Yojana and National Food for Work Programme would be merged in the districts where Employment Guarantee Act would be implemented to provide guaranteed employment of at least 100 days to every poor family seeking manual work. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Year Plan has highlighted the consequential changes that may have to be made after the enactment of Employment Guarantee to rationalize programmes that seek to provide wage employment as well as protect nutritional security of the rural poor. In addition a programme for self-employment through Self Help Groups will continue.

(c) and (d) Private sector makes an important contribution both to output and to employment in the country. The private sector has played a leading role in provision of both education and vocational training. Rural industries are largely set up by private entrepreneurs. The Government is committed to create an enabling environment which promotes and fosters private entrepreneurship leading to establishment of industries that generate output and provide employment opportunities. The Government has also approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to upgrade 100 Industrial Training Institutes to Centers of Excellence. These ITIs would be upgraded in the public/private partnership mode.

(e) and (f) The Tenth Plan gave a place of prominence to the role of civil society and voluntary sector in governance and development. Voluntary sector is recognized as a partner in development and is associated in the task of planning and implementation of development programmes. Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Rural Development, has issued guidelines in March, 2005 to involve NGOs in a number of schemes. These are:

- Natural Resource Development and Management (NRDM)
- Rural Industrialization Income Generation and Market Access (RIMA)
- Technologies for Rural Development and Promotion of Information Technology (TGRD & PIT)
- Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS)
- Scheme for empowerment of Rural women, SC, ST and disadvantaged groups and for Persons With Disabilities (PWD) in rural areas (EWSCTD Scheme)
- Human Resource Development Scheme (HRDS).

In addition, Government assists NGOs to take up programmes for the welfare of the poor and disadvantaged groups and of women.

Planning Commission has issued guidelines to Central Ministries and State Governments to facilitate the work of voluntary organizations. These guidelines suggest setting up of grievance redressal mechanism, notification of State Planning Departments as the nodal agency for voluntary sector, to constitute State Joint Machinery for Government and voluntary sector collaboration and to take appropriate steps for capacity building of NGOs.

[English]

Indo-Sino Collaboration for Developing Drugs

1650. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VARMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether India and China have agreed to collaborate to develop drugs to combat diabetes and hepatitis;

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

(c) the other areas identified to develop other drugs jointly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) a joint meeting under the aegis of Indiaclen and Chinaclen was held on traditional remedies for Diabetes and Hepatitis. Further meetings to identify the medicinal plants for these areas are yet to take place. In the field of reproductive health also need has been felt for cooperation between the two countries for prevention of reproductive tract infections as well as drugs and devices for population control.

Hosting of Asian Games

1651. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Asian Games hosted by India so far;

(b) whether Indian Olympic Association has proposed to hold the 17th Asian Games in 2014; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) India has hosted Asian Games twice in the past. The first Asian Games were hosted in Delhi in 1951. The ninth Asian Games were also hosted in Delhi in 1982.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has conveyed 'in principle' approval to Indian Olympic Association (IOA), for submitting the bid for holding XVII Asian Games, 2014 and also indicated following:—

(i) Support to holding of the Games;

(ii) Guarantee of free entry to delegation of participating countries;

(iii) Guarantee that the Games will be organized in accordance with the fundamental principles, objectives and other laid down rules and regulations under the constitution of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

[Translation]

Unfinished Length of National Highways

1652. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain length of National Highways has not been constructed in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to give approval for the construction of the unfinished stretch of Highways;

(d) whether the width of Highways in Maharashtra is that of single and intermediate lane;

(e) if so, whether the Government is taking action to increase the width of Highways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

construction of about 21 Km. length of NH-17 between Zarap-Patradevi Section (Km. 450/200 to Km. 471/700) is included in the current Annual Plan 2005-06.

(c) Since the proposal needs the clearance by Expenditure Finance Committee in consultation with other appraising agencies of the Government, it is too early to indicate the time frame for its approval.

(d) Yes, Sir. Total length of National Highway in Maharashtra having intermediate lane width is about 261 Km. and total length of single lane National Highways is 57.5 Km.

(e) and (f) Widening to two lanes National Highways Standards is taken up in a phased manner depending upon traffic volume, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. In the current Annual Plan 2005-06 there is a provisions for widening of 47.8 Km. length of 2 lanes at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.00 crores.

[English]

Assistance by International Agencies for AIDS Control Programmes

1653. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched various UNICEF aided AIDS control programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance/grant received by the Government for running such programmes in the country during each of the last three years, project-wise;

(c) whether AIDS control programmes with the assistance of WHO and other International agencies are also undertaken by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) UNICEF is supporting the following components of National AIDS Control Programme launched by Government of India.

Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV which includes supply of drug neverapine, trainings and technical supervision.

Information Education and Communication for the public.

School AIDS Education Programme.

The value of support provided by UNICEF during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (in US$)
2002-03	197855.98
2003-04	2037001.00
2004-05	2554065.77

(c) and (d) The assistance of various international/ bilateral agencies provided for National AIDS Control Programme—Phase-II (1999-March 2006) is as under.

	Agency	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1.	World Bank assisted project (including GOI & ARV)	1155.00
2.	USAID's AVERT Project	166.00
3.	DFID Project	487.40
4.	USAID's APAC Project	64.58
5.	*AUSAID Project	24.65
6.	CIDA Project	37.81
7.	UNDP Project	6.47
8.	GFATM-Round 2 PPTCT	122.74
	Total	2064.65

*AUSAID Project has been dispensed with before its launch. It is being revised for operation through UNAIDS.

WHO provides technical support for monitoring, supervision and workshops etc. The value of support provided by WHO is as under:

Biennium year		Amount in US $
2002 and 2003	Regular Budget	$ 150,00
	Extra Budget	$ 1.4 million
2004 and 2005	Regular Budget	$ 150,000
	Extra Budget	$ 2 million

Eradicating Hepatitis-B and C

1654. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether WHO has recommended introducing Hepatitis-B vaccine in the National Immunisation Schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that patients suffering from Hepatitis-'B' and 'C' are growing continuously in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government has a proposal to provide quick and free of cost treatment to persons suffering hepatitis-'B' and 'C';

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to eradicate Hepatitis-'B' and 'C' alongwith the details of funds allocated for this purpose; and

(h) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, All members countries of World Health Assembly resolved in the year 1992 to introduce Hepatitis B vaccination under National Immunization Programme by the year 1997.

(c) and (d) The Sentinel surveillance of NACO (National Aids Control Organization) reveals that the percentage of blood unit tested positive for hepatitis B for the year 2003 and 2004 was 1.3 and 1.28 respectively. The blood tested positive for Hepatitis C for the year 2003 and 2004 was 0.46 and 0.43 respectively.

(e) and (f) No proposal is under consideration of Government.

(g) and (h) Hepatitis B & C and blood borne diseases and in order to prevent the same (i) all immunization in the country will be using Auto Disable syringes so that the injection safety is ensured and transmission through injection is prevented, (ii) blood collected in all blood bank are screen for Hepatitis C, (iii) Pilot project of Hepatitis B vaccination started in 33 districts and 15 cities. Out of the total target of 13.81 lakhs children, 12.31 lakhs receive 3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine (89% coverage), (iv) As of now there is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C.

Funds for Development of IT

1655. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides funds for development of information technology, computer programming and computerization of various universities in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof with specific reference to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The UGC has been assisting the universities in setting up of computer center since 1970 for use (i) in research, training and education, (ii) in application, in computers, in every field/ subject; and (iii) examination and administration related work.

(b) The UGC had provided grants so far to 136 universities in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In the State of Gujarat, 8 universities had been assisted under the scheme. The UGC had also provided grants to 88 universities for upgradation/replacement of existing

computer center, out of which 7 universities have been assisted in the State of Gujarat under the scheme.

[Translation]

Registration Fee and Rates of Commission

1656. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of registration fee and bi-monthly rent to be charged from the metropolitan cities, urban and rural areas for providing telephone facilities;

(b) whether different rates of commission to be given to PCOs in the said areas have also been fixed;

(c) if so, the details of the present rates of commission in the said areas;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. is not providing facilities meant for rural areas; and

(e) if so, the concrete 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) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the tariff or registration fee and rent are under forbearance and service providers have flexibility to fix any tariff in metropolitan cities and urban areas. However, for rural areas the monthly rental, tariff and free calls have been regulated by TRAI. The details of such charges by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) M.T.N.L. is providing services in Delhi and Mumbai only, which has no rural area.

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

Statement I

Details of Registration Fee and Bi-Monthly Rent for Landline Telephones

1. Registration Fee: The registration fee charged by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is Rs. 500/- for metropolitan cities, urban and rural areas.

2. Bi-monthly rental charges:

(i) BSNL

Bi-monthly rental charges

Exchange system capacity	Urban	Rural
Less than 1000 lines	Rs. 240	Rs. 100
1000 lines and above but below 30000 lines	Rs. 240	Rs. 220
3000 lines and above but below 100000 lines	Rs. 360	Rs. 300
100000 lines and above	Rs. 500	Rs. 420

(ii) **MTNL:** The rental charged by MTNL varies from Rs. 160/- to Rs. 2000/- per month depending upon the tariff plan.

Statement II

1. Rate of Commission given to PCOs by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

(i) For STD/ISD PCOs in both Urban and Rural areas

Billed Metered Call Unit (MCU) per month per PCO	Rate of Commission
Upto 2500 MCU	25.05%
2501 to 4000 MCU	27.5%
4001 to 7000 MCU	30.0%
7001 to 10000 MCU	32.5%
10000 MCU and above	35.0%

Note:- The above commission is on non-graded basis.

(ii) **For Local PCO**

The rate of commission is Rs. 0.30 per pulse for all type of Local PCOs in both Rural and Urban areas.

2. Rate of Commission given to PCOs by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

MTNL is operating in Delhi and Mumbai with only one type rate of Commission Present Rate of Commission is Rs. 0.30 per pulse and pulse rate is 60 seconds.

[English]

Wrong Biopsies Conducted on a Child

1657. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a case in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in which wrong biopsies were done on a child in May-June 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the case;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the errant staff of the Institute; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) A complaint was received from the father of the child who was admitted in the Department of Paediatrics of AIIMS for treatment. The Department of Paediatrics conducted an enquiry in the matter. The Departmental Enquiry Committee felt that there was lapse of professional behaviour on the part of two senior residents. While one Senior Resident has resigned from service, disciplinary action is being contemplated against one Senior Resident and the Junior Resident on training was being issued a memorandum. The Department had already initiated corrective measures and strict instructions had also been issued to all concerned in the Department of Paediatrics.

Revamping and Restructuring of Subsidiaries of CIL

1658. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp and restructure the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

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

(c) the details of the proposal to revamping and restructuring of Mahanadi Coal Field Ltd. (MCL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee which is, inter alia, considering restructuring of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) to make it a World class Company. The report of the Committee is awaited.

National Expanded Immunization Programme

1659. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new born children vaccinated for Hepatitis 'B' till March 31, 2005 since the programme under national immunization or expanded immunization programme was launched in the year 2002, Year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the target fixed has been achieved as per the programme;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the total amount spent on the programme from 2002-03 to 2004-05, Year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the details of amount spent in the purchase of vaccines and disposable syringes since the launch of the programme, Year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the details of the total amount of money the Government proposes to spend during the next five years for this purpose alongwith the details of sources from where these funds are to be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In 2002, a Pilot Project of Hepatitis B was launched in 33 districts and 15 cities out of the total target of 13.81 lakhs children, 12.31 lakhs received 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (89% coverage). The year-wise and project area-wise target and achievement are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Government of India is receiving assistance in the form of Hepatitis B vaccine, AD Syringes and Safety Boxes in kind from Global Alliance Vaccine Immunization (GAVI) through UNICEF, Government of India has spent Rs. 1.88 crores for training for introduction of Hepatitis B program. The total amount spent on Hepatitis B vaccine, AD Syringes and Safety boxes is Rs. 5.05 crores during 2003-04, and 13.30 crores during 2004-05. Details of supplies received are as under:—

Items	2003-04	2004-05
Hep. B Vaccine	27,50,200 doses	70,43,800 doeses
AD Syringes	24,44,100	64,69,800
Safety Boxes	27,100	71,825

(e) As of today Government of India doesn't propose to spend any amount. However, the pilot project will be assisted by GAVI upto 2007. The total funds committed for commodity assistance for Hepatitis B vaccine and Auto Disable (AD) Syringes is as under:—

Year	Amount in Cr.
2005-06	18.27
2006-07	16.09

Statement I

The total number of infants vaccinated under Hepatitis B Pilot Project for last three year

State/UT	City/Districts	Target	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
			1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose
			Achievement in %			Achievement in %			Achievement in %		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	26868	*	*	*	154	158	46	194	189	66
	Chittoor	75864	*	*	*	87	87	88	100	100	100
	Vizianagaram	46260	*	*	*	43	44	53	92	94	100
Assam	Jorhat	30996	*	*	*	32	23	15	61	58	52
	Sibsagar	24912	*	*	*	56	41	16	103	96	93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andaman and Nicobar	A & N	5952	*	*	*	116	94	72	98	92	90
Delhi	Delhi	66996	*	*	*	46	31	28	139	118	102
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	30960	*	*	*	120	84	61	165	138	122
	Vadodara	12600	*	*	*	61	50	37	160	165	141
	Surat	62892	*	*	*	77	51	27	63	57	61
Goa	Goa	23820	*	*	*	63	46	35	74	67	64
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	9072	*	*	*	17	20	21	99	97	99
	Solan	11016	*	*	*	94	76	64	100	99	103
Haryana	Panchkula	12492	*	*	*	30	24	18	87	87	88
	Ambala	27144	*	*	*	69	55	41	58	58	58
Jammu and Kashmir	Rajouri	9756	*	*	*	86	40	26	142	126	119
	Udhampur	15216	*	*	*	43	27	11	154	133	115
Karnataka	Bangalore	17376	*	*	*	75	63	52	110	90	85
	Kodagu	11532	*	*	*	58	43	31	72	75	82
	Mysore	44496	*	*	*	67	50	36	83	80	82
	Shimoga	35184	*	*	*	61	37	27	53	52	54
Kerala	Ernakulam	29532	*	*	*	38	40	36	35	36	38
	Alappuzha	30568	*	*	*	71	51	31	97	87	18
	Pathanamthitta	22188	*	*	*	94	61	37	47	41	40
Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep	1236	*	*	*	87	61	32	91	90	87
Maharashtra	Mumbai	131808	*	*	*	75	58	46	93	78	72
	Pune	13032	*	*	*	109	76	57	260	199	186
	Ratnagiri	34428	*	*	*	74	60	44	82	78	84
	Chandrapur	46056	*	*	*	96	79	71	74	74	82
	Satara	53796	*	*	*	113	95	76	85	79	81
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	14124	*	*	*	149	122	105	164	151	150
	Indore	20952	*	*	*	106	89	73	204	201	182
	Balaghat	45976	*	*	*	107	91	67	73	70	69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orissa	Sundergarh	40006	*	*	*	84	66	48	62	53	48
Punjab	Rupnagar	23712	*	*	*	56	38	25	104	97	98
	Hoshiarpur	32856	*	*	*	79	49	35	113	105	108
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	20232	*	*	*	130	79	37	60	60	64
Rajasthan	Jaipur	19200	*	*	*	82	75	64	158	72	70
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	36564	*	*	*	66	59	54	187	135	129
	Madurai	57504	*	*	*	61	50	39	70	70	69
	Nilgiri	13968	*	*	*	66	64	47	87	85	85
	Virudhnagar	34092	*	*	*	88	86	81	82	82	81
	Ramanathapuram	25164	*	*	*	59	61	59	5	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	11208	*	*	*	—	—	—	157	81	52
	Kanpur	17172	*	*	*	34	22	10	269	216	184
Uttaranchal	Nainital	14052	*	*	*	27	35	30	129	123	120
West Bengal	Kolkatta	34836	*	*	*	122	91	48	120	128	121

(Note: In the year 2004-05 the Hepatitis B program in cities was expanded to the entire cities from existing urban slums.)

*-Not started in the year 2002-03.

Statement II

Details of funds spent under Hepatitis B project area for Training during 2002-03 and 2003-04

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Cities/District	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	Delhi	365700	—
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	251850	—
		Kanpur	191457	—
3.	Maharashtra	Pune	185092	—
		Mumbai	1112625	—
		Ratnagari	—	720795
		Chandraur	—	835370
		Satara	—	924518

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	228390	—
		Chittoor	—	738390
		Vizianagaram	—	604634
5.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	489210	—
		Madurai	—	696576
		Nilgiri	—	230895
		Virudhnagar	—	506999
		Ramanathpuram	—	456905
6.	Karnataka	Bangalore	407100	—
		Kodagu	—	226341
		Shimoga	—	379349
		Mysore	—	523559
7.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	83490	—
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	187680	—
		Baroda	73485	—
		Surat	—	680499
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	251850	—
		Indore	164738	—
		Balaghat	—	432410
10.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	365700	—
11.	Bihar	Patna	251850	—
12.	Goa		—	351990
13.	Kerala	Alapuzzha	—	493095
		Ernakulam	—	649035
		Pathnamthitta	—	306450
14.	Orissa	Sundergarh	—	375450
15.	Punjab	Runagarh	—	389161
		Hoshiarpur	—	553160
16.	Haryana	Panchkula	—	123600
		Ambala	—	224927

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	—	250871
		Solan	—	239244
18.	Uttaranchal	Nainital	—	257805
19.	Pondicherry		—	278850
20.	Lakshadweep		—	100830
21.	Assam	Jorhat	—	459975
		Sibsagar	—	265568
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	Rajouri	—	350541
		Udhampur	—	248490
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Island		—	281948
		Total	4610235	14158250

Response to Letters

1660. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Members of Parliament and Members of general public write letters to the Ministers and bureaucrats on the difficulties being faced by them while dealing with the Government;

(b) if so, whether their letters are generally not acknowledged and responded and if responded at all, their replies are not straight forward to the issues raised by them; and

(c) if so, the action the Government proposes to take to ensure that quick action is taken on the letters received by them?

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

(b) and (c) There are detailed guidelines contained in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure for handling letters from the Members of Parliament as well as general public. These guidelines provide for careful consideration and timely disposal of such letters. They also provide for monitoring of their disposal at senior level. Every Ministry/Department is required to follow these guidelines strictly.

Construction of National Highways on Public-Private Partnership

1661. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to construct any National Highways in the country on public-private partnership;

(b) if so, the number of such NHs;

(c) the States where these NHs are likely to be constructed; and

(d) the details of the proposals mooted by the Government in respect of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Sections of National Highways have been identified where construction is proposed on Public-Private Partnership basis under NHDP Phase-II and Phase-III. This covers all the States in the country except the State of Sikkim.

(d) NHAI has been mandated to four lane 722 km under Golden Quadrilateral and 556 km under North South & East West Corridors in the State of Rajasthan. Under NHDP Phase III, 937 km of National Highways have been identified of which 186 km have been approved under NHDP Phase IIIA.

Telecom Facilities in Karnataka

1662. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

(b) the total number of villages in all the districts of Karnataka wherein wireless and local loop services have been provided;

(c) the number of villages wherein communication facilities have not been provided; and

(d) the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing telecommunication facilities to the villages through Village Public Telephones (VPTs) which are provided by using Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/Landline Technologies.

(b) WLL services have been provided in 2,983 villages of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Communication facilities have been provided in all the villages of Karnataka through landline/ WLL/MARR etc.

2,132 VPTs on Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology are planned to be replaced by WLL/landline phones with support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund.

[Translation]

Repair of Bridge on N.H.-125

1663. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a portion of the bridge built on Kailash river between Sitarganj Khateema road on National Highway No. 125 in the Udhamsingh Nagar district of Uttaranchal, which was damaged a year ago, has not been repaired so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by when it will be opened for traffic;

(d) the total amount spent on it;

(e) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that a complaint has been made regarding misuse of the fund allotted for repair of the bridge;

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(g) whether the Government proposes to conduct an enquiry in the said matter; and

(h) if so, the time by when the said enquiry is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The abutment on Khatima side portion of bridge on river Kailash between Sitarganj and Khatima was damaged last year before the road was entrusted as National Highway to the State Government in November 2004. For immediate restoration of traffic, the State PWD constructed a diversion on the downstream side of the bridge, which was washed away during the rains this year. However, in the meantime the State PWD has erected a Bailey bridge over the damaged abutment portion and the bridge has been opened to traffic. The cost of the temporary restoration is around Rs. 60.00 lakhs. The cost of the permanent restoration including the construction of the abutment will be around Rs. 103.00 lakhs, for which estimate has already been sanctioned by the Ministry.

(e) to (h) No such complaint has been received so far.

[English]

Closing of Post Offices in Kerala

1664. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to close down a number of Post Offices in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There are no plans to close down post offices in Kerala. However, single or double handed post offices located in urban areas, and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices located in rural areas which do not fulfil the distance norms can be considered for relocation to more needy areas, or merged with nearby offices. This is in consonance with the directives in the 10th Plan, which, inter-alia, require the Department to rationalize the network and optimize resources in order to increase access to postal services, while attempting to achieve financial self sufficiency.

[Translation]

Employment to Land Oustees

1665. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has decided to put a ban on providing employment to the dependents of the farmers whose land has been acquired;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by the Government regarding the pending cases of providing employment to the dependents prior to the said decision;

(d) whether the compensation given for acquisition of Forest is more as compared to the compensation given to the farmers;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the compensation for the acquisition of land from the farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. However in view of limited job opportunities for unskilled workers, the stipulation of providing employment in addition to compensation for land acquired needs to be revised.

(b) and (c) Coal India Limited framed a Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy (R&R Policy) which came into effect in 1994 and was subsequently amended in 2000.

(d) Forest land is not acquired like tenancy land. It is transferred to the user agency for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose on lease basis. The ownership remains with the Forest Department. The Forest Department charges premium which includes various ingredients such as compensatory afforestation charges, fire protection charges, plantation regeneration charges, net present value of the forest produce etc. as a principle of restitution for environmental losses like soil erosion, effect on hydrological cycle, wild life habitat, micro climate upsetting of ecological balance and the principle of fair return. The payment of compensation in these two types of land is not comparable.

(e) and (f) Compensation to the farmers for acquisition of their land is paid as per provisions of the Act. Amount of compensation is decided at the time of acquisition on the basis of prevailing fair market value of the land.

FDI in Captive Coal Mining Sector

1666. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to permit 100 per cent FDI in captive coal mining sector as reported in the 'Dainik Jagaran', dated June 7, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to permit steel and cement sectors to mine coal for their own use;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to bring any legislation/bill regarding mining of coal;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the gap between demand and supply of coal would get narrowed as a result thereof; and

(h) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption in such projects have been allowed foreign equity upto 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive consumption in power generation. Other private companies engaged in exploration or mining of coal and lignite for captive consumption for production of iron and steel and production of cement are allowed foreign equity upto 74%. A proposal to enhance foreign equity participation upto 100% in case of such private companies from the existing 74% is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended in 1993, allows captive mining of coal by Indian companies for use in power generation and iron and steel production. Under the provisions of said Act, the Central Government notified on 15.03.1996 production of cement as an end use, for the purpose of captive mining of coal.

(e) and (f) A Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, which seeks to allow mining of coal to any Indian company without the restriction of captive use, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2000 and is pending for consideration. Moreover, the Government are considering a proposal to introduce competitive bidding as an objective and transparent process of selection for allocation of coal blocks, which may also require amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

(g) and (h) With increase in production of coal from the captive blocks given to companies in the private and the public sector, the gap between the demand and supply would reduce commensurately. It is estimated that the total rated production of coal from the 86 coal blocks allocated/decided for allocation could be of the order of 200 million tonnes per annum.

[English]

Roping in Global Hardware Vendors

1667. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is trying to attract top global hardware vendors;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts being made;

(c) the reaction of the companies; and

(d) the extent to which these efforts have been successful in promoting India as a strategic hub for hardware manufacturing?

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

(b) to (d) Government has taken a number of steps for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware manufacturing in the country. The steps taken by the Government in this regard are given in the Statement enclosed. A number of leading global companies have shown keen interest in setting up Electronics/IT Hardware manufacturing facilities in the country. Renowned global Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS) companies have already set up manufacturing units in the country.

Statement

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

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @0%.

4. Excise duty on computers is @%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.

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

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

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

8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.

9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

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

Universal Immunization Programme

1668. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether in many States universal immunization programme has not been able to prevent deaths;

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

(c) the names of the States and Union Territories where the death figures are amounting despite extensive immunization coverage and a relatively strong infrastructure; and

(d) the measures taken by the Union Government to make available immunization programme to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Since the introduction of Universal Immunization Programme in 1985 with the objective of reducing morbidity due to Vaccine Preventable Diseases, the disease burden has reduced significantly in the country over the years. The disease burden due to Vaccine Preventable Diseases has come down by 77.63% when compared with the situation in 1985. The year-wise disease burden is enclosed as Statement-I.

As per the reports of Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the State-wise details due to Diphtheria, Pertusis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus Neonatal and Measles are not increasing in the States enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) The Immunization Strengthening Programme is an on going programme. In order to further strengthen Routine Immunization certain initiatives have been taken. The Routine Immunization strengthening is also one of the thrust areas in National Rural Health Mission. The measures taken to strengthen immunization programme are:—

(i) Mobilization of children to the session site by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)/ Anganwadi Worker (AWW) etc.,

(ii) Strengthening the immunization services in urban slums;

(iii) Support for vaccine delivery in outreach sessions;

(iv) Introduction of Auto Disable Syringes in immunization for all antigens;

(v) Introduction of 10 doses of BCG in place of 20 doses to ensure availability of BCG at session sites;

(vi) Strengthen supportive supervision and monitoring.

Statement I

Reported Cases of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Year	Diptheia	Pertusis (Whooping Cough)	Neonatal Tetanus	Polio-Myelitis	Measles	Total VPDs
1985	15686	184368	—	22584	160216	382854
1986	9426	167225	—	20169	155072	351892
1987	12952	163786	—	28257	247519	452514
1988	17146	145469	11849	24257	157800	356521
1989	9790	137374	11114	13307	162560	334145
1990	8425	113016	10762	10412	87446	230061
1991	12550	73520	11241	8670	79655	185636
1992	6810	61648	6687	9390	92297	176832
1993	7131	47612	6606	7576	65077	134002
1994	5653	44529	5174	6041	70770	132167
1995	4658	28088	4172	3946	43373	84237
1996	4855	50621	3574	1005	85914	145969
1997	2817	37725	4839	2275	63508	111164
1998	3202	44914	5112	1934	47522	102684
1999	4216	32939	2792	1126	51001	98730
2000	5125	31431	3287	265	38835	78943
2001	5472	34703	1718	268	51780	101235
2002	7449	28746	1390	1600	38927	78112
2003	4237	34240	1765	225	46736	95662
2004*	8250	30893	1045	134	45327	85649
Decline	47.41	83.24	91.18	99.41	71.71	77.63

Source: CBHI/NPSP (WHO)

Note: Figures within Brackets are NNT Cases

*Figures Provisional and Incomplete

Statement II

Death Cases of Tetanus NEO Natal

Sl.No.	State	Deaths Cases		
		2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	12	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0		..
3.	Assam		..	..
4.	Bihar			..
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	..	
6.	Goa	7	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4	14	1
8.	Haryana	0	3	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		0	0
11.	Jharkhand	8	..	..
12.	Karnataka	0	0	1
13.	Kerala	23	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3	30	14
15.	Maharashtra	0	4	1
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	1
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	1	2	0
21.	Punjab	1	5	4
22.	Rajasthan	11	11	3
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	
25.	Tripura	4	7	1

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttaranchal			..
27.	Uttar Pradesh	22	1	..
28.	West Bengal	58	39	..
29.	Andman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	1	
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	17	10	1
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
	Total Death Cases	164	141	27

..Not Received

Death Cases of Whooping Cough

Sl.No.	State	Deaths Cases			
		2002	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	3	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	..	..
3.	Assam	..	..	..	..
4.	Bihar				
5.	Chhattisgarh		..	..	
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	..	..	..	

1	2	3	4	5	
12.	Karnataka	1	1	1	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	20	20	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	1	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	2	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	6	1	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	..
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal				..
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	
28.	West Bengal	6	6	11	..
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	..
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	5	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
	Total Death Cases	34	31	19	0

..Not Received

Death Cases of Measles

Sl.No.	State	Deaths Cases			
		2002	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	5	2	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	..	
3.	Assam				
4.	Bihar				..
5.	Chhattisgarh	..	0		
6.	Goa	0	9	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4	0	12	3
8.	Haryana	0	0	2	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand				
12.	Karnataka	4	5	5	0
13.	Kerala	1	0	1	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7	5	12	0
15.	Maharashtra	4	5	3	4
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2	0	0	1
18.	Mizoram	1	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	1	4	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	15	5	3	0
23.	Sikkim	2	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	..	..	..	..

1	2	3	4	5	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	2	0	..
28.	West Bengal	53	25	27	..
29.	Andman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	1	0	3	..
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	26	54	68	2
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
	Total Death Cases	153	119	140	11

..Not Received

Death Cases of Diphtheria

Sl.No.	State	Deaths Cases			
		2002	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	11	2	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0		
3.	Assam		..	..	..
4.	Bihar				
5.	Chhattisgarh				..
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	20	16	9	5
8.	Haryana	0	1	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand		..	..	..
12.	Karnataka	0	2	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	8	11	9	4
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	1	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	16	7	33	2
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	1	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal				..
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1	0	
28.	West Bengal	30	42	45	
29.	Andman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	..
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	41	16	28	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
	Total Death Cases	125	107	126	11

..Not Received

Post Graduate Programme in Psychiatry

1669. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for post-graduate programmes in psychiatry;

(b) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to relax the norms and make it flexible;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The norms for post-graduate programmes in psychiatry are given in Post-graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 of Medical Council of India. The Regulations are reviewed from the time to time meet the latest requirements.

Metering of Pulse Rate of Cellular Phones

1670. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prescribed rules/ norms or evolved any system for metering of pulse rate of cellular phone calls of various private cellular companies operating throughout the country;

(b) if so, the names of the cellular companies whose pulse rate has been checked so far or proposed to be checked by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint from cellular subscribers regarding payment of enhanced amount of monthly cellular phone bills on account of tempering with the pulse rate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) As per Telecommunications Tariff Order, 1999 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as amended from time to time, the tariff of cellular mobile services (except roaming charges) has been declared as "Forbearance". The Cellular Mobile Service Providers are free to fix their tariffs/metering pulses for cellular phone calls. TRAI had received a number of billing related complaints. To investigate the reasons for the large number of billing complaints, TRAI appointed an International Consultant in the month of November, 2004. Billing system of M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., M/s Bharti Televenture Ltd., M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., M/s Idea Cellular Ltd., M/s Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd., M/s Spice Communications Ltd., M/s Aircel Cellular Ltd. and M/s BPL Mobile Services Ltd., were checked. During this audit the Consultant did not find tempering of pulse rate by any of the operators.

As a follow up this audit, TRAI in consultation with the Consultant has developed a "Code of Practice for Billing Accuracy in India" and released a consultation paper on the subject.

[Translation]

Refund of Security by MTNL

1671. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been fixed by the Mahangar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Delhi to refund the amount to subscribers after they have surrendered their telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when such cases of refund are under consideration in Delhi, Exchange-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay in refunding the amount; and

(e) the time by which the amount is likely to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Norm of 60 days has been fixed for refund of due amounts.

(c) to (e) Exchange-wise, date of oldest pending case for refund of telephone for Delhi is given in the Statement enclosed. All these cases are expected to be settled within the norms of 60 days.

Statement *

Exchange-wise Date of Oldest Pending Case for Refund of Amount

Area GM	Name of Exchange	Cases pending	Date of Oldest pending case
1	2	3	4
Rajouri Garden	Rajouri Garden	356	06.07.2005
	Hari Nagar	86	05.07.2005
	Pachim Vihar	70	05.07.2005
	Nangloi	36	15.06.2005

1	2	3	4
Bhikaji Cama Place	Bhikaji Cama Place	62	25.07.2005
	Chanakya Puri	98	22.06.2005
	Hauz Khas	28	16.07.2005
	Vasant Vihar	57	06.07.2005
	Vasant Kunj	16	17.06.2005
	Chhatarpur	55	17.07.2005
Central	CGO	117	04.06.2005
	Jorbagh	207	06.06.2005
	Kidwai Bhawan (KBN)	58	02.06.2005
	Sena Bhawan (Rajpath)	19	14.06.2005
	Janpath	61	08.06.2005
Nehru Place	Nehru Place	1279	10.06.2005
	Okhla	48	15.06.2005
	Tuglakabad	293	03.06.2005
	Sarita Vihar	312	04.06.2005
	Tehkhand	361	08.06.2005
Karol Bagh	Karol Bagh	161	22.06.2005
	Delhi Cantt/Shadipur	213	10.06.2005
Laxmi Nagar	Laxmi Nagar	1007	04.06.2005
	Mayur Vihar	215	01.07.2005
	Karkardooma	37	01.07.2005
Shakti Nagar	Shakti Nagar	328	02.06.2005
	Keshav Puram	141	10.06.2005
Rohini	Rohini	591	18.06.2005
	Saraswati Vihar	285	22.06.2005
	Badli	634	16.06.2005
East	Delhi Gate & Minto Road	5	22.07.2005
	Edgah	35	28.06.2005
	Tis Hazari	13	16.07.2005

1	2	3	4
Janakpuri	Janakpuri	107	04.07.2005
	Pankha Road	93	01.07.2005
	Najafgarh	42	02.07.2005
	Dwarka	80	01.07.2005
Shahdara	Shahdara	247	01.07.2005
	Yamuna Vihar	90	01.07.2005

[English]

Funds Allocated to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

1672. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. alongwith the targets fixed for the current five year plan;

(b) the details of the orders received and delivered so far in the current plan period and proposed to be delivered during the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan;

(c) whether HSL received any order from ONGC for repair of rigs;

(d) if so, the details of such orders received during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(e) the present status of repair orders from ONGC and the time by when such orders are likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of the funds allocated to the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. alongwith the targets fixed for the current Five Year Plan are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of the orders received and delivered so far in the current Plan period and proposed to be delivered during the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The details of these orders are as under:

(i) Major lay-up repair of JUR SAGAR PRAGATI:

The work order for the value of Rs. 93.00 Crs. For revamping of the rig "Sagar Pragati" was secured by HSL on 28.11.2003 through open tender. The rig arrived in HSL on 6th May 2004. The repairs consisting of Structural, piping and equipments etc. were successfully completed and the Rig was delivered to ONGC on 07.05.2005 at Mumbai.

(ii) Renewal of leg bracings of "SAGAR SAMRAT":

The work order for a value of Rs. 99.00 lakhs for renewal of 95 leg bracings on the Rig Sagar Samrat was secured by HSL on 20.09.2004 through open tender. The work is under progress and scheduled to be completed by end of August, 2005.

(e) The present status of repair order from ONGC and the time by which such orders will be completed is as under:

(i) Replacement of old CS make produced water piping by GRE piping on ICP, SA, SCA, BHN & NQO Platform—

The work order was received on	—	10.09.2003
Total value of order	—	Rs. 4.72 Cr.
Extended date of Completion	—	before 31.03.2006

(ii) Renewal of leg bracings of "SAGAR SAMRAT"

The work order was received on	—	20.09.2004
Total value of order	—	Rs. 0.99 Cr.
Extended date of completion	—	end August 2005.

Statement I

Details of the funds allocated to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. alongwith the targets fixed for the current Five Year Plan

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Renewals, replacements and modernization of workshops/ machinery/equipment in Shipbuilding, Shiprepairs and Retrofit Divisions	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Advanced cutting, welding stations and other equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.50
Improvements in Design Office, Software, IT related areas & ERP	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Advanced Paint Ship	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Slipways improvements for taking larger size vessels and procurement of high capacity gantry cranes	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Synchro lift for Shipbuilding and Shiprepairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.50
Infrastructure facilities for SRF Division	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Total 10 Plan allocation by GOI	15.00	15.00	15.00	69.00
Targets fixed	15.00	15.00	15.00	69.00

Total original Plan allocation for Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. for 10th Plan is Rs. 200.00 Crores.

Statement II

Details of the orders received and delivered so far in the current plan period and proposed to be delivered during the remaining period of 10th Plan

Orders received during the current plan period

Sl.No.	Ship No.	Type & Owner	Date of order received
1	2	3	4
1.	11115 & 11116	2 no. 30,000 DWT Trader series bulk carriers for M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai	21.05.2004
2.	11119	1 no. Buoy Tender-cum-Research vessel for National Institute of Technology, Chennai	24.06.2004

1	2	3	4
3.	11117 & 11118	2 no. 30,000 DWT Trader series bulk carriers for M/s Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai	03.01.2005
4.	11126 to 11135	6 no. Barges for A & N Administration	04.01.2005
5.	11132 to 11135	4 no. Utility Launches for A & N Administration	05.04.2005
6.	11136 to 11141	6 no. 53,000 DWT Handy max bulkers for M/s Good Earth Maritime Limited, Chennai	08.04.2005

Ships delivered so far during the current plan period

Sl.No.	Ship No.	Type & Owner
1.	1174	50 T. Bollard pull tug for New Mangalore Port Trust
2.	1175	25 T. Bollard pull tug for ATVP Hq.
3.	1172	45 T. Bollard pull tug for Moramugao Port Trust
4.	11105	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
5.	1173	45 T. Bollard pull tug for Mormugao Port Trust
6.	11106	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
7.	11107	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
8.	1177	17.5 T Floating Crane, M/s Sarat Chatterjee & Co.
9.	11108	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
10.	11109	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
11.	11113	500 M3 Grab Hopper Dredger for Visakhapatnam Port Trust
12.	11126	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
13.	11127	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
14.	11128	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
15.	11129	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
16.	11130	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
17.	11131	10x8x2 meters Barge for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.
18.	11110	100 Passenger Vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Admin.

Ships proposed to be delivered during the remaining period of 10th Plan

Sl.No.	Ship No.	Type & Owner
1.	1178	50 T. Bollard pull tug for Visakhapatnam Port Trust
2.	11132	Utility Launch for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
3.	11133	Utility Launch for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
4.	11134	Utility Launch for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
5.	11135	Utility Launch for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
6.	1179	Oil Recovery and Pollution control vessel for Visakhapatnam Port Trust
7.	11111	150 Passenger vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
8.	11112	150 Passenger vessel for Andaman & Nicobar Administration
9.	11119	Buoy Tender-cum-Research vessel for National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai
10.	11102	700 Passenger vessel for Union Territory of Lakshadweep
11.	11115	30,000 DWT Trader series bulk carrier for M/s. Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai
12.	11116	30,000 DWT Trader series bulk carrier for M/s. Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai

[Translation]

Formulation of National Postal Policy

1673. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate "National Postal Policy";

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

(c) whether the Postal network of the Government in the remote rural areas is lagging far behind the private courier companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether private courier companies hold more than 90 percent of the Express Market;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to increase its share in the Express Market and expansion of postal services in rural areas?

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

(b) The Government is currently engaged in the process of updating the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act to make it more relevant to the times and empower the Postal Services Board so that the department enjoys more functional autonomy. The Government has also recognized the need to clearly identify the Universal Service Obligation and the cost of fulfilling it, which, today, is included as a part of the Department's budgetary deficit/loss. A major exercise has been initiated to review the system in terms of structure, products, processes, resources, accounting and pricing structure, technology requirements, etc., and to identify how best the Department can meet the twin challenges of becoming commercially viable while continuing to fulfill the Universal Service Obligation.

The exercise to formulate the National Postal Policy is underway taking into account these initiatives and their outcomes. Since the exercise involves inter-departmental consultations, and completion of the above initiatives, no specific timeframe can be indicated at this juncture.

(c) No, Sir, India has the largest postal network in the world and 89% of it is in the rural area. Basic postal services in terms of daily delivery of dak, collection of letters and sale of stamps and stationery are being provided throughout the country through this network, irrespective of terrain.

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

(e) and (f) The market share of Speed Post is around 11% as per a projection made by Kurt Salmon & Associates (KSA) in their report 'Market Survey on Express Market-December, 2001'. However, market share of India post is about 50% in the mail delivery market if all mail products as put together.

(g) A number of value additions, like free pick up facility, door to door delivery, Internet based track and trace, volume based discounts and credit facility have been provided over the years. The number of booking counters and offices with facility for booking upto late hours has been increased.

Basic postal services in terms of daily delivery, collection of letters and sale of stamps and stationery are already available throughout the country. Post Offices will continue to be opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(i) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2005 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Conduct) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2005.

(ii) G.S.R. 347(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2005 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2005.

(iii) G.S.R. 404(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2005 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2005.

(iv) G.S.R. 405(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2005 approving the New Mangalore Port Employees (Festival Advance) Regulations, 2005.

(v) G.S.R. 406(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2005 approving the New Mangalore Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Regulations, 2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2408/2005]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 418(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 223(E) dated the 26th March, 2004, issued under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2409/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2410/2005]

(3) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 358(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2411/2005]

(4) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (5th Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 285(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2005 under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2412/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2413/2005]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2414/2005]

(4) A copy of the Indian Wireless Telegraphs (Amateur Service) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 385(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2005 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraphs Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2415/2005]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

(i) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (4th Amendment) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. 5-4/2000-A&P (Vol. II) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2005.

(ii) The TRAI Meetings for Transaction of Business (First Amendment Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. F.No. 14-7/2005-FA in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2416/2005]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898:—

(i) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 514(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2004.

(ii) The Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 670(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004.

(7) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2417/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 679(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 authorizing Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nagpur or his authorized legal representative to collect the fees on behalf of Central Government for the use of Permanent bridge across Khuni river on Nagpur to Hyderabad Section of National Highway No. 7 including approach roads on both the sides in the State of Maharashtra.

(ii) S.O. 763(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Anjar bypass on National Highway No. 8A (Extension) (Meghpar Junction) in the State of Gujarat.

(iii) S.O. 1012(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1009(E) dated the 10th November, 2000.

(iv) S.O. 682(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

(v) S.O. 683(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 omitting National Highway No. 86A and the entries relating thereto specified against serial number 68FFF in the Schedule to the National Highways Act, 1956 from the said Schedule.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2418/2005]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:—

(i) The National Highways Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Presiding Officer) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2005.

(ii) The National Highways Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the officers and employees) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 429(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2419/2005]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[English

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2005-2006):

(i) Fourteenth Report on "Assessment of Private Schools, Colleges and Coaching Centres"; and

(ii) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the 55th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Refunds under Income Tax Act, 1961."

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:—

(i) Eleventh Report on xth Five Year Plan of the Railways; and

(ii) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (2004-2005) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Rail Network in North East Region—Expansion and Investment'.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Seventy-second and Seventy-third Reports

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): 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) 72nd Report on 'Problems of Coffee Growers'; and

(2) 73rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in Fifty-fifth Report on 'Export of Gems & Jewellery'.

12.03½ hrs.

MOTION RE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri Edurado Faleiro from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri Eduardo Faleiro from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The Motion was adopted.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the first report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel.

*I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of direction 73A of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 1, 2004.

The First Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 25.08.2004. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Coal for the year 2004-05.

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 25.1.2004 and 16.12.2004.

There are 15 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like formulation of Coal Vision document, realistic project estimates, utilisation of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, Projects of NLC Limited, recovery of outstanding dues of NLC Ltd. with SEBs, Environmental Measures and Subsidence Control Scheme, Rehabilitation, Control of Fire and Subsidence, disposal of surplus land acquired in Chhattisgarh, Coal Transportation Contract, identification and weeding of bogus companies which are in business of black marketing of coal etc.

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*Laid on the Table. (Also placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2420/ 2005).

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed myself that I would call Shri Suresh Prabhu first because he wants to raise a very important issue regarding the flood situation in Mumbai.

According to the procedure, I have to take the Calling Attention first. There is only one hon. Member and there is no second Member. Therefore, let us finish it as soon as possible. Please co-operate.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Please allow me also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. I will give you an opportunity.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of non-setting up of Special Economic Zone in Amritsar (Punjab) and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Calling Attention. He is a young hon. Member, very athletic and very popular.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU (Amritsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The situation arising out of non-setting up of a Special Economic Zone in Amritsar (Punjab) as announced by hon. Prime Minister and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

*THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Hon. Speaker. Sir, the Prime Minister during his interaction with the State Government on his visit to Amritsar on 1.9.2004 had conveyed that the Government of India would extend all necessary help to the Government of Punjab to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Amritsar.

The policy of the Central Government is to encourage and facilitate Zones being set up in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Government or by the State Governments themselves. The minimum area requirement for a multi-product Special Economic Zone is 1000 hectares and above. There is, however, no such area requirement for product specific or port/airport based SEZs.

The Government of Punjab was, therefore, requested to send a suitable proposal for consideration. In response, a proposal for setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Sri Harigobindpur Road (Mehta Road) adjoining the existing Industrial Focal Point in Amritsar by Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation Ltd., (PSIEC) was received in January 2005 through the State Government. This proposal was placed before the Board of Approval, which is an Inter-Ministerial Committee, for consideration in its meeting held in March 2005. During the Board meeting, the representative of the Government of Punjab indicated that since there is difficulty in obtaining 1000 hectares for setting up of a multi-product SEZ in Amritsar as land is fragmented and expensive, they now intend to set up a sector specific SEZ. Specific product group to be promoted by the zone is to be finalised by the implementing agency.

The proposal has been recommended for grant of "in-principle" approval. Once the Government of Punjab identifies the specific product group of the proposed SEZ, the proposal will be processed for grant of necessary approval.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may have 40 million reasons for failure, not a single excuse. I grow daily to honour facts more and more and theory less and less, and facts will not cease to exist just because they are ignored.

Now, the first thing that the hon. Minister has given over here in the reply is this. "The Prime Minister during

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*Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2421/05.

his interaction with the State Government...." Sir, it was no mere interaction with the State Government. I would like to cast your mind back to the date, 1.9.2004 where five million people had converged on Sri Amritsar. There were 50 lakh people. It was on sacred territory, in front of 50 lakh people that the Prime Minister made this announcement. He endeared and he flattered almost everybody by saying that he was a *sharanarthi* of free Amritsar, post-partition and the city had given him refuge. It ignited hopes, hopes for millions with the decaying industry in Amritsar.

Now, the fact of the matter and the real bone of contention is that there cannot be any fruit without a root. Unless and until the State Government notifies land for the considered SEZ, there cannot be any SEZ in that notified area. To me, the remedies of the State Government have been worse than Amritsar's illness. Firstly, they need to go back to schools. They do not even know the definition of an SEZ. The first statement issued by the Punjab Government said that they needed to fragment and split the SEZ into three different zones, Should I repeat? They needed to split the SEZ into three different zones. Hone. Minister, the definition given by your Ministry says that the minimum area required to set up an SEZ is 1000 hectares. It comes to about 2,000 hectares or more. This is the real bone of contention.

Now, I will go on to the next point. It was a decision with a lot of vision. If I may add what the Prime Minister foresaw for Amritsar. Number one is that this is the only area in close proximity to the international airport. It is the future gateway to India. He saw that the thaw had begun. The ice was melting. The two countries that had been at a loggerhead for a long time, had shed away all their animosity, and were friends again. The trading links have been renewed, and that was a huge factor why this area was instituted to set up the SEZ.

Now, when they ask to split up the SEZ, they need to change their mindset. That is the most important thing. Minds are like parachutes which do not function until they are open. That is a very important thing. Another most important thing is that in China, the entire islands have been converted into SEZs. The islands stretch into kilometres. Even if you talk of a good airport, I will add over here that a good airport has to be assessed in kilometres, and not in mere hectares.

Now, I come to the main crux. Have you ever seen a State Government, which has been enriched with Rs. 1600 crores coming out with a begging bowl? I always feel that taking pride out of a man is just like an umbrella without the ribs. Now, with a begging bowl in their hands, the cost of acquisition may be borne by the Centre. Can it be possible? Can the Centre bear the acquisition cost? Can you change your policy for the sake of the State Government? They say that the cost of development operation and maintenance will be borne by the SEZ developers who would recover it from the sale of plots thereby asking the Government of India to depart from its normal policy.

[Translation]

When the sky falls, we shall catch larks. The marriage party is waiting at the door of the House and the bride is sleeping under the Peapal tree. The mythological great sleeper Kumbhkaran even used to wake up after six months, but this Government has been sleeping for the last one year. It has not woken up so far.

[English]

This is the most important thing. Everyday that passes spells a death knell for Amritsar. It has been an ignored bastion and it would tantamount to violating the mandate of the Prime Minister. Hon. Minister, Sir, it is like the General proposing and his Captain deposing. How is it that possible? Good intentions die unless they are executed. A man of words, and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds. That is why, Sir, I would like to stress on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your captain is in the Assembly, not here.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Now, the main crux over here is that the Amritsar has suffered a lot. We have borne the brunt of two major wars. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall be very happy if you have it.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Amritsar has borne 10 years to 15 years of militancy. We have been declared a disturbed area. We have not flinched, for jealousy is the jaundice of the soul. Look at what you have given to Himachal Pradesh. They are our brothers. We feel happy for Himachal Pradesh. It has got a special economic package. We feel very happy for the Kashmiries because they have also got a special economic package. But I

[Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu]

would like to ask you, Sir, where we have failed. When you talk of national integration hon. Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the Jaliawala Bagh Committee. She will be the first one to say that the history of Punjab is the history of blood, sweat, toil and tears. We have sweated out our blood for the country. Why are we being ignored? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, Mr. Sidhu, the entire House supports your cause. Therefore, you do not have to make out your case.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Thank you very much, Sir. I feel honoured. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is, who will do it?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Yes, who will do it? The question is this. I would put it in a humorous way. They are like a hen sitting on a bone china egg. Neither the egg is going to be hatched nor the chick is going to come out. That is the most important thing.

Now, I want to come on to a very important issue.

The cry that reverberates in Amritsar is:

'The Government is indifferent to the Guru.'

Chandigarh is our political capital. We do not deny that but we cannot call it our own. Temporally, culturally, spiritually and religiously, Amritsar is still the capital of Punjab. It is the capital of Punjab. It is our Rome; it is our Vatican; it is our Mecca; it is our Medina; it is our Kashi.

Sir, I beg you over here. It is a matter of my right to ask you to execute the good intentions of the hon. Prime Minister; for, lives are dependent on the 75,000 jobs at stake. That calls for about four lakh families at stake. It is a dying city. Look at Lahore and take cognizance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How could Amritsar die with you as the representative?

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I am absolutely honoured and flattered.

Sir, there are more buffaloes than people in Amritsar. This is why I would like to refer to the coming up of the Maruti car factory in Gurgaon. One factory changed the face of Gurgaon and Gurgaon now resembles Singapore. This was between two States. When you talk of Amritsar, it is between two countries, the silken route that connect us not only to Pakistan but also to the Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. What else do you want? We want a connection. We want trading linkages to open up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us hear the hon. Minister.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I would end, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I know, I have to end; but all I say here, Sir, is that patience is bitter but the fruit is sweet. So, be patient with me.

I would just end with a very small couplet. This is for the hon. Minister. I respect him a lot.

[Translation]

Andheron Ka Dard Kya Jaane, Jo Khud Sitare Hain

Dubne Ki Tees Kya Jaane, Jo Khud Kinare Hain

Aag Ke Dariа Mein Dubane Ka Dard Ham Se Sikho

Shri Amritsar Ne Kai Ujare Hue Gulshan Sanware Hain.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should take more part in the proceedings of the House.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, without getting into the *kinare* and *sitare,* I would confine myself to the SEZ. I acknowledge the hon. Member's understanding of the Prime Minister's vision, the Prime Minister's graciousness and of announcing the SEZ in Amritsar, which he has very gracefully acknowledge here.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to a Bill which this House passed, the Special Economic Zone Bill, in the last Session of Parliament. I would have been very happy if the hon. Member had participated in that discussion. Undoubtedly, when he speaks and demands an SEZ for Amritsar, it is justified, as every hon. Member here would demand an SEZ for his constituency. It is more so justified in Amritsar because Amritsar, with its strategic location, definitely has an edge and I have no hesitation in approving this.

The hon. Member mentioned about China and about the large SEZs, where there are islands which are SEZs. That is exactly the point which I tried to make out in the statement here, that we cannot have a proliferation of SEZs, of a hundred hectares or two hundred hectares. We need large SEZs. I would like to caution the hon. Member, since he is so concerned with Amritsar and rightly so, that an SEZ alone is not an answer, not a solution. It is the units which would go into the SEZs, which would be the answer. An SEZ is only a demarcation of an area, which now under a legal framework established by this House, attracts units. If we are going to have an approved SEZ which does not attract units, it is going to do no good to Amritsar.

You will just have that banner that you have an SEZ. It is only by a rightly framed SEZ, a rightly conceived SEZ will units come up there, units which will not only serve Punjab but in time to come service cross-border trade, cross border trade going up to CIS countries. So, this has to be conceptualised correctly, framed correctly. When the hon. Prime Minister announced this, it was the Prime Minister's understanding of this issue, his vision of the future. The hon. Prime Minister has not announced SEZ anywhere else. Why did he choose Amritsar? He chose Amritsar because of its strategic location, because of its history, because of its people and having made that announcement, the Central Government, which is a facilitator in doing its best. We are not there as an approver, we are a facilitator of an SEZ and this Board of Approvals, which is an inter-ministerial Committee, looks into all aspects of it to see that an SEZ, when approved, also succeeds, an SEZ is so structured that it is able to invite and attract units to come in. So, that is the crucial thing.

The minimum requirement, as laid down, is 1,000 hectares of land. The land has to be acquired, not necessarily by the State Government. It can be a private entrepreneur. The law provides that an SEZ need not necessarily be of the Central Government or of the State Government. For SEZ, we have approved proposals, proposals which have been submitted by the private sector who go, buy the land, acquire the land and whatever is needed. An SEZ can be set up by a joint venture between a private set up and the State Government or the State Government alone. These are the three situations under which an SEZ is set up. But the most important of this is the land. When the State Government said that 'we are unable', I would request the hon. Member, through you that he should assist the State Government in identifying these 1,000 hectares if they are available. He is the Member representing Amritsar. He would be familiar as to which is the best area where 1,000 hectares of land is available for a multi-unit SEZ.

But where it is a product-specific, or an airport-oriented SEZ, that limit of 1,000 hectares does not apply. So, it is for the State Government and the hon. Member to sit down and see as to what is the most viable thing, what is the most attractive SEZ. Just an approval does not get one very far. All these couplets, all this rhetoric are all very well. But at the end of the day the question will be—what does it generate. Does it generate employment? Does it generate economic activities? Those will be the yardsticks of measurement and that yardstick of measurement is going to be the difference between success and failure.

So, as soon as we have a proposal from the State Government either identifying 1,000 hectares which are acquirable or which are going to be acquired, we will consider it. There has to be a land. An SEZ cannot be in the air. I am afraid it cannot be in the abstract, it cannot be just wishful thinking. It has to be on the ground. Once the State Government is able to provide these 1,000 hectares or comes with a proposal of a sector-specific SEZ, which can be of less than 1,000 hectares, the Central Government will be happy to consider this and approve it expeditiously.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): The hon. Member should be happy because his fight is not against the General but against the Captain. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, words do not satisfy me. It is action that is needed. There is no use of digging a pond of nectar after the death of a thirsty person who dies of thirst.

What I want over here is the Centre to direct the State Government. The State Government has been like a golden drum. They have made a lot of noise; but if you tear it apart, there is nothing inside but air. Good intentions die unless executed properly. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure your views will be brought to the notice of the State Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, the State Government should be directed to acquire the land. That is the most important thing. Until and unless they acquire the land, it is difficult. *...(Interruptions)* It is the vested interest which has over-ridden the issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You come to me. I am the person who did a product-specific SEZ in Kolkata. You should learn from me. I will tell you how to do that.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has made the statement. The State Government should be directed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us come to very important business now.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Sir, one last thing. Your mouth will not become sweet by repeatedly pronouncing the word 'Gur'. It is not by saying 'honey, honey' that sweetness will come to your mouth. That is my point. You execute the plan; execute it in Amritsar. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu. As you know, these are very important matters. We have decided in the morning that we shall allow very important matters now and other matters will be taken up at 6 p.m.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, it has been ten days since the first downpour started in Mumbai. In the last ten days, the entire Mumbai city is dysfunctional. This is a very unique situation. Floods are not very unique; floods have been occurring in different parts of the country, but it is for the first time that we are experiencing that a city like Mumbai, which is the commercial capital of India, is totally dysfunctional.

Sir, there is no governance which one can feel in Mumbai. What has happened in the last ten days? People are going without water. There are many parts of the city which are without electricity. Medicines are not available. In fact, unfortunately, we are seeing that the Central Government is not paying enough attention to the issue which they should have done.

When our Finance Minister, who is sitting here, went to Mumbai, he had said that he wanted to make Mumbai the financial capital of the world. He said 'Mumbai is located between Tokyo on one side and London on the other.' He also said that Rs. 58,000 crore are collected from the city of Mumbai. Besides giving only a promise of Rs. 500 crore, nothing tangible has been provided by the Central Government. My worry is that if they do not do something immediately, the entire city, which earned such a fame and name over the last several years and which has headquarters of all the major institutions, will become totally dysfunctional and there will be great loss.

Sir, when Mumbai is suffering from this, it is over-shadowing the fact that adjoining areas of Konkan, Thane and Marathwada are also suffering immensely. How many people have died is still not known. The official figure is 1,000, but probably in Konkan alone, there could be 2,000 people who are missing now. Therefore, this is a very serious issue. So, I would request the Government and the Leader of the House, who is present here, that just like they sent the Army there, immediately they should send a management team because there is management failure. As I said the other day, 'disaster management' is in fact 'disaster in management'. There is no management visible. The people are suffering. Therefore, my earnest request would be that they should immediately send this. The insurance claims of the people should be settled at the earliest. Now, the Government should provide immediately the seeds and other inputs to the farmers who have lost their crops so that farming can start immediately.

I would also request that power, drinking water and medicines should be provided on an emergency basis, and the Central Government should not just wash their hands off saying that it is the issue of the State Government. They must rush to their rescue because not even one per cent of the money, which is collected by the Central Government, is given back to them. It is high time that we do not just talk about Mumbai only when some help is needed, but we must also help Mumbai when it needs help.

Thank you. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is a very serious matter. I have said that this is a serious matter. I will allow some more hon. Members, Please co-operate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call hon. Members from the State and also from outside the State.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not fair. I earnestly appeal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Paranjape, pleas do not do that. As a nation, we are all concerned. Please do not dilute it. Some other hon. Members have done it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The very fact that I have allowed it, though there is a debate going on about natural calamities, shows its importance. I have said that this is a very important national issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not there. Whose names are there, I will call them. I have called Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not important who raises it. It is important that the matter is being raised on the floor of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have not given notice. Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, if this is the seriousness you are showing, I will adjourn the House. I will not even ask the Government to respond though I was thinking of asking the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate. The issue is important, not who is raising it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the lives of crores of people have been ruined by the calamity caused by rains in several parts of Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, we demand the Central Government to provide assistance for compensating the damages suffered by Mumbai and 25 districts of Maharashtra in the same way as it was provided in case of Tsunami wherein the Government of India provided an assistance worth Rs. 2000 crores. At least one thousand persons have died and damages worth crores of rupees have been inflicted by Maharashtra. The crops have also been damaged and, therefore, we have repeatedly demanded the Government to provide immediate assistance to the affected people, water has gushed into the houses of the people, power-supply has been disrupted there and the people do not have foodgrains due to rains lashing at Mumbai and Konkan Chinar belt. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are disturbing the proceedings of the House. Is this your concern for Mumbai?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You only want to hear your own voice in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Prime Minister has just announced an assistance of Rs. 500 crores for Mumbai and Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak about what you want the Government to do.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Earlier it was the NDA's Government but now we have our own Government at the Centre. This problem cannot be solved with mere Rs. 500 crores. Mumbai is the economic capital of the

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

country and the Government of India collects Rs. 40,000 crores from Mumbai as tax. Sir, we had demanded Rs. Five thousand crores. Mumbai has been regarded as the economic capital of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I would like to request you to direct every Member of Parliament to give Rs. 10 lakhs each in the same way as they did during the calamity of Tsunami. I also demand that the Government of India should provide an amount of Rs. 10,000 crores to deal with this problem. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given a notice to raise a very important matter concerning the State of Kerala. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given the notice. Mine is a very important topic. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the State of Kerala is also faced with this situation, and there is loss of life. I have also given a notice to raise this very important issue. A lot of people have lost their lives.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have also given a notice to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking about?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have given a notice to raise an important issue concerning the State of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, you cannot get-up any time you like to raise an issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given a notice for it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing the hon. Members to raise a very important matter, and you, being a senior Member, just stand up in between to raise your issue in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have also given a notice for it.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it at 6 o'clock.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am only trying to raise it for the cause of the people in Kerala. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is raising issues for the cause of people only. Therefore, you do not have any monopoly for doing it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I do agree that everybody is doing it, but this is a very unprecedented incident that has happened in the State of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Mumbai is a city of Dreams. As the people from all over the world visit New York likewise lakhs of people in India visit Mumbai and people get their business opportunities also.

Sir, the level of rainfall recorded there over the last ten days and the devastation unleashed in Mumbai is beyond description and the damages caused there are unprecedented. The most agonizing fact is that the people did not get water to drink and the children had to do without bread and milk for ten days. The State Government went on claiming frequently that they were making arrangements but, sir, no arrangements were made till yesterday. The present State Government has proved wholly incompetent and I would appeal to the

*Not recorded.

Central Government to intervene. The Government of India collects taxes to the tune of Rs. 55 thousand crores from Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I am only trying to correct the figures mentioned by the hon'ble Member.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: More tax is collected from Mumbai than that is collected from Chennai, Bangalore, and Trivandrum taken together. So much to tax is not collected from anywhere else.

MR. SPEAKER: Please state what you want to say.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: The hon'ble Prime Minister had stated, and the Minister of Finance is also sitting here, that Mumbai will be made a city like Shanghai. Sir, what to speak to making Mumbai a Shanghai, today Mumbai has become the unfortunate city of India.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not time for oratory. Please take your seat.

Shri Mohan Rawale.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring a very serious fact to the notice of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir several type of diseases have broken out there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat the points that have already been mentioned by you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: The Government of India should make all out arrangements to deal with this problem.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have been repeatedly requesting to the hon. Leaders, and all the hon. Leaders have agreed that some very important matters should be allowed to be raised.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious matter being raised here. Although, there is a discussion going on, yet because of the....

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the place to cut a joke.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is a very important matter. It is a national problem and because of its importance, I am allowing this issue. There is a running commentary and disturbance going on. A Member, who has not given a notice, is standing up as if it is a matter of right. There are so many other important matters to be discussed. All the leaders have agreed that all other matters will be taken up at 6 p.m. However, you want to intervene at your sweet will. Let us have some semblance of procedure here and a sense of responsibility.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These comments are not wanted. Except Shri Mohan Rawale's remarks, no other comment will be recorded. Let us do the business very seriously.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that I have to remind you every time.

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than one thousand people have died so far in the entire Maharashtra including Mumbai. 525 persons have died in Mumbai alone and 300 in Thane. Thousands of people have died due to heavy rains in the whole of Maharashtra. The entire Mumbai is water logged. These people were talking about making it Shanghai. They have not been able to make it Shanghai but it has vanished.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that the Central Government gets revenue worth Rs. 57,723 crores from Mumbai city alone and the Government have provided assistance of only Rs. 500 crores only. Mumbai has suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 15 to 20 thousand crores. 21 thousand 'Chaals' are in a dilapidated condition there. Many huts have been washed away and a number of houses are in the danger of collapse due to waterlogging. Not only in Mumbai but in all areas of the entire Maharashtra like Thane, Kalyan and Damboli etc. water level has moved upto three story. There should be permanent solution of the flood-problem. Drains should be cleansed. Our members from the Thane Lok Sabha constituency, Shri Prakash Pranjpe ji is also sitting here. He has also stated that water has inhundated all areas and extensive damage has been caused.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please make your demand instead of comments.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, there should be a permanent arrangement of drainage and the rain waters which get accumulated should be drained out. The situation prevailing today is that there is water all around Marathwada, Raigarh, Konkan, Sangli and Pune, etc. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhu has already said that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I, through you, would like to request the Central Government to release at least Rs. 5000 crores as assistance to Mumbai alone and Rs. 10,000 crores for the entire Maharashtra. The train services have been discontinued. The situation has become very critical there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall be able to speak in this regard only when you take your seat. Please take your seat?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, there should be a permanent arrangement for flood-proofing. What happens in foreign countries should also be followed here. Wherever there are flood waters in foreign countries that is drained out with the help of pumps. This should also be put in place here. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your turn will come, Mr. George. If you go on interrupting, I will not call you. Your issue is not about Mumbai floods and yet you are interrupting.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): I am not interrupting, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that some other issue is going on. I do not appreciate this. This is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not take much time for other cities to collapse if Mumbai collapses. You had assured that you will ask the Prime Minister to reply in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Now please take your seat.

[English]

Please sit down. I trust that the matter being very serious, the Government will take proper note and take appropriate measures.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat? If you do not need the Chair, then why have you put somebody on the Chair?

12.39 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re: Reported irregularities in the allotment of land to Co-operative Group Housing Societies in Delhi

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know what to do. Please have a little patience and some respect for the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has to sit and you are not doing any favour to anybody.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI raided almost 75 places in Delhi the day before yesterday and unearthed a land scam involving an amount of approximately 5000 crore rupees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. High Court had admitted the case under its jurisdiction of this case and was trying continuously for the last one year to get the above mentioned scam investigated. The observations by the hon. High Court is very serious.

[English]

"Rejecting the contention of the Union Urban Development Ministry on the housing policy for economically weaker sections of the society, the Court wondered how a scam of this magnitude was taking place in the Capital, the seat of President, Prime Minister and the Supreme Court."

[Translation]

A land scam involving an amount of Rs. 5000 crore was taking place in the area of Delhi in which the Prime Minister and the President of India reside and the Supreme Court of India is situated. The hon. High Court was repeatedly directing the concerned authorities to investigate the matter. CBI raided some of the places in this connection just before the date of hearing of the case. Consequently, a scam to the tune of 4-5 thousand crore rupees was unearthed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is that out of 1900 societies 800 have become defunct. The lands which was to be allotted to these societies was unsurped by the builders and the land mafia, they started selling that land. The Ministry has stated in its affidavit that it is taking 25 thousand rupees from the persons belonging to weaker sections for allotting them flats but no one from the weaker section of society got a flat even after depositing 25 thousand rupees and the flats meant for them were sold to the rich and influential people on power of Attorney.

It has been stated about a Minister of the Government of Delhi that CBI raided his Department-three times. Despite, such a big scam, the Ministry and CBI have stated that they do not have adequate staff to conduct through investigation in this matter. The hon. High Court have rebuked them and instructed the Ministry to provide them adequate staff and money and also to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of D.I.G.

I would like to advice the hon. Minister not to place the matter under the carpet, the Government should not protect some selected persons whether he is a politician or a Minister of the Government of Delhi or any other person. The whole plot should be unearthed and the directions of the hon. High Court should be complied with so that the guilty persons could be punished and the legitimate poor people can get the plots which were originally allotted to them.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, since the subject has already attracted a lot of attention of the electronic media, print media, and as it is also a matter of grave concern for all of us, the Members of Parliament, I would like to speak on the facts ascertained by me so far in connection with the reported scam in the allotment of land to the Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi are as follows:—

DDA in discharge of its obligation for providing shelter to different categories of persons makes houses of different categories on its own and also allots land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies, besides, giving some plots under Rohini Registration scheme or plots in lieu of large-scale acquisition of land.

[Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad]

In September, 2003, DDA asked the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi to verify and forward names of 80 Cooperative Group Housing Societies for consideration of allotment of land by the Authority.

I wish to clarify here that while DDA allots land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies, the list of societies in order of their seniority, with duly verified membership of the same are forwarded to the Delhi Development Authority by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi.

Since the number of plots available with DDA for allotment to Cooperative Group Housing Societies was limited, it was intimated to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi that names of eligible societies be forwarded by 31st October, 2003.

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, however, continued to send more and more names. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi forwarded in different installments a total of 135 societies to DDA.

In the meantime, allegations were being levelled as regards the *inter se* seniority of the Cooperative Group Housing Societies recommended by the Registrar as also the membership of the societies, which were alleged to be bogus.

In the meantime, a writ petition was filed in the High Court of Delhi titled Yogiraj Krishna CGHS *vs* DDA and Others making allegations with reference to the list of 35 societies sent by Registrar of Cooperative Societies on 30th May, 2004. Therefore, the DDA referred the entire matter to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies for proper verification and report before allotment of land could be considered to the Cooperative Group Housing Societies.

On the basis of the verification and investigation done by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi, it was noticed that indeed there were irregularities in the entire process of forwarding of names and verification of the membership of the Cooperative Group Housing Societies.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the DDA and the Lt. Governor Mr. Joshi. In July 2005, it was the Lt. Governor of Delhi who ordered that five cases, *viz.*, Taj Society, Sartaz Society, AMP Society, Venkateshwar Society and Rajeshwari Society be referred to the CBI for investigation and in respect of the remaining 130 cases, inquiries be conducted by the Departmental officials. So, it was the Lt. Governor who has initiated the CBI inquiry and let there be no illusion on that. The CBI took up investigation of these cases which were referred by the Lt. Governor and conducted raids on 1st August, 2005 at the residences of some officials and alleged scamsters.

The hon. High Court of Delhi—it came into the picture later on—in the matter pending before it, passed an order on 2nd August, 2005 that all the 135 cases should be investigated by the CBI. So, as a matter of fact, it was the Lt. Governor who initiated this. I think there is a misgiving that a scam has taken place. No scam has taken place. It has been prevented by the active participation of vigilant officers of the DDA.

Thus, it will be seen that no land has been allotted to any of these 135 Cooperative Group Housing Societies. Their names had only been forwarded by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi to DDA. But DDA returned them back for proper scrutiny and verification. During this verification, irregularities came to notice; hence the investigation.

In this case, as a matter of fact, that scam has been prevented by the vigil and caution exercised by the DDA and the Lt. Governor.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, let me assure this House that once the CBI inquiry ordered by the Lt. Governor and subsequently also by the High Court, is complete the Government will take stern and exemplary action against those found guilty.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The only point I am asking is referring it to 2003. In 2003, there was Congress Government in Delhi.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Did I say who has done it?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not charged the DDA. I have charged the Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Did I say who is responsible? I have not said that. I have even said no scam has taken place. The vigilant officers of the DDA have prevented a scam.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The charge is not against the DDA. The charge is against the Delhi

Government's Registrar of Cooperative Societies against whom you should take action.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Did I say, 'You have done it', or 'He has done it'? I have only given the sequence.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already responded to this. In a sense you are lucky that your matter has been responded to. Others are not so lucky.

Now, Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, only on the turban issue.

12.49 hrs.

Re: Ban on wearing Turbans in schools by students belonging to the Sikh Community in France

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): There is a serious issue concerning the Sikh community. The French Government have enacted an Act which prohibits the school going children from attending schools while wearing turban. It has caused strong reactions not only in India but in the entire world. Due to strong reaction of the people and the compulsion of wearing turbans for the Sikhs, I had met the then Minister of External Affairs of France who is at present the Prime Minister during his visit to India. At that time, I was a Minister in the Union Cabinet. The then External Affairs Minister of France was the Chairman of Minority Commission also and he had assured us to do the needful. After that, I met Dr. Manmohan Singh when he became the Prime Minister. Perhaps, he tried his best. Hon. Azad Saheb had assured us in last session of the House that the Government would try to solve the problem by having talks with the French Government. I have written letter to the Prime Minister, but got no answer till date.

I request that the Government of India should take up this issue with the French Government to sort out this problem and the House should also be informed in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, this is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since the Minister is responding, please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I have checked up with the External Affairs Minister. Earlier also, I had written to the External Affairs Minister and he has written me back on our request and on the request of the hon. Members, it was taken up with the French Government. I have checked up with the Ministry today also. According to the French law, in public schools, the display of religious symbols is not allowed. It is not only with regard to one religion but according to the Ministry that even the Christians are not allowed to wear the big 'Cross' in the schools. So are not the Jews allowed to use the cap. So are not the Muslims girls allowed to use the scarf on the head. Similarly, the Sikhs are not allowed to use the turban.

The Ministry has taken up with the French Government on a number of occasions. Last meeting has taken place only last month. I have been informed by the Ministry that in some schools, a formula has been worked out between the French Government and those who are running the schools and the community that instead of wearing a turban, they have been allowed to use '*patka*'. Most of the school boys have agreed to follow this formula but in some schools, children are still resisting. As I said, the Government of India is still in continuous process of dialogue and the matter has been taken up as late as last month.

[English]

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, we came to know that the Union Government has decided to impose a ban on non-iodised common Salt in the entire country. As a first step in this regard, the non-iodised common Salts will be banned from August 15, 2005, as per the announcement made by the Union Health Minister, Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss.

We are well aware that common Salt is manufactured in our country by poor people. Mahatma Gandhi's Salt *Satyagraha* Movement, popularly known as '*Dandi Yatra*' took place in 1930. Now, we are celebrating the 75th year of the Gandhi's Salt *Satyagraha*. From 1977 to 1979 Central Government had encouraged the small-scale Salt manufacturers by giving them railway wagons at concessional rates for supply of Salt. Due to the above

[Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi]

concession given to the small scale Salt manufacturers, they not only started producing more Salt in our country but also exporting Salt to foreign countries.

If the selling of common Salt is banned, the livelihood of lakhs of poor salt workers, thousands of small scale manufacturers and merchants will be unnecessarily and unjustifiably affected, which will also create unemployment problem. Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice that alcoholic liquors, cigarettes, *bidis, pan parag,* etc. which are injurious to health, are allowed to sell throughout the country, without any ban. But consumption of common Salt, which is not injurious to health, and which will not affect anybody's health will be banned.

Out of the total production of Salt, only 40 per cent is used for human consumption and the major portion, that is, 60 per cent is used for industrial purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have effectively raised the issue.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI: Iodine is a chemical to be imported from foreign countries at heavy costs.

The common salt is sold at Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per kilogram but the price of iodised salt is Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per kilogram. There is a hike in price of common salt. It will affect the poor people very much. Our beloved leader Dr. Kalingnar has written to our hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Health Minister on 22nd July, 2005 requesting him to kindly take care of the interests of the salt producers and at the same time, not to be against making of iodised salt. It is also necessary for keeping good health. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I request through you to kindly save the livelihood of lakhs of poor people and thousands of salt manufacturers and salt merchants.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I have allowed you to raise it. It is very well done. Shri Mahtab will associate with it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I had been trying to raise this issue in 'Zero Hour' for the last three times. To my ill luck, it could not come, 'Zero Hour' was not held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' under the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to mention here what my Sister has just now mentioned about idoised salt. In this manner, by this notification which is going to be implemented from 15st of August, an attempt is being made by the Government to market only the packaged salt. Iodised salt is being manufactured today in different sacks. At least 71 per cent of iodised salt is manufactured in Gujarat alone. Next comes Tamil Nadu. But the common salt is sold as it is and not packaged. An impression is being created throughout the country especially by this notification as though iodised salt is only the packaged salt. It is not so. How will a common user identify whether this salt is an iodised salt, if it is sold in open market in loose manner? Do you mean to say that by selling iodised salt, we have to advertise only the packaged salt?

There is another economics which goes into with the packaged salt. This year is the year of 75th anniversary of *Dandi March*. I would request the Government let by the Congress Party to impress upon the Health Minister, at least to restrain him not to empower the Food Inspector who will go round the market places and hound up those businessmen, small traders saying that this is not the iodised salt. This way, the general public, in effect, will be at a loss and so also the salt workers. Thousands of salt workers are working only in Gujarat or in Tamil Nadu but also in West Bengal, in Orissa, in Maharashtra, in Rajasthan and in Andhra Pradesh. These are eight States where thousands of salt workers will be affected. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The Government should withdraw it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel him. He has done it, on his own, in two matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Why are they doing it from 15th of August? It is ironical. It is re-engineering of independence process. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Health Minister is not here.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINSTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I can only convey it to the Health

Minister. I will convey it to the Health Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They are killing the workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded.

[Translation]

Your speech is not going in record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as the Union Government towards a very serious and important issue which is leading to a peculiar situation in the country. What will happen to the privilege of the Prime Minister if the hon. Supreme Court or the Judiciary start determining the criteria regarding the qualification for members to be inducted in the cabinet?

13.00 hrs.

Is it not tantamount to the interference of the Judiciary? I want to know the causes leading to this weired situation even though jurisdiction of the Judiciary, Legislature and Executive have been clearly segregated in our Constitution. So, I want to know. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Should we appoint Telgi the Finance Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No such interruptions will be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, you make your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

HRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The issue of tainted Leader of Opposition will also be settled by the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)* So, please do not say so. This issue is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): You will also get entrapped. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not demean yourself by accusing one another. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal ji, you please sit down.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I presume that there seems to be a direct intervention of the Judiciary into the Parliamentary Democratic system and Parliamentary Procedure and tradition and the Judiciary is trying to cross its limits on some issue for the last 6 months. Where will the discussion in this regard take place, after all? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of the Parliament democracy. Therefore, I would like to request you to explain to us whether the Executive, the Judiciary and legislature in this country will remain within their limits or lock horns with each other. This is a very critical situation. Therefore, I am raising this question because it is not an issue related with some individual and party and your ruling is required in this case. what is the reaction of the Central Government on this issue? In this regard, the opinion of all the Hon'ble Members and the leaders of all the parties must also be sought. This is a very important issue. Malhotraji, you speak if it suits you, but what will happen, if the Judicial activities start running in this direction? Then the people like us, who perform parliamentary duties, will prove to be worthless. It means that we people are a complete failure in carrying out our Parliamentary responsibilities. Therefore, despite all the existing sections and the provisions in the Constitution of India, there is an intervention of the Judiciary. This is an act of transgression. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite your special attention because you are not only the learned speaker of our house but also the great custodian of the Parliamentary democracy today. Therefore, we are concerned whether the Parliamentary democracy would survive or it will be transgressed? Every day, you must be witnessing that the law is just now being made. They say that the Parliament should make laws only when the Government furnishes the details of amount to be spent thereon. So many things are being put to restraints through Judiciary. I don't want to speak in the House because you will avoid it, otherwise I think that some hon'ble Members should resolve to protect the Parliamentary democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MD. SALIM: One former Chief Justice has said that 20 per cent of the Judges are corrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except the submission of Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We, hon. Members should take resolution to make very sacrifice to protect the Parliamentary Democracy. A resolution should be passed in the Parliament that we will not tolerate any transgression and intervention into the Parliamentary democracy and the provisions contained in the constitution of India. A motion to this effect, should be passed in the Parliament and you should give ruling in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): He should not be given such a free hand to speak here. Intervention into the functions of Judiciary should be avoided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You people, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, while I associate with my colleague Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, please take your seat. Your statement is not being recorded. Please co-operate with the Chair.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I co-operate with the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: You think so, but you do not.

Now, only Mr. Rupchand Pal's statement will be recorded.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the observation of the Supreme Court made last Monday, is an interference with the prerogative of the Prime Minister to choose his Council of Ministers. It is a very serious matter. The Apex Court has indicated that in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution and citizens' rights to clean governance, the Supreme Court may examine the issue of tainted Ministers.

It is interference. The three organs of the parliamentary democracy of our State—the Judiciary, the Executive and the Parliament—have autonomous regions. It is interference with the rights and infringement of the conventions. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is an important issue. We should have a structured debate on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with what you say. I am sure some hon. Members will give notice on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Malhotra ji, you are not getting it, please sit down.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we cannot do it in 'Zero Hour'. 'Zero Hour' does not mean that we can do anything and everything in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the matter. We will discuss it, as you suggest.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, with all respect to the judiciary, I am constrained to make an observation that one former Chief Justice has publicly stated that 20 per cent of the Judges are corrupt. Could it be like that the Parliament would scrutinise the performance of the Judges? The interference that we are noticing is a serious matter. We all should be careful that no organ intrudes into the autonomous region of the State. We are a parliamentary democracy. We have well-laid conventions. The observations of the Supreme Court is a blatant interference with the Prime Minister's prerogative to choose his Council of Ministers. So, it is a serious matter.

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m. when we will have an important discussion.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The 'Matters under Rule 377' listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to provide Central assistance to the Government of Orissa for providing relief to the people affected by drought in South Orissa

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, through you I draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Union, Agriculture Minister regarding the alarming drought situation in south Orissa, particularly in Ganjam and Gajapati districts. During this monsoon there has not been adequate rain in most of the parts of these two districts. The cultivators are even not able to put seeds in the fields till now. Paddy is the main crop of the area. There are also no adequate irrigation facilities. So, I request the Union Government through you Sir, to instruct the State Government to take immediate measures in helping the poor farmers by providing central assistance to meet the situation.

(ii) Need to clear pending proposals of rural development projects of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted following four proposals to the Union Government regarding rural development:—

1. Revival of Sub-Mission Programme & Clearance of Projects worth Rs. 685.00 crores the project will over 2,682 inhabitation with safe drinking water.
2. Leveraging the annual allocation of PMGSY for Rs. 900 crores.
3. Integrated RWS and Environmental Sanitation Project for onward submission to World Bank through the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
4. Request to extend National Old Age Pension Scheme to all the old age pensioners in the State and to enhance the assistance from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200/- per month.

As these proposals are pending for long, I urge upon the Central Government to clear these projects at an early date.

(iii) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Arupadai Vedugal Tourist Circuit

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In Tamil Nadu, Lord Muruga blesses the devotees in six places. They are *viz.*, Palani (Near Madurai and Coimbatore), Tiruchendur (Near Toothukudi), Swamimali (Near Kumbakonam/Thanjavur), Tiruthani (Near Kancheepuram and Chennai), Palamuthircholai (Near Madurai). Apart from domestic tourists, the foreign tourists especially from Malaysia and South Africa visit the above six abodes of Lord Muruga in their tour itinerary. Moreover, most of the temples are located near major tourist centres like Madurai, Combatore, Tanjavur/Kumbakonam, Kancheepuram and Chennai. The development of these places would facilitate the foreign and domestic tourists to visit these places in large numbers thereby extending their duration of stay in the above mentioned places.

Considering the importance of the visit of "Arupadai Veedugal' by foreign tourists, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, an undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu has also included the above places in its "14 day Sunny South Tour". The 'Arupadai Veedugal Tourist Circuit' should be developed by allocating necessary funds from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

For the development of Tourist Circuit the Commissonerate of Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu

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*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

has already sent a proposal to the Union Government for the grant of Rs. 798.97 lakhs.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to make immediate necessary action on the above proposal.

(iv) Need to restore the arrangement of seat reservation in Puja Express for passengers commuting on Rewari-Jaipur route

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2414 Jaipur bound Puja Express, originating from Jammu Tawi, has been declared as a fully sleeper train on 10 July, 2005. Prior to this, there was provision for sitting reservation in the train.

From the Harsoli, Alwar, Ajarka, Khairtal, Rajgarh, Bandikui, Dausa stations of my Lok Sabha constituency, hundreds of daily commuters travel by this train in the morning and come back to their houses in the evening. After declaring this train as fully sleeper train, since 10 July, the passengers commuting between Rewari and Jaipur are facing a lot of problems. I would like to request the Railway Minister to retain the arrangement of sitting reservation during the day time as it was earlier and add atleast 5 boggies of general class.

(v) Need to provide permanent Shelters for tsunami affected people in Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): In the aftermath of Tsunami, the administration of Andaman and Nicobar Island provided temporary shelters to the survivors. For this, the Government also built houses of the tin-sheets to accommodate the affected people who are mostly tribals. Is it safe to provide such housing for the survivors considering the sorching summer. Whether these houses which have no flooring will be rendered useless in the light of the fast approaching Monsoon. Whether, the ecology and the health factor had been considered before a decision to build houses of tin sheets was taken. Further, the request of tribals for providing them tools was not considered particularly when the Supreme Court had removed the ban on cutting trees for the purpose of housing the survivors.

In Tamil Nadu, near the city of Chennai, a few hundred houses of the victims of Tsunami were gutted by fire and they suffered again by losing all their valuables. The Government should provide permanent shelters for these Tsunami affected people/families immediately.

(vi) Need to accord the status of an International Airport to Jaipur Airport and also name it after Maharaja Mansingh

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur Airport has undergone all round development and several international air services have also commenced from Jaipur for which enough arrangements of landing and taking off of planes have been made.

I would like to request the Union Government to declare the Jaipur airport as an international airport and rename it in the name of the Maharaja Mansingh ji of Jaipur.

(vii) Need to chalk out remedial measures to safeguard the interests of coconut growers whose crops have been affected due to disease and continued drought in Tumkur district, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): During last 4 years, there have been no rain in the State of Karnataka particularly in Tumkur district. The ground water level has gone down upto 600-700ft. The coconut trees are affected with deadly disease like black mite/Nusi Roga which is destroying the entire crop in Tumkur as well as in neighbouring districts *i.e.* Kolar, Bangalore rural district, Part of Chikmagalur and Hassan. The coconut, nuts are reduced to very small size. The coconut trees become very thin and only 4-5 coconuts per bunch survive and that too in a very bad shape. Agriculturists who are purely depending upon the coconut gardens are suffering a log and have no other source of livelihood.

We have called out some project to protect the sufferings of agriculturists like cane growers, coffee growers, the package has to be promulgated in the interest of coconut agriculturists.

I therefore urge upon the Government to take immediate step to assess the alarming situation and take precautionary measures to eradicate the deadly disease of Coconut trees and grant compensation to the coconut agriculturists by assessing the loss suffered by them.

(viii) Need to increase the amount of medical allowance being given to retired Central Government Employees in Uttaranchal

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the medical allowance being given to retired Central Government Employees. Alongwith pension the retired employees get a meagre amount of Rs. 100/- as medical allowance. The places where Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Dispensaries do not exist (especially in Uttaranchal) the pensioners have to pay more than hundred rupees as consultation fee to the doctor and even the medicines are very costly.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that the amount of medical allowance being given to the pensioners of the Central Government be increased to Rs. Five hundred.

(ix) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Karnataka for fortification of sea embankments in Dakshina Kannada

[English]

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): Sea erosion has been wreaking havoc on the coastline of dakshina Kannada engulfing fishing jetties settlements of fishermen community and mangroves. Sea erosion has been silently uprooting hamlets and threatening jetties and moorings, forcing the fishermen community to pull back to interiors.

Despite long-pending proposals to address this menace through long term anti-erosion measures, the Centre is yet to respond to the gravity of the situation. Allocations being too inadequate, the present measures to check erosion, on ad-hoc basis, do not provide an enduring solution. A proposal for fortification of sea embankments, on vulnerable stretches is pending with the Central Water Commission for clearance and allocation of Central funds.

The Centre could also pose this proposal for overseas financial assistance either from Japan or Netherlands who have the necessary measures successfully carried out along Bangladesh coastline.

(x) Need to resume plying of Mahanadi Express on Betul-Nagpur-Bilaspur route

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a train runs daily from Bhopal to Chhattisgarh State (for Bilaspur and Durg). The train 8226 namely Mahanadi Express depart from Bhopal thrice a week *i.e.* Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and arrive Bilaspur *via* Itarsi-Betul-Bagpur and Raipur and 8254 Amarkantak Express depart from Bhopal the other four days of the week *i.e.* Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday and arrive Durg *via* Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni-Bilaspur. from Bhopal both these trains depart at the same time. Thus, three days it runs in the name of Mahanadi Express and four days it runs in the name of Amarkantak Express.

But, from 15-16 July Mahanadi Express running three days a week *via* Betul-Nagpur-Raipur has been withdrawn and Amarkantak Express which plies four days a week *via* Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni-Bilaspur-Durg is being run seven days a week. With the withdrawal of 8335/8226 Mahanadi Express the people who want to go Bilaspur from Bhopal *via* Itarsi-Betul-Nagpur-Gondia-Rajnandgaon-Durg-Raipur are facing many problems. The train Mahanadi Express was a major train connecting three states namely Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. A large number of people were dependent on it. Even, the railway was also earning a handsome amount there from. Now, the passengers of this route are facing a lot of problems and there is resentment among the people and they are staging demonstration at various places.

Therefore, plying of Mahanadi Express, which used to run between Bhopal and Bilaspur *via* Betul-Nagpur-Rajnandgaon-Drug thrice a week should be resumed.

(xi) Need to set up an All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Madurai, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): AIIMS is Pioneering medical research institute in the country in the National Capital and there is a need to have some more similar institutes in other country. Even after 57 years of

[Shri P. Mohan]

independence, we do no have a well equipped Research and Referral hospital in Tamil Nadu which has a well established health care network.

It would be better if a medical sciences and research institute is set up by the Centre in Tamil Nadu. Madurai city is centrally located to all the southern districts and the Government hospitals and private hospitals in the region have to refer their patients to various hospitals in Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad. Since Madurai is second biggest city in Tamil Nadu has got 150 years old Erskine hospital now called Government Rajaji Hospital. With a well-knit health conscious society more open to allopathic medical system, Madurai would be an appropriate place to establish a Research Referral hospital like AIIMS that would benefit not only the residents of Tamil Nadu but also people from Southern State. Hence I urge upon the Union Government and Union Health Ministry in particularly to set up Medical Sciences and Research institute at Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

(xii) Need to look into the incident of non-implementation of labour laws by Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India Ltd.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): From the incidents of Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India Ltd., Gurgaon it is observed that the Company denied rights of the workers to form Union. The management also retrenched four workers and suspended twenty-five others on the plea of formation of Union. Since, the Company is a foreign multinational, I want to know from the Government whether the Cabinet had allowed relaxation of labour laws while according Cabinet approval for investment in India. If no such relaxation was given, the Government must take stern legal action against the Company for denying laws of the land which led to such unfortunate incident of police atrocities on workers.

(xiii) Need to take suitable measures to check incidents of terrorism in J&K

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kashmir has been bearing the brunt of terrorism and violence since 1983-84.

The action being taken by the Union Government and the presence of the Central security forces realize the responsibility of the Government but terrorism and violence are continuing. Even the talks with the neighbouring country do not seem to bring any decline in such type of incidents. In the neighbouring country which imparts training to the terrorists. Each and every resident of Kashmir has same information about the infiltrators and the terrorists. But, he does not want to share the said information with the police officers because a sense of fear has developed in his mind if he informs the police he would be killed. There is need to pay attention in this regard. Even after a period 20 years we have not been able to seal the border fully.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that to tackle the problem of terrorism it should identify the possible hide outs and enhance the level of monitoring. Along with it the Government should warn Pakistan that it should stop terrorist activities and wind up training camps otherwise it could lead to jeopardise the peace dialogue. Keeping in view the above aspects the Government should formulate an effective action plan so that the problem of terrorism could be tackled.

(xiv) Need to open a computerized railway reservation counter at Rath in Hamirpur Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh and provide civic amenities at the nearby railway stations

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as there is no computerized railway reservation counter at Rath in my Parliamentary constituency Hamirpur, I as well as the people of my constituency are facing a lot of difficulties in getting our railway reservation. I have already written a letter to the concerned railway authorities in this regard. There is a policy of the Government to open on computerized reservation counter in each district, but Hamirpur district is still deprived of such reservation counter under the said policy. Rath is most suitable and convenient place for opening reservation counter in Hamirpur district. By opening reservation counter at Rath a substantial increase would certainly take place in the revenue of the railways. Due to small sheds to Harpalpur, Mahoba, Ragol railway stations the passengers have to face problem in the rainy and summer season. The toilets of the above stations are filthy and they are not cleaned property. There is also no proper arrangement for drinking water at these stations. There is not arrangement of boarding and lodging for VIP's in the waiting rooms. Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti train run between Nizamuddin and Manikpur thrice

a week, it should be run on daily basis. The number of general passengers of the said train is so large that they have to travel on the roof of the train. Therefore, the number of general coaches which is six should be increased so that accidents could be averted in future.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take concrete steps for solving all the said problem in the public interest without any further delay.

(xv) Need to provide special package for Industrial Development in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is an industrially backward State of the country. There are very few industries here. The Union Government have approved special package giving income tax and excise tax exemption to the companies in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir. There is need of a similar package in view of poverty and unemployment in Bihar. So that Bihar could become industrially develop and the traders could set up their factories there. After bifurcation of Bihar no industry has left there.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister of Commerce and Industry to provide special package to Bihar like other states for industrial development over there.

(xvi) Need to consider the order making the manufacturing and selling of common salt a punishable offence

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): The Salt Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi won for common man the right to produce and use common salt. Now in free India we find a move to take away that right. Common salt does no harm and it is non-hazardous. From time immemorial common salt is produced in India especially in Tamil Nadu in small land holdings in the coastal salt is produced in India especially in Tamil Nadu in small land holdings in the coastal areas. Salt importing countries want to have only non-iodized common salt. It is only for people living in hilly region, iodized salt is advised to avoid goiter. But Union Health Ministry, I am afraid, is stretching it bit too far. Under Food Adulteration Act, preparation and selling common salt has been made a punishable offence. This must be rescinded. Sublimable iodine to be mixed in common salt has to be imported. To avoid its evaporation iodized salt is packed in polythene sacks which all add to cost. This affects environment friendly bio-degradable jute cultivation also. With this it has been made easy only for big MNCs to prepare and sell salt in India. All has those who consume common salt are not affected by goiter. But overdose of iodine can result in kidney loading, heart attack and impotency. Of the total common salt manufactured, 40% is used for good and 60% goes for industrial use like tanning. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to reconsider its order making the manufacture and selling of common salt a punishable offence.

(xvii) Need for doubling of railway line between Kharagpur and Midnapore in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): There is single railway line between Kharagpur Junction and Midnapore railway stations in South Eastern Railways, which requires to be doubled. More than sixty-five passenger, express and Super-Fast Express train including Rajdhani Express ply every day. The first Railway Budget of the present Government has taken up this line for the survey work. Not it has been done. The estimated cost is around Rs. 44 crores. The proposal is placed before the Ministry for doubling this six kilometre long railway line with a new railway bridge over river Kosai in between Midnapore and Gokulpur Railway Stations.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to sanction the aforesaid project at the earliest.

(xviii) Need for early construction of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWARD PATIL (Beed): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) railway line fall in my constituency Beed-Maharashtra. The amount of around 40 crores of rupees allotted for this railway line has not been spent as yet. Approval for the amount was given in the year of 1997. The work worth about 15 crores of rupees related to the land settlement has been completed but no payment for this purpose has been made. There are 113 small and big bridges on this line whose proposal is pending with Board for approval.

Partial construction work for Ahmednagar-Narayandgadh stretch of this railway line has been carried during out during the last five years and now the work has been stopped there. The completion of this new rail

[Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad Patil]

line seems to be impossible if work is done at such a snails pace. If this trend continues the funds allocated will remain unspent. And thus this railway line would not be completed. There is a need to complete construction work of the new rail line in Beed the most backward Lok Sabha Constituency of the country.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to pay attention to it personally and get the unspent amount of Rs. 42 crores spent on construction of the above said. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) new rail line till March, 2006 and provide more than 100 crores of rupees giving special importance towards the necessity of construction of this line during the budget of 2006-07.

(xix) Need to issue order of Delimitation Commission regarding delimitation of the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Pondicherry

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The Delimitation Commission of India carried out the delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Commission, after following the due process of procedure as laid down by the Delimitation Act, completed the task of delimitation of Constituencies on 30.3.2005. The same was published in the Official Gazette of Government of India and vernacular paper on 31st March, 2005. It is understood that the Commission has sent the order copies to his Excellency the President of India and Parliament through the Ministry of Law & Justice. However, the Ministry of Law and Justice has not issued the order communicating the date from which the order of Delimitation Commission will come into effect. The people of Pondicherry are at loss to understand the delay of four months in issuing the order by the Ministry of Law and Justice. This has raised needless confusion and suspicion in the mind of the public and political parties whether the delimitation of constituencies will be applicable for the next Assembly elections due in May 2006.

It is requested that the Ministry of Law and Justice should clarify its position in this regard immediately so that political parties can be certain of their activities in the future.

(xx) Need to grant approval to Kehmil multipurpose project in J&K

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Kehmil Nallah Tributary of river Jhelam is flowing from Kazinag to join river Jhelam after joining another Nallah called Puhru. The area of 32 km. in which Kehmil plays havoc, right and left, has undergone a big lose due to the floods. Every year this revulet is grabbing hundreds of acres of land and rendering it useless from the next farming year. The constant habit of Kehmil, changing its course, year after year has made that beautiful portion of Kashmir valley ugly and unproductive.

I urge upon the Government to give approval to the multipurpose Kehmil project so that embankment of Kehmil becomes a reality and thereby the reclamation of vast area of land and generation of power through a mini hydel project becomes possible. This project can also give promotion to tourism and recognition of Bungus Valley will become possible. Thus the benefits of this multipurpose project can address the employment problem to a great extent in that area of Kupwara District.

14.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Statement made by the Prime Minister on 29.7.05 regarding his recent official visit to the United States of America

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 21.

In the ballot, Shri Prabodh Panda's name came out as number one, and accordingly his name is there on the Agenda Paper. But Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to make his submission first and wanted to initiate the discussion. To enable him to do so, I requested Shri Prabodh Panda to accommodate Shri Vajpayee. He has very kindly agreed to that and I appreciate his response.

Now, I am very happy to invite Shri Vajpayee to initiate the discussion and I will call Shri Prabodh Panda next. Shri Vajpayee, you may sit and speak.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity on discussion of joint statement made by India and America on behalf of myself and my colleagues. I congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister on his happy and pleasant visit to America.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, several issues have been mentioned in Indo-US Agreement. Important announcements have been made regarding trade, energy, agriculture, science, technology and terrorism. We welcome the growing co-operation in the field of trade, agriculture and science between both the countries. We support the activities for mobilising new means to generate power. We are most concerned about our changing nuclear policy. India has adopted an independent nuclear policy as yet and the world has recognised this policy and also the efforts of our scientist. Be it Pokharan explosion or nuclear power plant or use of atomic power to fight cancer, our scientists have achieved many success in a number of tests during last decades in all the fields of nuclear science. It could be possible only due to our independent policy. Whether it had been the Congress or the NDA Government but none of them has made compromise with our independent nuclear policy. After nuclear explosion in Pokharan, many countries of the world had launched a campaign against us. We had to face serious economic and strategic challenges. Even in such tough circumstances the nuclear policy of India remained independent.

Despite having nuclear weapons that are strategically very important we have categorically stated that India will not use nuclear weapons first. India will not use nuclear weapons even against those countries which do not have such weapons. We have considered credible Minimum Nuclear Deterrent as the focal point of our nuclear policy. We do not want to enter in the race of weapons like other countries. We are still resolved for nuclear disarmament as we were during Nehru era. The World is having faith in us that our nuclear weapons are under non-strategic control.

No one had imposed it on us. It is our own policy. Our policy has been formulated keeping in view our requirements and ambitions and the security of our nation. We had formulated this policy after discussing with all. The Government of India had clearly declared this policy in January, 2003. The Indo-USA agreement has raised many questions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, want to put forth a few points of concerns. The most concerning point is that India has given assurance that its nuclear programme will be bifurcated in two parts as strategic and non strategic.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government must have discussed on this topic with the scientists before admitting this stipulation. The Government must be knowing the technical difficulties of this bifurcation. A more important question is whether it will not affect our strategic capability? Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the changing circumstances India's strategic requirements will also change. In this era of terrorism can we assertively say what types of weapons will we require and when? If we decide limitations of our strategic programmes, will our hands not be tied up forever in future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the nation must be taken into confidence about this indirect ban to be composed on our nuclear weapons capability.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another matter of concern in this agreement is commitment to make efforts to finalise a treaty with USA for prohibition on production of nuclear weapons. Which countries will be a part to this agreement? Does it differ from international debates going on in Geneva? If not, whether this bilateral agreement has been entered into keeping India's future interests in mind.

Supposing some nations do not accede to the terms of the agreement, will such a declaration not be a one sided prohibition to our nuclear armament production? Will it not affect adversely the safety and security of our nation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our scientist are making efforts for nuclear energy generation by using thorium available in abundance in India. In view of the ongoing international inspections will these experiments not be affected adversely by this agreement. If we succeed in developing thorium technique, all the hindrances in the use of nuclear power will end automatically.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the USA has not recognized India as the Nuclear Power State under this agreement. I will quote what USA has called India "A responsible State with advanced nuclear technology" Brazil, Canada, Germany and Japan are having ultramodern nuclear technology just like India. But the difference is that they

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

are having nuclear weapons. Will India also get all the facilities being provided to these countries inspite of this difference or Will India being a nuclear weapons country take liabilities but it will not be given any facilities? Under such complicated circumstances it is our demand to take the country in confidence on this issue. The Nuclear Policy is not a policy of any party or a Government but it is the policy of our nation. We can not undermine the need of having nation's consensus on this issue. We expect, the Government will take the House in confidence while implementing the agreement.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank you as you have given me an opportunity to go with the discussion and make my submission on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in this august House about the recently signed agreement between our Prime Minister and the US President. I also got the opportunity to listen to the observation and submission made by the hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

This agreement has far reaching consequences particularly in the areas of nuclear energy and agriculture. It is a new thing that agriculture has also been included in this agreement. So far as our foreign policy is concerned, it is based on a strong foundation of Non-Alignment Policy which was initiated by none other than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He was the architect of the foundation of Indian foreign policy. Pandit Nehru viewed the central aim of Indian foreign policy and said that it had to be democratising external relations to make prosperous phenomenon and only public opinion can put nation States on to a vital role.

Since the days of Independence, right from the days of Nehru, India is broadly following this line, though we have witnessed the trend of weakening and diluting this stand overtly and covertly at different times. The recent Joint Statement and prior to that Indo-US Defence Framework seemed to have been a deviation from India's independent foreign policy of Non-Alignment and also from the spirit of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. Hence or party, the Communist Party of India, has expressed serious concern over the Joint Statement of 18th July, 2005 and also on the Indo-US Defence framework as well. It seems that this is a continuation of the pro-US shift which was initiated by the former India Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. During the NDA regime we had noticed a trend of shifting to the US, diluting thereby the agreed national independent foreign policy. I am not going to recall those points in this context.

Our party, as a responsible national Left party, has remained opposed to the nuclear weaponisation programme which was initiated by the NDA Government after the 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran. Our party does not subscribe to the view that advocates nuclear weaponisation as a path of India being a great power State. We have consistently been arguing that India should have an independent nuclear policy. It has been our constant demand. It was the BJP-led Government at the Centre that first had shown the willingness to be a junior partner of the US in exchange of India being recognised as a nuclear weapon State by them without acquiring the legitimate position in the nuclear club. Today, even in course of his submissions, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also pointed out the something.

The current agreement is a continuation of that. It marks the end of India's independent disarmament nuclear policy. It should be noted that the US neither supported our claim for a Membership in the UN Security Council, nor has recognised India as a nuclear weapon power, but merely, as mentioned by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as a State with advanced nuclear technology. It should be noted that though India reciprocally agreed to stop nuclear testing, there has been no such commitment made by the US. It has been told that India has joined the free world and it has graduated from being a victim of discrimination to having a beneficiary status. Now we are investing our deep faith upon the Bush Administration that attacked and damaged heavily countries like Afghanistan and Iraq. We know their track record. We also know that they are continuing with blockade against Cuba and there is even apprehension of an attack being launched on North Korea.

There is an apprehension of attack on North Korea. We know their aggressive role all over the world. But in the prevailing global scenario, while USA has appeared as a more aggressive super power in the so-called unipolar world, attacking and destroying every democratic norms, and denying international democratic norms, it is ironical that our Prime Minister has signed a joint statement with President Bush with a great hope to create an international environment conducive to the promotion

of democratic values. What is painful is that with a stroke of a pen, India has become something more than a major non-NATO ally of the US. Is it in consonance with our independent Non-Alignment Foreign Policy which was initiated by no less a person than Pandit Nehru? The essence of Non-Alignment Policy is anti-imperialism. But this agreement and the recognition of USA is that India is supposed to be a junior partner of USA and something more than a non-NATO ally. Is it not a deviation?

If we come to global energy stability, the question arises whether our interest is in alignment with those of the US. We have friendly relations with Myanmar an Iran. Both these countries have gas reserves that are vital for our energy security. I recollect that hon. Minister, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, envisages to launch the novel project of India-Myanmar gas pipeline. But is there any possibility which exists after this agreement? There is enough ground of suspicions and apprehensions in this respect.

May I refer to the Prime Minister's address in Jakarta on the occasion of Africa-Asia Summit? In this respect, he told that the framework within which we produce and consume energy is determined elsewhere.

14.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I do not know what did he mean by 'elsewhere'. Whom did he want to point out? He said that we must end this anomaly. But it is quite amazing to us that his assertion to the Editor of *Washington Post* is quite different as he made a remark that the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline was fraught with risks. Why did he make such remarks? It is not understandable to us. I think he himself should clarify this point in this august House. May I ask the UPA Government as to whether a plan has been contemplated or envisaged to launch the Iran-India gas pipeline? Does it still stand? It is because he has said that it is fraught with risks. It would be an acid test for the Prime Minister and the Government so far as democratizing the international scenario with the help of this agreement is concerned.

Let me come to the issue of terrorism. Yes, terrorism is a factor of world concern. It has now become a world phenomenon. We have been suffering from that. We have been facing the challenge of terrorism and extremism in our own country. There is no doubt about that. But that does not mean that terrorism was explored only after 11th September, 2001, when the World Trade Centre was demolished in the USA. Was there no symptom of terrorism before 11th September, 2001? Take the case of Osama Bin Laden. Who created that person? Who created that extremist outfit? It was created by none other than the USA itself. Is Bush administration not constantly patronising terrorism in Latin America till today? Who designed plans to assassinate Mr. Fidel Castro? It was the USA, which did it.

Our hon. Prime Minister might be aware of the fact that the Bush administration had refused to hand over Luis Posada Carriles, who is one of the most notorious terrorists in Latin America. It is clear to us that the USA is willing to bind other countries in the name of fighting terrorism when it serves their own interests. Regarding terrorism, and terrorist activities in border areas, we have been talking of cross-border terrorism for several years. We have been talking about problems of Jammu and Kashmir for several years. What is the attitude of the USA towards Kashmir? Still they think that Kashmir is a disputed area. They want to have their presence in that area, which is called the PoK, the Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

Sir, let me be allowed to come to the agreement with regard to agriculture. It is very interesting. Both leaders, our Prime Minister and the President of the USA agreed to launch an "US-India Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture" which will focus on promoting teaching, research, service and commercial linkages. The Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology has made it clear that teaching and research would focus on bio-technology or genetic engineering, which is often referred to as second Green Revolution. This is not the first time that the US-driven agriculture agenda is being imposed on India. The Green Revolution was introduced forty years ago. We have gathered much experience since the first initiative on Green Revolution, particularly in Punjab and some other States. Has it not fuelled terrorism and extremism in eighties in Punjab? That was the outcome of the Green Revolution.

It was the Green Revolution—the US-driven Agriculture Agenda. While our leaders and the President resolve to combat terrorism relentlessly, they are promoting the technologies and trade models which serve the US corporate interests and destroy farmers' livelihood security, thus becoming the breeding ground of terrorism.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Sir, while Indian scientists and policy-makers are working out self-reliant and ecological alternation for the generation of agriculture in India, another vision of agricultural development was taking shape in American Foundation and aid agencies. There are three groups, which is known to everyone, of international agencies involved in transferring the American model of agriculture to India. One is the private American Foundations, the USA Government and the World Bank. The Ford Foundation had been involved in 1952. The Rockfeller Foundation had been involved since 1953. What is the vision? The vision was based not on cooperation with nature but on its conquest; not on the intensification of nature's process but on the intensification of credit and inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides; not on self-reliance but dependence; and not on diversity but uniformity. It is a deliberate attempt to shift India's agriculture research and agriculture policy from indigenous and colonial model to an exogenous and high input one. So, this is about agriculture.

For us, the agreements are instruments of corporate dictatorship and they are not instruments of democracy. They will fuel more anger, more discontent and more frustration. What happened in Punjab? What happened in Andhra Pradesh? They are talking about fighting extremism but extremism is growing. They are fighting for democracy but democracy is gradually ignored.

Sir, we are talking about the root of terrorism in our democratic affairs. This is the child of economically unjust and anti-democratic policies. If the distressed people are not helped, then they get violent. If they blame themselves they direct violence inwards to commit suicides. If they blame others, they turn their violence outwards.

This is the violence of extremism. So far as our domestic affairs are concerned—in relation to facing the problems arising out of terrorism—the important solution in dealing with the terror is to increase people's freedom and security by protecting their livelihoods, they culture, their right to resources and their democratic choices in how their society and lives are organised. I think and I also apprehend that the India-US Agreement on Agriculture and Science and Technology will do the opposite.

Lastly, this is to mention in this context that we might be happy with a feeling that India is considered to be a junior partner of the USA. But a junior is a junior and no more than that. The USA is the main dominating force and will be dominating over us in every aspect in the global scenario to achieve their design and we have to succumb to their will. So, this is going far from our accepted, nationally agreed and independent foreign policy. Hence, this joint statement is quite unfortunate and it is contrary to our national tradition. Therefore, it is objectionable. I express my serious concern over this agreement.

Sir, our country is an important constituent of the developing countries of this world, particularly the developing countries which came into existence after the demise of colonialism. India happened to be the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement that was initiated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and our former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi happened to be the Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement. It was basically anti-imperialism. India can make remarkable stride to face the challenge of imperialism, to face the aggressive trend of the USA. Even in the UN also, if they can call all the developing countries to come together and stand unitedly on the present occasion, they can make remarkable stride. So, this situation demands that India should stand on the occasion and not to succumb to the USA in any respect.

This agreement is totally against the nationally accepted policy. So, I object it and I express my deep concern. I also demand from the hon. Prime Minister to clarify everything. What is painful to me is this. While he was in the USA, why did he go to the extent of making such a joint statement? Why did he not take this Parliament into confidence? Mr. Prime Minister, why have you not put the matter in Parliament? Why did you not take any opinion of this Parliament? I think the hon. Prime Minister will explain everything.

With these words, I come to the end of my speech. I must end my speech by saying that once again I thank the Chair, thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker as you have permitted me to speak on this occasion, to complete my speech.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that analysts have termed the recent visit of the hon. Prime Minister to the United States as very successful, path-breaking, historic and epochal. I am sure, historians would do likewise. It was beginning with Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States some twenty years back that there has been a paradigm shift in our relations with the United States. Gradually, over the years, we

have built upon that. In this context, I would not fail to acknowledge the role of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister also. During his visit to the United States in 2001 and later while unveiling the next steps in strategic partnership in January 2004, he identified civilian nuclear activities, civilians space programmes and high technology trade as key areas of bilateral cooperation.

What saddens me today is this. Sir, I find a change in the attitudes with mere shifting of places, with mere swapping of sides. What saddened me further was that the hon. Prime Minister was still on the American soil when hon. Member Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee chose to criticise the Joint Statement. The Prime Minister in his suave manner could react to that only by saying that, perhaps, all the facts were not before the hon. leaders back home. I am surprised today that after seeing the Statement that is with us; after we knew the importance of it; after it had been universally acknowledged and acclaimed; we are still finding fault with it. At the same time, let me hasten to add that I must thank Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he has not let his back room boys to do the job for him. They did it earlier for him and he had to pay the price. Today, he has confined himself to only a few concerns. I think it is legitimate to express those concerns and it is for us to discuss those here. It would be my endeavour to try to refer to those. It may not be in that fine manner as he would articulate his feelings but I would certainly like to dwell on that. Before that, let me say, what really impelled us for this. What are the gains that we derived out of this visit and the Joint Statement and Agreement that the Prime Minister has entered into with President Bush?

It is a fact that today India is accepted as a global power and India's ego-political importance is recognised all over the world. We are on the threshold of making much bigger strides in our economic development. In that scenario of a country like the United States feels that it is mutually beneficial, it would synergise the efforts of the two countries if we get together and agree on certain things. What are those things? Are those detrimental to our interest? For once, we feel that keeping in view the amount of hydro carbons, the amount of fossil fuels that we have to import and the heavy import bills that we have to pay there, time has come for us to really rely more purposefully on nuclear energy.

I was referring to the NSSP unveiled by Shri Atal Bihari vajpayee there. That was a major initiative, a step forward but that was again limited by the technology denial regime of the United States. It was way back in 1978 that they amended their law. The United States Atomic Energy Act of 1954 was amended by the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act of 1978 under which India was categorised as a non-nuclear weapon State and thus subject to "full scope safeguards". That was the limitation placed even when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee unveiled the NSSP. Today, during this visit of the Prime Minister, the United States has agreed to amend its domestic laws. We have not accepted "full scope safeguards". I am sorry, the words being repeatedly used by the hon. Member from the other side were 'India has agreed to reduce itself to a junior partner'. Where does he infer this from the Joint Statement? Everywhere the emphasis is only on these words, 'on the basis of equality and reciprocity'.

It has been repeatedly said. Sir, a point was made out—not in the House today but outside—that, maybe, we are being bound in a trap. "We have agreed to certain things. The United States might as well back out of it". Where do they infer this from? Please look at the emphatic statement of the Prime Minister. Sir, I would only like to refer to one or two lines therefrom.

> "We have ensured the principle of non-discrimination. I would like to make it very clear that our commitments would be conditional upon, and reciprocal to, the United States fulfilling its side of this understanding. The Joint Statement refers to our identifying, and separating Indian civilian and military nuclear facilities in a phased manner and taking a decision to place voluntarily civilian nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards. India will never accept discrimination."

Indian actions will be contingent at every stage on actions taken by the other side. Should we not be satisfied that our interests are fully secured? We shall not feel pressed to move ahead in a pre-determined manner. What more could we expect? Where is the question of junior partnership? There is no element, no streak of subsidiarity anywhere in this. India has entered into this agreement keeping in view our interests—to have unlimited access to nuclear fuel technology and all that we need to advance, enhance our nuclear power generation.

The hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has expressed his serious concern about our agreement to separate civil and nuclear military facilities. Sir, I do not know what really makes him so pessimistic about it. It is again the

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

refrain of the agreement. In fact, Sir, there was no discussion or whatever on NPT. We stand firm on our approach to NPT. There was no discussion about our installations as such. What we have simply agreed is this. The benefit that we derived is immense. Explicitly, it may not be that India has been recognised as a nuclear-weapon State. That was not the intent of the visit or the Joint Statement. Explicitly, the admission from the US is that India has been recognised as a responsible State with an advanced nuclear technology. What is implicit therein is that the benefit that would accrue to us would be more like as a nuclear-weapon State. What are those? They are the right to decide which facilities are of military significance, and thus outside the purview of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It is for us to decide. The Prime Minister said that in a phased manner, we will declare as to what is there. I do not have to remind the House about that. A military facility can very well be used at any time for civil purposes. At the same time, it is our prerogative, it is our sovereign right, to take out any time any civilian facility out of the domain of civilian category and treat it as a military one. That is our right.

The other benefit, Sir, is that others have accepted the responsibility in a strictly non-discriminatory manner. That is the same as nuclear-weapon States. That would be the status of India thereafter. I suppose—if I am not mistaken—there was a reference to the Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty. It was said that we had immense stocks of thorium, and that was enough for us. That has not been denied. What has been said is the reiteration of our nuclear programme, that is, a three stage nuclear programme consisting of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors in the first stage, Fast Breeder Reactors in the second stage and Thorium Reactors in the third stage.

Sir, it has been stated and an allegation has been levelled—that is what saddens me—that we compromised with our independent nuclear policy. Where do we infer that from the Joint Statement and the Statement made by the Prime Minister in this House? It will not do us good if we create such doubts in the minds of the people on this vital subject. We, keeping in view the interests of the country, have agreed to a specific thing, that is, inspections by IAEA. Placing ourselves under the guidance of the IAEA is only for our civilian facilities. We stand firm—and it has been reiterated by the Prime Minister in no uncertain words—that we have to decide as to what is our strategic need and how we go about it. There is no compromise on our minimum deterrent. Where do we infer that from? Rather that has been accepted by the US that India has reached that stage and that is our sovereign right.

Sir, a point was made that the Parliament and the country should have been taken into confidence before the Prime Minister ventured to talk to the US President. If this argument were to come from the other side six years back I could very well understand that. After having remained in Government for six long years I must honestly say I fail to appreciate this point from the other side. At the very first opportunity, the Prime Minister came to the House and made a statement that this is the agreement that we entered into with the US and we are discussing it here now. Is it physically possible and desirable also that any negotiations that any Government wishes to enter into with any other Government must first be talked of in the House or in the country outside?

Sir, I do not want to refer to the past incidents. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the External Affairs Minister, did the country know about our talks with Israel and the visits then? Nobody raised a finger about it and said that the country should know about it and the Parliament should have been told as to who is visiting which place. The country was not even taken into confidence when the External Affairs Minister of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government escorted foulmouthed terrorists to Kandhar. We did not say anything when they have taken that decision.

Sir, a reference has been made by Shri Prabodh Panda to the clause on agriculture in the Joint Statement. He is entitled to do that, but he has rushed to the conclusion that we are subordinating our efforts in promoting our agriculture to the US. He is talking of "three agencies which are at work for 24 hours to see that the US is able to overpower us".

Sir, the Statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in the House says:

> "We discussed the urgent need for modernization of India's infrastructure and our quest for greater investments in this sector, in view of its centrality for the continued growth of the Indian economy. Recognising the importance of the rural economy,..."

This is what the UPA is constantly laying emphasis on.

That is the central point of our CMP. He says, "Recognising the importance of our rural economy, we also agreed on agricultural initiative aimed at facilitating a new generation of research and agricultural practices to build on the Green Revolution". This is the purpose, this is the intent. What do we need? He goes further, 'appreciating the importance'. The Statement appreciates the importance of technology to India's economic and social development. Is that anathema to our friends here?

We have to work for our development. We have made major strides. We have to build up on that. Genetic engineering, bio-technology are the fields of future and if we cooperate with somebody else who is willing to do it on equal terms, should that be shut? In what world we want to live today? Is it the old mindset that would continue to haunt us always?

With due respect I would say that in a changing, moving dynamic world, India cannot afford to remain static. We have to move with the world. I remember, there was enough criticism 12-13 years back when we were talking of GATT and the move to WTO. Similar allegations were being levelled against us that we were pledging our sovereignty to people outside. And who was more keen to really then go ahead with the WTO agreement? Was it by removing all the quantitative restrictions in one go? We could have waited for some more time, Sir.

I do not want to digress from the subject, but I only want to say that when there are certain important matters of national concern, those are the matters on which we really must get together. Here was an occasion, this visit was an occasion, I must say, when we derived from this immense benefits. When we talk of benefits and when we claim benefits, as a responsible State, we have to accept some responsibilities as well.

What are those responsibilities? The responsibilities are: recognising our status, recognising our *de facto* position in the world today, if those powers wish to treat us as other nuclear weapon state, should we object to that? If 30 year long regime of technology denial is being shattered today—and it has been shattered by this visit of the hon. Prime Minister—do we not wish to move forward therefrom?

I would only urge that in such a situation all that we really expect is, if not applause, at least, recognition, understanding of the situation. It is their initiation, I said that to begin with. I acknowledge that. It is from there that we moved forward. I am only surprised why occasionally our friends on the BJP side use or bring in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to issue occasional statements on matters. As a senior statesman of the country, he is entitled to do it. We would like to benefit therefrom, but when there are certain matters, which we touch and I said, when the Prime Minister was on American soil, a statement was made, that does not do good to his reputation as an elderly statesman of this country. Permit me to say that. I am not entitled to say that but I feel so.

We have to really appraise the entire visit of the Prime Minister in the parameters in which it is. Where has it taken India today? How does the world look at us today? There is a reference to terrorism. Certainly, that is our cause of concern. We stood firm on our policy on cross-border terrorism or anything. We have stood firm on saying that no third-party is required to mediate between the two countries on our problem here. But at the same time, we also have to recognise that it is because of the intrinsic worth of India's policies today that the UPA has taken up—some counselling for sobriety to our neighbours. Who is doing it? It is because of the position that India commands today. It is said that we have given the command of our policies to others, we have lent it in the hands of others. When the world recognises the pre-eminent position of India, our friends here talk like this. That would do not good to the country.

I do not want to take much of your time. I would only like to urge our hon. friends here on both sides that on matters like this, there is the need of a consensus.

15.00 hrs.

Going by all that has been said elsewhere—as I said—the analysts have talked of it, and the historians will talk of it tomorrow. It is time for us to all join hands and march ahead. I am sure India would continue marching ahead. This is one such initiative, one such step, which will take us miles ahead.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister in his statement has welcomed constructive criticism. It will be in the fitness of things that Parliament debates all aspects of such a very important development.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

I shall begin with one thing. Both the hon. Prime Minister as also the hon. Defence Minister visited the United States a few weeks back and a framework, a Defence agreement—maybe reiteration of some old things—was reached. But, both of them have underscored the changes in the attitude of the United States. What are the changes? Is it so that the America has changed; or the US Administration has changed; or we have changed or the world has changed? As you know, we are ardent students of the philosophy of change. What does this change mean? Does it mean that there is no unilateralism; or the American world view has changed; or there is no hegemonistic desire; or the axis of evil is forgotten; or Iraq is very happy; or Iran is not being threatened? What is the change? If there is no change in American world view then why the other day John Bolton has been placed as the Ambassador to the United Nations. Even the democrats are opposing it. Has America agreed to the minimum demands at the WTO-level in terms of the farm subsidy or whatever it is? In the name of multilateralism they are pursuing protectionism. In our issue of Mode-4, of free movement of natural persons, so many impediments have been created. I was just wondering when Pawan Kumar Bansalji was speaking as to how the world will look at it. We have been pursuing vigorously that this is the Asian Century. The 21st Century is for Asia.

We have been pursuing vigorously trilateralism. China, India and Russia can do wonders. The Shanghai understanding for multilateral, multi-polar world is there. How will they look at it? How will the G-90 countries or the G-20 countries look at it? I do not think it is surrender, but what appears is that it is a continuation of a trend of tilting towards strategic partnership with America. It has not happened overnight. It has been happening and it has reached a dramatic stage, to an apparently radical stage. Some admirers of the Government say that they are supporting it. There is personal admiration for the hon. Prime Minister. It is not a case of any individual success or failure; it relates to the Government policies. Is it built on national consensus? Is it in conformity with the independent foreign policy that was underscored in NCMP? That is the point before us. To make this experienced quotation in the ardent manner: "Has USA changed its views, its colour?" The answer is: "No."

It is not our experience. But certainly they are agreeable to accommodate us on issues which could not be settled for more than three decades. The sanctions have been continuing unilaterally. In four or five areas they have lifted the sanctions. That is very generous. Even the very next day, when the joint statement was made, the U.K., the closest partner of America, came out with a statement, "We will continue the sanctions." This is a big question. Why are they politically doing this? It is obviously to contain China, as a counter balance in Asia and to use India *vis-a-vis* China. China has not come out openly. No one has made any comment. But when we agree to the policing of the sea land, except Singapore who had agreed to the U.S. proposal? Malaysia was against it. All the littoral States were against it. How will they take it? Will they not take it that India is a big brother? We are trying to win over our neighbours diplomatically, through economic diplomacy and through various means. I compliment this Government that they are doing very well, they are trying to do their best to win over our neighbours. We have confidence in them. In such a situation, you may be euphoric. We are not against any just, equitable, and balanced relation with anyone. There is no American phobia. We do not say that. We have no phobia like that but it should be balanced, it should be equitable and it should be just. Is it going to be like that?

The Prime Minister made a point that wide range of issues have come up. Firstly, let us take up the initiative with regard to bilateral democracy with a country which does not have the least faith in any democracy, any sovereignty of the world? Till now, what is the fate of Iraq? What is the fate of Afghanistan? What is the fate of many countries? For decades the blockade is continuing on Cuba. We have to lean democracy from them and that too bilateral democracy. How will the people world-over take it? Had it been under the United Nations' banner? Yes, it can be done. It is a continuation of the community of democrats theory of the Clinton administration which the NDA Government had agreed to. It is a continuation. How do you demarcate yourself from the earlier Government which had been surrendering to the American pressures? Every morning and every evening, secret deals were made. That secrecy was continuing. ...*(Interruptions)*

I shall come to that. We know how the earlier Government had been engaged in secret deals. At least they had the guts to come out with a *suo motu* statement.

They had the guts, which had failed them. It was secret. They had not explained. We had demanded it. They are all national chauvinistic. They said: "In Pokhran we have done this and that." Is it not this national chauvinism isolated them? With a few bombs, you cannot win the heats of the people in the world. India has always been committed to peaceful use of atomic energy from the days of Pandit Nehru. But unfortunately, without a full-fledged discussion with all the partners of UPA and with the supporters of the Government, we think that something has been done which has a serious implication.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi was for comprehensive disarmament. He was always speaking like that. He was saying, "We have heritage. We have a legacy." I was going through the speeches of our late friend, Shri Madhavrao Scindia on this very floor.

I was reading our Prime Minister's speech which was made in the other House. What will happen to nuclear disarmament? I do not say that whatever is being done is wrong. But the Government must explain, convince that there is no deviation from our committed nuclear policy for peaceful means. We have an independent Nuclear Policy. We cannot be client to anyone. We cannot subjugate ourselves to any terms and conditions. The Government owes it to the nation to explain this categorically. I believe the Prime Minister has tried to do that by saying that it is conditional and it is based broadly on reciprocity, on the basis of mutual benefits. It will be done in a phased manner. If they do not act in the right manner, then we have the autonomy, the right to proceed independently according to our national interest. He has clarified that. I appreciate that clarification.

But I believe there are certain areas where more confusion has been created. Take for example anti-terrorism. The State, which has been practising day in and day out State terrorism, trampling the rights of sovereign States, is speaking about anti-terrorism. Till they started their programme of anti-terrorism campaign, what had happened? Has it died down? Has it been reduced? It is rearing its head in newer and newer places. It has come to London. Why? There is something wrong in their approach. People the world over do not believe them. They look into their national interest.

So long as I am not touched and I am not hurt, everything is all right: I will support this; I will support Iraq against Iran; I will support Iran against Iraq. I will create one Osama bin Laden but when he is not serving me, I will call him as a terrorist. Have they stopped this double standard, dichotomy and hypocrisy? This is the question which needs to be answered to the floor of this House. Have they changed their word view? Have they changed their uni-lateralism? No, they have not changed.

Now, about our nuclear defence deal, we are proud of our scientists. From the days of Dr. Homi Bhabha, even in the face of hurdles, impediments, our scientists have done wonders. If it does not sound exaggeration, our scientists are capable of doing things which others will take generations to achieve. Those who have some idea about the level of our scientists would say that they should be given independence. Nothing should be done which may create some doubts in their minds about or independent atomic energy programme and about our independent nuclear programme.

I am not going deep into the cost of separation of military use from the civilian use or subjecting the civilians. We need our nuclear energy. But what about our independent programme? The nation needs to be assured categorically that whatever we have built up in the process, maybe, in different phases—first stage, second stage, thorium stage—should never be dismantled in the name of allowing ourselves to the scrutiny of the international authority. It is our independent programme. Those who do not believe in equity and those who want discriminatory and unequal NPT are doing these things.

What is happening? If you have oil, you are charged that you have also bomb because I want oil. If I have got oil and bomb, I will be threatened. It is happening in Iran. If you have bomb but no oil, they are proceeding. Why? It is not only the case of India. They want the energy market. The American military industrial complex wants the Indian energy, nuclear market.

Then again the conditions are there. What will happen? How the Congress will behave? He says that he will assure them; he will prevail on the nuclear suppliers group. If otherwise happens, will it be annual waiver on the Presidential authority subjecting to constant monitoring and subjugation, that if we do not behave properly like a good boy, next year the annual waiver is not going to be there. These are the issues which have happened with many other countries.

Now, the issues of nuclear deal and the annual waiver are there. Of course the Prime Minister has clarified all the conditions. If you do not proceed in the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

right track and right direction, we shall have the authority, the right, the autonomy and the independence to go out. It is for reciprocity. This is okay. The statement of the Prime Minister during the visit to USA is not to be seen in isolation. A few years back there was another very important visit of the Defence Minister of India. It goes by the name of framework agreement. It was nothing less than eyeing the Indian weapons market by the US Military Industrial Congress. What is our experience from the days of Pandit Nehru? Can we depend on them at the time of crisis? Has US any time been along with us, supporting us or standing by our side whether it is Bangladesh incidence or the case of any other conflict with any other in our neighbourhood? All along they have consistently been supporting our neighbours. They are waiving all sanctions and giving them billions and billions of economic aids to the neighbours. They are giving them F-16 and creating an atmosphere of arms race to fight with each other. Are we to believe such a country? Are we to believe the same people who have been behaving in the most hegemonistic manner? Here, we have some doubt.

I am just to put two things in contradiction. Ms. Condoleeza Rice openly stated that they are against the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline. With what authority they have stated that. She has openly stated that they are against it because of some sanctions on Libya and Iran some time in 1996 and all these things. They do not want this Gas Pipeline project. I am a great admirer of the Petroleum Minister, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I admire the way he has been functioning. Really I praise him for all the things that he has been achieving. In such a situation, we are really disheartened when the Prime Minister made an observation to the Washington Post that the Pipeline involves risk. Then the Prime Minister should see that what international consortium would come to our aid. Then, there is an observation. I think the Prime Minister will not mind it. Iran is a friend of ours. Immediately, after this UPA Government came to power, they have been waxing eloquent on Iran but we made certain observations. How will Iran react to it? That is another way of losing friends. That is not the way of winning people and friends but losing friends. It should not happen. I apologize to the Prime Minister because I am a great admirer of Dr. Manmohan Singh. He made a comment. But I am amazed to find that the BJP is criticizing the Congress. BJP has all along been engaged in secret deals. The discussion of Mr. Talbott and Shri Jaswant Singh had not been made public. Now, when they have been asked to sit down, they are crawling. They have to make it clear. Yes, there are secret deals. Now, they are criticizing the Congress.

The Congress Party, at least, has a history of anti-imperialism, great association with the freedom struggle and the foreign policy that was built up around non-alignment by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We also remember Shri Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Would you please yield for a moment? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not yielding.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You said two things. You spoke about two things: the Pokharan explosions which attracted sanctions and the NDA crawling before the United States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. Please take your seat, Mr. Swain.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If we had dared the sanctions and gone ahead with the nuclear tests, why would we have crawled before the United States? So, tell us which one is correct? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not yielding, Mr. Swain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, please continue with your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He is taking my time. I have not yielded. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record except the speech of Shri Rupchand Pal.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The hon. Prime Minister said that it was a great success but I am sorry to mention that it is not, if I use a litmus test about American

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*Not recorded.

recognition of our growing power as the largest economy and as a global power today. When the hon. Prime Minister proceeded to America, he said that he shall prevail on the American Administration for supporting our cause at the United Nations Security Council. Very unfortunately, even as the hon. Prime Minister was there, they openly supported Japan and isolated us. There was not a single word of recognition that India should have a rightful place in the Security Council as a Permanent Member. It is dichotomy; it is hypocrisy; it is a case of applying double standards.

For gaining access to our energy market, they are saying many things. For gaining access to our weapons market, they are entering into many agreements. But India is not getting the due recognition, which is not required to be given at the mercy of others—when it comes to Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council. They have not said a word in recognition of India but supported Japan openly. If you still want to consider it a successful visit, I am sorry. I have great admiration for the hon. Prime Minister. It is not individual success or individual greatness but the policy of the Government which matters. The Government needs to do some introspection.

Coming to the agreement on science and technology, the United States is a country which has all along been, for the very wrong reasons, standing in our way of development. Our eminent scientists who have been acclaimed internationally have been blacklisted by them. So, you are not to visit this country; you are not to address the students of its universities. Till now, both in the UK and in the US, there are long lists blacklisting our own scientists about whom are proud. The ban has been lifted only in respect of five; there are hundreds of them more who are on the blacklists. In the universities of the UK and America, there are lists of these scientists. They are not allowed to do even innocent research, which has nothing to do with atomic energy or nuclear research. So, are we to believe them?

De-hydrocarbonisation is a welcome step. It is also proposed to increase the share of nuclear energy in energy generated from three per cent to 26 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding.

Clean technology is okay; cheap and affordable technology is okay, we must have energy security—it is okay. But, on the one hand you are still prevailing upon saying 'we will not allow Iran gas to be brought to India' and on the other hand saying 'yes, you proceed with your nuclear energy programme; you give it to us, let us scrutinise your civilian nuclear energy'. This is sheer hypocrisy. We are not against bilateral relations. I repeat that. But it must be balanced. It must be equitable. It must be fair. It must not be done in such a manner that we lose more friends, trusted friends who had stood by us in times of crisis, the ties that we are developing in the Asian century. If anyone thinks that everything America is doing is to counter-balance China trying to use India, it will send a wrong message. So, in the interest of multilateralism, in the interest of multi-polarity, in accordance with our legacy of non-alignment, we must be careful.

The hon. Prime Minister has cautioned that we are very careful, it will be conditional, it will be on the basis of reciprocity, it will be in a phased manner. But still I believe that this Government will send a right signal to our neighbours, to China, Russia, Iran and Iraq—our trusted friends—that we are not accommodating America at the cost of our old, trusted friendship. Such a signal is essential for our economic diplomacy, for WTO, for any other bilateral and multilateral activities that we are moving the nation towards the right goal.

With these words, with this caution once again, I believe that the hon. Prime Minister should not take it as a personal failure or a personal success. The Government is committed to its independent foreign policy and if there is any deviation, the clarification will have to be given on the floor of this House so that the nation may know that the UPA Government is a different Government and they have an independent foreign policy not like the NDA Government who, when told by America to crawl, they instantly did that.

With these words, I conclude and thank you very much.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, the statement given by the Hon. Prime Minister after his visit to U.S. is being discussed here. I listened to many of my friends here. Whenever a head of the state or executive head visits any country, it is but natural that relations are formed between two countries. Different types of reactions are also seen. It is natural and human. Just

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

now while listening to my friends I was recalling Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. People had found it strange when Einstein had said that time and space are inter related. But we all know that ultimately his theory of mass energy relativity had paved the way for nuclear fusion and it was the base for future nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can see all of you and your smiling face but those who are seeing you from the other side cannot see the same pose. Therefore, it is but natural that there will be different reactions to Prime Minister's visit and his statement later on. They were there in press also. A cartoon, which was not of good taste. It showed an atom with orbits. Science students know that the elections revolve around their orbits, so the poor. Prime Minister is shown in the form of electron requesting to be taken in the orbit. But still there are some debatable topics and have been discussed a lot but I will tough upon them later on.

But definitely Hon. Prime Minister's statement, be it made to the Congress or in front of press at some topics, is his own views, which have been praised by people. He said to press that America's attack on Iraq was a mistake. You all know that a proposal was moved to condemn America in this regard. It stirred debate for many days in the House. At that time people of this side were in power "deplore" word was used instead of "condemn". Ultimately it was agreed to use the word "Ninda" in Hindi and "deplore" in English because Americans don't know Hindi and they should not mind it much when they read it in English. I want to thank the Prime Minister for speaking out in America that its attack on Iraq was a mistake. It is not an ordinary thing. In the same way the Prime Minister did a very good job when he talked about selectivity on terrorism in the press and the American congress. Does it not mean that America has double criterion. On the one hand they help Pakistan which abet terrorists and send them to other countries. On the other they talk about fighting terrorism. It may mean the same or can it have another meaning? It can only be interpreted as "there should not be any selectivity on terrorism". It is a bold and righteous step of Hon. Prime Minister who spoke direct. I appreciate him for that.

So far as the seat in the Security Council is concerned, continued efforts have been made in this direction. It is necessary to demand this seat in view of India's position in the International politics.

So far as the Veto power is concerned, we know it will face resistance but just the membership of Security Council is important enough to have a representative to have a say in every important matter, to present our view to protest injustice anywhere in the world.

If a proposal is turned down in Security Council by veto power then as everyone knows, according to U.N. Charter, General-Assembly can pass the same with two thirds majority. But our Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs have taken up the matter wherever they visited. All over the world they have worked to seek support so that our country can become a member of Security Council. That is good.

As far as Iran pipeline is concerned, I want to reiterate it that there is great difference between ideology and practice. Sometimes things give a deceptive appearance.

If our Prime Minister has said, as I have read somewhere, that it is a difficult task what is wrong in it? Suppose General Musharraf of Pakistan vouchsafe guarantee of protection of the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. Do we have any reason to believe in such a guarantee? In spite of our neightbouring country's President repeated assurances and statements terrorists are making attacks not only in India but also abroad. Our Parliament, the Red Fort and Kashmir Legislative assemblies were attacked and now they have reached Ayodhya. Can the pipeline be safe in Pakistan? Will any realistic statement made by the Prime Minister be criticized? It is a fact. Can the pipeline remain safe even for a day even after investing thousands of crores of rupees? Who will give guarantee for that. Can anyone believe it, if someone gives guarantee? Will Pakistan guarantee the safety of the pipeline? One need not make theoretical statements when the stark facts are obvious. The statements should be made on the basis of facts. So, I have said that it is something different.

I would not like to make a lengthy speech about deviation from the established foreign policy but even then I would like to say something about non-alignment. Non-alignment or detachment policy was practiced at a time when the world was divided between two super powers—the Soviet Union and United States. At that time, it was stated that non-aligned countries would be those countries which were not attached with either of the super

powers by a military pact-and these counties would form a group. Non-alignment movement was very useful after Bandung Conference when there was a group of Nehru-Naaser-Tito. But, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it is more academic than realistic. Now, it is difficult to differentiate the non-aligned countries. Is there any alternative for non-aligned countries after disintegration of the Soviet Union. A single incident in the world can change the scenario of foreign policy in any region and at any place. Was there not a drastic change in the foreign policies of all the countries of the world when Henry Kissinger made a secret visit to China from Pakistan and it was announced that President Nixon will visit China (America)? Was there not a change in foreign policy after that? It has undergone a change and I had made a statement in this House that the basis of the formulation of foreign policy of a country is its national interest. National interest is the basis and all the theories and other such things become secondary when national interest is supreme. Is it not the fact that the liberation of Bangaldesh, an internal matter of East Pakistan was ignited because of the excesses committed by a military dictator and which caused the mass exodus of lacs of refugees to India. At that time, India was supporting that people's movement and China, the largest and dedicated community system which was supposed to support that people's movement was supporting the military dictator in the Security Council and the United Nations. What became of the issue of policy and national interest? So, I say that national interest is paramount. Relations are made keeping in mind the national interests of one's country. But, it is essential to have a close view of the past of that country with which one is going to develop relations.

Reliability is the prerequisite of making friends. Reliability or dependability of a country can be gaged from its past acts. Only then we can be sure whether it is going to help in the distress hour or not or whether friendship with the country would be beneficial or harmful. This is the basis of the success of our foreign policy and the means to reduce the number of hostile countries and to increase the number of friend-countries. It is also in national interest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we were discussing America. I would like to cite some examples of a friendly country which can have both plus and minus points. During the Second World War, the army of Hitler had entered deep inside Russia and Russia had requested USA to open another front against Germany to divide the strength of German army and to reduce the pressure exerted by Hitler. But, USA did not open any other front deliberately in order to make Communist Russia too weak to resist another attack. Although the allies were united but America tried to weaken Russia even when it had friendly relations. History is witness to the fact that people will always criticize the ally which does not help the member country of its bloc. On the other hand, America has always helped Israel and is called the real friend. America has also helped Pakistan even when All Queda is still thriving in Pakistan. That Al-Queda has dared to attack not only WTC Towers but also Pentagon, the headquarters of American defence forces. Even then, America is helping Pakistan. During the official tour of America of our Prime Minister, it was obvious for the first time at present India held a light edge over Pakistan. In the past we have seen the visual clips on TV of the official foreign tours of our Head of State and the Prime Minister. But, the way in which our Prime Minister was received in the USA was soothing to our eyes. The entire country felt elated. The proper warm welcome accorded to our executive head by the most powerful country was even more soothing to our eyes. So, while developing new international relations, the Prime Minister must keep in mind the fact that it should not be at the cost of our trusted friends. Although, those of our friends who stood solidly behind us in one hour of crisis, had to take America's help during their own crisis period. The reality is that America has become a super power at the cost of the whole world. Therefore, whenever it find anything going against its interest, it resorts to action.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the example of Cuba is before us. It is, neither a big nation nor such a big power which can make any nation to surrender before it. It is a self-respecting country for the whole world. Cuba must be a source of inspiration. I was studying in the High School in the year 1962. At that time the American President, Mr. Kennedy had imposed ban on Cuba and the third world war was about to break out. All the people were worried. Since we were youngsters, we were unable to understand. However, our teachers had sings of concern of their faces because with the outbreak of world war, the people had to face difficulties.

Just now, our Senior colleague was talking about Nuclear Power. Now, how many nuclear weapons or how

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

much quantity of Thorium one possesses, whether less or more, nobody knows. Hon'ble Member Shri Bansal ji was asking if the Uranium was not enough to destroy the whole world. These are the weapons of mass destruction. However, so far as the atomic weapons of mass destruction are concerned, all are in agreement that these are really lethal. But when some adverse situation arises, it has sometimes to be resorted to for self defence. More than us, the scientists know better the lethality of these weapons.

Everybody knows about Albert Einstein that he was a Jewish and migrated to America from Germany because of the fear of Hitler. When he came to know that Hitler was thinking of making an Atom Bomb, it was Einstein who told President Roosevelt at that time to immediately take some steps in this direction notwithstanding his awareness about the horror it will create. Nobody else than him knew better about the same. You know about the E_2mc^2 formula on the basis of which the formula of conversion of mass energy is derived. It tells that how much critical it is, how much energy is converted through it and how much loss it can make. He knew about the extent of devastating effect it could bring forth. Despite this, when he came to know that Hitler is thinking of making an Atom Bomb, then Mr. Einstein, who is undisputedly the biggest scientist of the world, told President Roosevelt to take some steps in this direction. Now if somebody says that they have considered us a second class country, then I would say what is the meaning of first class and second class. Does India need somebody's certificate to justify itself as an Atomic Power. Although, there are so many nuclear Weapons in the world, if any war takes place in future, there is going to be no difference in the victory or defeat. Everything will be destroyed. The whole world will be annihilated in half an hour. These people have weapons. They have loaded some of these nuclear weapons on ships in sea instead of storing them on land. If the whole stockpile weapons there is used in toto it can destroy the earth. Man himself arranges for his destruction. But we have to resort to such means for self-defence, when others have such weapons. We do not agree to their use for peaceful purposes only. When many countries including our neighbouring country are in possession of such weapons, then we must also have these weapons. As it is not a fact that our relations with our neighbours are getting better. The socialist party has always asked for better relationship. It has always asserted since Lohia's times that a confederation of India and Pakistan should be set up. Now Bangladesh is also there. But the common perception is that the moment our neighbouring country excels India, we should be ready for attack. There is no dilemma about the need for having nuclear bombs for self defence if another country is having them. As far as its relation to the USA is concerned. I must say that in the whole country and particularly among scientists a wrong message is going that some sort of ban can be there and such things would do more harm than any good. So without taking nuclear scientists in confidence we can not say what could be the consequences of nuclear programme. I have gone through the statement of Atal ji. He had stated that it would be difficult to differentiate between a strategic and a non-strategic programme. Even I am unable to comprehend that I have been a science student. I am an M.Sc (Physics). But it is not that easy; if the effects are negative then it can do more harm than being beneficial.

Therefore it is very important to be cautions. On this matter about which the entire House is pondering. If a sovereign state gives guarantee and it back tracks later on, can any case be filed against it? What does sovereignty mean? John. Badan had given the first definition of sovereignty

[English]

> "Sovereignty is the supreme power over subjects and citizens unrestrained by law".

[Translation]

If a state is sovereign, it is not bound to abide by laws formulated by other state. Therefore, do not be under any illusion that if a country has given such and such guarantee, it will be honoured. If other countries are allowed to see our Nuclear Institutions then, there is a saying in our village that "janu guiyan phus baraban". Kalyan Singh ji understands this saying very well. It means that our friend knows our strong and weak points. Such a state of affairs should not be permitted to take place. Apparently you have spoken out some matters boldly and we welcome that. But there should not be any compromise on the issue of nuclear programme in the interest of the nation.

With that I thank you for giving me so much of time to speak on such an important topic.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, we are discussing hon. Prime Ministers' statement made on the 29th of July, 2005 on his recent visit to the USA. The statement basically relates to the Joint Statement between India and the USA, which is signed during his visit. I shall therefore try to give some views on the statement and then point out some areas where we feel a cause of concern in the Joint Statement. Before I do that, I am sorry to say, Mr. Prime Minister that in the second para of your first sentence, what you have talked about is not very nice. In the first paragraph, you have talked about the "reception" that you have got. In the second paragraph, the very first line appears to be an act of "deception". You said that—the purpose of my visit was to sensitise the US Government about the full extent of the changes that have taken place in India since 1991. Are you saying that between 1991 and till date nothing has been done and America does not know what is happening in India? It was for you to go thereon, then educate them, and tell them what we are. I think, this sentence does not go very well. It casts aspersion on everybody who is concerned with the Indian Government. You have not mentioned subsequently about the Clinton-Vajpayee Vision Document of 2000, the NSSP and various other things. It is amusing to hear Shri Rupchand Pal when he mentioned that you are following whatever the NDA Government did. On the other hand, I would say that you have taken very good care to ensure that whatever good the NDA Government did does not come near your Joint Statement or in your statement in Parliament. I do not think that it is a very generous way of dealing.

Foreign policy, as we all know, is a continuing process. I do not have to tell you that the Government accepts and appreciates whatever the past Government had done. This message does not come out of the Joint Statement or in your statement in Parliament.

The next thing which I desire but I will not mention it here is this. Previous speakers, and particularly, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has elaborated and deliberated on it that everything we do ought to be in the national interest. I am quite sure that you have been trying to do that but with a different perspective. Therefore, I agree with Ram Gopalji that the message that is coming out of this Joint Statement is, to say the least, that we have not been the gainers.

15.55 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Ram Gopal ji stated that a restriction has been imposed. This restriction is manifested through the Joint Statement. The Prime Minister has, of course, said many things in his statement. But, unfortunately, those things are not reflected in the Joint Statement.

Sir, he has used in his statement words like 'ensured', 'possibility', 'conditional', 'reciprocal', 'understanding' and 'protected'. The word 'reciprocal' has been used in a manner, very effectively. There are too many imponderables in the written Joint Statement Agreement which ought to have specifics and should not talk vaguely about this thing and that thing.

As far as the term 'understanding' is concerned, I am very chary and weary about it. We remember this. You are all very senior persons and you would also be knowing about it. Shri Natwar Singh might have been in the External Affairs Ministry then. We have heard about the so-called 'understanding' between Mr. Bhutto and late Shrimati Indira Gandhi after the 1971 war. We had a decisive victory in the 1971 war. About 91,000 prisoners were there. We were all expecting that this sort of a victory would certainly be able to solve our mutual problems and J&K was one of the main problems which we have been fighting. I do not know how far it is true. So, the term 'understanding' was circulated at that time also. What happened to that 'understanding'? It was lying in shambles within three months. Therefore, I do not know if we can trust any 'understanding' or any such terminology.

The second thing that has been stated—Shri Rupchand Pal has also said on this and I agree with him on his one issue—is that we must seek the equality in our dealings with other countries. In India, we have reached a stage with our own efforts, where we can stand up and tell the world that we want such and such thing. I think, the world today listens to us. After Pokhran-II and also liberalisation which has been taking place—which he started in 1991 and the NDA Government followed it up very effectively and efficiently—we have today, both in the field of strategic power and in the field of economic growth, reached a stage where we can, in a manner, in the national interest dictate terms. Unfortunately, that thing has not happened. Shri Pal has said amazingly about Pokhran-II that we were asked to

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bend but we crawled to USA. I think, his memory is very-very short. In 1998, after Pokhran-II, the way we were threatened by all major powers including USA that they would impose all sorts of restrictions on us, but this country, NDA Government withstood those pressures. Therefore, such terms do no justice to anybody at all.

I may also remind that during the Kargil War when President Clinton asked our Prime Minister, hon. Shri Vajpayeeji to come to USA for discussion, the Prime Minister of Pakistan was already there. The Prime Minister at that time could tell, "I will not be coming now; I will come after I have driven to all the Pakistanis from Kargil and India." We had that sort of strength. In this Joint Statement, what we get is a lot of goodwill, lot of nice-sounding terms. But that does not bind them. Someone has just now raised it and I am repeating it, that if there is non-adherence to those terms then what can we do? In fact, they are not even guarantees; they are not even commitments. They are just 'understanding' as has been mentioned. Nowhere has it been said, in the entire Joint Statement, that USA is bound by such and such thing, whereas we have made lot of commitments. Therefore, the overall message that is coming out of this is not very good.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, in para (6) of your statement, you have said:

> "Accordingly, a central element of my interaction with President Bush was the resumption of bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation between India and the United States, which had been frozen for decades."

I do not know, whether it is related specifically in only some civil cooperation or in other fields.

Similarly, you have stated:

> "The US side undertook to adjust its laws and policies domestically and to work with its friends and allies to adjust relevant international regimes."

I mean, we are committing and they are only undertaking to adjust their laws and policies, to work with friends and allies and encourage partners to whatever we want them to do! On the contrary whatever commitments we have taken, we have stated them in no uncertain terms.

Similarly, Sir, you have said:

> "The US agreed to consult other participants with a view towards India's inclusion in the Generation-IV International Forum."

Them, similarly, Sir, at para (4) you have talked of our modest uranium resources and vast reserves of thorium, and these are, as per the other parts of the Agreement, are to be put under inspection. In this context, when we are trying to put our mines under inspection, obviously, the raw material gets limited, controlled and inspected, then we do not have the raw material. In that case, how do we have the finished product? Therefore, on this aspect even if we may have enough of mines and mettles, unless we have freedom to exploit them, I think, it is going to cause a lot of problems.

Mr. Prime Minister, in para (9) of your Statement, it is mentioned:

> "The Joint Statement recognizes that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such States which have advanced nuclear technology."

Subsequently, somewhere, it also says: "the same benefits as US has."

Now, with which country we are going to reckon with, as far as the benefits or whatever services we are going to take? Is it the USA? Or, is it one of the other countries, which have also got the capability—not at the same level as we have, as some other Members have brought out earlier. So, this again needs clarification. When you make commitment, what type of benefits are you going to get? Are you going to get all the benefits which USA has today, with all the powers and authorities on various issues? Or, are you going to be given only the crumbs?

Then, Sir, in your statement in para (7), you have also mentioned:

> "...I would like to make it very clear that our commitments would be conditional upon the reciprocal to..."

You have used the term 'reciprocal' at number of places. But nowhere in the Joint Statement, we can find this.

Then, Sir, you have also said about various assurances that we are given and the commitments that we are given. You have also stated that what the USA is undertaking in terms of just their attempts or efforts, will also be discussed in future. The timeframe that comes out of this whole Joint Statement, somewhere is mentioned by using the term "in next few months" wherever at some other places it is stated like: "When the President of USA visits", which we understand may be early 2006. Are we going to complete all your commitments in this timeframe? Or, are we going to have any progress in this timeframe? Is America going to complete all its commitments including, consulting the allies, taking Congress' sanction for various things during this timeframe? Or, is this progress reporting going to be one-sided?

Mr. Prime Minister, similarly, in para (9), you have talked about 'reciprocity'. It is also mentioned there that: "Indian actions will be contingent at every stage on actions taken by the other side." It is very good. But if it was in the Joint Statement, then we would have been much more comfortable that you would take action only after they have completed; or at least, simultaneously. But nowhere does this message come in the Joint Statement.

In the statement in para (12), you have also said:

"...Before voluntary placing our civilian facilities under IAEA safeguards, we will ensure that all restrictions on India have been lifted."

But how do you ensure this? Where is it in the Joint Statement? As somebody said, if even accepted things are not done, then you have, at least, a grows. When nothing is being committed, when they have not made any effort or made any commitment, how do you say that you will not accept your commitments unless they have done this thing? I have talked to the Congress people but I have not been able to understand these things. In such a case, will you withhold your commitments? This need to be clarified.

Now, I come to civil and military facilities. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has also talked on it. First of all comes the separation. How much is it possible? How will it be done? What are the implications as far as India is concerned? What is the timeframe? What will be the cost implication? What will be the implications on all other areas of development? These are the things that need to be clarified in greater detail.

In that context and also about Fissile Material Control Treaty, I would say that there appears to be a danger that we are trying to control the raw material or, at least, US is trying to ensure that we do not produce more than a certain quantity of raw material. If we accept that sort of conjecture, then how do you ensure that your strategic nuclear weaponry is available as per your requirement and not what America thinks is your requirement? This is causing a lot of concern.

In one of the paragraphs of the Statement, you have talked about commercial linkages. This is not clear. You may kindly explain to us namely what does this term 'Commercial linkages' mean?

One of the paragraphs of the Statement deals with full civil nuclear energy cooperation. I do not know as to how this will be applicable because first NPT would come in. Then, we are not a Member of the NSG. Therefore, how will it get activated into action? It is not clear. You may kindly clarify that. Then what will be the consequences of non-adherence to the commitment? You may kindly clarify that also.

One major issue, I am again repeating it, is that what we are going to discuss and act on the progress when the President of United States visits here early next year.

Then you have talked about additional protocol. What would be its contents? How will be affected by it? It is not clear in the Joint Statement or the other statement. You may clarify it.

Another aspect is this. Earlier, the country was talking, we said it voluntarily on our own, about nuclear moratorium. Now the term used is nuclear testing. I would like you to clarify whether this would imply for not doing any sub-critical testing. If it does, then it is going beyond CTBT.

As far as Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty is concerned, it appears that we have accepted this in a hurry. This has been talked about earlier also. The Clinton-Vajpayee Vision document had also talked about this. But there is a little difference. It was to be done in different stages. Earlier, the term used was 'working together' and not, as has been stated, 'with US'. The first stage was to be the announcement of the initiatives. Then the second stage was the end of production of shell material before implementing it. Now, what we have stated is: "working

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with US for the conclusion of a multi-lateral FMCT." It appears to me that there is a bit of hurry in this. It is not in our long-term interests.

As far as the Joint Statement is concerned, I have a few observations to make. It is here that it talks about 'commercial linkages'. It pertains to agriculture. It says:

> "Launch a US-India Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture focussed on promoting teaching, research, service and commercial linkages."

You may, kindly clarify as to what does these 'commercial linkages' mean.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please conclude.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Have I taken too much time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. There are a number of Members to speak.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I will conclude.

As far as nuclear aspect is concerned, that has been the cause of worry of all the Members all around. It talks about 'full civil nuclear energy cooperation'. We are not a member of NPT, how will it work? We are not a member of NPT. Will we be forced to follow the NPT without being a member?

Further, in the Joint Statement, it is said:

> "The Prime Minister conveyed that for his part, India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States."

This again look a little diversionary sentence and the Prime Minister may kindly clarify.

At one place, it talks about adherence to Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR and Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines. These 'Guidelines' should be clarified.

In one of the last paragraphs, it talks that the President would be visiting India and would be discussing various commitments. What is worrying is that it says: "The two leaders agreed to establish a working group to undertake, on a phased basis, in the months ahead, the necessary actions mentioned above to fulfil these commitments. The President and the Prime Minister also agreed that they would review this progress when the President visits India in 2006."

In conclusion, I would say that the main concern is about various assurances *versus* commitments. Everything hinges on the agreement by the Congress. Supposse it does not happen, where do we stand in this? I am sure, The Hon. Prime Minister would have taken precautions, but we have our own reservations on this. Therefore, it should also be clarified.

Before concluding, I just want to bring to your notice what the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs said. He was on record, after your visit, to say that there were discussions on India's relations with Pakistan, and also on the wider issue of South Asia, Nepal, etc. But the Prime Minister has not mentioned anything about that in his statement. He may kindly clarify that also.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the discussion is on the statement issued after the US visit of the Hon. Prime Minister. It is a matter of national importance. First of all on behalf of my party I congratulate the Prime Minister for the important visit. We support the bilateral discussion held on, trade, industry, service, economy particularly rural economy, explorations in the space, national security non-discriminatory approach to terrorism. They say the hon. Prime Minister has forcefully put forth his views before the US congress shows his calibre and competence and I extend my thanks to him for the same.

He has enhanced the self respect of the nation. This being a matter of national importance, one must analyse it rising above party lines.

It is a rare coincidence that his agreement is being cirticized both in India and U.S. It is unfortunate. What doubts the U.S. have? India has doubts given the happenings in the past. ...*(Interruptions)* Some past events are attributed to this criticism. What are the benefits and support that this agreement will extend in the development of India since we are a developing country of the third world. An atmosphere of bonhomie, goodwill and amity has been created between the developed and developing

countries. I would like to remind that during the time of the NDA Government our country was very much willing to extend support to the U.S. according to provisions of fissile materials production cut off treaty with regard to reduction in the production of nuclear explosion materials. This view was based on the faith that it will not hinder Indian strategic nuclear programme. Has there been any change in this thought that prevailed during the NDA Government time. Have they changed their viewpoint now when they are not in power? The UPA Government is in power so they are criticizing what once was their own viewpoint and approach of thought in the larger interest of the country. Their role has been commendable. Their seat has changed but not the national interest. The comprehensive interests of the country remains unchanged irrespective of the party in power.

I would like to say that today we have certain doubts. Doubt arise from the fact that so many issues will emerge from success of Iran pipeline. It will be a litmus test of our relations with America. It will be a model test of the degree of intimacy of the bilateral relation. It is all right we do not have their consent in principle today, but success of Iran pipeline will prove to be a mile stone to make a relation cordial or hostile or it may lead to distraction or construction.

Now atmosphere is being created so that India emerge as a centre for information based industries and services. That's why I am quoting this point. Many negotiations regarding liberalization took place with America and Soviet Union in the year 1990-91. Several agreements were reached on strategic issues also but the Soviet Union was adversely affected due to lack of proper handling and it disintegrated ultimately.

Far-reaching affects were witnessed thereof. America did not cut off its arms in proportion to the agreement made with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had to suffer. We are extending our hands for friendship and it is good but we shall have to be cautions while extending hands of friendship.

The honourable Prime Minister gave a statement is that house and said that if our country's interest is not safe completely, by signing the nuclear agreement, then India will separate itself from it? It is important to note that the honourable Prime Minister himself hinted at removing the apprehension that whenever we feel that our national interest is not safe then we can separate ourselves from this agreement. So there is no need of discussion on this issue. There is need of discussion on some issues like agriculture.

So far as the matter of nuclear energy is concerned, there are so many types of energy like Iran Gas pipe line energy and nuclear energy, we are talking about atomic energy. This is an alternate arrangement. We have got some concessions from agreements reached between the USA and India. I would like to ask as to at what cost he will give us concession. It should also be clear. Today it should be disclosed in the House because our role has been always free and fair and it has been rightly said that our approach should be autonomous with regard to our foreign policy non-aligned policy and nuclear power policy. The matter of autonomy has been raised in the statement. It has been said therein that our autonomy will continue. The matter of strategic partnership among the US, Israel and India was being discussed. At that time we were not unanimous and it has been opposed in the CPM programme. Today some friends particularly leftists are raising doubts that we want nuclear disarmament all over the world. There is question whether America may be in favour of nuclear disarmament in the entire world. So I would not like to mention it more.

We have large deposits of thorium. We have so much thorium that we can set up plant anywhere in the world. Ours is a sovereign country. So no conditionalities should be imposed therein. It is necessary to take precautions. It is necessary to take precautions with regard to our diplomacy and negotiation.

As far as the matter of terrorism is concerned, it is said that there will be mutual cooperation to fight global terrorism. I would like to know what type of mutual cooperation will take place. I have objection to it. It is simple to say that there will be a fight against global terrorism. It has been said on behalf of the Government that the discrimination will be meted out. I would like to ask whether terrorism had been wiped out in Iraq today. Iraq was ruined on the issue of biological weapons. Is terrorism stopped there after colapse of Iraq. Are terrorism, activities not being carried out in Iraq? What is the genesis of terrorism ...*(Interruptions)* Terrorism on large scale cannot be eliminated with terrorism on small scale. I would like to say in this regard as to what common ground is being prepared for terrorism?

As far as strategic requirement of world today is concerned, there is basic difference between the views

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

of America and India with regard to terrorism. India has been fighting terrorism for many decades. So honourable Prime Minister said on the issue of terrorism that no discrimination will be meted out and it is good. But I think that it is necessary to be more alert in this regard because the attitude of America on the issue of rooting out of terrorism has not been sincere and fair so today our country is against terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a good number of speakers to speak on this subject. You know it better than anybody else here. We will have to give time to all those peakers. If you co-operate, then others will get time to speak. So, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Alright, I am ready to accept your order. I am concluding now. It is the order of the Hon. Chairman, therefore, I would not put forth my views on any other points. But, I would definitely like to submit about the required international pressure that India would be able to galvanize to make it a permanent Member of the UN Security Council. Till now, the United States of America is not in favour to make India a permanent member. As such, the amount of international pressure we could galvanize in this regard, I think, the better it would be for our country.

So, far as the agricultural sector is concerned, I am submitting the last point. In the field of agriculture, opportunity for the exchange of research services, marine knowledge will be provided. This is good that information will be exchanged which should be done. But I would like to submit that the American farmers receive 250 to 300 percent subsidy but, in India the MSP or minimum support price has been called the trade distorting support price implying that it distorted or diminished the trade and this was happening during the last decade where you were in power. Now, Kamalnathjee and the UPA Government are standing firm. This Government is standing for the wider interests of the country and the farmers and in favour of the growth of rural economy. But for the sake of making it all the more strong, I would like to urge that in our open market system, if foreign agricultural produce is introduced without any restriction, it may turn it into a dumping ground for the foreign agricultural produce. This is our apprehension. Though we have got no details about it as of now. Only exchanges are to be done, but as a precautionary measure, I would like to submit that India may not be ever allowed to become the dumping ground for the foreign agricultural produce. For this, our Government needs to remain vigilant and careful at the stage of negotiations as well. Countervailing duty should be imposed. We should protect our agricultural produce by ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers.

Today, we are most successful at one front and that is with regard to agriculture. Today, we have in our country is foodgrain reserve and the farmers growing it should in no way be get to be discouraged. For this purpose, the conditions of the WTO may be needed to be negated and India may be required to lead in organizing the third world countries. As, today, India has got a recognition. As the hon. Prime Minister has given India a recognition in the US Congress, the smaller and developing countries with India should be organized to defend their interest. The WTO decides its condition in its green meeting held in the green rooms.

The MSP has been defined as a trade distorting support price. Therefore, while concluding my speech, I would definitely like to contend that in the bilateral negotiations being held to reach at an accord between India and the USA, we will have to keep a greater attention on our interests. In the statement of the hon. Prime Minister, it has been stated that we would keep in view the wider interests of our country at any cost, irrespective of the fact that we might have to come out of the accord. Therefore, the apprehensions of the hon. Members in this regard should removed. As such, hands of friendship may be extended. But we have to extend it with utmost care. We have to keep intact our independence, sovereignty, autonomy and the foreign policy of non-alignment which is the best in the world.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will have to inform the House that as many as 18 hon. Members have given their names to speak and more or less, most important points have been covered. So, all the Members are requested to please cooperate and limit their speeches and conclude within five minutes.

Now, I would call Shri Kirip Chaliha to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): How can we conclude within five minutes? It is better not to allow us to speak at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? I am only calling out the names given to me.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, the visit of the Prime Minister to the United States of America has evoked considerable interest both within the country and abroad. Britain, in fact, has welcomed the agreements made during the visit and our traditional ally, Russia has also welcomed the outcome of the visit.

Within the country, the general expressed opinion has been vastly in favour of the achievements made during the visit by the Prime Minister. Of course, we have to ignore the Opposition, the BJP, who opposes for Opposition sake because I have been hearing what they have been telling till now and even the assertions made by our former Prime Minister hardly amounted to anything except on the question of nuclear deterrent. And what Major General Khanduri said seems to be an attempt for credit sharing on what they have been doing than making any serious criticism because he was referring to a number of terminologies and seeking clarifications of the terminologies of the agreements. It is good to see that the initial cynicism that was there melted to a more mature understanding of the events which took place during our Prime Minister's visit.

The statement has rightly started with warm reception which the Prime Minister and his wife was given in America. It was not the question of individuals because the warmth that was shown to him was, in reality, a recognition to the country and to the country's leader, the country which was not always in favour of US. As many of my friends in the Leftists block have pointed out, the visit of the Prime Minister has taken place at a very crucial time when we had to take a number of 'make or break' decisions.

These decisions were of important nature. Earlier, we had hardly any hope of getting any positive response from the USA. But this time we have got a number of positive responses and a number of assurances. We could enter into some agreements and could make certain pronouncements. That itself is a recognition of our hon. Prime Minister's diplomacy, his growing international stature and his pragmatism. I must congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for achieving this. As hon. Prime Minister has pointed out in his statement, the purpose of his visit was to sensitise the US Government about the changes that have taken place in India since 1991. Shri Khanduri was objecting to this.

The whole world knows and we all know that 1990-91 had been a turning point in India's modernisation process, in India's emerging as a new power in the world. Much of the credit to that new policy goes to our present Prime Minister. It need not be overemphasized. It is a fact that even in 1991 when reforms and liberalisation took place in this country, there was a lot of skepticism about it. Skepticism, I think, was the initial response to some of the major steps that our hon. Prime Minister took then. Although there was skepticism in 1991, there is enough proof that Dr. Manmohan Singh's Manmohanomics has succeeded like nothing else in this country. He has brought this country to the present position of honour. This has been acknowledged by all today.

We will not say that hon. Prime Minister's visit to the USA is the end of everything. It is only a beginning of a process. But we have to acknowledge that some breakthroughs have been made in this visit. I know it will have a very lasting and beneficial impact on India.

Foreign policy of a country cannot remain static. It is because the world has been changing rapidly and the world has been changing very radically. Everyday it is a new world. I do not dispute what my friends from the Left have been speaking about the Indo-US relations. I cannot forget the tremendous impact our foreign policy had under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, especially on our Non-Alignment Policy. But as Shri Rajiv Gandhi had pointed out, the world has changed and the country has to respond to changes. We cannot remain static and India's foreign policy cannot remain static. To remain static in a changed world will be foolishness.

I would request my friends on the other side to understand this. Adapting to changes does not mean that we are surrendering to something. It means we are taking steps to survive and respond to the new world order and new situations. India has done it wonderfully over a period of time. Since Independence, when there were two power blocks, India pursued its own independent policy. Today also when we have a new unipolar world, we have an independent policy. Even though we had a bitter and, at various times, controversial relationship with the USA, it is the USA which has responded to the growing stature of India, in a way it recognised that India today, in the beginning of the 21st Century, has its own potentialities and has its own values. There is a new evaluation of India in the international arena today.

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

I had occasions to visit and take part in many international forums. Recently, I visited Germany. I was surprised to see the kind of admiration people have for India. Even Western countries are looking towards India today. They say that in many respects India has a better future than China. When the West thinks that India has a better future than China, when they think that we have better potentialities to develop, and when they consider India will be the future giant and future power, should we suffer from complexes? Should we suffer from complexes that we would become appendage of some super power, that we would become junior partner of America? Is it proper? Is it proper that we should think that we would, in any way, compromise our national interest? ...*(Interruptions)* Definitely not, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brajesh Pathak.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: One minute, Sir. This is the last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 10 minutes.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: I think, it is very unkind to doubt, to raise questions of India's national concerns, before a Congress Prime Minister. Sir, the Congress Party has shaped India's foreign policy, has made India independent, and has brought India to today's shape. The Prime Minister of a country who himself, in his own right, is a man whose stature is recognized all over the world today and whose stature and patriotism cannot be doubted under any circumstances by anyone, it is very unkind of cast doubts on his intentions and on the agreements signed by him. I say, it is unpatriotic.

Sir, we have to look to the future. I am not saying that we have to surrender our interest to somebody. But we have to look today to the future, to the creation of a human race which is determined to see that development takes place everywhere among richer nations and the poor nations. It is true that we have not yet got the concrete, written agreement with the United States that they will support us in an expanded or reformed United Nations, but the fact is that they are gradually conceding and recognizing our demand. Every step, every agreement, and every point that US conceded to our Prime Minister, is a feather in his cap. It is a success story. It is a new beginning from which much more will come in future. It is in this optimistic note that I would like to conclude because of paucity of time. Once again, I warmly congratulate the Prime Minister for his successful visit to United States of America.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw your attention that it is very unfair...* to restrict a number of Regional Parties only to 5 minutes. It is very unfair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You cannot cast any aspersion on the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: You cannot say, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not participating in the debate. I am only drawing your attention that it is very unfair... to decide and restrict all Regional Parties only to 5 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Every Regional Party has something to say relating to the international relations. You cannot restrict. A number of Members in their own right have spoken. From National Parties, more than 3 Members have spoken. If you want to restrict this discussion only to the National Parties, then you can do that. But we have to register our resentment to this decision. This is not fair... to restrict all Regional Parties to speak only for 5 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time is decided by the Business Advisory Committee. I have not taken any decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: It was not decided in the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am strictly following that the time allotted by BAC, that will be followed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I do concede that there were concessions because of the gravity of the topic.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: We have not been consulted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hereafter, there will be no concessions. We will restrict to the BAC's time allotment.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also agree with the views of the hon. Members that every Member should get equal opportunity to put forth his/her view point irrespective of whether he/she belongs to a small party or a big party. Every person of India gets affected by it. In my opinion, the views of all should be heard. I express my thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Bahujan Samajvadi Party on the visit of hon. Prime Minister to the USA. I express my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister also who carried the viewpoints of India to the people of the world and all that did not take place in the USA that had happened during the period of the previous Govt.

The people accompanying the hon. Prime Minister had been mistreated. At least, hon. Prime Minister Manmohanjee has presented strongly at the level of the world a good image of India. We express our thanks for the contribution he has rendered in enhancing the honour and dignity of India. We had seen the telecast on the television. The way hon. Prime Minister was welcomed, made it appear to us that India is proving itself capable to give an equal treat today to the world power and is strongly putting forth its viewpoint. We have put forth our points, strongly as was required from us. Apart from the thanks, I would like to express concern on behalf of our party and the House. The matter of foremost concern before us is about the nuclear programme.

So far as the question of the nuclear programme is concerned, take it for sure that had we been not a nuclear power, we would not have allowed living in peace by our neighbours. Even as we are a nuclear power, the situation of Jammu-Kashmir is not unknown for anyone. The situation of the Punjab is also not a secret. Attacks were carried out at the Red Fort, at Parliament and even in the common life of Ayodhya of Fiazabad district and it is not hidden from the public eyes. It is also not a secret as to where these attacks are being organized from. We have to become a nuclear power state. We need to make a strategic use of our nuclear power. This is uncontroversial. I believe that this House will unanimously take a decision in favour of a strategic use of this power. I want to assure you that all our congratulations would be for the hon. Prime Minister who has made an image of India in the world and in the USA, but we will have to take every step with due consideration while dealing with the USA. Let not our condition turn into a proverbial friendship between a horse and the grass. The actions carried out by the USA in this world are not hidden from anyone. What happened in Iraq is an open secret. I do not want to go into the fact who was wrong or right with regard to Iraq but the war on Iraq was not with regard to any nuclear programme, but for the oil. The US had the desire to establish its hegemony in the world, to take control of the oil, capture the world market and dominate the people across the world. For this purpose, it destroyed Iraq. We are concerned at the hegemonistic designs of the USA, but the people of India would not permit it to do so with us. The people of India have always strongly taken on the struggle be it at any point of time. India has never compromised with its honour.

With these words, I would like to conclude. I had made a promise to the hon. Chairman that I would not take more than five minutes. All the Members to be given two minutes each. But I want to mention one point while concluding my speech that our share in the world market is coming down. We should also take into account this objective in right earnest so that we could get market avenues at the world level like China and our commodities can be sold at the world market. Unless and until we strengthen our economy, we can not strengthen our country. Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, the recent visit of the hon. Prime Minister to the United States is one of the most important developments in our foreign relationship in recent times. Therefore, it is really very important for us to look at the visit very closely and very carefully, look at the short-term gains and the long-term implications and to study it from India's perception as to how much we have gained and how much more we could have gained.

India started a close relationship with the United States particularly in the year 1999. About 9-10 months ago, there was a statement which was made by one of the senior functionaries in this Government saying that the United States is not our natural ally; the relationship with the United States should not be considered as if the United States is our natural ally. Now, the hon. Prime Minister's statement has said that both sides agreed that our relationship was based on shared values and shared interests that included strengthening of democratic capacities.

So, that means that we have taken a mid-term course correction probably to put the relationship in the right

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

perspective, in realising that United States has to be considered as one of the most important allies of India for a simple reason that the United States is the largest economy of the world. It is the biggest military power of the world and India's interest lies in ensuring that we also have good relations with such large country and with such large economy. As I said, how much we have gained through this visit of the hon. Prime Minister should be looked into the perspective of how much we were expecting from this visit. In the build up to this visit of the Prime Minister to the United States, the various think-tanks in the United States were debating this issue. For a long time, the foreign policy of the United States is also influenced by these various think-tanks that operate in and around Washington D.C. as well as in various universities of the United States. Some of the think-tanks were saying that now we need a counter weight to China's growing economic and military strength. The think-tanks were saying that China is a growing power, they are acquiring so much of economic wealth that part of it will be ultimately used to militarise the capability of China which China already has. Probably one day it could pose threat to the whole world and, particularly, to the United States also. Therefore, there was a growing feeling in the United States and that influenced the White House that we should try to build up closer relations with India. It is because it is in the interest of the United States. Therefore, this visit should be looked into at the backdrop of that predominant thinking that was in the United States. So, when we are going to look at this visit and the outcome of that, we should look at it from this perspective that there was already a conducive atmosphere in the United States to do something good with India. It is because that is in the interest of the United States. Now, what is important is how much we gained from that background. Did we gain more than what we expected or we expected less to begin with? That is why we are happy now that we gained a lot because less to begin with? That is why we are happy now that we gained a lot because we did not expect much. That is the question that we really need to answer. The foreign policy preoccupation for the last several years is India's entry into expanded Security Council with full rights of Veto which are enjoyed by the present Permanent Members of the Security Council. In fact, whenever India has made or received any Special Head of State or Head of the Government from other party, we have made it a point to emphasise this point. We are trying to secure an agreement with all our allies that they should support India's bid into the Security Council Permanent Membership. This is what we have been doing and, therefore, this has been a major preoccupation. In this backdrop, I would like to know that whether we succeeded or the United States tried to prevail, not only on us but on other countries, not to place India's claim of claiming its membership by going in for a vote. It was felt that it is premature to go in for a vote. We did not go in for a vote. This has been a major preoccupation of a policy for last several years that whether we have gained something on that count or we have not is a question that really needs to be answered.

The second point is on Kyoto Protocol. Sir, seven years ago, India secured as one of the champions of G-77 in China, the Group which spearheads the developing world's cause throughout the world. We said that we need this Kyoto Protocol to be implemented and in fact we actually secured a Kyoto Protocol in Japan. Now, the United States has refused to ratify the Protocol on the ground that it does not show its interest. India has been saying very strongly that we need this Kyoto Protocol and the Prime Minister went to G-8 Summit in UK where he also made a strong point saying that the United States should ratify the Protocol. Now, we see that in declaration or in any talks and the Prime Minister Statement there is no mention about it. Do we think that it is not such an important issue that it should not find place in the agreement that we secured or in the discussion that we initiated or in the Statement that hon. Prime Minister has made? I would like to know that whether we consider it an important issue any more or not. This is something which I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister on the basis of the Statement.

Sir, the third issue—a very important issue—is the nuclear issue. It is true that we have suffered a lot in the last 31 years after the 1974 blast. Our nuclear supplies have virtually not been there or which were there have suffered from high cost and low quality availability within the country. Therefore, we really need to augment the supplies and have a proper supply line. But, in the process of doing that, what we really agreed to is one issue and that is the separation of military and civilian capabilities. Sir, I can understand if there is a political divergent view on this subject. The Prime Minister has stated in his statement that Parliament is the forum on which we reconcile such political differences. But, on this issue of separation, there is a huge amount of divergent opinion expressed by the experts themselves. On the nuclear issue, there is one school of thought which says

that separation is not going to be in India's interest. There are some others who said that it is possible and it is not very costly to do this. It is not a political issue really; it is an issue of technicality in which many experts have expressed their opinion quite opposite to one another. Therefore, I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether before his visit the experts have been consulted on this subject, whether a meeting a nuclear experts has been called, whether they were called in a Seminar, whether they were consulted and asked that if at all the Government of India goes in for a Pact like this with the United States, whether it will be in the interest of India or not; I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether there was a consultation like this. Probably, this did not happen because there was a news item in *New York Times* on the day when the Prime Minister was going to visit the White House for a Banquet that probably the Prime Minister of India will have to go empty-handed because not much is going to be done. The whole world was surprised that we could secure a deal with the United States. Probably, we were not prepared because we ourselves never expected that something like this would happen. As the Prime Minister has said the other day that whenever we go in for disinvestment, the Government is willing to go in for a Parliamentary Resolution, I would like to know, though it may not be required by Convention, because the Executive is empowered will be set wherein the Parliament will be taken into confidence about the separation issue as well as all the implications of that.

However, my concern is that when you separate what you are really going to do is that one part of nuclear capability reactors will be put in for civilian power generation and other civilian programmes and something else will be put into the military programme. Sir, once you do that, is it possible that we can shift some of our civilian programmes into military programmes later on? If you feel that our nuclear challenge from our enemies have increased, is it really possible to do that? I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether that type of versatility, that type of flexibility will be available to Indian system or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, I have not even started and you are asking me to conclude.

Sir, energy security pre-supposes that whatever energy resources India needs, the sources of that is available within the country. That is why, we are going in for hydro-potential, we are going in for coal and we are saying that we should also develop other sources of energy. When we are talking about energy security and its relationship with nuclear energy, we must be clear about two things. The first one is that today, we are using uranium to fire a plant. Later on, when we go into the third stage, thorium can be used for fast breeder technology reactor. At that time, it will be fully realised. Of course, it is true that we cannot do that unless we pass the bridge and to cross the bridge, we probably need this present arrangement that has been entered into. But, Sir, we should not confuse this arrangement with nuclear security because since 1974, our nuclear security has been compromised because we were not having fuel supplies to our nuclear plants. Therefore, this is something which I would like to really emphasise that energy security should be looked into from the perspective of availability of resources which are not available in India. We are going to be dependent on them. It is welcomed that we really need that today. I am a strong champion of nuclear energy. So, I support it. Sir, we have got competent nuclear scientists in India. Dr. Kakodar is one of them who heads the Nuclear Energy Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Please give me some time. All the time you are asking me to conclude. Please include my speech also I am just quoting. Please give me some more time.

Sir, we are saying this and I would rather feel that this should be done. The other issue which the Prime Minister said is that this agreement is based on knowledge sector. Sir, I do not find any mention about how India's knowledge economy sector will be leveraged to India's benefit by way of entering into an agreement.

17.00 hrs.

So, there is no mention of renewable energy. This is something which we should have done. This has not been done. Therefore, I would request the Prime Minister to just clarify this point as to how India is going to benefit from energy security particularly from the point of view of knowledge sector besides nuclear power, which, of course, is welcome. But besides that, how we are going to benefit from addressing our energy security is something I would like to know from the Prime Minister.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

Sir, terrorism is something which is of great concern about which the Prime Minister has just made a passing reference. The United States thinks that terrorism in the world started with 9/11. We have suffered from it for the last two decades or more. It is not that the history of terrorism can be written from 9/11, it is not the starting point, it is not the day on which terrorism started in the world. Therefore, the United States should understand India's position and so we should have prevailed on them to help fight terrorism both internally as well as from external sources which are causing serious disturbances to India's peace in the country.

Sir, recently, after the visit of the Prime Minister, there has been an agreement signed in Laos and it was signed by India, China, Korea, Japan, United States of America and Australia for clean development of technology. Australia and America have refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. They are outside it. We are signing an agreement with them and we are claiming that it is, in fact, an extension of the Kyoto Protocol. These two countries have refused to accept the existence of the Kyoto Protocol and refused to ratify it, but we claim on our side, as a fellow signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, that it is an extension of the Kyoto Protocol. I do not really understand this and I hope the Prime Minister will clarify this point because since this agreement has been made, no statement has been made in this House by the Government. So, I would really request that the Prime Minister to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur):Sir, I am coming to my last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your last point is over. Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, his last point is over. He is on a new point now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a new point! But there shall be an end of the matter.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, there is a mention that India and the United States are now committing to spread democracies worldwide. This concept needs to be explained properly because, in fact, President Bush went to war and he was trying to justify the war to his own countrymen saying that this war is going to help fight not only terrorism in the world, but it is also going to help spread democracy in that part where it does not exist. Are we going to be a party to such an endeavour in spreading democracy and in the name of that going to fight war with somebody? I hope not and, therefore, I hope the Prime Minister, who is a peace-loving man, will not join in an effort to fight war with somebody. If at all we need to fight war, we need to fight poverty at home. For that there is no mention in that agreement, I hope it had.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Prime Minister visited America. All the Indians are feeling proud with the way America supported and welcomed our Prime Minister. But the successful visit claimed by hon. Prime Minister is not so successful. After all, what has he brought from America? It was the result of the nuclear policy of NDA Government during the year 1998-2002 which bore fruits in the form of the success allegedly claimed by the Prime Minister. Presently, America is compelled to recognize India as a big nuclear power. During the period of second nuclear test at Pokharan in 1998 by the NDA Government, the Congress as the opposition party, had opposed the NDA Government's policy by not supporting that nuclear test. Many stumbling blocks were put by America so that India could not be able to do that test, but India emerged as a nuclear power despite all those hurdles. Today, all of us are proud that our Prime Minister was welcomed. America was compelled to recognize India as a nuclear power. Even in the past neither any damage was made to India nor it had got frightened.

America tried to armtwist India by its power, but the then Government of India resisted all that and ultimately India became a nuclear power. It made all the Indians proud, America accepted the fact that India was a peaceful nuclear power. We have never misused our nuclear power. America was also accepted the fact that a peaceful country is using nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It was both the demand and expectation of the country that the warm welcome accorded to the Prime Minister would pave the way for our demand of permanent seat in the Security Council and the right of voting; but America did not support us. Prime Minister, Sir, can we call this visit a successful one? This is not at all. What did we get there?

17.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Many hon. Members and nuclear experts of the country were at pains to explain that with this treaty the pride and self-independence of the country has been buried. He agreed to separate the civilian and military uses of nuclear energy. It will be very difficult for him to separate them as a very low per cent of nuclear energy is used for military purposes. It will need additional investment and he has to make arrangement for a separate establishment after the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. How much additional investment will be needed? Is it proper for our country? We have to make that investment to please America. America is levying countervailing anti-dumping duty on all the products exported from India. It is levying duty on every product including steel exported from India to save its own interests. It is doing so even when it was defeated in the WTO. But, we agreed to separate civilian and military uses of nuclear energy. Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, it is not proper from the point of view of self-reliance of the country. The scientists of the country toiled hard to achieve that success, but you did not take them in confidence. We must think over it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, America was never our permanent friend and it did not help us in the crisis. It is all right have friendly relations with all but what happened to non-alignment movement, which was our continuous foreign policy? What will be its impact on other non-aligned countries? Sir, he has returned back with restrictions. We can use nuclear power separately for civilian and military purposes. Can one call this our success? What will be the opinion of those non-aligned countries about us which were our natural ally. He has deviated from our continuous foreign policy which was never done in the past.

That deviation was done by him for the first time. It is not proper for him to do this without taking the House into confidence. He has neither consulted the House, nor the nuclear scientists of the country. He did not pay attention to the problems which they or the country may have to face in future. He agreed to their proposal of restricting our nuclear weapons, but did nothing to restrict their nuclear weapons. What were his views about restricting the nuclear weapons being manufactured by America? They will continue the manufacture of nuclear weapons but will not allow other countries to do so. What kind of help are we getting from America? Why should we agree to their proposal? The way he accepted their proposal is not good for the future of the country. Our neighbour is making automatic nuclear weapons but we agreed to restrict our nuclear weapons. It will not be good for the country.

Sir, I request the Prime Minister not to diminish the self-esteem of our countrymen as he has the responsibility to make the country self-reliant for being the leader of hundred crore people of this country. It is not proper to lower the morale of our army personnel because it can remain at a high level only when they are confident that they have adequate arms and ammunition at their disposal to fight the enemy. If they are told that certain arms will not be provided to them, it will naturally shake their self-confidence because they have to fight in our borders. When there is no international treaty in force to restrict nuclear weapons, then what was the necessity for our Prime Minister to enter into a bilateral agreement? We should have agreed to restrict our weapons at the time of any international treaty in this regard. It has always been India's policy that there should be an umbrella ban on all nuclear weapons; but this visit can not be termed as very successful as he has entered into a treaty with America without any international treaty in this regard. He should take our nuclear scientists and researchers into confidence. All the experts are of the view that it has eroded the self-confidence and self-reliance of India. They are anxious for the future so I conclude with the advice that in future he will take all including the House in confidence before taking any such action. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I consider this debate very-very important in our national interest. International relations are never static. They have their own dynamics driven by the national and international changes in politics, economy and technology. It is everybody's knowledge that today's China is not Mao's China.

The United States and China are very much engaged with each other. Today, Putin's Russian Federation is no more the erstwhile USSR. U.S.A. and Russian Federation are very much engaged with each other on bilateral and global issues. In that scenario, what should India do? The world is changing, and the world will change. India, in our own national interest, will have to change. It is time that we have to get over the cold war syndrome. We cannot afford to blow hot and cold between non-

[Shri P.A. Sangma]

aligned theology and liberal diplomacy. In our own national interest we must be pragmatic.

The Prime Minister's visit to the United States, the joint statement and the statement of the Prime Minister on the floor of the House are very significant. The Prime Minister's talk with President Bush covered a lot of issues, bilateral and global, which have already been pointed out by the former Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee. I do not like to go into all these aspects. Perhaps the main focus of the debate is on nuclear agreement. Let me also confine to that.

But before that, let me say about the visit of the Prime Minister to the United States and the joint statement. I do not know whether I should quote Shri Jyoti Basu. He says, "It was generally all right." But I personally feel that it is much beyond that. I think, it is very successful visit from India's point of view.

On the nuclear aspect—I think, Shri Vajpayee, Maj. Gen. Khanduri and also Shri Suresh Prabhu have referred to it—what is that separation of civil nuclear and military nuclear energy? Is it possible? If it is possible, is it in the interest of the nation? I think, that is the focus of the debate today.

I would like to quote Shri K. Subrahmanayam, who is an expert on our defence strategy, and everybody knows him. I think, what he says will be very clear to all our minds. He said:

> "It is surprising that there are objections to separating civil and military nuclear facilities. The original suggestion for this came from Dr. Raja Ramanna, the designer of the first Pokhran bomb. Ramanna's logic can't be challenged. If civilian and military facilities are not separated. ..."

This is the most important point. If they are not separated, then what happens? He said:

> "If civilian and military facilities are not separated, it would mean all reactors in India support our military programme."

That is the most important point. Without segregation, without separation, it would mean that all our nuclear inputs would go for military purposes.

That was precisely the reason why America refused to supply uranium to our Tarapur plant. Now, I am surprised why our former Prime Minister had put this question today. It is because it was the NDA Government which approached the United States to segregate this, by saying that we, in India, are going to segregate the civilian energy and the military energy, and, therefore, you should not hesitate to supply us uranium. That was the beginning of India pursuing with the United States of America. I am sorry I could not find the exact words. Anyway these technical words are very, very difficult for us. We call this as Next Step in Strategic Partnership. This is the word I was looking for. It was on the basis of the NDA Government's initiative that the Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh has been able to carry on further and got the agreement with the United States. Therefore, there is no need to be worried about that.

Mr. Suresh Prabhu had asked a question whether the conversion of civil energy and the military energy can take place with that kind of a material. I do not think we should be asking those questions. We should leave it to the scientists to decide about that and we should not be doing that.

Now, Mr. Vajpayee had also referred whether the Prime Minister had consulted the scientists before signing this agreement. He had asked whether the scientists were taken into confidence. What is the reaction of the scientists? I have already quoted what Mr. Subrahmaniyam has said. I would like to quote Prof. U.R. Rao. What did he say? He says: "Yes, it is a positive step. Of course, India has not fully depended on US for all technologies, but it opens up new areas of co-operation, specially in terms of global positioning system technology." This is how Prof. Rao has said.

What did Dr. Kasturirangan, who is also the former Chairman of the ISRO, say? What has he said? He said and I quote: "I believe this is a milestone in Indo-US relations. Our Prime Minister and the US President must be congratulated. What they had achieved will have repercussions for years to come." Therefore, I think the scientists in our country, who are engaged in our defence strategy, who have been involved themselves, are so concerned about this. This is the opinion of our scientists. Therefore, I think we, as laymen, should not be worried about that.

I do not believe it if anybody is saying that we are surrendering to another country or it is a sell out to another country. Are we not an independent country? Are we not capable of deciding for ourselves? Why should

we surrender to anybody? Which Prime Minister of any country in this world would like to sell his own country? So, I do not understand this. I think these are allegations which are very, very unfair. Mr. Rupchand Pal is looking at me very intensely. The other day I was reading some of the old speeches of leaders and I came across the speech of Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad. When he became the Chief Minister of Kerala, he said this.

He announced that our policy is administration and agitation. My duty is administration as Chief Minister, and your duty is agitation. So, agitation and administration must go simultaneously. I think, that is what you are doing today. Anyway, I am not blaming you for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal has spoken without my permission. It is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you should conclude.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Now, I come to the area of terrorism. I think, we all know that we have been the victims of cross border terrorism. We have tried to educate and make the United States of America and the other countries of the world understand us. They never understood us. America has not been able to stop cross border terrorism from Pakistan. Pakistan is continuing to run terrorist training camps. According to the Times of India, there are about 55 camps. Their locations have been identified.

All these circumstances led the Prime Minister and the President of United States of America to come out with a joint statement that they are going to have a UN Convention on International Terrorism by September. I think, we should welcome that. Hopefully these are positive steps. Although I have a lot of points to make yet I will conclude now. On one point, I am not very happy with the Prime Minister's visit. That is about his requesting the United States of America for a permanent membership of the Security Council.

I do not know whether we should do it at all. We should not go around the world and say: "Please make us member of the Security Council". I have my doubts. I read an article written by Shri Gurucharan Das. He says that we should not do it. He says and I quote: "Prime Minister's pleading to be in the Security Council is in the nature of an 'unseemly campaign'. It exposes our lack of confidence and status anxiety."

Why should we not do a thing we do not have to run after status? Let status run after us. I think, we can do that only when we do everything possible to take our country towards progress and prosperity.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Prime Minister for the fact that before the Prime Minister went to United States, India was recognised as nuclear weapon State. When he came back, he came back with a recognition of India being a military nuclear power. I think, there is a difference between nuclear weapon State and military nuclear power. The Prime Minister did come back to India with that recognition that India today is a military nuclear power. I congratulate the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has apprised the Parliament of the agreement signed and the joint statement made by him with the President of the United states during his visit to America. You have given me opportunity to speak on that. Ram Gopal ji has said it absolutely right that when our hon. Prime Minister was going to visit America, the entire world was eager to know the result of this visit. I can feel the same thing.

17.30 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I also feel that he has got warm reception there which the people couldn't even think of. All the Indians feel proud over this. There's no doubt about this. People also had a lot of expectations from you.

Undoubtedly, there were raised questions here when he signed the agreement and made the joint statement. He has also tried to remove some of the apprehensions in his statement. I would not like to repeat what the hon. Atal ji and other hon. Members have said. He would certainly clear their doubts in his reply. He is an eminent economist. We feel happy and proud to see that our country is continuously progressing in I.T. and other sectors. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House was to take up the Half-an-hour Discussion at 5.30 p.m. but we shall postpone it now. I am sure, Dr. China Mohan would also agree if we decide to take it up on Monday.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): It is all right, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Many hon. Members have talked of the Green Revolution and research in agriculture. But the Green Revolution has taken place long ago. I am most concerned about the farmers of our country who are to compete in the international market. It's because European countries, America, Japan, Australia etc. are providing subsidy to their farmers while our country can't do so. When G-8 countries were about to hold their conference, President Bush gave a statement that he would request the G-8 countries to bring uniformity to this subsidy, but it has not been so. Several countries of the world provide a subsidy of one billion US dollar to their farmers. How will our country's survive in comparison to them? In his above mentioned agreement, agriculture has been placed far behind. Undoubtedly, we have progressed a lot, yet, even today, our economy is agro-based. More than 60 per cent of our country's population depends on agriculture. It is the kindness of our hon. Speaker that I got an opportunity to visit European Parliament. I interacted all the hon. Members there. I had also raised this issue in all the meetings. A girl of Indian origin called Neena Gill is an M.P. in the said Parliament. She is also the Chairperson of the South-Asian Committee. She introduced the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee to us. When I asked him as to why they didn't consider the level playing field. At this, he bluntly refused saying that they would continue to provide subsidy to their farmers at the same level as they were providing it at present. He and the President of the United States did not come out with any joint statement on the issue of subsidy. I appeal to him not to be place agriculture in the non-priority sector, other sectors are progressing remarkably, whereas agriculture is our base.

If he wants to take agriculture to the international market, then it should be provided a level playing field. It's good that hon. Minister will be visiting there in December. Already, Shri Maran, Shri Jetley of the NDA Government have visited there. They also stressed on the point that unless the level playing field is created, they would not sign the agreement. Now, these countries are fully stressing on the point that we should sign whatever is in their own interest and forget whatever is in our own interest. He has to pay special attention towards agriculture.

I mean to say that to shows clear this point also while replying.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have got 25 minutes before the hon. Prime Minister replies when the four hours' time is going to be over. I have got still about 10 names. So, each hon. Member may take four minutes. Shri Manvendra Singh to speak now. You are very articulate.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer): Sir, you are very kind.

Thank you for giving me the time. I welcome the hon. Prime Minister's statement in the House only for the reason that there is such a marked departure from the joint statement that was published from Washington. I welcome the hon. Prime Minister's interest in this debate, in this discussion and his wisdom is of great benefit to us, specially the first-timers. I wish the same wisdom and the same attention had been given in the House when the House discussed the IMDT Act because, after all, the hon. Prime Minister is an MP from Assam and his responsibility towards Assam could have been shared with us. The House was very structured as you saw.

MR. SPEAKER: You are encroaching upon your four minutes by going to Assam.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Thank you, Sir. I will keep that in mind.

The hon. Prime Minister's statement devoted roughly ten paragraphs to the nuclear issue whereas the joint statement had only three paragraphs on the nuclear issue. I wonder whether the Indo-U.S. relations are determined only by the nuclear issue or there are other aspects to it. What was astonishing was that in the joint statement there is one sentence of Indo-U.S. knowledge initiative and agriculture and there is a passing reference to that in the statement in the House. It was astonishing because I thought this was the *sarkar* of the *aam aadmi* and the *aam aadmi* is dependent on agriculture and if agriculture

is something that this Government is committed to developing as an industry, then the benefits of the *aam aadmi* certainly deserve more than one sentence and not ten paragraphs towards nuclear issue as the hon. Prime Minister did devote. However, that is the hon. Prime Minister's prerogative.

The stressing on the democracy initiative is, of course, a continuation of the joint vision document of President Clinton and former Prime Minister Vajpayeeji and hearing it in the House it was deeply ironical because democratic evangelism is very welcome and I think it is more required in Bihar than it is required anywhere else in the world. The anti-democratic tendencies of this Government were pronounced for the last six months in Bihar and I think more pronounced, as you saw, yesterday in this House and I could not miss the irony of that. I wish the hon. Prime Minister would explain some of that to us.

Most of the speakers have talked about civilian energy separation from military. I will not stress on that What I find more intriguing is both the joint statement and the statement in the House talked about the nuclear initiative as India's requirement for energies.

Today in the year 2005, India's installed nuclear power capacity is, as I am told, 2,800 megawatts and installed capacity of wind power generation is 2,400 megawatts. If the Prime Minister would explain to me which is cleaner source of energy—wind energy or nuclear energy—I would benefit because nuclear power generation involves waste whereas wind power generation does not. That is the simplest difference I can come across.

Then, there was much talk about India being recognised as a nuclear power. After his joint-statement, there was a US State Department statement on the record briefing which said:

> "By taking this decision, we are not recognising India as a nuclear weapon State."

That is an on-the record statement by the US State Department. Whatever we may tom-tom here in the House or outside, that is the US statement.

For the benefit of the Marxists colleagues who have frequent memory dysfunctions on who is accountable and who is responsible for bowing down or crawling before the US, I am again quoting from the statement of US State Department issued on 18th July, 2005. It reads:

> "What was significant about yesterday's agreement is that India has committed itself in public very specifically to a series of actions to which it has not previously committed itself."

I think, that is a fairly simple and straight forward sentence in English language.

MR. SPEAKER: You would prefer the US version to the Prime Minister's version!

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: I am just reading out what the US State Department has given officially. It is an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of US. This is what they have declared.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you. You are speaking very well.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Can I just finish my last point?

MR. SPEAKER: Please carry on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not dictate to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. You just cannot rise.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very fair. I know it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded. Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Manvendra Singh.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded, Mr. Swain. Please sit down. You are not my advisor. You sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to take your seat. You are only disturbing him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not being allowed to speak. Nothing is being recorded. You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I know my duty. I think, I can claim that I am more affectionate towards him than you are.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is your party's wisdom to make you the Whip. That does not mean that you can apply it to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am also asking. Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it. Nothing is being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I can claim, I think, with confidence that I am more affectionate towards him than you are, but the question is that I have to regulate the proceedings of the House. I had very apologetically told him that I can only give him four minutes' time. Even then, it has been nine minutes, but for your interruption, probably he would have finished. Please keep quiet.

Shri Singh, you complete your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are too many advisors to the Speaker on both sides of the House!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know the reason for you all behaving like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you interested in having this serious debate in the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member of the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that you should set standard for others? You should not instigate others, but set standard for others.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very serious matter, which is being discussed. The hon. Prime Minister is waiting for four hours, and everyone else is also waiting for hours together to take part in the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you talking?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, I will just add one more point. *...(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): It seems that the CPI(M) party has come and sat there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, and do not show allergy. Mr. Manvendra Singh, please continue your speech.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am requesting that my party Member should be allowed to speak, and they are shouting at me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take it that you do not want the discussion to continue. Mr. Swain, do you want further discussion on this very serious matter? Otherwise, I will adjourn the House and go away.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: No, Sir. If you do not want me here, then I am prepared to withdraw from the House right now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know it. But you need not withdraw. You kindly cooperative by sitting there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am requesting you to sit down and hear the discussion, which is going on right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, why do those, people say? Sir, you have the right to say whatever you want to say. You can say. You have the right to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thummar, you will be in trouble. Do you want to go outside?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V. THUMMAR (Amreli): No, Sir. I will hang in here.

MR. SPEAKER: You are on mercy here because any day it will happen to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Manvendra Singh, you are speaking well, but I am sorry that I cannot give you much more time to speak. You are speaking very well, and I compliment you for the same.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You have interrupted his thought process.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: The most significant aspect in my mind about the Indo-US Joint Statement, and, specifically, about the nuclear aspect of it is the fact that the Government of India has entered into a bilateral agreement with the US to prolong what was earlier a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech. I am sorry that I have to cut the number of speakers who are to speak on this issue.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: The unilateral moratorium was a commitment made by India to the world. The former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made it in this House. This unilateral moratorium has been converted into a bilateral agreement between the Government of India and the United States. This is deeply disturbing for two reasons. Firstly, the technology is not static. What will happen to any future option, which we might want to exercise if you make your moratorium a bilateral agreement and make it permanent?

Secondly, the fact remains that we have entered into this agreement with the US by *de facto* recognising US a unipolar power centre whereas our foreign policy has always revolved around multipolar power centres. This aspect of the agreement is deeply dangerous for India's security as well as India's foreign policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I wish that Mr. Swain had given your name a little higher up in the party list. I hope you will get more opportunities, and I will also give you opportunities in the future. Kindly send your name for the same.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome the Hon'ble Prime Minister's U.S. visit and his speech there. I would like to confine my speech within 4-5 minutes. I would like to restrict my viewpoint. Taking into consideration my experience in the Power Sector, I would like to add that the US visit of the hon'ble Prime Minister is a milestone and it is a matter of great pride for India.

Sir, currently, the total power production in our country is approximately one lakh Megawatt out of which the contribution of Nuclear power is only 3.2 per cent. If we look at the world and the other developed countries, we will find that it is 78 percent in Finance, 50 per cent in Sweden, 28 percent in Germany, 25 per cent in Japan, 20 per cent in the USA, whereas in India, although today we want to make our country an industrialized and developed one, the production of nuclear power is merely 3.2 per cent. Taking into account of nuclear power generation by the year 2020, we have our planning of nuclear power generation in three phases, for which we have chosen the first one Pressurised heavy water reactor, then the fast breeder reactor and finally the Radiated Thorium reactor. But we would be able to produce only 20 thousand Megawatt of electricity by the year 2020, whereas our demand at that time would be 3.50 Lakh Megawatt of electricity. Against this demand, we will be able to achieve only 5.5 percent by the year 2020 on the basis of the current technology. Therefore, I would like to express my thanks to the Prime Minister for bringing India in the situation of a leap-frog. Today, India and the world as well is going to be bound to generate electricity not only through Nuclear Fission but also through Nuclear fusion. Today, many of us are probably unaware that six countries have collectively made a consortium, through which an International Thermo-Nuclear Experiment Reactor is being installed in France with the cost of 6.5 Billion Euro, however India is not apart of it till now. Similarly, a consortium of ten countries has been set up in the field of generation-4 Nuclear Fission Technology. These countries are investing their money and technology in this project, however India is not involved at all in this project. The world is making a leap-frog, but we still want to advance adopting the same age-old technology. Therefore, I would like to express my thanks to the Prime Minister that the agreement made by him with the United States will not only allows ourselves agreement made by him with the United States will not only allow ourselves the access to technology but also we will have access to its raw-materials and we can also become a partner in the ITER and generation-4 Nuclear Technology.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides, today when we read and see that when the Prime Minister of our country visits a foreign country as representative of India and he is accorded warm welcome there and the people praise him, we feel very much elated as a common Indian. However, at the same time, when we happen to see in the newspapers that while our Prime Minister is abroad, our Ex-Prime Minister is criticizing his Joint Statement here, then we feel very depressed because the Prime Minister, while abroad, is not the leader of any party but he is the representative of the whole country and any person belonging to any party must give him full support so that he is able to put forth his view point vehemently before the World forum and do something for India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the time to speak here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the statement given by the Prime Minister, is true, we will have to support it.

However, it is not getting clear as to what type of decisions have been taken in the nuclear matters. We have to consider as to how we people will have to face its consequences in the times to come. Regarding the deal that has been struck and the terms we have accepted, I would like to point out the first one: "Identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner." Now, it is not clear as to what is the meaning of phased manner, because if we start talking about the phased manner, in case of the security matter, it will become difficult to understand its meaning. The matter doesn't end here. It has also been decided that in case of the task carried out through International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), India is not getting the acceptance by the agency in terms of nuclear power.

It has been told here and a number of members have welcomed it also that we have gained acceptance as Military Power. But so far as the Nuclear Power is concerned, the power we have in the form of nuclear power is not going to be achieved by us in the form of Military Power, Here, we have also accepted "to voluntarily

place all civil nuclear sites under IAEA inspections". Only time will reveal its consequences. So far, no such decisions have been taken in any other country.

Today, there are five such nations which consider themselves nuclear power. They have also decided not to allow any other country to join the club. If our Prime Minister should have emphasized on the fact the practically we have-the nuclear status, however those five nations of the world are not willing to accept it. But forceful presentation of our points would have exerted pressure on America to some extent because a number of agreements are being signed with it.

18.00 hrs.

We could have put forth our viewpoint before the world as a nuclear power. We have also accepted another thing that we will sign the Additional Protocol with IAEA. This protocol will lead us to international monitoring in the field of civil nuclear fuel cycling and once we come under the arena of international monitoring, it will lead us to the monitoring of Uranium mines, monitoring of fuel cycling in their hands and it has already taken place.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended till the end of this debate. That does not mean that the time has been extended indefinitely.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: On the other hand, deals have been struck with America, there has been a resolution to purchase the arms from America and through this America will not only become the closest friend country of India in the coming years, but it is also going to become the focal point in all our security related matters. We think that the Prime Minister much throw light on all the matters and we must also avoid the America's interference in our Country's Security matters. On this occasion, I would not like to say anything special. I will speak, whenever I get the time later on. Since morning, we have been awaiting our chance to speak. Now, I would like to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name appeared quite late, otherwise I would have given you more time.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADAS (Pondicherry): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to appreciate the *suo motu* Statement of the Hon. Prime Minister. I see in the Statement more merits than demerits. This Statement consists of two parts—one is about the visit of the Prime Minister *per se* and the second one is the outcome of the visit. As far as the visit is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister has gone to USA with a vision and mission and to a very large extent, he has succeeded in his mission. He wanted to raise the image and prestige of this country in the comity of nations and by joining one of the greatest global players, he has shown to the world that India has become a major power-house. He has also convinced the US that India is the centre of knowledge industry and it is equally concerned about terrorism at the global level. To that extent, the visit was successful.

On the outcome of the visit and the impact of the Indo-US Treaty, a number of views have been expressed in this House expressing a lot of pessimism, and scepticism about it. But, I would only like to impress upon the critics of this Indo-US Agreement that we must look at the environment in which this Accord has been made and the conditions under which it has been made. We should also think that we have not lost our sovereignty, we have not lost our independence, and we have not lost our dignity in entering into this Agreement. On the other hand, we have gained a lot through this or we are going to gain a lot from this visit as well as the Indo-US Agreement.

Today, India is on the threshold of a virtual transformation. Indian economy has achieved one of the highest growth rates in the world today. It is no longer a closed economy as it was in 1951 or 1961 or in 1971. Today, it is an open economy. It has now become an integral part of the global economy and we will have to take a number of decisions which were traditional in yesteryears but modern today. Therefore, looked at from the point of view, our Agreement with the US can give us greater strength and resilience to the development of the Indian economy. Although, the economy is on the right part, yet we require a large amount of support from others. We will have to provide support to others. This is only reciprocity—what we can give to USA and what USA can give to us. It is this reciprocity that characterises this Agreement.

[Prof. M. Ramadas]

Today, India needs a lot of infrastructure. If India has to develop and has to come at the top of the world, it must have the world class infrastructure for which we require investment. And this investment will be forthcoming from the USA after this Accord. Secondly, there will be greater boost to agricultural development because this Agreement gives place for a lot of research activities as well as extension activities.

One of the Members said that there was no mention about subsidy to agriculture. One cannot expect an Accord to give everything to Indian economy as well as to Indian agriculture. We wanted the research efforts to disseminate to India so that we can carry forward the Green Revolution.

The Member who initiated this debate brought a strange correlation between the Green Revolution in Punjab and terrorism. I do not know how it is. He said that it was imposed on India by the US. I would like to remind the Member that the Green Revolution was an indigenous effort of Indian scientists and Indian political leaders. He must remember that it was Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Shri C. Subramaniam who in a combined way brought Green Revolution to this country which brought self-sufficiency in food production and dispensed our necessity to have a 'Mouth to Ship Situation' which existed long time back. Therefore, this Agreement would help us to build our strength and resilience in the matter of higher and higher Green Revolution which we characterise as Second Green Revolution. There is scope for greater technological diffusion between India and US as a result of this Accord. The nuclear power is now assuming greater importance because nuclear power alone can bring us energy security.

Therefore, in this respect, the Accord and its impact will have greater strength on Indian economy. We hope that we would be able to achieve eight per cent growth as envisaged by the UPA. Therefore, this House must unanimously applaud and appreciate the hon. Prime Minister whose vision has been appreciated by the world leaders.

Therefore, I would only conclude by stating what Mr. Bush has said while welcoming the Hon. Prime Minister at USA has said. He said:

> "I am proud to stand here today with the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the leader of one of the world's great democracies. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to America. I applaud your vision and applaud your leadership. You are a man who is committed to peace and liberty. I look forward to working with you Prime Minister. I thank you for coming."

Sir, there can be no better assessment of the Prime Minister and his ability to arrive at negotiations and to bring benefits to this country. Those are the words of Mr. Bush I hope that under his dedicated leadership and under the able guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi, this country is poised for a greater growth. This Accord will definitely bring power and prosperity to this country.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Prabodh Panda and Shri C.K. Chandrappan for initiating this debate on the hon. Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States.

The year 1998 was a very decisive year for Indo-US relationship. At this juncture, I must mention that a Nuclear Test was conducted by India on 11th May, 1998. To us and to a large section of the Indian community, it was a *Bharat Gaurav Diwas.* All sections were very happy. So, we are all proud of our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee.

Here, I must mention that India did not violate any international treaty or obligation. Since that Nuclear Test, the US imposed sanctioned on us. But later on, it was only the initiative of our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that the consultations were held and Indo-US foreign office level talks were held, and we had a successful meeting with them.

About this recent trip of the hon. Prime Minister to the United States, we must understand that the initiative had been taken by our former Prime Minister. We must appreciate that the recent visit of our hon. Prime Minister was the result of the initiative taken by our former Prime Minister.

At this stage, I must also mention about the Indo-US Joint Statement made in New Delhi by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mr. Bill Clinton, where two largest democracies of the world came closer. It was the understanding of our hon. former Prime Minister and the then President of the US, Bill Clinton that this Joint Statement was made in New Delhi. That Joint Statement included the subjects: to promote democratic values and

peace; to combat terrorism; to work together for making strategic alliances; and to reaffirm commitment to forgo further nuclear explosion or test. We went to step further in the strategic partnership when the NSSP was announced on 29th July, 2004. It was primarily aimed at increasing cooperation of civil-nuclear activities; civil-space programmes, high technology trade and Defence.

In this view, we must understand our Prime Minister's trip to the United States. His trip mainly embarked on strengthening democratic capacities, combating terrorism, economic launch of CO programme, infrastructure development, and science and technology framework agreement. I must add to that and discuss it further. At this stage, in the debate, I must also mention that all the works that our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh carried out in the USA, was the result of the initiative taken by our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But in his Statement made on the floor of the House on 29th July, 2005, the hon. Prime Minister did not mention anything relating to our hon. former Prime Minister's initiative and goals; and as to what he had done earlier in improving ties with the US.

I must say, at this stage, that "the Indian economy"—he has mentioned it when he says this, "is stronger than it has ever been." I must say that you began economic liberalisation, we commend you for that. We must commend our Prime Minister for taking the initiatives in his talks and initiating the talks through NSSP. It was done in 2004. You have mentioned here that the purpose of your visit was to sensitise the US Government about the full extent of the changes that have taken place since 1991. There were successive Governments, in my partners on the Left and other Members who were part of the Government, which have since then done a lot of good work. You must commend other successive Governments for doing good work.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you. I am very unhappy to interrupt the young Members who deliver such a beautiful and instructive speeches. But time is limited.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: I will just conclude.

Sir, the Indian economy is primarily dependent on its rural economy. The '*Aam admi*' is what the Congress and the UPA speak for. Seventy per cent of the voters who elect Members of Parliament are from rural India. You have asked for a knowledge mission—a knowledge initiative—for the rural or the agriculture sector. Suppose we talk about Gorgian peanuts. If it floods the Indian market, what will happen to our peanuts here? I have been elected from a rural constituency. We produce soyabean. Suppose soyabean comes in from US; then what will happens to us!

You also talk about combating terrorism. When did US help us when our plane was hijacked? I was in Kandhar. You must see that they really started working since 9/11.

You talk about modern vision and infrastructure development. Our former Prime Minister initiated various programmes for rural linkages, river linkages and infrastructure development. You have mentioned about high-technology development. I must go on emphasising that high-technology development should be seen as the removal of the five entities from the list that we see under NSSP on the initiative taken by our former Prime Minister.

Sir, at this stage, I would like to mention about nuclear energy. A lot has been talked about it. You have only worked on for nuclear energy for Tarapur project. We have other projects also. There are many projects in Rajasthan and many other parts of India. You should consider them also.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that there are responsibilities. In the Statement, the Prime Minister has mentioned:

> "Our inheritance gives us confidence; our experience gives us courage."

I must say that your inheritance was from the NDA Government. We gave you confidence; we gave you experience. On that, you are building nuclear power or energy sector. So, I would commend our Prime Minister, our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am sorry to interrupt you.

Next speaker is Shri Milind Deora. You also have a limited time.

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South): Sir, I do not think there is any doubt in the House that the Prime

[Shri Milind Deora]

Minister's recent visit to America was a great success for India not just in terms of the recognition it received from the US but in terms of recognition it received from the international community.

Sir, there is a banner in Mumbai city. This banner tries to capture the sentiments of the people of the city to local, domestic, national and international issues. I can say that the banner—the people who place that banner—do not always write good things about the Congress Party. But today, while the city is reeling under this flooded situation, that banner reads: "India conquers the US without firing a single shot." I think that is the sentiment held across the country by the people who are informed, who have taken the time to understand what the Joint Statement is all about, what the Prime Minister's visit is about and not only that, the deal was manifestation of where India is globally today in terms of its economic power and its strong democratic systems. But, I think, it is truly the testimony to the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

He actually managed to gain so much interest from around the world which will help India strengthen (a) its energy security needs, (b) mark India's role as a responsible global nuclear power, and (c) give us the option or the choice, without even having signed the NPT, to participate in this global framework whereby we can access certain fuels, infrastructure, technology, equipment, that will lead to and enable us to build a domestic capacity for nuclear power which right now is under there per cent of our total energy supply and reduce our reliance on oil, gas, coal, when the oil prices are rising.

The oil price has even touched 60 dollars per barrel and a lot of people have touched upon it. I do not want to go into the details of IAEA and the safeguards. But the fact is that there is plenty of flexibility provided to us before we place any of our civilian nuclear capabilities before IAEA. We have enough time to identify those to separate them and to debate them in India, inside the Parliament and outside.

What is shocking and which is clearly evident today is the fact that the NDA leaders have nothing to say about this. Whatever they spoke about and whatever they have been talking about, in the Media as also inside and outside Parliament, clearly does not hold true today. The BJP today is criticising this and the people in Washington and Capital Hill are completely shocked to see this because they are the ones who started this process. I think, at least in foreign policy, we should not discriminate on party lines and we should not discriminate on Government lines and we all should come together on what is in the country's interest.

There is one little point that I want to make before I conclude my speech. I know that we are running short of time. I will make that point very quickly. I have the Indo-US Vision Statement of 2000. In the UPA Government, not once have we seen our External Affairs Minister talking to anybody less than his counterpart, Ms. Condeleezza Rice, the Secretary of State. But the Indo-US Vision Document says: "The two countries also consider the on-going dialogue between our External Affairs Minister and the Deputy Secretary of State." They completely demoted the very post of the External Affairs Minister. This is clearly evident in an article written in *The International Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times,* by Mr. Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State, saying that Bush seems to have ratified India's nuclear club status, with very little in return. Mr. Talbott basically is stating that the UPA Government was able to clinch the deal which the NDA had been trying for six years and failed. So, I think, there is plenty of flexibility of options available for India. We have to look at them in terms of what is in our interest.

I will end my speech with a quote from Mr. Kennedy who said: "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate."

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramdas Athawale will speak for three minutes, with only one *kavitha.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister of our country visited America and gave a statement in this August House; which is being discussed here with all seriousness. Shri Milind Deora has told just now that the Congress Party was to support the then government on the issues of foreign policy when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of this country and Shri L.K. Advani was the Minister of Home Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister when the terrorists attacked our Parliament. I had told 'Atalji', please move ahead, we are with you. In the same way, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji has done some great work during his visit of America. Many hon. Members were telling that prior to this visit, they did not accompany our Prime Minister, but they were continuously accompanying the Prime Minister for three days this time.

"America ke President Bush,
Manmohan Singh ji ko samman dene me dikh rahe the khush,
Ab Pradhan Mantri ji ko jana hoga Roos,
Isse Putin ho jayega khush"

I do not want to take the precious time of the House for a long duration. But, I must say on this issue that our friendship with America should grow. But, I would like to mind our Prime Minister that Bush sahib talked of wiping out terrorism only when America was attacked on 11th September. He was rightly told that terrorism must be wiped out completely from this universe. If he is really sincere, he should start by wiping it out from India, Pakistan and Iraq. We want peace by destroying all the nuclear arms. We do not want any war; we need peace. We want peace all over the world. If human being want to make progress, they should try to keep out the feeling of annihilating one another from their hearts. The U.P.A. Government has been formed under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and we are going to rule for a long period whether he criticizes us as much as he can. But, I think that we must get united on such issues and display a conducive atmosphere.

We knew that Atal ji would continue to rule for five years. So, we did not criticize a lot it was not fruitful. But, I want to say that all the Members of Parliament and the political parties should get united on such an issue and show Bush sahib that we are satisfied a lot. Indian friendship with America will help us to develop our economy and agriculture. America had a lot of money and we should try to bring that money to our country as much as possible. Many Indians have made great contribution to make America prosperous and in improving its economy. Those person can also improve our economy. We shall provide good governance to this country for five years and even after that we are going to rule. So, all of us support the good work done by our Prime Minister during his seven day's stay in America. We have to make efforts to improve that friendship. I hope that we shall strive hard to make India the number one country of the world.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Members on all sides. We had a very constructive debate on a very important issue for four-and-a-half hours. Now, the Prime Minister.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, can I seek a clarification?

MR. SPEAKER: You can seek clarifications after the speech only if he allows. I cannot compel him.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): I will answer all the queries.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give up this habit of always questioning the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot speak every day.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I would like to bring one point to your notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak later on, not now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am the Deputy Chief Whip of my Party. My name was at number three*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not affect me at all. I would have been affected by his compliment.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh:) Sir, you may expunge the statement he has made. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, your take your seats.

[English]

If he is making an allegations against the Chair, I treat his abject remarks the way they should be treated. I am very-very sorry. I have called so many Members of your Party. Your name was not at number three in this list before me. And, you cannot dictate to the Chair.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: There is a limit to everything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Remove everything. Please sit down. I said that it is an important debate. I have requested the hon. Prime Minister to respond.

*...(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): I had given my name in the afternoon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So what? You please take your seat. I have decided not to call you. Will you please take your seat or not?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. You go on shouting. This is not the way to do it. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then I will adjourn the House because of you. If I adjourn the House, you will not have the benefit of the Prime Minister's speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am staging a walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*

18.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kharabela Swain left the House.)

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, I also represent a political party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will be duly recognised. You are recognised. You need not bother. This is becoming a habit all round to question the Chair and throw challenges to the Chair. By doing this, you are not enhancing the prestige of either yourself or of this institution.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate on the outcome of my visit to the United States. I thank hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in particular, for having done me the honour by participating in the debate. The level of the debate does credit to our House and I am very grateful that I have this opportunity to clarify some of the issues arising out of a statement that I made before this august House.

Sir, after I presented the Budget of 1991, this visit to the United States was in some way the most challenging task that I faced. But I was sustained by the powerful legacy of our freedom struggle by Pandit Nehru who made India the knowledge power that we are today; Shrimati Indira Gandhi who made us the nuclear power that we are today; and Shri Rajiv Gandhi who made us the IT power that we are today.

India stands tall today in the comity of nations. We are a country today with the second highest rate of growth in the world. The world marvels and respects us for being a democracy. People ask this question and marvel how a country a billion persons with such great diversities and with such great complexities, with all the religions of the world represented in its population yet manages to flourish as a functioning democracy. People also marvel that we have probably the second or the third largest Muslim population among our citizens and not one of them has been found to have joined the ranks of Al Qaeda and such other groups.

The world respects India for what we are. Therefore, it was for me a great privilege to represent India in talking to the various dignitaries right from President Bush downwards and, in my address to the Joint Session, of the US Congress.

Sir, issues have been raised about the basic orientation of our foreign policy. The foreign policy of our country, ever since we became an independent nation, has been designed to promote our enlightened national interest. That orientation has not changed. There is, of course, a strong civilizational influence which also guides our attitude to the world as we see it today, or the world that we would like to shape. That is as it should be. But as Panditji used to say, we live in a dynamic world; in a fast changing world. Therefore, our approach should reflect the flexibilities which are necessary in managing the complex polity in a dynamic world, but there can be no compromise on basic fundamentals'.

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*Not recorded.

Sir, I can assure you, in my visit I was cautious of this great responsibility that as the Prime Minister of this great country that I should not do, or say anything which anyway reflects adversely on ourselves.

Sir, two types of comments have been made on what we have done in this visit. There is one set of comments from our Left colleagues, whose comments I greatly value and respect, that we are continuing the same policies as those of the previous Government of getting closer and closer to the United States and that we are in danger of being submerged in that orbit under the influence of the United States. There is however, another stream coming from the benches opposite that somehow we have compromised India's strategic nuclear autonomy. So, I will deal with both these issues in some details.

The United States is a super power today. We want to move towards a multi-polar world. But how do you become part of a multi-polar world? I would like that a strong India should grow fast enough to become a powerful pole of the evolving global economy. So, it is no use merely saying that we want to get away from this uni-polar world. The practical strategies have to lay emphasis on building the economic strength and cohesion of our country. If India grows in the next ten years at the rate of eight to ten per cent per annum, then we will probably become the third or the fourth largest economy in the world and the world will respect us. Therefore, while we know where we want to go, our objective is a multi-polar world. Our objective is to work together with other like-minded countries to manage and promote equitable management of the global inter-dependence of nations, which cannot be avoided in this one world that we are living in today. That is not something that is going to happen overnight. Step by step we have to move in that direction and relations with the United States are of great importance in achieving that objective. Of course, in doing so, we must not compromise on our national honour, on our national interest. But engagement with the United States is essential in the world that we live in. This is not an alliance; this is not a military alliance. This is not an alliance against any other country.

Since our Government came into office, we have entered into strategic partnership with Russia. We have very close relations with Russia. Recently, our Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited Russia. She was received with utmost warmth by President Putin himself. A few months back, I was in Europe. We signed a strategic partnership agreement with the European Union. A few weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Japan came here and I venture to think that we have broken fresh ground in our relations with Japan during that visit.

Then we have had the privilege of welcoming the Prime Minister of China. After a great deal of efforts, we have broken new ground in promoting closer relations with that great neighbour of ours in the North. We have successfully concluded the agreement on the basic fundamental principles which should guide there solution of the complicated border problem between India and China. Therefore, I wish to dispel this illusion and I do say so with respect because it is an illusion. We are not part of any military alliance and we are not ganging up against any other country, least of all against China. And I am being absolutely truthful. In my public discussions and in the Press Conferences that is addressed, in my meetings with US dignitaries, I made it quite clear that we are engaged and we want to remain engaged with China, our great neighbour. Our economic relations are greatly expanding and I see new horizons in our economic relations with that great country and it is our wish and desire to work together to strengthen the forces of peace and prosperity in Asia and Europe. Therefore, I wish to dispel this opinion which may exist that what we have done with the United States is at the cost of China or any other country.

What we are seeking is that we need an international environment which is supportive of our development efforts. India's principal concern is to get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and diseases which still afflict millions and millions of our population. Great things have been done since Indian became independent but that journey to get rid of poverty is still unfinished and we will make all efforts domestically to reach that goal. In the world that we live in, no nation today can prosper independently. I recall what Pandit Nehru himself said and that was a prophetic vision. In 1947, he said that in this world that we live in, peace, prosperity and perhaps disasters are also indivisible. So, in this interdependent world that we live in, we need a supportive environment. And right or wrong, the United States influences that international environment. Therefore, I do not think that there is anything wrong for us to seek close cordial relations with the US while doing nothing which will affect India's dignity and honour as a sovereign independent country. So, I submit to you that I have faithfully carried out that responsibility.

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

As regards various issues that have been discussed, I will come to them subsequently. But the main issue coming from the main Opposition Party has been on whether we compromised, in any way, on our strategic autonomy in the management of our nuclear weapon programme.

Before I deal with that, I should like to mention that before going to the United States I had the honour of meeting Leaders of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Jaswant Singh. I had the privilege of explaining to them what I would seek to achieve. I also briefed our colleagues of the Left parties. I gave them a broad indication of what was at stake. I was not sure of the outcome, so I could not state all the things that subsequently are reflected in the Joint Statement. What was my concern. My objective was, other than to widen our development options, to acquire for India larger space to achieve our national goals and to do specifically two things. Firstly, never to compromise our autonomy in the management of India's nuclear programme, the strategic programme. Secondly, I had to recognise, as the Minister of Atomic Energy, that India's nuclear power programme had lagged behind. When I was a civil servant, I was a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, way back in the seventies. At that time, the Atomic Energy Commission had set for us a target of 10,000 megawatts of generating capacity. Today we are in 2005. Our capacity is less than 3,000 megawatts. We have run into some problems. I pay compliments to our nuclear scientists. They have performed admirably under very difficult conditions of this nuclear apartheid with which we have had to live for 35 years. But energy security is the key to India's emergence as a strong and powerful nation in the years to come. We have problems. Coal is plentiful. But greater use of coal can result in environmental hazards, like CO2 emissions, though clean coal technology can help manage the situation.

We are dependent on hydrocarbon imports for meeting seventy per cent of our requirements. That is too large a dependence. Therefore, in our quest for energy security, we must widen the options that are open to us and nuclear energy is one such option. There, I was being faithful to the vision of Panditji. You look at the Resolution which was adopted by the Government of India when the Atomic Energy Commission was set up. The Atomic Energy Programme of India was brought into being with an eye to create new avenues for us to generate power. That programme has got into difficulties. This is no fault of our scientists. They have done exceedingly well under very difficult conditions. But we have to recognise the realities. Therefore, I felt that if we have to find ways and means to create new avenues for us to generate power. That programme has got into difficulties. This is no fault of our scientists. They have done exceedingly well under very difficult conditions. But we have to recognise the realities. Therefore, I felt that if we have to find ways and means to create an environment in which this nuclear apartheid, all these restrictive regimes which have been erected in the last 35 years, which have blocked our capacity to leap frog in the race for social and economic development through the use of high technology, if somehow we cold get rid of these restrictive regimes, then we would have widened development option in the area of energy security that India badly needs if it is to realise its economic and social destiny. Therefore, before going to the US, I said to myself that on the one hand we should do nothing to surrender our strategic autonomy in the management of our strategic assets. On the other hand, we should find an honourable way to persuade the United States and other interlocutors to lift this nuclear blockade which has restricted our options during the last 35 years.

Sir, I say in all sincerity that we have succeeded in the objective. There is nothing in the Joint Statement which conveys the impression, or which should convey the impression, to anyone that we have in any way compromised our autonomy, our sovereign will-power, in managing our nuclear assets. That subject was never discussed. My concern in Washington was to impress upon the United States that if the United States genuinely felt that it had a change of heart with regard to India, then it must do something to lift these 35 years of restrictions which have hampered our quest for a faster access to nuclear energy.

I am glad to say that we have succeeded in achieving that objective. But, a question has been raised—and Shri Atalji raised this question. He said: "You are going to separate the civilian and the nuclear components of our Atomic Energy programme. Did you consult the scientists? Is this feasible?" I say, in all sincerity, that this is a question which has engaged my personal attention for quite some time. I am not a nuclear scientist but I had the advice of our nuclear establishment, and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission was a part of my delegation. I hope I am not revealing a secret. I think, when the final draft came to me from the US side, I

made it quite clear to them that I will not sign on any document which did not have the support of the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. It held up our negotiations for about 12-15 hours. But ultimately, we succeeded. We had a draft which had the full approval of the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Therefore, there should be no doubt whatsoever in anybody's mind that the nuclear establishment of our country, of which we are very proud, that was not fully on board.

After coming back, I talked to a large number of other nuclear scientists and other scientists and I am convinced that what we have done is in the best interest of our country. This separation that we have committed—and, let me say, all our commitments are reciprocal commitments. We will not do anything unless the United States' side honours its commitment—what are those commitments? Those are the profound commitments which the US has committed, in the words of their own President, to give India the benefit of full civilian nuclear cooperation with all the benefits that other nuclear powers enjoy. Therefore, if that statement is translated into concrete realities, I think, that will mean a new era for the growth of civilian nuclear energy sector in our country. My own vision is that in the next 15-20 years we should add about 30,000-40,000 megawatts of nuclear capacities. I have a vision that will open up new vistas of opportunity in the field of high technology. Today, we have only a few hi-tech firms like Bharat Heavy Electricals, Larsen and Toubro. If we have a large nuclear power programme and auxiliarisation, around that, it will grow a very large number of hi-tech firms which would enable us to leapfrog in the race for social and economic development. Separation is feasible. There should be no doubt about it that our Atomic Energy establishment agrees with that.

Furthermore, I would also like to say that this separation is not imposed. This separation will be decided voluntarily, solely on the basis of our own judgement. Nobody can, from outside, say: "Well, this is civilian, this is nuclear." That determination will be made by the people of India, by our Government, by our Atomic Energy Establishment. ...*(Interruptions)*

Also, it will be a phased identification. I know these things cannot be done in one go. If we are to separate the civilian and the military components of our programme, it will take time. And that is why we have ensured that this would be a purely voluntary decision, secondly it will be a phased programme, it will be so phased—and, you have my assurance, Sir, it will be so phased—that our strategic programme is fully safeguarded. Therefore, there should be no doubt whatsoever that we have done anything which compromises our strategic autonomy in the management of India's strategic nuclear assets.

Atal ji also asked this question about the negotiation of Fissile Material Production Cut-off Treaty. In this case, I should like to point out that we have taken on no more additional commitments than the commitments that were taken on board by the previous Government. And, what is our commitment? We have said that we would work with the USA in the negotiations of a multilateral agreement. This is not a bilateral deal between India and the United States. This is a deal which will be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Several years have passed when these matters have been discussed. There is no agreement in sight. It will take quite some time and in any case if the stage comes to take a decision, we will never be a party to any discriminatory treatment. Therefore, if what other nuclear weapon powers say are their rights, we would insist on the same rights. So, by merely agreeing to work with the United States in negotiating a multilateral treaty, we have not surrendered, in any way, the effectiveness of our strategic asset programme.

Sir, I should also like to assure this House that the three cycles, the fuel cycles that we have been working out are: one, Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors; two, the Fast Breeder Programme and, three, Thorium-based Reactors. We will not allow our research programme to suffer in any way in the process of separation of the civilian and the nuclear programme. So, our research scientists should have the fullest confidence that India's research potential in this vital area of national knowledge promotion will not suffer in any way. That is the commitment that I give on behalf of the Government of India.

Atal ji asked that we have not been given the status of a nuclear weapon State. Shri Fernandes also asked that question. It is true. Because, in the international parlance, the Nuclear Weapon States are the ones which are identified in the NPT Treaty. We are not a party to that Treaty. Let us face it. That Treaty cannot be changed overnight. What we have done with United States is that we have virtually got all the benefits that go with being a Nuclear Weapon State without having the *de jure* status of a Nuclear Weapon State.

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

19.00 hrs.

I think that is something which is of comfort to us. So, the fact that we are not recognised *de jure* as a Nuclear Weapon State, this was not on my agenda also because I knew that much that international treaties cannot be re-written overnight. But we have now the commitment of the United States that not only will it dismantle its own restrictive regimes but that it will use its influence with its allies and friends to dismantle these restrictive regimes, which have in the past hampered the growth of India's civilian nuclear programme. I was very clear in my mind that there may be uncertainties in the US Congress. Although the President was gracious enough to say that he will use all his influence to ensure that the Congress legislates as we want but there are uncertainties. I cannot predict what the Congress will do. Therefore, I insisted that it is not enough that the United States should commit itself to get its own domestic legislation modified but that it must use its influence with other countries, its allies and supporters to do the same. Even if the Congress of the United States does not pass, well we have, I think, the commitment of the US Government and that itself means something.

We have been wanting more Uranium for our nuclear plants. We have gone to other countries and everybody says, 'yes', they sympathise with us but that we must get the Americans on board. Now that the Americans on board, I think the fuel question for our reactors would be a thing of the past. I very much hope so. So, what we have got through this Joint Statement is something tangible. Atalji also asked this question. We have not been recognised as a nuclear weapon state. We have been merely recognised as a nuclear power with advanced nuclear technologies but there are other countries like Brazil and others. Will we get a treatment like Brazil? I think, if you read the Statement carefully, we have got enough better treatment. We have, I think, an explicit commitment from the United States that India should get the benefits of civilian cooperation as advanced country like the United States enjoys. So, I think, that itself should provide an effective answer to the extent of opportunities and possibilities that are now on the horizons.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that I have tackled both sets of comments, one coming from our colleagues from the Left and the other coming mainly from the main Opposition. There were some questions raised with regard to the role of agriculture. Let me say, Sir, I was very conscious. In fact, the first thing that is said to my officials before going to Washington is, 'Is there anything that we can do jointly with the United States to promote food security and agricultural security in our country? It then occurred to me that agricultural research, the state of agricultural universities, the state of extension work in our country is not up to the mark. Dhindsa Saheb referred to the Punjab agriculture. I was at one time associated with the founding of the Punjab Agricultural University when Sardar Pratap Singh Khairon was the Chief Minister. I know, for example, the role that was played by Indo-US cooperation in giving rise to first grade agricultural university whether Pantnagar or Ludhiana. But one has to recognise that in many of these universities, their research work has reached a flat. Therefore, through the knowledge initiative in agriculture we have, I think, opened up a new era of research cooperation which I hope will lead us to the frontiers of human knowledge in all sciences which have a bearing on our agricultural prosperity.

There is nothing in this Joint Statement which says that we will open up our borders to an unlimited flow of American goods. Those issues will be dealt with separately in the WTO. Those issues were not discussed in my discussions with President Bush. This is something which the Chairperson reminds are everyday. Our first commitment is to India's farmers—small and marginal farmers—who need a food security. Preserving the livelihood strategies of our farmers is our utmost concern, and we will do nothing which compromises the livelihood security of India's farmers.

Sir, questions were raised about the membership of the Security Council. It is certainly true that the United States has a different viewpoint. They are not supporting our Resolution. This was known to us before I went. I did raise this matter with the President and also raised this matter in my Address to the Joint Session of the Congress, and I was very surprised with the amount of applause I got from the Congressmen and the Members of the Senate on that particular point. I do not want to divulge what the President told me but I have not given up the hope that when ultimately some concrete action is taken, India's claims will not be ignored. In this Joint Statement, you have a statement attributed to the President himself that the international system must adapt itself to the rise of India's growing power. So, I think, we are not there right now and it is wrong on my part to

claim that we have the US' support but I think when the time comes, I have reasons to believe India's claim can no longer be ignored.

The other thing that was raised was the question of the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. Sir, on this point, I have been quite clear. On my onward journey when I was going to Washington, I was asked this question by our correspondents and I had explicitly stated that this is a matter for us, Pakistan and Iran period; the United States has no role in it. I can assure you that nowhere in my discussion this question cropped up nor did I give any promise to anyone in the United States that we will not work to make this project a reality. I did say when the *Washington Post* Editorial Board interviewed me, they asked me this question: "You are on the one hand wanting nuclear power, you are also asking for this gas pipeline, why did you need both these things?" And I said: "There is uncertainty about this gas pipeline. We are still in a preliminary stage." But I did say: "We need that gas desperately." The House has my assurance that our Government is committed to make the gas pipeline a reality. But it would be wrong on my part to convey the impression that we are there. There are problems; we will have to look at the feasibility; we will have to look at the financing of these things. We will make sincere efforts to resolve those issues. At the National Press Club, I did say that we have civilizational links with Iran, and I said: "We have the second largest Shia Muslim community in our country." and that we can claim to be a bridge in reconciling these various differences that have arisen between Iran and other country. I did not act as a representative of a supplicant State. I was not there to sell India. I stood by what our national policies are, as approved by this august House, and believe, Sir, that, by and large, I have carried out the mandate that was given to me.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for the Prime Minister to respond. I cannot compel him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, while participating in the debate I had mentioned some other points. I am not going into them now. I had asked about the Indo-US bilateral democracy initiative. On that point, the nation needs some clarification and the hon. Prime Minister may clarify that.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I am very grateful to Dr. Rupchand Pal for having raised that point because this matter has figured in the Press and I am very glad that I have this opportunity to clarify the position.

Sir, it is certainly true that there is a great support and respect for India not only in the United States, but elsewhere in the world because we are a functional democracy; wherever I went, whether to the Congress, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to the House of Representatives International Relations Committee people applauded the fact that we are a functional democracy with all our complexities, with all our diversities. What is it that we have agreed? We have agreed that the United States and India would, in their respective spheres, help those countries which want that help. There is no imposition, there is no question of our, for example, being forced to be a partner in any act of aggression against any other country and there is no question that we will ever entertain even that sort of thought. But we have the ITEC programme of our own. Sir, our Election Commission is respected all over the world. If some countries want our help in managing our help in managing their elections, in voter registration, in setting up an audit office in which we have great expertise, we would be providing that. The only commitment that we have is that we would be making a small contribution of $10 million to the UN Democracy Fund to be administered by the United Nations and not by any other mechanism.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question to the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for the hon. Prime Minister to respond.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, when the hon. Prime Minister was speaking, he mentioned about uranium supply to our nuclear power reactors in the country. As you know, we have got large deposits of uranium in the State of Meghalaya and in the State of Jharkhand. So, we could come up with our own reserves and develop them. What steps is the Government taking in this direction so that we can become self-sufficient in uranium and we can build our nuclear power reactors as we have already got the technology for that.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, we are doing all we can to exploit the resources that we have. There are some difficulties, I do not want to go into these difficulties. But I entirely agree with the hon. Member that we should do all that we can to exploit our resources. Only yesterday I said to my Minister of State that, for example, in Jharkhand there are some problems and we are not exploiting those resources. So, you have my assurance that whether it is in Meghalaya, whether it in Andhra Pradesh or in Jharkhand, wherever we have uranium resources, we are actively engaged in seeing that these resources can be exploited to the maximum.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the emphasis in the Joint Statement is on the availability of U-37 for our atomic reactors. But given the hegemonistic attitude and the thrust of the American policy, what do they get from us in reciprocation as it has been stated that it is a reciprocal thing? Is it a change of heart or is it has been thrust of the American policy, what do they get from us in reciprocation as it has been stated that it is a reciprocal thing? Is it a change of heart or is it just a goodwill mission and the Joint Statement emerged out of that?

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, all I can say is that I have not done anything which is not reflected in this Joint Statement. There is no secret tag, there is no secret understanding. I have truthfully stated at great length of whatever was agreed. So now I do not want to be accused of being a reader of what is in people's mind. But, I think, the United States Government recognises that it is in their interest that a country of one billion people, a functional democracy, should grow. We can be and we will be a factor for peace, progress and stability not only in Asia, but in the rest of the world.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I have only two clarifications. One is, and if I understood him correctly, he said that even if the US Congress does not accept what is being stated, the US Government will still be on board. Is my understanding correct?

Secondly, I have made a comment on this issue in my speech also and he has again stated that the building of present India, strong India starts from 1947 and ends up in 1991. Has nothing happened between 1991 and 2004?

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Again Sir, that is not the presumption, which I would like him to carry. I think, as a country, our effort has been to manage change with continuity. So, I am not saying that everything that has happened today is because of what I have done or what or what our Government has done. But who can deny the contributions of Panditji, Indiraji, Rajivji? I also say that there were some good things done in the NDA regime also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No please. It is not fair. He has spoken for 40 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has very exhaustively dealt with the issue and has spoken for 40 minutes. Please take your seats now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, are you interested in raising the urgent matters which are to be taken up at the end of the day?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Shri Lonappan Nambadan please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mention your matter Shri Nambadan. Do you remember what is your subject?

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House a matter regarding atrocities against minority communities, especially members belonging to the Christian community who service rural areas in India. They have been facing lots of dangerous assaults and criminal intimidation to their life and properties.

19.19 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would cite a number of instances to show that these anti-social elements have attacked and killed the Priests and Nuns, who belong to the Christian community, across the country. In Orissa, recently one Priest was murdered after being beaten and tortured. Again, in Orissa, another Priest was stabbed to death at his home.

In my constituency in Kerala, one Father Job Chittilapilly was murdered last year in August 2004. The police could not arrest the murderers till date. In Patna, Bihar, one Vicar General, Father Mathew was stabbed to death. Besides these, a number of educational institutions, hospitals, charity centres and Churches are under attack and looting by goons and anti-social elements.

This creates an insecurity and panic among the members of the minority communities. Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene and stop these atrocities towards the minority communities and preserve and cherish the harmony among different communities.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, devotees of Lord Shiva from all over the country offer holy water of the Ganges brought from Haridwar on 'Kanwar' in the various temples including Neelkanth, Garhmukteswhar, Dudheshwarnath temple of Ghaziabad in the month of 'Sravan'. I am thankful to you for giving opportunity to express my views and highlight their problems before the House. The problems are faced by the devotees of all age groups ranging from 5 years to 60 years and carry the holy water from Haridwar to various temples in the country. One boy carrying 'Kanwar' from Haridwar is still traceless. The Central Government or the State Government should make proper arrangements for the safety of 'Kanwarias' and safe roads for them on the occasion of Sravan-Shivratri fair at Ghaziabad. Perhaps he may have read in the newspapers that the Kanwarias use national highways and all other roads for their journey. There should be a proper path for their journey so that accidents could be avoided. A number of Kanwarias have been killed in road accidents. The Central Government or the State Government should make arrange net for their food and stay. The path should be equipped with street lights and the roads used by them should be repaired.

There are various religious places in the country such as Shirdi, Nasik, Varanasi, and Mandeshwar temple at Ujjain or Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh. The devotees travel to these places in foot. The Government should make arrangements for their safety. I thank you again for providing me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the august House towards the accident that took place on 29th July in Ludhiana district of Punjab in which 3 precious lives were lost due to the fault of Railway department. This accident took place at an unmanned railway crossing at Himmatnagar-Dugri near Ludhiana city. A maruti-zen car collided with a train that was going from Ludhiana to Hisar. When the train was passing through Baba Deep Singh it suddenly collided with the car at an unmanned railway crossing. Paramjit Singh, resident of Baddowal, who was just 47 years old, was driving the car. He was accompanied by his 40 years old sister whose husband had died recently and who left behind two small children. Another woman Rajni was accompanying them. All of them died on the spot. The car was totally wrecked. This accident was so violent that the speeding train dragged the car along with tracks for half a kilometer. The local people and the police reached the spot on hearing about this fatal accident. But it was unfortunate that the Railway officials and the Railway police reached the site of the accident only after one and a half hours. By that time, everything was over. Sir, this is not the first accident at this unmanned railway crossing. Last year, on 6th of May, an even more tragic accident involving a van of school children had occurred here. In that fatal accident, 6 innocent school children had lost their lives and dozens of school children were badly injured. People of the area have been demanding that this unmanned railway crossing shou'd be made a manned railway crossing but it is unfortunate that the Railway department is not taking any steps in th's direction and the blood of passengers is being spilled here. This is not the only unmanned railway crossing where fatal accidents have taken place. There are several such unmanned railway crossings in Punjab where such painful accidents take place almost daily.

Sir, through you, I want to ask the Railway Minister whether he knows about this accident and if so, then what action has he taken in this regard. What action has he taken for granting compensation to the affected families? Why has he not taken any steps in this regard? In the near future, is the Government planning to make such dangerous unmanned railway crossings into manned railway crossings?

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*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government had fixed four per cent agricultural growth rate in the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, in the Mid Term appraisal report only 1.1 per cent growth rate has been announced and apprehension has been expressed that we can never achieve four percent growth rate. Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, just now the Prime Minister was talking about Punjab and its farmers and telling that he pays adequate attention to agriculture. I am talking about the same Punjab from where the Prime Minister hails and which has been a leading agricultural state. What is the condition of that state today? Sir, I am quoting this from the Farmers Forum Magazine:

[English]

> "Village after village in Punjab is up for sale. Rural indebtedness has reached such alarming proportions that the entire communities are forced to 'distress sale' their lands.
>
> Bhutal Kulam, a village in Sangrur district, comprising around thousand acres of land is up for sale. Local farmers heavy indebted to moneylenders and corporate banks are selling their landholdings at a pittance."

[Translation]

Sir, this is happening because the small and medium farmers are being ignored. The 78 per cent farmers of the country are small and medium farmers. When they approach the banks for loan, they are asked to deposit the margin money and bring the guarantee as well, though they are unable to fulfil either of them consequently they are deprived of loan facility so the small and medium farmer are on the verge of starvation today.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that the small and medium farmers should not be asked to deposit the guarantee and margin money and they should be given the loan up to Rs. 25000 considering their standing crops as security. By doing so, the present plight of the small and medium farmers can be ameliorated.

19.28 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

Sir, our country is the world's second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, however fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 50 thousand get rotten every year in our country because we do not have food processing industry. There are only 7 per cent food processing industries in our country which are engaged in agricultural value addition work. But the European countries save the fruits and vegetables by enabling them to 100 per cent food processing. Through you, I would like to ask the Government to pay attention towards this situation and if it is really concern for the farmers, it should take concrete steps in this direction taking into account all these things.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, the Government has prepared a Draft National Policy for the handicapped persons. This draft is not in the interest of the handicaps anyway. The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People has turned down the policy. The policy has been made for the handicap persons after keeping it pending for ten years and even nothing has been discussed with organizations related to handicapped persons before making the policy. Neither any publicity has been given to the draft made nor the suggestions of the people have been invited. After going through the draft it seems that only the feeling of mercy has been expressed therein.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a question connected with the feelings of the crores of handicapped people. The need of the hour is not to make the handicapped people should feel that they are on the mercy of others but to make them self-reliant and the Government should have prepared the draft National Policy for the welfare of the handicapped people on the basis of this feelings. Its information has been abruptly given on the website, however it has not been publicized. This is a serious matter. The Government deliberately making an effort to ensure that the policy required to be made in the interest of the handicapped people should not be discussed in the country and handicapped people may not give their suggestion. This draft policy cannot be justified at any cost. I would like to request the Government to have the feeling of the handicapped people incorporated in the national policy being prepared for them. Any policy for them should be made only after publicizing and discussing it throughout the country. This is the request I had to make.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey—Not present.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Sir, the coastal Karnataka is of a length of about 300 kilometers and in this belt, we are well aware that monsoon has started, and it rains heavily. Due to raise in the terrific waves from the sea, there is a serious sea erosion in the coastal belt. Since the last one week, nearly 200 fishermen's homes have been collapsed and several coconut trees have been taken away by the sea. Sea erosion poses a serious threat to the life and property, apart from affecting the economic activities of the people living along the coast.

For years together, the same thing continues and no proper steps have been taken for putting up walls, and only sandbags are required to stop further damage to the houses of the fishermen.

The areas like Mogaveerapattan, Bengre, Ullal, Someswara, Kotepura, Surathkal of Karnataka are severely hit by this, and roads, houses, coconut trees, etc., are damaged considerably. Therefore, immediate step to avoid further damage has to be taken. The intervention of the Central Government in this matter is highly essential.

Various proposals are pending before the Centre since the last several years but no steps have been taken so far for the permanent rescue of the fishermen's families from this disaster.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: As this is a matter of very urgency, the Central Government has to interfere immediately and direct the State Government to take immediate steps so as to stop further erosion of coastal Karnataka. If that is not done, certainly some more houses of the fishermen will be washed away by the sea. So, I request the Central Government to kindly intervene immediately and direct the State Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a devastating drought in Bihar. Last year, severe flood occurred there. Now this year, the whole Bihar is under drought. I would like to mention particularly, about my constituency. I have just visited my Lok Sabha constituency which has Sheohar, Motihari and Sitamarhi districts therein. The fields are having cracks and the crops of all the farmers have been destroyed. There are also no means available for plouging the field in future. Sir, the situation is very wretched there. Presently, it appears that heat wave is blowing in Bihar. People are getting affected by it. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to give a special package as compensation for the farmers and poor people of Bihar to deal with the drought situation prevailing there.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to place before the Government a serious situation prevailing in the areca-nut farming areas in different parts of the country. India is considered as the largest areca-nut producing country in the world, and the cultivation of areca-nut is mostly confined to the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Goa and Assam. More than 10 lakh families are directly involved in the cultivation of areca-nut and about 50 lakh people are involved in the production, processing and marketing of areca-nut.

Hence the crisis in this sector will directly affect the livelihood of crores of people in our country.

About 5 lakh million tonnes of areca nuts are being produced in our country. The consumption in the domestic market is less than this. The price of the areca-nuts has sharply declined mainly because of unhindered imports from countries like Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc. Through legal and illegal ways, some countries utilize the SAARC benefit through Petropol near Bangladesh border. The cheaper quality of areca-nuts are imported and being sold with Rs. 35 kg. to Rs. 40 per kg. which is not at all comparable with the prices in India. Traders in India are availing the benefit of Advance Licenses sanctioned during previous years.

The production cost of areca-nuts was estimated at about Rs. 60 per kg. even during 2001. But the actual price they are getting is in the range between Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 per kg. The areca-nut growers in Kerala, Karnataka and other such States incessantly incur heavy losses. Though State Government takes some steps to assist farmers yet due to the imported goods, desired result has not been received. Due to severe crisis in this

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

sector, hundreds of farmers have already committed suicide. To provide immediate relief to the farming sector, the Government should take urgent steps such as cancellation of all the advance licenses sanctioned for the import of areca-nuts, enforce strong measures to ban cheaper quality products, prevent illegal entry of products, etc. The Government should also raise the import duties to protect the interest of the domestic farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell about laying a new railway line from Bilaspur, Mandla to Jabalpur in Chhattisgarh state. Chhattisgarh is a newly created state and out of its total population of 2 crore, there are approximately 80-90 lakh scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people. The survey work for Bilaspur, Mandla and Jabalpur railway line was started in the year 1971 and even after such a long period the said survey work has been completed just one year back. Sir, it should be sent to the Planning Commission because by laying 125 km. rail track one lakh people would get employment opportunities. The state government, Union Government and the railways would earn income from the minerals there, i.e. coal, bauxite and dolomite. Therefore, I demand that Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new railway line should be sanctioned without any further delay.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. With your permission, I want to raise an important issue of public importance relating to my constituency.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government specially the Railway Ministry to the problems being faced by the people of that area. Sir, there is an important Railway Station, namely, Lohapur Railway Station in the Nalhati-Azimgunj section of Eastern Railways. It falls within the Block Headquarters, and hundreds of commuters ply through that rail service. There are a number of rail services. Recently, one important train has been introduced, namely, the Ganadevata Express beyond Rampurhat to Azimgunj Section. But the Railway Ministry has taken a decision which is an arbitrary decision, the maintenance of this Section will be handed over to the private agency. This is very much an anti-people and arbitrary decision which will minimise the importance of the Station, and the staff will also suffer a lot.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to implement that sort of a decision to indirectly privatise the railway station's management and continue the present status of the station being maintained by the Railway Department itself. Moreover, I want that the railway services in this section should be improved and there should be an immediate introduction of a stoppage of Ganadevata Express in that station so that people could get the privilege of catching trains from that station.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a large number of adivasi (tribals) and Vanvasi live in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. It is a backward forest area and there is no industrial unit in this area. The people there are being exploited on large scale. Recently, an incident has taken place in Gurgaon. In the same manner with respect to work, adivasis are exploited in my district but their due wages are not paid to them. Instead of 8 hours they have to work for 12 hours. The HINDALCO retrenched thousands of labourers. Hi-tech Carbon residues in the form of chemicals are released into the river originating from Rihand Dam, which causes adverse effect on the health of the general public. The adivasi consume that water. Not only this, in connivance with the other officers, the Labour Commissioner is not hearing the complaints of the general public. The HINDALCO has occupied hundreds of acres of land of the department of Forest and the administration is not taking any action in this regard. The adivasis are neither being offered jobs nor they have participation in the management. There is resentment among the people. The payment of wages is not being made to the workers. Deputy Labour Commissioner of the Division has taken charge of some industrial units and the workers are being harassed. The chemicals are affecting the labourers. Majority of the workers of these factories have become handicapped. My submission to the Government is that it should take necessary action in this regard. It is a very serious issue. The Government have not formulated any scheme in this regard. In this regard, several letters have already been written to the hon. Minister but it is replied that the case is being investigated, action is being taken. Last time also I raised this issue during zero hour that a separate

package should be formulated for those people. The HINDALCO Company is exploiting the workers, it should be stopped, strict action should be taken against the company and the rights of workers, adivasis and vanvasis should be safeguarded.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Thank you, Sir. I am drawing the attention of this august House regarding the anti-people approach of the Post and Telegraph Department of the country by the closure and degradation of the post offices in all parts of the country which has created an alarming situation.

The organisations of the postal employees have started continuous agitation against the said decision and the people have started forming post office protection committees to protect the post offices and fight against the anti-people attitude of the Government.

The State of Kerala is the worst affected by this decision. In my constituency of Badagara, this has caused serious consequencies in the three municipal areas of Vadakara, Koyilandy and Thalassery. Four E.D. sub-post offices under the Vadakara Postal Division have already been downgraded within a month and another eight post offices are being downgraded. Kadaloor, Naduvathur, Keezhariyar and Eyyad post offices have already been downgraded. Iringannur, Meppayil, Melur, Arikkulam, Palayadnada, Kodiyura, Pathiyarakkara and Maniyur are the post offices that are being downgraded. Similarly Chirakkara and Moozhikara post offices in Thalassery Postal Division are facing the same problem.

If the sub-post offices are downgraded and detached from the head post office, there will not be existence of the head post offices in these municipal areas. People of these localities are living in all parts of the country and abroad, seeking job opportunities. As a result of the closure and downgrading of these post offices, people living in outside areas will be deprived of the benefits of getting postal articles in future.

The employees working in the postal department are badly affected by this approach. The vacancies in the Department are not being filled for the last few years and the recent approach of closure and downgrading has created much unrest among the employees as a whole.

I, therefore, request the Government of India not to implement the decision without considering the serious impact it is going to create. The Postal authorities should be directed to withdraw from the action taken by them to that effect.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to seek permission to raise the issue of large scale irregularities being committed in making available the coal to the small scale industries at national level.

Eight months back, Ministry of Coal, Government of India had authorized a Delhi based company NCCF to supply 40 thousand tonnes of coal from all of the coal producing companies of Coal India Limited to each of all the small scale industries of the country having a consumption of less than 500 tonnes. Whereas the NCCF is not making available coal to any small scale industry and the whole quantity of coal is being sold in the black market. Moreover, the said company is causing heavy loss amounting to the crore of rupees to the government by evading sales tax, income tax and service tax. In my parliamentary constituency, there are hundreds of small scale industries, lime kilns. Due to non-availability of coal all these are going to be closed.

I demand the Union Government that entire issue should be probed and Coal India Limited should cancel its contract immediately and put a check on the black marketing of coal. I through you, would like to get the information from the government about the places where the coal mines have been awarded to the private parties for its excavation and the terms and conditions prescribed for them for sale of coal.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Like it was mentioned in the morning, various parts of the country have been affected by heavy rains and consequent floods and landslides, causing large-scale loss of life and property, especially in Maharashtra and Kerala States.

In Maharashtra, nearly 1,000 people have died and in Kerala, the death toll has crossed 100. The damages and loss to houses and property, agricultural crops and other long-terms losses are yet to be fully estimated by the States.

[Shri K. Francis George]

In Kerala State, more than 100 people have died and more than 12,000 houses have been destroyed. Seventy-two relief camps have been opened in which more than 13,000 people have been accommodated. The preliminary estimate of loss due to destruction of houses, standing crops, agricultural fields, roads, bridges, public buildings and other assets amounts to more than Rs. 50 crore. The Government of India should take the initiative to make a special study of disaster prone areas.

In the case of Mumbai, the financial capital of our country, for the last two weeks, life has been completely paralysed and there has been no activity at all. In Kerala also, in the hilly district of Idukki, there have been heavy landslides and several areas have been cut off. The small town of Munnar, a tourist centre which is known as Southern Kashmir, has been affected mostly by landslides. The Government of India should take an initiative to make a special study of these kinds of disasters and disaster prone areas and to come out with measures to check this in future.

In a calamity of this nature, the most affected is the agricultural sector. So, I would request the Government of India to enlarge the scope of the national agricultural insurance scheme. It should include all the cash crops and spices because in a State like Kerala, agriculture crops are the most affected, in a natural calamity like this. In this hour of extreme crisis, I would appeal to the Government to rush Central teams to all the affected States and areas. The Central Government should not wait for representations from the States because we need an on the spot assessment immediately and assistance, financial and otherwise, from the Central Government to help the States in order to tide over this crisis.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir. Probably, you know that due to unplanned and unscientific extraction of dolomite and indiscriminate deforestation at the upper streams of rivers flowing through Bhutan, vast areas of North Bengal are flooded every year, causing heavy loss of agricultural products, tea plantation, forestry, wildlife and sanctuaries. I urge upon the Government, through you, to take up the matter with the Royal Government to Bhutan so that incidence of unplanned extraction of dolomite and deforestation within the territory of Bhutan is stopped forthwith.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House a very important issue relating to both Kerala State and Tamil Nadu State.

Mullai Periyar Dam is over-flowing with water due to plenty of rainfall in the catchment area. The water is flowing towards Idukki hydel project of Kerala, which is very useful for Kerala. At the same time, people of Tamil Nadu are utilising the water for their irrigation purposes.

The water level in Mullai Periyar Dam is 136 feet which is allowed. When it was built during 1885 with the co-operation of the then King His Highness of Thiruvancore, the dam height was 152 feet. Due to a fear of disruption in the wall of the dam, thinking that disruption may occur, the height of the water allowed was reduced to 136 feet. Now, the level of water is 136 feet. Even though the Expert Committee headed by Shri S.S. Brar and Shri T.K. Mittal have said that the water level can be kept at 145 feet, water level is still maintained at 136 feet. I urge upon the Central Government to make it 145 feet as the wall has been reinforced as certified by the experts. That is why, Shri S.S. Brar and Shri T.K. Mittal have recommended to the Central Government through the Central Water Boards. As this is the case, I urge upon the Government of India on behalf of my Party, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Shri Vaiko, leader of the Tamilians, to raise water level up to 145 feet as recommended by the Central Water Board and as per experts opinion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources. I have been elected from the Patna Parliamentary constituency where the population has grown to about 20 lakhs. There is the acute shortage of water in that area. On the basis of the infrastructure available there, the Government is unable to provide water to the people and the water that is being supplied is contaminated. A large number of people are being suffering from Jaundice there. Although, the urbanization and its expansion is taking place, yet on account of the State Government getting into financial doldrums, the problem of the shortage of water is not being addressed completely. The old pipelines there have rusted and worn out.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, please conclude. The budget for the State of Bihar will be discussed in the House, and you can mention all these issues at that time also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I will speak in detail at that time and right now I am going to conclude my speech. It is noteworthy that the people there should atleast get the basic amenity of water. Nobody can live without water. Keeping in view the shortage of water there, the Central Ground Water Board through the Union Government arranged for the tubewells at some places. The drilling for tubewells was carried out at about 18 places. However, the tubewells have been started at only four five places and at the remaining places, where the then Government had made arrangements there is no tubewell facility so far. After drilling, the work at these places has been left incomplete. Consequently, it is causing too much difficulty to get the supply of water. I would like to request you to get the tubewells constructed at the drilled places at the earliest in order to make the water available to the common citizens of the Patna city. The Union Government should provide the money for the expansion of the pipeline there at the earliest and the Central Ground Water Board, through which this task has been undertaken, should complete the work so that the people get the water facility. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this area where the situation is worse. I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the chance to speak. I hope, you will continue to give us the chance to speak next time also.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the transfers of 736 coaches, out of the 1400 coaches in India under the Sports Authority of India during the period between 1st July 2005 to 5th July 2005. It seems to me that as of today, the working of SAI with regard to the coaches is not proper. There is a need to bring about a change in the situation. Today, our players, who are undergoing training, seems to be losing their morale. There is a need to concentrate on SAI in the present scenario. There is an air of suspicion due to no clear-cut rules related to the transfer of coaches and because of this the standard of sports in our country is falling down. This has become a cause of concern for us. The parameters of the transfer of coaches, are not clear and this has led to the irregularities in transfer process. It has been witnessed that the coaches have been transferred within two or three years at some places, the coaches are retained at the same place for 10 or 15 or 20 years. Sir, I would like to know as to what is the transfer policy. On one hand because of the frequent transfer of coaches, the players are not imparted proper training, on the other, the coaches lose their interest in giving the training in case they are retained at the same place for a long time and they starts to pay their attention to the other tasks like making profit in the business etc. Their interest in imparting training begins to die down which leads to the downfall of the sports milieu.

20.00 hrs.

It has also been witnessed that a player was sent to Germany from 1990 to 1994 for doing PHD so that after his return, he could raise the standard of Sports by imparting training to the coaches, however that coach was sent to the player by the SAI for training, who spent 19 years in the Calcutta Centre. Similarly, there is no ground and infrastructure in the Chowdhary Devi Lal SAI, North Centre located in Sonepat, however, 32 coaches were sent there on the 5th July, 2005. ...*((Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are reading the history of the Sports Authority of India. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: It is ironical that somewhere, there is no coach available to players, somewhere else, there are unspteen coaches, but no players. Therefore, I would like to request that there is a need to make the transfer policy transparent. Under a scheme, the players upto the age of 25 years were to be selected, however the players of the older age are being recruited in the scheme due to which the Junior players are not getting the chance. It is requested that such things should not happen and the junior players should also get a chance. It is, therefore, required to be improved.

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir,, through you, I would request. ...*((Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dhirendra Aggarwal, please be seated, I will call you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, mine is a very small question. There is the game of cricket, hockey and ofcourse, football in India. Players go abroad to play all these games. While drawing attention of the Minister of Sports and that of the Government of India, I would like to submit that there is no Sports College anywhere in India. If a sports college is opened in India it will help players get victory. They will be able to have proper training and proper care and thus they will get some sort of encouragement. The coaches and players will get the facility of learning all sorts of sports. I would, therefore, request the Government of India to set up such sports colleges in every state capital and in every district. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if sports college is set up in Jaipur-the capital of Rajasthan and in every district of the State, the rural players of this region will get encouragement. I, would, therefore, request the Government of India to set up a sports college in Jaipur and small sub-centres at the district level setting up such sports centres will facilitate the players to get training therein and moreover they will also get a boost to learn the games more and more. ...*((Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair and not the hon'ble Member.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not speaking about Rajasthan alone but speaking of whole of India that sports college should be opened in every state capital of India and their small sub-centres should be opened at the district level so as to provide opportunity to the rural players alongwith their urban counterparts to learn and play the games, as well as to get formal training thereof.

I would like the Government of India to open Sports College in every State capital and sub-centres thereof in every district of the country including Patna in Bihar. It is my request. I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I hope that you will take care of me and keep giving me chance in the same way in future also. With this expectation I take my seat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, while drawing your attention to the situation of farmers in Rajasthan, I through you, would like to submit to the Government of India that nowadays a large number of farmers belonging to Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Shri Ganganagar and Raisingh Nagar have been agitating. The Indira Gandhi canal the life line of Rajasthan is not getting its share of water from the rivers Ravi and Beas. I would, therefore, request the Government of India to direct the Government of Punjab to forthwith release the entire share of Rajasthan in the river waters of Ravi and Beas. Sir, the State of Haryana was carved out after the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. At that time meetings etc. were held regarding sharing of river waters of Ravi and Beas and river waters were shared amid the newly formed states as per the share the erstwhile Punjab had received under the accord of 1956. After several round of meetings a formal accord with regard to sharing waters or Ravi and Bias rivers was reached on December, 31, 1981 between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of the then Prime Minister and as per that accord the share of Rajasthan was fixed at 8.6 MAF.

Sir, Now Rajasthan is getting 8 MAF of water but 0.6 MAF of water is not being made available to it. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that Rajasthan should be given its full share of water allocated to it under the 1981 accord. Now the Indira Gandhi canal has been constructed. It has been fully developed. That canal can fully utilize the entire share of the State. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Power of the Union Government to direct the State Government of Punjab and the Bhakra Beas Management Board to release the rest of the 0.6 MAF water share of Rajasthan. The Punjab Government has been requested a number of times in this regard. Several representations have been given but so far there has been no progress in this matter. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also had correspondence with the hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and the Prime Minister on 24.12.2004, 18.3.2004 and 18.6.2004. A delegation of the Members of Parliament from Rajasthan has also met the Prime Minister in this regard. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit to the Government of India that Rajasthan has not been getting 0.6 MAF water of its share since 1981. We are now in a position to utilize that water. The Congressmen and the communist comrades are instigating the farmers which led to an incident of police firing there. In order to pacify the anger of farmers and to utilize the full capacity of the Indira Gandhi canal, the remaining share of 0.6 MAF waters should be provided at the

earliest to the State of Rajasthan so as to benefit the farmers.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: On this issue I also associate with Shri Rasa Singh ji and support him. Rajasthan should get its share of water, other-wise strong agitations are taking place there. ...*((Interruptions)*

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you that Ranchi High Court has directed Jharkhand Government to hold Panchayat elections before 15th October. Just as Jharkhand Government had created a civil war like situation in Jharkhand by introducing domicile policy, without proper consideration, in the same way, now prior to Panchayat elections they have declared 12 districts totally reserved for scheduled tribes though most of the Panchayats in these districts have negligible number of scheduled tribes. Now when this policy of Jharkhand Government is being opposed and there is a possibility of mass agitation, keeping it in view, Jharkhand Government has under a conspiracy, revised it after its discussion in their cabinet and asked for the centre's permission for dereservation.

I want to submit that JHARKHAND Government while reserving 12 districts, had not sought centre's permission, why do they now need permission for dereservation. It is a conspiracy and the Jharkhand Government does now wish to hold elections by the 15th October. So now they have put the ball in centre's court.

I request the Union Government to tell the Jharkhand Government that they need not seek permission for dereservation because while making reservations they had not asked for permission. The Panchayats, where scheduled Tribe population is high, should be declared reserved. The Panchayats with lower number of scheduled caste persons should be deserved and elections should be held there before 15th October. ...*((Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Sir, like Gujarat and Maharashtra, the recent, most devastating rains have affected the southern State of Karnataka also during the last 15 days. People of this region have been displaced from their work and properties. Thousands have lost their lives. Transport, electricity and communication systems have been dislocated and businesses are paralysed.

The Government is aware that it is time for the people and the business establishments to file Income Tax Returns for the Financial Year 2004-05 and Assessment Year 2005-06 the last date for which was 31st July, 2005. However, keeping in view the havoc caused by the rains, the Government has rightly extended this date till 31st August in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra where people are hardly in a position to even think of these routines as they are made to run for the last straw to hold on to for their survival from the fury of incessant downpour. However, it is strange that this facility is not extended to the people of Karnataka when the plight of the people of Karnataka is the same as in the neighbouring State of Maharashtra. The devastating effect of rains in Karnataka is in no way less than that in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Lives of people in Karnataka are as badly paralysed as in the other two States. About 173 villages are flooded with water and thousands of people have been rendered homeless all over the State. Several people have lost their lives. Thousands of houses have collapsed. The death toll reached more than 100.

The Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre for an assistance of Rs. 109 crores to take up immediate relief and rescue operations. But the Government has not extended this facility to the State of Karnataka. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the business in the State, especially the northern parts, has a direct connection with Maharashtra. Hence, form No. 16-A and 27-C and Statement of Accounts have a direct bearing on the IT returns in the State.

The same is the case with the system of Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) for which the last date for payment of first instalment is 15th of this month. Therefore, I urge the Government to extend the time limit for filing the IT returns and the payment of FBT in Karnataka also till the end of this month, as is done in Maharashtra and Gujarat. I also make a special request for immediate Central Aid of Rs. 109 crores to face the flood situation in the State of Karnataka. Roads have also been badly affected, almost flooded and washed away. Hence, I would request the Government to take special care on this and extend financial assistance to Karnataka.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Sir, may I call the attention of the Government on the following important matter:

[Shri P. Rajendran]

Abolition of staff strength in the Central Government departments to the tune of two-thirds direct recruitment vacancies was introduced during 2001 by the NDA Government. Lakhs of Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts have been abolished. This has generated unemployment in the country among the educated unemployed youths. The UPA Government is also implementing the same policy which is detrimental to the interest of unemployed youths in the country. This is against the spirit of the Common Minimum Programme of the Government. Immediate steps may be taken to undo anti-people policies of the previous Government and restore recruitment and fill up all vacant posts in the Central Government departments which would help educated unemployed youths for employment opportunities which is denied for the last six years.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): I have been raising this question for last 10 days. Through you, I want to request the Government that they are not making necessary efforts to bring back the youth confined in Pakistani jails. Previously it had been told in reply to my questions that those whose term of sentence was completed and whose nationality was verified they would get released soon. But I want to tell you about an incident. A mother came to me and told me that tears in her eyes had dried up, but there was none to listen to her suffering.

Sir, there are two things-first is why the children are in jails, and the second is as to why the Government is not serious on this issue? Those children are put in jails as they went there for earning money. Some countries pushed them to Pakistan. I had recently been to Pakistan. I talked to the Prime Minister, Internal Minister and our High Commissioner there. I gave them the list of such children and youth whose term of punishment has expired $1^1/_2$ or 2 years back but they are still in jails. 6730 Indians are in foreign jails. People from all over the country, Punjab, Jammu-Kashmir, Haryana and Chennai etc. are languishing in Pakistani jails. If the Government do not make efforts to get them released such children might indulge in illegal activities in those countries which we don't wish. I, therefore, through you request to the Government to get these children released at the earliest. Not only this, many soldiers are in Pakistani Jails since the Indo Pak wars. It has been 40 years since the war of 1965 but the Government have not made any efforts to get them released. The suffering of families of those children and their own physical and mental agony should be perceived. Many of the children have started losing mental balance and the bodies of many of them have get emaciated. Their parents are suffering mental agony because of their separation for a long time.

Efforts should be made immediately to bring them back. I have taken appointment from Hon. Prime Minister, I will tell him also about the condition of those children of Punjab. I hope the representatives of the Government present in this House will convey my feelings to the Government and children will be soon brought back to the country.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I will bring it to the attention of the hon. External Affairs Minister.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to these points. In the villages Sant Kabir Nagar of my parliamentary constituency Basti Maindi Ghat is a big dam, this Maindi Ghat is only 100 metres away from the erosion of the River Sarju (Ghaghra). If that big dam is eroded, it will effect all the Basti Division and will cause a heavy loss of life and property. For last 4-5 days continuous erosion is taking place there and I wished to take up the matter for last three days. No proper arrangement has been made to stop the erosion due to carelessness of the administrative officer there.

I, through you request, the Government that the erosion should be prevented immediately so that the possibility of loss of life and property be negated. Strict action should be taken against such careless officers.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the hon'ble Minister of Defence towards the State of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and a bordering state where a large number of youth gets recruited to the armed forces. They have won many medals by the sheer dint of bravery and sincerity in the

wars against Pakistan and China and in the recent conflict of Kargil. Out of the total population of the country less than one percent people of belonging to Himachal Pradesh are in army but their sacrifice towards the country is manifold. If we cast a glance at the data, we shall find that 10% of the people who laid their life belonged to Himachal Pradesh.

I would submit that Himachal Pradesh has suffered the worst impact of the recruitment rules framed on the basis of population. Previously youth from Himachal Pradesh joined armed forces in large numbers but now the number has declined significant by since the recruitment began to be made on the basis of population. I would, therefore, request that this situation should be changed and quota for recruitment be raised for those states where youth have a great desire for joining the army and I am particularly requesting to enhance the army recruitment quota from Himachal Pradesh. My second submission is that there are a number regiments in the Indian Army which have been named after states or castes like the Jat Regiment, Dogra Regiment, Rajput Regiment and the Punjab Regiment and there are a lot of other such names which have been based on the names of castes or provinces. I have been demanding for so many years that a regiment should also be raised in the name of Himachal Pradesh but no decision has so far been taken in this regard while the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh has also passed a unanimous resolution in this regard and forwarded to the Government of India.

I would request the Government of India to take urgent steps with a view to raising a separate regiment of Himachal Pradesh as two of the four Paramvir Chakras conferred upon for the Kargil conflict have been bagged by the brave soldiers of Himachal Pradesh. The first Param Vir Chakra had been conferred upon Major Somnath Sharma who hailed from Himachal Pradesh. So far the brave soldiers of Himachal Pradesh have won 15 Mahavir Chakras 14 Kirti Charkas 67 Vir Chakras, 47 Shourya Chakras and a number of Vishisht Seva Medals for bravery. In view of the above history, I request the hon'ble Minister of Defence to accede the demand of the people of Himachal Pradesh for enhancing the army recruitment quota in the army and raising a separate regiment for Himachal Pradesh. I would urge upon the Government to seriously consider the these two demands.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious issue of urgent public important. As many as 5,900 teachers of Assam, who were appointed under the Operation Black Board (OBB) Scheme in the 9th Plan, did not get their salaries for the last three years. Now, they have decided to self-immolate on the 15th August, the Independence Day.

Sir, it is a very serious matter. These 5,900 teachers, out of a total of 8,677 who were appointed under the OBB scheme in Assam during the 9th Plan, did not get their salaries since 2002 because this scheme was discontinued beyond the 9th Plan.

Sir, the Planning Commission, as an exception for the North-Eastern States including Assam, decided to meet the expenditure on the salaries of these teachers appointed under the scheme from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the 10th Plan as per the norms. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had also decided to grant the salaries of these teachers appointed under the said scheme from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the 10th Plan and there are specific parliamentary assurance No. 417 dated 5th December, 2003 and 2987 dated 22nd March, 2005. But it is noticed that an amount of Rs. 20.52 crore only was sanctioned to cover the salaries of only 2,851 teachers out of a total of 8,677 appointed under the scheme.

Now, the remaining 5,900 teachers who are not getting their salaries since 2002, have decided to self-immolate on 15th August, 2005. The State Government, instead of regularising the teachers with retrospective effect, so that they are entitled, as per norms, to get salary, has not pursued the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development at the Centre. The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is present here and he is also quite aware of the issue.

I would, therefore, request that this matter should be sorted out by the Union Government with all seriousness before 15th August, 2005, and whatever amount of salaries which is due from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, should be released immediately. Otherwise, the Union Government would have to take the full responsibility if any one these teachers has to self-immolates, due to lapse on the part of the Union Government on account of non-release of their salaries for the last three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Kishan Singh Sangwan.

Now, the difficulty is that all of you want to make lengthy submission, which is not the right way of raising the matter of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to raise an objection that Hon. members are raising such important issues of their respective constituencies and regions but you yourself can see as to how many Members of ruling party are present. It shows their level of seriousness towards these problems. It is a matter of great concern.

As regards my point, I want to say that Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh were created as per Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, however almost 40 years close to half century have passed since then. But the Government could not reach any decision regarding the territories or capital or High Court or water sharing in respect of these states. The matter has been pending since 40 years, Haryana is the only state in the country which neither has its capital nor a High Court of its own. The advocates and common people of Haryana have resorted to agitations many a times in this regard. People have to rush to Chandigarh for even minor trials. Our state does not have its own capital. I would like to request him to make a separate capital of our Haryana State.

We should have a High court of our own and territory dispute should be resolved. As far as water is concerned, it is the most disgraceful for our country and the farmers of our state that SYL canal has not been constructed though thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on the construction, only 115 kms. of canal has been constructed out of 121 kms. Though it has been constructed many years back, there is a dispute on the stretch of 6 km of the canal and it has been a political issue. Many agreements have been signed between the Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers. Besides, Commission and Arbitrator have been appointed, however, the agreement has not been implemented. Just now, the hon'ble Prime Minister was talking about his America's visit. Starting from 1947 till 1991, he has praised Nehruji, Indiraji and Rajivji, It seems that no one has born and made any contribution in the country after that.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the Government why it is not implementing the Rajiv—Longowal pact? Shrimati Indira Gandhiji had laid foundation stone for construction of canal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: It is very important issue. I, through you, would like to know from the Government the present status of that canal? Foundation stone is laid to garner the vote and also to propagate their policy. Why the project is not implemented? The whole dispute on water sharing has been resolved. The Supreme Court gave its verdict on water dispute between Punjab and Haryana but that verdict has not been implemented till date. Today, there is government of Congress Party in Punjab, Haryana and in the centre also. Even then, why the said verdict is not being implemented? Wheat crop is getting damaged, lakhs of farmers have been rendered jobless. 25 per cent of the total production is going waste due to the dispute of sharing of water of SYL. The farmer is starving and crying for foodgrain. We have been raising this issue for the last 40 years but no one is hearing us. Therefore, I through you, would like to submit that the Centre should intervene in this regard. This matter is related to three states. Water dispute of Rajasthan State is also involved therein. The Centre should intervene and implement all the pacts signed in this regard. All the pending disputes should be resolved, in other words, how long our state will survive without a separate capital and a separate High Court. Therefore, through you, my submission is that this matter should be taken up seriously only then the contentious issue could be solved. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter you could have raised earlier. It is not an urgent matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree that it is an important issue but it should be raised not in this form.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Our farmers are suffering loss on account of this contentious issue. Sir, I had raised this issue in other forum, we raised this issue in each and every forum. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Textile Minister that in my constituency Cooch Behar, West Bengal, Jute Corporation of India (JCI) started purchasing jute from the jute growers of Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri at commercial rates, that is, Rs. 1300 to Rs. 1400 per quintal from 22nd July, 2005. Farmers were getting the remunerative price. But, suddenly, the JCI has issued an order on 29th July, 2005 to stop purchasing jute at the commercial rate. I do not understand why the JCI has stopped purchasing jute from the jute growers after doing the same for seven days. What is the policy of the Government on this?

In the light of the above fact, I urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter for the sake of jute growers, as in West Bengal alone, there are 40 lakh jute growers, about three crore people are directly linked with this jute price.

So, through you, Sir, I urge the Government to instruct the JCI to vacate the earlier order of not purchasing the jute at commercial rate so that farmers can get a handsome rate and the middleman will not be benefited by this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You have concluded your speech in time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Labour is running hospitals for Bidi Workers in those states of the country where a large number of Bidi workers reside. There are about 15 lacs Bidi workers in Madhya Pradesh, but most of the Bidi worker's hospitals are being run without doctors. I belong to Sagar district, except Sagar district, the same situation is prevalent in Garhokota, Khurai, Rehli and Dori. Besides, there is no doctor in Bidi worker hospitals in Damoh, Patharia and Hata under Damoh districts for the last two years while the amount of Bidi Worker Welfare cess is deducted from the Wages of Workers. That money is being collected. The Union Government have undoubtedly got Bidi Worker hospitals set up there but there is no doctor in those hospitals for the treatment of the workers. About 27 Bidi Worker hospitals are being run by the Ministry of Labour in Madhya Pradesh, but there is no doctor in most of those hospitals. And if there is any doctor anywhere, he has been given the charge of three to four hospitals. Consequently, they are neither able to justify their services at the places where they are posted, nor at those places to which they are attached.

Sir, the Act provides for availability of atleast one hospital and a doctor at places where the number of Bidi Workers is five thousand. In spite of utilizing the services of doctors and para medical staff for the medical treatment of workers, they are entrusted the jobs pertaining to propagation of various welfare schemes, collection of application forms of their verification, inspection of residential cottage, cheques disbursement etc. Consequently, Bidi Workers are being deprived of the medical benefit schemes.

Hence, I request the Union Government through you, to post doctors in all the Bidi Workers hospitals in the country as per their requirement at the earliest so that Bidi Workers all over the country could get the advantage of Bidi Worker hospital scheme.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I presume that no hon. Member is left out.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 4th August, at 11.00 a.m.

20.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 4, 2005/Sravana 13, 1927 (Saka).

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