

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 16, 2007/Vaisakha 26, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SEAPKER: Let us take up Question Hour.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now. There is no notice for suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Inteupctions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever notice you have given will be taken up at the appropriate time. You know it very well. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy to see you here after many days. Welcome here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, we have met the hon. Prime Minister yesterday. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to raise it. You know it. Knowingly, you are disturbing two House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that I cannot compel them. Please cooperate with the Chair. This is a valuable Hour and hon. Members have the right to put questions in this Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 582—Shri Rewati Raman Singh – not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am imploring you, Shri Yerrannaidu. I allowed you to speak the other day. You are now referring to a meeting held outside the House. I am sorry that I would not allow you. Not one word will be recorded without my permission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Let the entire House decide on this. Is this the way the House should function? Please tell me. I have no issue of myself. My only issue is to run the House. You tell me whether this House should continue to run or not or whether some hon. Members can hold the House to ransom everyday.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot understand each other. This is the trouble.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record even one word please.

*...(Interruptions)**

11.03 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Please go to your seats. What is this going on? I would request the honourable leaders of all parties to please guide me as to how this House will function. This is becoming a farce. This is a House belonging to the people of the country. Many people are sitting here and you are shouting here. You have not given any notice. What are you talking? You go on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you shouting from this side? If all sections of the House join, then what will happen? I earnestly appeal to you to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand anything. I only understand that I have a duty to perform here. This is the Question Hour. Hon. Member is ready to put a question. You are not allowing him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying all these things?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I had allowed you to speak on that day. There is not even a notice from you. Suddenly all four of you stood up and some of you came to the well of the House. It has become a mockery.

...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Q. No. 583—Shri Tathagata Satpathy.

*Not recorded.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. NO. 583, Shri Satpathy.

Allotment of Coal Blocks for Power Plants

*583. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the coal blocks allotted in each of the States in favour of the existing power plants;

(b) whether any allocations have been requested for by State Governments for some power plants proposed to be set up in their States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

Statement

(a) 57 coal blocks have been allocated for power sector of which 9 coal blocks have been allocated for existing power plants and the remaining for expansion/new power plants to public and private sector companies. The details of blocks allotted in each State for existing power plants is as under:—

Name of State	No. of the blocks	Reserves of the Blocks (in million tonnes)
Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra	1	768
Chhattisgarh	1	150
Punjab	1	562
West Bengal	4	736.65
Jharkhand	1	400
Central Public Sector Undertaking (National Thermal Power Corporation)	1	1600

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had invited applications for allocation of ten coal blocks for power sector under Government company dispensation route. In response, a total of 183 applications have been received from Central/State PSUs.

(d) These applications are at advanced stage of consideration.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: If we peruse the written answer given to my Question, we can find that the States which have been allotted coal blocks are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, West Bengal, Jharkhand.

Where has a coal-bearing State called Orissa vanished? Why have no coal blocks been given to Orissa? The State Government has applied for coal blocks. The Centre has continuously been treating Orissa as a State out of this Union. Is it true or not? I am not saying only this Government did this. The Government is a continuous process and after all UPA is only temporary.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, I think the hon. Member does not have proper information about allocation of blocks to Orissa. Yesterday, the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa called on me in the office. We had a discussion. I asked about his requirement. I understand that their requirement is about 20,000 megawatts. Already we are close to meeting that requirement. It is by way of NTPC and OPGenco linkages, which is 5,000 megawatts; 2,000 megawatts by way of NLC; 500 megawatts by way of Navbharat; 250 megawatts through Jindal; 250 kvk through Neelanchal; 4000 megawatts through Power Finance Corporation's ultra mega projects. Three coal blocks are being allotted for 4,000 megawatts ultra mega power project in Orissa. These are Meenakshi, Dip Side of Meenakshi, Meenakshi-B, etc. We have also allocated coal blocks for the 3200 megawatt Dardipalli Power Plant. Under the Government dispensation, already the State Government has asked for five blocks. That is already under consideration. Yesterday I discussed this matter with the hon. Chief Minister. Besides this, the private companies were also allotted coal blocks. This includes HINDALCO, for generation of 170 megawatts, NALCO and NLC. Yesterday, he asked for another captive block. That is also, we said, we are going to consider.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I would like to know whether any specific coal blocks have been allotted to Ib which is a private and Government cooperation project

and AES is involved in this. OPGC is a Government concern and there is no mention of it. I am going exclusively by the reply given to me and there is no mention of Ib being allotted any coal blocks. I would like to know specifically about Ib.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: The hon. Member's specific question is how many existing projects were given blocks. I will give the names of these blocks to the hon. Member. Other than that, we have allotted 57 blocks for the States and PSUs in which Orissa has also got allotted three plus two blocks three for ultra mega power projects and two for power generation in private sector.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether good quality coal is not made available in adequate quantity to power generating plants of Madhya Pradesh and whether none of the power plants in Madhya Pradesh has made any demand for coal blocks?

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: So far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, two blocks for power generation and five blocks for commercial mining and two for private, a total of nine blocks were given, out of which 737.76 million tonnes reserves are there.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, the Visakha Steel is being expanded. The hon. Prime Minister of India was kind enough to inaugurate that work last year. The work is in progress. They are having one power plant in the expansion programme. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Visakha Steel applied for the captive mine for their expansion and whether the application is under the consideration or not.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Vizag Steel Plant has already applied and we have allocated a coking block comprising of about 1,000 million tonnes. They have not yet started any work till date. In the recent allocation also, one small mine was offered. The CMD of the Company has said that because it happened to be a small one, with reserves of only 17 million tonnes, I think, he is not happy to receive it and the first block which was allotted is ready with them. These are the blocks they have asked.

*[Translation]***Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks**

*584. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) whether the Group of Experts constituted to suggest the extent of maximum residue limits of pesticides in cold drinks has presented its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the soft drink producers are violating the maximum limit as suggested by the said Group/Committee;

(d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to take any penal action against the said companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Group of experts constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recommended maximum limits of for individual pesticides α -HCH, β -HCH, γ -HCH, δ -HCH, DDT-R, Chlorpyrifos, Malathion and Endosulfan. The samples of soft drinks checked by the Committee are within these prescribed limits.

The water used for producing carbonated water has to conform to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955.

Samples of soft drinks checked by the Ministry in 2006 at various Central and State Labs were within these prescribed limits.

At present the Maximum Residues Limits for pesticides in carbonated water has not been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Any regulatory action regarding soft drinks may be taken

in this regard only after the limits for pesticides are prescribed under PFA Rules.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: About the soft drinks being sold in the country, there are contradictory signals coming from various quarters. There are heroes and icons advertising for certain soft drinks and saying that they are safe. There are NGOs who are saying that they are unsafe. The hon. Minister says that the Committee which was formed by the Government has certified that all the samples which they took are within the safe limits.

In view of this, will the Government now undertake a publicity campaign? Will the Government let the people know the soft-drinks which were taken for these samples and tests? How many of them and which of them have been found to be safe? The Government should undertake a publicity drive to let the people know of this. Will they do it?

MR. SPEAKER: Will they publicise for the companies?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: At present, the Maximum Residues Limits for pesticides in carbonated water has not been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995. Any regulatory action regarding soft-drinks may be taken in this regard only after the limits of pesticides are prescribed under the PFA Act. So, the limit will be fixed based on the final recommendations of the CCFS and will be notified under the PFA Act. The recommendation will come after 10 months. After that, we can notify. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who is talking there?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: It is surprising that so far under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, we have not prescribed the safe limits for the soft-drinks in our country. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister one thing. When are you going to prescribe the safe limits for soft-drinks under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act? Why have you not done that so far? Is it to protect certain soft-drinks? Or, are there some other reasons for this delay in prescribing the safe limits for the soft-drinks?

MR. SPEAKER: No. Your question only relates to pesticides residues.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Our Government is more concerned about public health. Nowhere in the world are the standards set for soft-drinks. The National Expert Group has sent recommendations to the CCFS about the PFA Act which consisted of representatives of all the stakeholders like scientists, farmers, medical specialists, consumers, etc. There are totally 52 members in this CCFS Committee. After examining them, they will send the report. Then, we can decide about it.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, no subsequent supplementary is allowed.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, there are a lot of incidents occurring in our country which reveal the fact that the soft-drinks remain unsafe and unhealthy. The Joint Parliamentary Committee had made its recommendations in the year 2004. The Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recommended the maximum limits of pesticides in soft-drinks. The alarming situation is that till now the prescribed limit is not notified by the Government. Even though an assurance was given by the hon. Minister herself in the august House during the month of August, 2006, no step has till now been taken to issue a Notification. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the standards prescribed are not notified by the Ministry though the Minister has given such an assurance. I would also like to know whether any steps will be taken, any stringent action will be taken to notify it.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you notify the standards?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: After receiving the report only we can notify the standards.

MR. SPEAKER: I would be happy if some restraint is put.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a reply to the question it has been, stated that the samples are within the prescribed limit and afterwards it has been written that any regulatory action regarding soft drinks may be taken in this regard only after the limits for pesticides are prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. It means the limit of pesticides has not been prescribed. Everybody knows that pesticides

can be harmful for human beings. The Government is concerned about the health of people and is launching a large scale health campaign in the entire country so that people may remain healthy.

I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether his Ministry have conducted any survey to check the ill-effects on public health due to consumption of soft drinks as pesticides limit in the soft drinks has not been fixed? Whether the Ministry have conducted any survey in this regard? Whether the Ministry have also conducted any survey in regard to percentage of people fall sick/dye due to consumption of soft drinks alongwith the name of disease every year in the country?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any material?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, I will send the details to the hon Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good for you

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, still there is a question mark regarding the extent of maximum residue limit of pesticides allowed in cold drinks. Different High Courts have clarified that there is no limit fixed. It has not been legally fixed by the Government of India and because of this, many cases have been decided against people's interest, like, for example, the Pepsi cola issue in Kerala. The same thing happened in many other cases also because of the maximum limit of pesticide content not being fixed. So, will the Government take immediate steps to prescribe and notify the maximum limit under the law so that this issue can be resolved and agitation by people can also be averted?

MR. SPEAKER: Your answer must be 'Yes'.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Yes.

Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination

+
*585. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to launch the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination campaign in a big way in the country from May 20, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have been worst affected by this disease and the steps taken to treat the disease;

(d) whether the Government proposes to involve the Non-Governmental Organisations for the treatment of JE and Vector Borne Diseases in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

After the outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in 2005, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare decided for implementing Japanese Encephalitis vaccination campaign to cover at risk children between 1-15 years of age in 105 endemic districts in a phased manner from 2006. During 2006, 11 districts of 4 States (Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Siddharta Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Deoria, Maharajganj of Uttar Pradesh, Bellary of Karnataka, Dibrugarh & Sibsagar districts of Assam, Burdwan of West Bengal) were covered with JE vaccination. Live attenuated JE vaccine SA 14-14-2 was used for vaccinating the children. Out of 10.5 million target children, 9.3 million children were covered.

During 2007, JE vaccination campaign is being undertaken in 28 districts of 10 states as mentioned below:

State	Districts
1	2
Assam	Jorhat, Golaghat
Haryana	Karnal, Kurukshetra
West Bengal	Birbhum
Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich, Basti, Saharanpur, Shravasti, Rae Bareilly, Gonda, Balrampur, Barabanki, Sitapur, Ambedkar Nagar, Mau
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal

1	2
Bihar	Muzaffarpur, West Champaran
Maharashtra	Amravati, Nagpur (Rural), Bhandara
Karnataka	Raichur, Kollar
Kerala	Alappuzha
Tamil Nadu	Viluppuram, Cuddalore, Virudhnagar

JE vaccination campaign in Assam & Haryana has been completed. In Assam, 608151 children were vaccinated with 89% coverage. In Haryana, 651825 children were vaccinated with 86% coverage. In West Bengal, vaccination campaign is ongoing from 3rd May, 2007. The JE vaccination campaign in Uttar Pradesh will be implemented from 27th May, 2007. In Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, the vaccination campaign will be undertaken in June, 2007 and in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in July, 2007.

There are 15 states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) in the country which are worst affected by JE. Uttar Pradesh is the worst affected State in the country.

JE is a viral disease. There is no specific treatment for JE. The cases are, however, treated symptomatically. JE can be controlled by both preventive and curative strategies. Some of the preventive strategies include fogging, segregating animals from human beings, using mosquito bednets and vaccination. The curative steps taken to treat the disease are given below:

- (i) Early diagnosis and proper management of JE cases to reduce case fatality through strengthening of diagnostic and clinical management of JE cases at PHCs/CHCs and District Hospitals.
- (ii) Training of PHC Medical Officers, Clinicians and nurses for early diagnosis and case management on JE.
- (iii) Early referral of JE cases in treatment centre.
- (iv) National Guidelines on JE case management has been developed.

- (v) Strengthening of sentinel laboratories for diagnosis of JE in endemic areas.

Public Private Partnership by involving NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, SHGs, PRIs has been recently initiated as one of the core strategies under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme of the Government of India. In this direction, the Guidelines for Public Private Partnership for Malaria Control focusing on early case diagnosis and complete treatment and adaptation of suitable vector control measure including insecticide treated bed nets have been developed and disseminated widely.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to Press reports, the hon. Minister had accepted that the Vector Borne Disease Control Programmes were not functioning satisfactorily. The number of Malaria cases went up from just 50,000 annually in the 1960s to between 1.8 and 2 million in 2006 with 1,140 deaths. I fear the number could be much higher as surveillance was low. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister as to what are the steps being taken by the Government to see that these programmes are implemented effectively.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to know about programmes to eradicate malaria and you are raising it under this question relating to Japanese Encephalitis. Is it the same?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are taking all steps to control Malaria. The hon. Member has asked about Japanese Encephalitis. This is a viral disease. There is no specific treatment for Japanese Encephalitis and cases are, however, treated based on symptoms. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to implement the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination Campaign covering risky children between the age of 1 to 15 years and on malaria, we are giving instructions to all State Governments to take necessary steps.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any question on Japanese Encephalitis?

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Malaria was checked. If so, cases of other vector borne diseases like filaria, kala azar, dengue and chickengunya would also come down.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. This is disallowed.

Shri Milind Deora - Not present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 15 states of the country are in grip of Japanese Encephalitis, but Uttar Pradesh is most affected by it. I would like to ask as to how Japanese Encephalitis broke out in India. The country is already facing an outbreak of Encephalitis. Therefore, where was need to import this disease from Japan? ...(*Interruptions*) Japan also facing an outbreak of Indian Encephalitis ...(*Interruptions*) Encephalitis is a deadly disease. What steps is the Government taking to eradicate this disease?

MR. SPEAKER: I can answer the first part of your question. It has come to India via your constituency!

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, Uttar Pradesh is highly affected by Japanese Encephalitis. We have selected 11 districts out of 48 districts for the programme of vaccination. The reservoirs of Japanese Encephalitis mosquitoes are pigs and water birds. We are fogging them to control the spread of Japanese Encephalitis.

MR. SPEAKER: You can advise them how to control the spread of this disease.

Legislation on Lok Pal

*586. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a legislation on Lok Pal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the legislation will be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Lok Pal Bill is in the advanced stage of finalization and it is the endeavour of the Government to introduce the legislation in the Parliament as early as possible.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the words 'advanced stage' are very sticky because earlier this Bill was introduced on eight occasions and on all eight occasions, there was ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, let us not use that expression. That will be deleted from the record.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Lok Sabha was dissolved on all earlier occasions after this Bill was introduced and it was aborted. I do not know whether the Government is afraid that if it brings this Bill the Lok Sabha may again be dissolved. Anyway, I would like to know in which stage it is there. A Committee was formed. Who are the members of this Committee and what are the recommendations of this Committee? At what stage the recommendations are being considered by the Government?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, it is true that earlier this Lok Pal Bill was introduced eight times in the Lok Sabha. It was first introduced in 1968, thereafter in 1971, 1977, 1985, 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2001. It is a commitment of the UPA Government which is mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme that the Lok Pal Bill will be enacted into a law. Accordingly, the Ministry of Personnel submitted a Cabinet Note in the month of December, 2004 and in the same month the Cabinet Note, which was in relation to the Lok Pal Bill, was referred to the Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers has submitted its Report after long deliberations and the recommendations, which were made by the Group of Ministers, have been referred to the Ministry of Law for vetting. As far as the composition is concerned, the Group of Ministers was headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee and it consisted of 12 members. As far as the Administrative Reforms Commission is concerned, it recommended the ethics of governance and mentioned about the Lok Pal Bill. It consisted of 9 members and it was headed by the Cabinet Secretary. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded. These passing comments will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, as you know, the debate on the issue of corruption in administration and in high offices is a popular subject in this country since Independence and still we are searching the way to eradicate this menace from our body politics. Our collective effort is there and I think the effort will continue. But the question is, who will be included in the purview of the Lok Pal is a matter of debate. The hon. Prime

Minister himself openly said that the Prime Minister's post should be included. The hon. President also openly said in the Inaugural Address that even the President should be included. So, I think, enough debate has taken place on this subject. Many intellectuals and experts have given their opinions. We have seen so many drafts and now in this final stage, I hope the hon. Prime Minister will assure this House as to when it will be introduced in this House and whether it will be passed during the tenure of this Lok Sabha. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to assure the House and the nation and clear the confusion in the minds of the people.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, I have humbly submitted that it would be the endeavour of the Government to bring this legislation as soon as possible because this is the commitment of the Common Minimum Programme.

As far as the inclusion of Prime Minister in this Bill is concerned, we have discussed this issue in the Group of Ministers' Meeting. The Administrative Reforms Commission, in its fourth report, namely Ethics in Governance, has already submitted its recommendations. If you see, the earlier recommendations of Lok Pal Bills, which were introduced in this House in 1968, 1971, 1977 and 1985, there were no mention of the Prime Minister. But we are very open in this respect. The Cabinet has to take the final view on this issue. Unless and until, we reach any conclusion, it would not be appropriate for me to divulge anything on this issue.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the steps the Government has taken to reduce corruption in public life and what are the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission regarding Lok Pal Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: It is too wide, too general.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Sir, the hon. Minister did assure the House that it will be introduced as soon as possible, but I would like to know whether the Government has any definite plan to bring this legislation as early as possible.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, as far as the steps taken by the Government to reduce corruption in public life are concerned, we have strengthened the vigilance machinery by enactment of CVC Act and we have also given functional autonomy to CBI. We have enacted the Right to Information Act and we have introduced

transparency in the public administration. We have brought the Whistle Blower Resolution, widespread use of e-governance, introduction of citizens' charter, effective monitoring of vigilance cases and training and sensitization of civil servants to provide citizen-centric services. So, we have taken such steps.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the preparations for bringing Lokpal Bill are going on for the last 40 years. The various kind of allegations are being levelled against the politicians, whether the Government will reply that while taking stringent action in this regard the time by which Lokpal Bill is likely to be brought? Whether the Prime Minister would also be brought in its purview or not? Whether the Government intend to bring it by next session?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as corruption in public life is concerned, the Government is committed to take appropriate steps which needs to be taken, in this regard. As far as the issue of bringing Prime Minister in purview of Lok Pal Bill is concerned, the Government is very clear that it will bring this Bill in the House with whatever decision the Cabinet takes in this regard.

As far as bringing this issue in the House is concerned, as I said in beginning that the Government has clearly mentioned in common Minimum Programme that it will bring Lokpal Bill. You know that one has to pass through long process with very complex issues for giving final shape to the Bill. The Administrative Reform Commission has presented its fourth report in this regard, that report has been presented before the core committee and Group of Ministers have also concluded their meeting and given their recommendations. The Ministry of Personnel has to send the bill for vetting to Ministry of Law for giving final shape to it, therefore, as soon we received recommendations of Group of Ministers, we sent it to Ministry of Law. We will bring it before the House, as soon we received it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Three years have elapsed, whether it would be done or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has given a very comprehensive answer.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is interesting hon'ble Minister is giving comprehensive reply to a comprehensive question, but what he is hiding is even more attractive.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any Member wants protection or the Speaker wants protection?

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the moot question is the time by which Lokpal Bill would be introduced and whether the Prime Minister and other high post would be brought under the ambit of this Bill or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Since we are arguing on this issue for decades and hon'ble Minister is talking about Group of Ministers, Administrative Reforms Commission etc. It is not only this that bill would be brought only after Cabinet gives its decision. But if recommendations of Group Ministers can be sent from Cabinet to Law Secretary, then why can't the House be informed whether the recommendation made by the Group Ministers include the posts of Prime Minister and President? The House has right to know it. We are living in the present era of R.T.I.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have already dealt with it; it is the same question.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member wants to know as to what recommendations have been made by the Group of Ministers and the Administrative Reforms Commission in regard to inclusion of the post of the Prime Minister, in the said Bill. Though it is not appropriate to make a mention of a bill, till final shape is given to it. In spite of that I do not hesitate to inform the House with your permission that the Group of Ministers have left this

decision on Cabinet. Secondly as far as recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission is concerned the recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission in this regard are in public domain. Besides that we have also studied this matter in other countries. As Prime Minister has not been included in European Union. Newzealand, Sweden and United Kingdom to have not done it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When the Bill comes, we shall discuss it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The Administrative Reforms Commission has not recommended to include Prime Minister in it.

[English]

Combating Illegal Activities on High Seas

*587. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has asked India to join a worldwide network to combat illegal activities on the high seas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No proposal has been received from US Navy in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been constantly published in the newspapers that Admiral Mitchel Mullen has met the Defence Personnel of the country and has had detailed discussion in this regard. Afterall why does the Government wish to keep it a secret and does not wish to divulge this information and details, I would like to know whether our policy is

pro-American? If so, whether the hon. Minister would throw some light on this issue.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have just answered the question. So far as India and the United States Defence cooperation is concerned, that is a different question altogether. I have never said that there is no Defence cooperation between India and the US. The question is: "(a) whether the United States has asked India to join a worldwide network to combat illegal activities on the high seas; (b) if so, the details thereof."

There has been no proposal of joining an international, worldwide activity because there is no necessity as in 1982, the United Nations itself had a Convention; the United Nations laws on the crimes on the high seas. There is 1988 SUA Convention which deals with the maritime crimes on the high seas. India being a signatory to both these international Conventions, there is no question of participating in any global exercises initiated by any individual country. I think, in response to that question I have stated.

If the hon. Member has specific question in regard to India-US maritime cooperation, I will be very glad to answer that question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Sir, I would ask you a direct question in the second supplementary that whether our Navy is capable of controlling the illegal activities in our sea lane? If so, then why it has not been able to control the illegal activities taken place so far?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is a much larger question and that is why the international cooperation is sought for. It is very important that we should protect specially the sea lane which passes through the Indian Ocean because from Malacca Straits onwards it carries nearly 60 per cent of the world's energy supply. Therefore, the safety and security of this sea lane is very important.

But a large number of maritime crimes take place. Therefore, it is the international practice to seek the cooperation of the littoral countries, where actually the offences are taking place. For that, the international

conventions under the United Nations are there. Indian Navy, Indian Coastguard and Indian Maritime Police are competent to deal with this and we have done so. In fact, in the past when a Japanese ship was hijacked, Indian Navy intercepted and released that. Similarly, when one of our ships was taken over by the pirates in the coast of Somalia, with the cooperation of the other littoral countries we have been able to rescue that. This type of practice and international cooperation are ongoing.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, piracy is a very limited form of crime on the High Seas. One of the biggest crimes now is the transport of wild life. For instance, to many countries, through Chennai, we are sending sea horses and other animals of fish. Sometimes, the smugglers are caught by the Customs but most of the times, it is ignored. The second place, for instance, is the line of Panama flag ships outside the Orissa coast, and they are all illegal. The coastguard is singularly ill-equipped.

Could the Minister tell me what has been done to stop wild life crime on the high seas? Is there any bilateral pact with any countries because a lot of this smuggled wildlife is going on to China, to Malaysia, to Philippines? Would the Minister please tell me about that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, human trafficking and trafficking of wild life are the crimes against the international law. We are a party in all these international Conventions including the Conventions of 1982 and 1988, and we have the cooperation.

In respect of the effectiveness of the Coastguard, it is incorrect to say that Indian Coastguards are ill-equipped. Yes, there may be a difference between the actual desire and the actual achievement, and always we are trying to bridge the gap. But if the hon. Member takes the trouble of going through the development of Indian Coastguards, which was established in 1978 and the development that has taken place till today, she will find that there has been a substantial development.

In addition to that, very recently we have developed cooperation between the Coastguard and the Marine Police, another institution under the Home Ministry to take care of the crimes which take place within the territorial waters but not within the jurisdiction of either the coastguard or the Navy. Despite that, sometimes this type of information comes that some wild life smuggling or trafficking takes place. Surely as and when we get the

information, we get the intelligence, we intercept and we take appropriate action.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the three borders of our continent is surrounded by sea. So, illegal activities on High Seas are of more concern to our country. Recently, a lot of incidents have been reported by the dailies and some other media. The fishermen from our seaside are captured by LTTE and some other illegal organisation also. Sir, from Kerala sea border also, a lot of fishermen are missing.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going far way from the Question.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What are the steps being taken by the Government of India to combat this type of illegal activities and to find out the missing fishermen from our sea border areas?

MR. SPEAKER: From USA, you have come to Kerala.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We have a bilateral agreement between India and Sri Lanka to protect the fishermen of India and Sri Lanka. Most of the times it is found out that the fishermen of one country cross the territorial waters of the other country. We have the arrangement between Pakistan and India also in respect of such things which take place in the Gujarat coast. Sometimes when the fishermen are arrested by other country, we make all efforts to get them released. This is a continuing exercise.

SHRI SALEEM SHERVANI: Sir, a number of times, when people indulging in illegal activities on the high seas or smuggling, are chased by our Coast Guards or the Navy, they dump their goods in the seas. Do we have any schemes by which we can try to retrieve these goods that had been dumped or put a value to these goods that had been dumped?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, very recently we have done one, we received the information that certain contrabands, explosives were being transported of course, it was not dropped because of interaction, it was dropped because of the accidents—and our Coast Guards and Navy combined, did an operation, to retrieve it. Sometimes, if it is possible to retrieve it, we do it. It is part of the exercise.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 588 - Shri Jyotraditya M. Scindia:
Not Present.

Q. 589 - Dr. Dharendra Agarwal: Not present
Shri Harikewal Prasad.

(Translation)

Financial Performance of MTNL/BSNL

*589. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) the total income and profit earned by MTNL and

BSNL separately during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the profit of both the organisations have
declined during these years;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor,
and

(d) the steps taken to improve their operations and
augment their profit in the coming years?

(English)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total income and profit earned by MTNL and BSNL separately during each of the last three years: -

(Rupees in crores)

Financial Year	MTNL		BSNL	
	Total Income	Profit	Total Income	Profit
2003-04	6,683.93	1150.48	33,918.59	5,976.52
2004-05	6,084.10	938.98	36,090.09	10,183.29
2005-06	6,091.00	580.29	40,176.58	8,939.69

(b) and (c) The profit of MTNL for the year 2003-04 increased by 31.16% over previous year. However, profit of the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 decreased by 18.38% and 38.20% respectively. MTNL's Profit for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 decreased mainly on account of downward revision of Access Deficit Charges and reduction of tariffs in the competitive market.

The profit of BSNL has actually not declined during the last three years. The Profit of Financial Year 2004-05 includes Rs. 1301.96 crores which represents the writing back of excess income-tax provision of the Financial Year 2003-04 which was made due to the uncertainty regarding the applicability of section 80IA to BSNL that was later on clarified by the Government of India. If the said amount i.e. Rs. 1301.96 crores is excluded from the net profit of 2004-05, the profit for 2004-05 would be Rs. 8881.33 crores.

(d) The steps taken by MTNL and BSNL to improve their operations and augment their profit in the coming years are given below:

- Large-scale expansion of GSM Network by MTNL and BSNL. MTNL has planned to expand its GSM network by one million lines each in Delhi and Mumbai in 2007-08. BSNL is in the process of augmenting its GSM network by 63.5 millions including reserve quantity.
- Large-scale expansion of the Broadband network and introduction of services like IPTV. It will also help stop the churn of landline customers.
- Aggressive strategy for customer acquisition to ensure that the income increases substantially leading to higher profits in future.

- Introduction of convergent billing shall lead to one bill for all services to a subscriber. The system will address customer request of services, tariff, complaint resolution etc.
- Improving legacy PSTN network by change of cables, drop wires etc.
- Improved customer care by opening new customer care centers/Sanchar-Haat, appointment of dealers, agents and special care of Corporate Customers.
- Reviewing of tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
- Rationalization of expenditure to reduce administrative and operative cost.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certain senior officers of MTNL and BSNL have completely ruined the telephone and mobile service of MTNL and BSNL under the influence of private companies. The telephone service of MTNL and BSNL is so poor that one does not feel like taking their connection. Although we have state-of-the-art technology, centres and equipments in which the Government has invested a lot of money, however, the intentions of the senior officers are malafide. If we take an estimate of the extravagance of the plethora of officers in MTNL it comes to be in crores of rupees. This extravagance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to know?

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Government has conducted an inquiry about the extravagance of the senior officers of the MTNL and BSNL?

MR. SPEAKER: But the question is regarding profit.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member had asked a very specific question about the financial performance of MTNL and BSNL during the last three years and why these were coming in losses? I have replied that it is not correct. I would like to tell the hon. Member that our business has grown, however, it is true that our profits have diminished. The objective of

our Government is to provide inexpensive telephone services to our consumers. The two objectives that of providing telephone services to consumers at cheaper rates and enhancing the profits of the companies are *albeit* contradictory things. Despite that our MTNL and BSNL officers have put in a lot of hard work to increase the number of telephones in the country. It has expanded its business maintaining the profit level at the same time. All kinds of vague allegations levelled against our officers do not have an iota of truth. If we receive any specific report against any officer or a staffer if the hon. Members apprises us of something then we definitely try to make some improvements in that and take all possible action against them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has referred to quality. TRAI regulates and maintains the bench mark of quality of services. There is a reference to our lacunae and those of the private companies in its last report. It appreciates MTNL and BSNL in several cases and also the private operators at some places which are regulated by the TRAI. It is our effort to improve the quality of these services day-by-day.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has apprised the House however, my question was direct about the apparent losses during the last three years or the profit being earned. Through that question I would like to ask a supplementary that there is a lot of anomaly in the telephone bills in the rural areas and the rest of the country. Just now the hon. Minister has admitted it in his reply that the Government would take measures to increase its subscribers and take initiatives to remove the anomalies. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has fixed any time limit for inquiring into the anomalies and complaints of over billing, cross billing or the irregularities in billing?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Hon. Speaker, Sir, if it is a specific complaint of overbilling then we will definitely hold an inquiry. I have no hesitation in saying that in more than 95 per cent case our billing is correct. There are some irregularities at some places we remove them and provide facilities to our consumers.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether the recent incidence of decline of profit in respect of both MTNL and to some extent BSNL also, is due to certain uni-lateral decisions taken by TRAI

without consulting even these telecom majors? What steps the Government propose to take in such arbitrary decision being taken at the regulatory level?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, TRAI has two types of role. One is advisory. It is for the Government whether the Government agrees with the advice of the TRAI or not. The other regulatory authority of the TRAI is directly to the service operators. They are directly responsible to obey the orders of the TRAI. Of course, the TRAI has recently ordered a cut in ADC charges and the private operators or the service operators are to abide by the decision of the TRAI. The TRAI has got the power by an Act of Parliament. So, the Government has not got very significant role on the regulatory power of the TRAI.

MR. SPEAKER: Can the Government not challenge the decision of the TRAI?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: We are having consultation with the TRAI.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not do that.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: But we have challenged its orders. The BSNL and the MTNL have challenged a number of orders of the TRAI in different matters in different courts.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, if there is arbitrary order, it will be challenged.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Yes, BSNL and MTNL, both the service providers which are in the Government PSUs, have challenged the different orders of TRAI in different courts of law.

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we read the answer, the profits of MTNL and BSNL are coming down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that if this downward trend continues, MTNL and BSNL will be closed within five years. Does he agree with me that the losses, which MTNL and BSNL, are suffering are because of the previous Government's agreement with the private operators? At whose cost? It is at the cost of these organizations, the private operators, namely Airtel or Reliance, are making millions of profit. Why is it that BSNL and MTNL are making losses? Will you go into all the previous agreements that were made, wherein

compromises were made and unnecessary benefits were given to the private operators? It is because this is a national institution it has to be protected. What steps are being taken? Does he agree with the question which I am putting to him?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, contrary to the query of the hon. Member, as I have said in my reply, that the loss by MTNL or BSNL is not correct. MTNL has earned a profit of Rs.580 crore last year and the BSNL has earned a profit of Rs.8,939 crore last year. So, it is not a fact. Of course, they were gaining profit previously. The ADC charge was cut. The tariff was reduced in the national ISD line. Previously, the per minute charge was Rs. 28. Now it is one rupee per minute. In international line also, it was Rs.64 or Rs.60 per minute. Now, it is seven point something. So, the reduction of tariff and the ADC cut are the two things which are costing BSNL and MTNL dearly. But in spite of all the facts, due to the hard work of our officials and employees, we have almost maintained our profit in the last three years.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has countered the query that MTNL has earned profit and not incurred any loss and all sorts of things have been said. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to the number of landline or mobile connections of the MTNL and BSNL surrendered on account of poor services?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have definite information. MTNL is operative in Mumbai and Delhi while BSNL is operating across the country. Approximately 76,000 landline connections of the MTNL have been surrendered while more than 10 lakh MTNL mobile connections have been given. In BSNL approximately 15 lakh landline connections have been surrendered whereas 1 crore 20 lakh mobile connections have been provided across the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, these days cellphones are the first choice of the consumer. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and request the hon. Members that a new trend is flowing down the country through the BSNL that people having some vested interest are deliberately getting the BSNL cables cut. Whatever is being done by the PWD and the Municipal Corporation is a routine matter. Now a trend has come up in which I would seek the intervention of the hon. Members, I have handed over 2003 FIR copies to the Chief Minister of Bihar that people

having certain vested interests are chopping the BSNL cables. Law and order is a State Government issue we do not have any law enforcing agency. So, I would request the hon. Members that BSNL is their company and they should impress upon the State Governments in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: It is from all.

[*English*]

He has personally given them.

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Please help us out. The State Governments should be asked to take stringent action against those who are hiring people for cutting down the BSNL cables. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Until I permit you cannot speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Indo-us Nuclear Fuel Deal

590. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear fuel deal between India and the US is in jeopardy as reported in the *Business Standard* dated April 20, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Representative of the U.S. Government has expressed dissatisfaction over the Indian views during the talks held on the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) An article in the US *Financial Times* dated April 19, 2007 (reproduced in the *Business Standard* article of April 20, 2007) quotes US Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Nicholas Burns as stating, "We are disappointed with the pace and seriousness of the civil nuclear negotiations with India. It is time to accelerate our efforts to achieve a final deal." The *Washington Post* of April 20, 2007 has also quoted Under Secretary Burns as saying, "There is a strong sense of frustration in Washington, in the Administration as well as in Congress, about the fact that the Indian side has progressed so slowly in this effort."

Subsequently, on May 1, 2007, after the 4th round of negotiations on the bilateral civil nuclear co-operation agreement between the Foreign Secretary and US Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Burns, in Washington, the State Department stated, "The discussions were positive and the US is encouraged by the extensive progress that was made on the issues."

The two sides are continuing discussions with a view to finalising the bilateral co-operation agreement in civil nuclear energy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were certain misunderstandings regarding the news item published in some of the newspapers with regard to the Indo-US nuclear fuel deal. The Minister in his reply stated that as per the discussions held between the Foreign, Secretary and U.S. Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Burns on 1st May, 2007 US is encouraged by the progress made on the said issue. I would like to ask a pointed question that Prime Minister had assured the House that the interests of India will not be overlooked in this agreement. In view of the news reports I would like to know whether Prime Minister would reassure that interests of India would not be overlooked at any cost?

[*English*]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, on this issue several rounds of discussions have taken place. The Joint Statement between the President of USA and Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh has been placed

on the Table of the House. The Separation Plan has been placed on the Table of the House. On a number of occasions when the discussions took place, it was categorically pointed out that the 123 Agreement which will have to be done, that has to be done within the framework and parameters of the Joint Statement of the 18th July and the Separation Plan of 6th March, 2006 and the commitment which the hon. Prime Minister had given on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(English)

HIV Guidelines from UNAIDS

*582 SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNAIDS has introduced new HIV guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement these guidelines; and

(d) the impact of the existing programmes to contain AIDS in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the available information at NACO, UNAIDS regularly publishes HIV AIDS related guidelines to strengthen the existing HIV/AIDS control program in the member countries. The list of guidelines published by UNAIDS in the recent years is given in the enclosed statement. National AIDS Control Organization makes use of these guidelines for operationalising the various HIV/AIDS interventions. NACO has also published recently operational guidelines on issues like ART program, ICTC program, Targeted intervention program and STI program. These guidelines are meant for program managers for monitoring the successful implementation in the field.

The Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to control the spread of HIV/AIDS by up-scaling targeted interventions among

the high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness specifically among women and children, expanding the preventive care, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including treatment of opportunistic infections and provision of free antiretroviral drugs and mainstreaming HIV intervention strategies. According to recent National Sentinel Surveillance, two States namely Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra out of the six known high prevalence States have shown HIV prevalence among antenatal women as less than 1%. Whereas HIV prevalence in other States have remained stable. India continues to be in the category of concentrated epidemic, with an overall prevalence of less than 1% among adult population and a total of 183 districts have been identified in the country for priority attention. With the specific interventions under the programme, it has been possible to maintain the HIV prevalence among general population as less than 1% and Tamil Nadu has shown decreasing trends during the last three years.

Statement

HIV Guidelines from UNAIDS

1. Terminology Guidelines
2. Setting National Targets for Moving Towards Universal Access; Operational guidance
3. International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights
4. The Global Task Team, a pathway to implement the "Three Ones", Opportunities for Scaling Up the Response to HIV at Country Level -Guidance Note
5. Guidelines for Conducting HIV Sentinel Serosurveys among Pregnant Women and Other Groups
6. Guidelines for effective use of data from HIV surveillance systems
7. Initiating Second Generation HIV Surveillance Systems; Practical, Guidelines (SGS)
8. HIV, health and your community: a guide for action
9. Revised Guideline 6 Access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

10. Monitoring the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators (full doc 2003)
11. HIV/AIDS, Human Resources & Sustainable Development (WSSD, World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, August 26, 2002)
12. National AIDS Councils: Monitoring and Evaluation Operations Manual
13. Guidelines for using HIV Testing technologies in Surveillance: Selection, Evaluation and Implementation.
14. National AIDS programmes: a guide to Monitoring and Evaluation
15. HIV and Infant Feeding Counselling:
16. Social Marketing. Expanding access to essential products and services to prevent HIV/AIDS and to limit the impact of the epidemic
17. Ethical considerations in HIV preventive vaccine research. UNAIDS guidance document
18. Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance

19. Guidelines for Second Generation HIV Surveillance. The next decade
20. HIV and Infant Feeding guidelines
21. Guidelines for organizing national external quality assessment schemes for HIV serological testing

World Bank Loan for Development of Roads

*588. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States that have submitted proposals for World Bank loans for improving their roads;

(b) the details of the proposals; and

(c) the cost and length of the roads to be improved with the help of this loan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A proposal has been recently received from the State of Haryana for World Bank loan, for improving their roads as per the following details:-

Sl No.	State	Details as types of roads contend	Length (in km)	Proposed cost (in US\$ million)
1.	Haryana	State Highways & Major District Roads	1,527	Rs. 5,587.99 crore (1170.60 US\$ million)

[Translation]

Recognition Norms for Medical Colleges

*591. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the norms regarding grant of recognition to Medical Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Permission for establishment of new medical college and increase in intake capacity of a medical

college is granted by Central Government in pursuance of the provision contained in Section 10(A) of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 and Regulation made thereunder. The eligibility and qualifying criteria for opening of a new medical college is laid down in the Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999 framed under IMC Act, 1956. It contains the norms relating to establishment of a medical college i.e. requirement of land area, hospital with necessary infrastructure facilities, manpower, essentiality certificate from the concerned State Government/UT Administration, consent of affiliation from a university etc. The college is initially permitted to start with minimum requirement of infrastructure and staff as prescribed by MCI. The year-wise targets to be achieved by the applicant in regard to construction of buildings.

positioning of staff, beds strength on year to year basis from the time of first admission of 50/100/150 MBBS students till the time they reach final year are given in MCI Regulations. An inspection is conducted by the MCI at the time of final MBBS examination of first batch for the purpose of recognition of medical qualification of the affiliating university in respect of students of newly established college. Then as per provisions of Section 11 of IMC Act, the Central Government in consultation with MCI grants recognition to the medical qualification by way of notification in the official gazette by including the qualification in the First Schedule to the IMC Act.

[English]

Sharing of Telecom Infrastructure

*592. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended for sharing of telecom infrastructure among the telecom service providers as reported in 'The Hindu' dated April 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the TRAI in this regard; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir. The recommendation has been received in April, 2007.

(b) The summary of the recommendation made by the TRAI is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The recommendation of TRAI on sharing of infrastructure is being examined.

Statement

Recommendations of TRAI on infrastructure sharing

A. Passive Infrastructure sharing:

- > Mandating passive infrastructure sharing at this stage is not required.

> SACFA clearance needs to be given in a stipulated time frame. If no communication is received in the prescribed time frame, the request may be deemed to be approved.

> Infrastructure Providers (IP) Category-I may also be allowed to seek SACFA clearance if they have at least one agreement with existing wireless service providers for leasing infrastructure.

> All licensees must announce on their website the details regarding the existing and future infrastructure installations available for sharing with other service providers. A time limit of 30 days for negotiation between access seeker and provider should be specifically provided in the license conditions.

Identification of Critical Sites for Wireless Services

> A Joint Working Group (JWG) should be constituted with District Magistrate of that District as the Chairman and having representatives from all mobile service providers present in that service area, representatives of Municipal Corporation/Body and a representative of Military land and Cantonment wing if area, under consideration also covers cantonment areas.

> The committee shall hold its meeting when requested by any of the licensed service providers in that area and decision shall be taken within 3 months time.

> All identified sites once approved by the committee will be notified as Critical infrastructure sites by the O/o Chairman, Joint Working Committee.

> Municipal bodies/Corporations/Cantonment authorities shall grant permission to any service provider/Infrastructure provider category-I (IP-I) to set up tower in such notified sites only when the service provider gives a commitment that the site would be shared by at least three service providers.

> In case of any disagreement among the service providers for sharing of critical site, the same will be first referred to JWG to settle the issue before taking any other remedial action.

B. Active Infrastructure sharing

- > The licence conditions of UASL/CMSF should be suitably amended to allow active infrastructure sharing limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission system only.
- > Sharing of the allocated spectrum is not permitted.
- > All licensees must announce on their website the details regarding the existing and future infrastructure installations available for sharing with other service providers.
- > A time limit of 30 days for negotiation between access seeker and provider should be specifically provided in the license conditions.

Backhaul sharing:

- > Licensing conditions of UASL and CMTS should be amended to allow service providers to share their backhaul from BTS to BSC only.
- > Such sharing is permitted on optical fibre as well as Radio medium.
- > No sharing of spectrum at access network side is permitted.

C. Financial and economic measures for Infrastructure sharing**(a) Incentives for Infrastructure sharing in urban areas**

- > Amount charged by Civic bodies from all service providers sharing infrastructure per tower should not be more than 1.2 times of the amount being charged from individual service providers when tower is not shared instead of charging same amount of processing fee and other charges from all the operators sharing a site.

(b) Incentives for Infrastructure sharing in rural areas

- > Subsidy for erecting the tower should also be made available to service providers not beneficiary under USOF scheme to maintain level playing field. The subsidy should be provided from USO Fund to service provider/ Infrastructure category-I to erect tower and share it with service providers.

- > An infrastructure provider Category-I or service provider who is not beneficiary of USOF scheme has to register with USO Fund administrator along with commitment letters from other service providers (Not beneficiary of USOF scheme in that SDCA) who wish to share the tower.
- > The passive infrastructure has to be created within one year from the date of such registration to make him eligible for subsidy.
- > A scheme based on the said framework would also be needed to support erection of towers in rural areas not covered under USOF scheme.

(c) Incentives for using non-conventional energy sources

- > a pro-active policy framework to encourage use of environment friendly non conventional energy sources may be evolved.
- > DOT may evolve a scheme of subsidy per site to service providers using non conventional energy sources.

Wage Pact for Coal Mine Workers

*593. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working out wage pact for coal mine workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade unions are opposing the said move;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited (CIL) for constitution of Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VIII (JBCCI-VIII), the matter has been examined in the Ministry of Coal and CIL has been authorized to constitute JBCCI-VIII for negotiation on National Coal Wage Agreement-VIII (NCWA-VIII).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

ARC Report to Declare Assets

*594. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering the proposal of the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) which has suggested that all Government officials should declare their wealth at the outset of a key assignment to curb corruption;

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

(c) the other recommendations of ARC and the steps taken by the Government thereon to curb corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):
(a) The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has not made any such specific recommendation in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The fourth report of the ARC titled 'Ethics in Governance' has *inter-alia* recommended (a) formulation of a Code of Ethics for Civil Servants focusing on 'Public Service Values' towards which all public servants should aspire; (b) amendment of the Prevention of Corruption Act to provide for a special offence of 'Collusive bribery'; (c) doing away with the need to obtain prior sanction for prosecuting a public servant in cases of possessing assets disproportionate to the known sources of income; (d) providing for payment of damages by corrupt public servants to make good the loss caused; (e) changing the procedures for speeding up trials under the Prevention of Corruption Act, (f) making necessary provision to protect the bonafide action of public servants taken in public interest, etc. The full report is available at the website of ARC at <http://arc.gov.in>.

The recommendations of ARC are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Tribal Land for Coal Mining

*595. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has acquired any land belonging to the tribal people for the purpose of coal mining during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the rules regarding payment of compensation and heir rehabilitation after acquisition of their land; and

(d) the total number of the persons who have neither been paid compensation nor rehabilitatd during the said period alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of land acquired from tribal people by the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during last 3 years State-wise is as under:

State	Area of land acquired (in Ha.)
West Bengal	14.57
Jharkhand	112.64
Maharashtra	15.54
Madhya Pradesh	328.51
Chhattisgarh	158.78
Orissa	52.32
Total	682.36

(c) Compensation for land and other interests thereon is provided to the tribal land oustees as per provisions of the Acts and directives of Central Govt. from time to time. In addition to land compensation, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) benefits are provided to eigible tribal land oustees as per prvisions of CIL's Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy, 2000.

Employment to eligible land oustees including of tribal land oustees is provided to fill vacancies, subject to approval of the Board of the company. In case subsidiary company is unable to offer employment due to lack of vacancies, there is provision for giving cash compensation in lieu of employment. CIL's R&R Policy also provides for assistance for establishing non-farm self employment by providing training and assistance in securing jobs with Contractors. While shifting of tribal population to new house sites, care is taken to settle them in a group to maintain their unique cultural identity. As per policy, the displaced family is given replacement cost of its homestead and other structure there. In addition to alternate house site shifting allowance is given to each family. Further, the

cluster group is also provided community facilities. In case a family wishes to make its own living arrangement, then it is provided onetime lump sum grant along with replacement cost of homestead, structures etc. owned by it on the acquired land.

Land compensation is paid according to the provisions of Land Acquisition Act or Coal Bearing Area act depending upon the Act, under which land is acquired.

(d) The details of Project Affected Tribal Families (PATFs) from whom land was acquired during last 3 years along with details of area of tribal family paid compensation is as under:

Land & Compensation to tribals for the last three years (State-wise)

State	No. of PATFs	Area acquired (in Hectares)	No. of Project Affected Tribal Families		Reasons for non-payment with programme, if any
			Given compensation	Yet to be given compensation	
West Bengal	20	14.57	20	Nil	
Jharkhand	168	112.64	149	19	Total compensation deposited Collector (Land Acquisition). Tenants have not received payments despite repeated camps held by Land Acquisition Deptt.
Maharashtra	12	15.54	12	Nil	
Madhya Pradesh	814	328.51	814	Nil	
Chhattisgarh	272	158.78	272	Nil	
Orissa	90	52.32	90	Nil	
Total	1376	682.36	1357	19	

Employment & cash grant in lieu of employment to tribals for the last three years (State-wise):

State	No. of eligible cases of employment involved	No. of employment given	No. of cases where cash grant in lieu of employment given	Balance	
				No. of employment	No. of cash grant
1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	04	04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Jharkhand	103	103	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	10	2	8	Nil	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	30	28	2	Nil	Nil
Chhattisgarh	54	54	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orissa	100	100	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	301	291	10	Nil	Nil

*[English]***Rehabilitation Package for Subsidiaries of CIL**

*596. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the rehabilitation package for the loss-making subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have sanctioned a rehabilitation package for the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) which is a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited (CIL). The salient features of the rehabilitation package for ECL are as under:

(i) Infusion/Investment of funds:

An investment of Rs. 2,956.83 crore from 2003-04 to 2012-13 for augmentation of production to be met from internal resources of ECL.

(ii) Waiver of non-payment of loans/interests:

- (i) Waiver of unsecured loans amounting to Rs. 519 crore during 2008-09 by CIL provided ECL achieves the outlined milestones.
- (ii) Waiver of interest on unsecured loans amounting to Rs. 168.65 crore upto 2002-03 and future interest of Rs. 33.73 crore per annum from 2004-05 to 2008-09 by CIL i.e. till such time the unsecured loan is waived.
- (iii) Waiver of Rs. 82.47 crore of apex charges for the earlier years upto 31.03.2004 and further waiver of service charges @ Rs. 14 crore per annum from 2004-05 by CIL.

- (iv) Waiver of electricity duty @ Rs. 18 crore per annum from 2004-05 for 5 years from Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

(iii) Conversion of loan to equity:

- (i) Conversion of current account balance of Rs. 1,532 crore of ECL as on 31.03.2003 by CIL into equity share capital in proportion to ECL bringing down its negative network.

(iv) Other proposals:

- (i) No interest to be charged on current account balance by CIL.
- (ii) Moratorium on repayment of further unsecured loan and current account balance till ECL's network becomes positive.
- (iii) Gratuity and leave encashment wages provided to the VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme) optees to be routed through current account.
- (iv) Repayment of EDC, Canada (foreign currency loan) loan and interest by CIL.
- (v) Exemption to ECL from Section 41(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in respect of remission arising out of writing off loans, interest and other liabilities.
- (vi) Exemption to ECL from payment of fees for increase in the authorized share capital.
- (vii) ECL to start payment of arrears of NCWA-VII from April 2006 in three instalments during 2006-07, i.e. 50% of the arrears by May 2006. 25% before Deepawali (Kali Puja) and balance 25% by March 2007. Instead of disbursement over three years as approved by BRPSE (Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises).

- (v) The company shall ensure rationalisation of manpower through VRS and natural attrition, within the stipulated time frame.

Captive Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

*597. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is extending assistance to farmers for captive cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for extending such assistance to the farmers; and

(c) the details of assistance provided during 2005-06 and 2006-07 to various states and the number of farmers

benefitted by such assistance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Medicinal Plants Board is providing financial assistance for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. As per the Operational Guidelines of scheme, subsidy @ 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 9 lakh per project is admissible to a farmer/grower/organisation. The project proposal with information regarding land records, bank appraisal report, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Buyer of the produce etc. should be forwarded by State Medicinal Plants Board for consideration of National Medicinal Plants Board.

(c) The details regarding States/UTs, projects and financial assistance sanctioned / released to farmers during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as under:

Sl.No.	State/UT's	2005-06			2006-07		
		Projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In lacs)	1st installment Released	Projects sanctioned (Rs. In lacs)	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In lacs)	1st installment released (Rs. In lacs)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	63.61	32.92	63	91	45.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	29.65	18.61	30	85.38	42.66
3.	Assam	2	1.81	0.91	4	10.846	5.418
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	10	32.14	16.07
5.	Chhattisgarh	20	90.56	45.61	9	20.29	10.12
6.	Delhi	0	0	0	2	6.83	3.41
7.	Gujarat	10	23.63	11.82	28	18.387	9.424
8.	Haryana	90	342.976	172.15	89	331.227	165.534
9.	Himachal Pradesh	59	233.06	120.25	86	230.33	115.08
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	32	61.22	30.65	23	74.84	37.39
11.	Jharkhand	2	4	2.01	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	14	19.17	9.49	171	417.006	208.463
13.	Kerala	13	13.17	6.61	25	26.55	13.23

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Madhya Pradesh	194	360.3	178.91	280	580.29	289.72	
15. Maharashtra	86	226.68	113.44	138	323.11	161.52	
16. Manipur	56	279.66	139.94	0	0	0	
17. Nagaland	14	27.27	13.18	10	28.36	14.16	
18. Orissa	47	100.39	50.33	146	244.709	122.255	
19. Punjab	49	258.82	153.45	95	366.552	183.251	
20. Rajasthan	371	615.64	406.22	393	685.07	342.31	
21. Sikkim	11	29.46	14.74	52	95.61	47.71	
22. Tamil Nadu	28	93.85	46.96	8	29.44	14.69	
23. Uttar Pradesh	7	16.59	8.3	106	228.091	113.98	
24. Uttaranchal	25	63.34	31.68	35	115.41	57.73	
25. West Bengal	0	0	0	2	3.08	1.54	

*[Translation]***Nuclear Suppliers' Group**

*598. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to garner support of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) on Nuclear Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 commits the United States to work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. Government have also taken steps to seek the support of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) countries. This has been done through briefings in NSG member country capitals and in New Delhi as well as

through dialogue with the NSG. The issue of an India-specific exemption to the NSG Guidelines has also been taken up at political levels during visits abroad as well as incoming visits.

(c) As a result of these efforts, several important NSG countries such as UK, France and Russia have expressed understanding for our position.

*[English]***National Council for Clinical Establishments**

*599. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted a National Council for Clinical Establishments;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the Council and the composition thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a monitoring mechanism for periodical review of the standards followed by the service providers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes sir, with a view to determine standards for Clinical Establishments and to maintain and update a national register of Clinical Establishments in the country, a National Council for Clinical Establishments has been set up *vide* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's notification dated 5th April 2007. The functions of the Council are to:—

- (i) determine the standards for clinical establishments;
- (ii) classify the clinical establishments into different categories;
- (iii) develop the minimum standards and their periodic review;
- (iv) compile, maintain and update a national register of clinical establishments;
- (v) perform any other function determined by the Central Government from time to time.

However, Health being a State list subject, it is for the State Government to set up monitoring mechanisms to ensure periodical review of the standards followed by the service providers in the health sector.

Setting up of Public Health Development Authority

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested some measures including setting up of a Public Health Development Authority with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore and for launching 'Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan' to make healthcare accessible to all;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been suggested for better implementation of the health care schemes;

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

(d) the time by which the Government is likely to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The mid-term appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) for the health sector, carried out by Planning Commission, had recommended setting up of a Public Health Development Authority (PHDA) with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore in the interventions recommended in the Mid Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07). It also includes the launching of a "Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan" in a manner similar to the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan". It suggests the augmentation of financial resources for health by accessing the World Bank IDA credit for the "Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan". The PHDA will set standards for quality assurance in health care; develop and disseminate national practice guidelines and consumer information; build capacity in public health and develop the Information Technology Infrastructure for Health. This will boost consumer confidence, curb malpractices, and create an ethical environment for creating more appropriate health care delivery across the country.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched throughout the country by the Government to ensure quality health care in rural areas. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken care of the suggestion made in mid-term appraisal of the 10th F.Y. Plan for health sector while formulating the NRHM. The Mission period has been fixed from 2005-12.

Performance of the Indian Cricket Team

*601. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the Government has any control over the Indian Cricket Team and its Board of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total funds allocated for the development of cricket and other games put together during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government has assessed the performance of Indian Cricket Team in the recent World Cup;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the basis of the assessment ?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is an autonomous registered body which is recognized by the Government of India as the National Sports Federation (NSF) responsible for the promotion of cricket in the country. Government recognition granted to all NSFs, including BCCI, is subject to their conforming to the following conditions:

- Follow proper democratic and healthy management practices which provide for greater accountability and transparency at all levels;
- Have proper accounting procedures at all levels and produce annual financial statements;
- Produce an annual report within six months of completion of the year;
- Have impartial and transparent selection procedures;
- Will ensure that the dope test of all its players

be conducted regularly as per norms/standards laid by the International federation of the concerned discipline.

(d) BCCI does not take any Central assistance from the Government. However, permission is given by the Ministry to BCCI for the participation of the Indian team in international events abroad and for conducting international events in India in consultation with the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs. The details of funds provided during the last three years to each of the other recognized National Sports Federations for the promotion of various sports is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) to (g) BCCI has acknowledged that the Indian team did not perform to its full potential during the recently concluded ICC World Cup 2007 held in the West Indies and has held the team collectively responsible for its poor performance. To ensure better performance, the BCCI has deliberated on the matter and also obtained the suggestions from former Captains of the Team. Based on the inputs received, the BCCI is taking necessary steps for improving the preparation of the Indian Cricket Team for participation in major events, which include intensive training inputs in different aspects of the game; norms in terms of minimum level of participation in domestic competitions; encouraging young players with potential, etc.

Details of Assistance given to National Sports Federations 2003-04 to 2006-07

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 31-3-2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	14.25	13.98	12.69
2.	All India Chess Federation	111.90	78.94	112.46
3.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	0.00	00.00	3.46
4.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	30.02	13.43	19.15
5.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	12.50	07.00	15.49
6.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	14.00	34.57	38.64
7.	Atya Patya Federation of India	7.50	12.00	15.50

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	5.50	00.00	0.00
9.	Basketball Federation of India	49.61	41.21	36.31
10.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	6.75	0	30.01
11.	Fencing Association of India	17.07	43.78	45.70
12.	Gymnastics Federation of India	18.88	14.88	66.47
13.	Indian Body Building Federation	0	0	0.00
14.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	18.06	36.50	21.23
15.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	01.10	1.55
16.	Indian Power lifting Federation	13.00	15.00	8.50
17.	Judo Federation of India	56.37	64.66	48.62
18.	Kho-kho Federation of India	18.92	12.00	2.00
19.	Korfball Federation of India	12.50	09.00	12.50
20.	All India Tennis Association	136.87	77.45	90.07
21.	National Rifle Association of India	218.37	433.43	373.19
22.	Netball Federation of India	7.50	11.50	9.50
23.	Roller Skating Federation of India	15.00	09.00	0.00
24.	Rowing Federation of India	118.43	51.65	9.75
25.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	7.50	10.50	13.00
26.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	12.00	00.00	0.00
27.	Softball Federation of India	14.00	9.80	12.00
28.	Squash Racket Federation of India	119.37	15.42	21.94
29.	Swimming Federation of India	11.76	53.33	13.59
30.	Table Tennis Federation of India	116.78	165.10	178.75
31.	Taekwondo Federation of India	6.00	00.00	0.00
32.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	10.50	11.00	13.00
33.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	7.00	17.00	11.50
34.	Tug of War Federation of India	12.50	11.50	20.75

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Volleyball Federation of India	32.17	94.97	58.17
36.	Yachting Association of India	159.88	141.30	78.40
37.	Wushu Association of India	10.50	07.10	13.50
38.	Throwball Federation of India	0.00	09.00	0.00
39.	Para Olympic	0.00	13.50	33.34
40.	Archery Association of India	58.95	51.75	96.48
41.	Billiards & Snooker Federation of India	23.52	28.57	16.13
42.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	81.28	142.74	85.39
43.	Indian Hockey Federation	194.21	96.46	92.09
44.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	110.35	78.81	111.64
45.	Indian Amateur Kabaddi Federation	25.00	24.69	13.95
46.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	79.88	51.41	3.28
47.	Athletics Federation of India	215.08	227.95	86.83
48.	Badminton Association of India	160.16	271.94	117.65
49.	Equestrian Federation of India	32.76	31.20	29.08
50.	Football	119.36	70.37	30.55
51.	Indian Golf Union	32.48	37.84	23.11
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	225.35	209.82	32.58
53.	Winter Games Federation of India (WGFI)	9.64	12.51	1.65
54.	Women's Cricket Federation of India	00	00	1.00
55.	Cycling Federation of India	16.38	11.73	1.00
56.	Special Olympic Bharat	0.00	0.00	4.50

Note: Apart from above, during 2006-2007 Central assistance was also provided to SAI, IOA etc. as per details given below under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations:

Indian Olympic Association	538.10
Bangal Olympic Association for Indo-Bangla Games.	150.00
Sports Authority of India	500.00

*[Translation]***Stone-Crushers on National Highways**

5511. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provision made for setting up of stone-crushers on the National Highways;

(b) whether these stone-crushers spread pollution on the National Highways; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The contractor engaged for the execution of the work has the responsibility to procure/provide crushed gravel/crushed shingle/crushed stone aggregate, as specified in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works (Fourth Revision)", required for the work. No separate provision is made in the projects, sanctioned by the Ministry regarding setting up of stone-crushers.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has specified that the contractor has to take all precautions for safeguarding the environment during the course of construction and to abide by all the laws/rules related to pollution and environmental protection prevailing in the area of work. Moreover, the contractor shall take every precaution to reduce the levels of noise, vibration, dust and emissions from his plant and shall be fully responsible for any claims for damages caused to the owners of property, fields and residences in the vicinity.

*[English]***Insurance Premium for Tarang Handsets**

5512. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly insurance premium is charged for Tarang handsets;

(b) if so, the amount of premium being charged and the types of facilities being provided to the subscribers as a result thereof;

(c) whether these facilities are available in other handsets also; and

(d) the details of insurance amount paid to the subscribers due to damage or loss of 'Tarang' handsets in West Bengal during each of the last three years, year-wise?

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

(b) A very nominal amount of Rs. 207 per month is being charged from the customers for insurance premium. In this regard, subscriber is not required to pay the cost of instrument and security deposit for BSNL handset.

(c) This facility is available only for the handset of 'Tarang' of WLL service.

(d) No insurance amount is paid to the subscriber due to damage or loss of 'Tarang' handsets in West Bengal because the ownership of the handset lies with BSNL.

*[Translation]***Threats to NHDP Contractors**

5513. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies/contractors engaged in the construction of roads under NHDP has received threats from criminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers killed during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) During implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) works, the contractors working in various States at times have informed about adverse Law & Order situation prevailing in the area hampering the progress of the projects.

(c) As per records, various companies/contractors working on NHDP works have reported killing of five workers/staff during last three years.

(d) The matters with respect to adverse Law & Order situations are regularly taken up with concerned State Governments for providing adequate security to the personnel and equipments involved in the execution of the projects. In response, States have provided security at vulnerable locations at different points of time.

(English)

Prevention of Corruption Act

5514. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently ordered that the investigating agencies do not need the prior sanction to execute prosecution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers has agreed to the proposal to amend section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) to widen the ambit of protection to the retired public servant;

(d) if so, whether this move is likely to adversely affect the investigating agencies;

(e) if not, the rationale behind amending the PCA; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that cases of corruption in the country are dealt with strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently held that no sanction under section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is required for prosecution of a public servant who has ceased to be a public servant and/or is a public servant of different category. No sanction for prosecution is also required under Section 197 of the Cr.P.C. for acts of omission or commission of a public servant not done in the discharge of official duty.

(c) to (e) Certain proposals to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are under consideration.

(f) The Government has taken various steps which, *inter-alia*, include enactment of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, Annual Action Plan to monitor anti-corruption and vigilance activities of various Ministries/ Departments encompassing preventive vigilance, surveillance and detective and punitive deterrent action. As a long-term strategy, the Government endeavors to bring more transparency into the system by various Administrative and legislative measures.

Promotion of Healthcare Tourism

5515. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has agreed with many States to promote healthcare tourism causing a drain on scarce Medicare infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether private investments in Medicare sector will provide service to the rich and elite at the cost of the poor and the needy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Many States are promoting themselves as destinations for Health Tourism. These focus primarily on the rejuvenating techniques of Indian Systems of Medicine especially of Ayurveda. Specialized medical health care facilities available in the private sector in India are also being used by patients from foreign countries. The influx of tourists to such States generates increased demands for these services resulting in creation of additional infrastructure, employment generation, development of man-power and building up of foreign exchange reserves. Private investment in the Health Sector is made primarily on market considerations except the investment made by the charitable and philanthropic institutions/organizations. Despite this, the private sector plays an important role in providing basic health care services in the country. Notwithstanding the above, the Government is committed to increasing expenditure in health sector from current level of 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years through the National Rural Health Mission to improve basic health care services for the common man.

*[Translation]***Widening of Delhi-Hisar NH-10**

5516. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to widen the stretch of National Highway No. 10 from Delhi to Hisar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in the execution of the construction work;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Widening of National Highway No. 10 in Delhi has been taken up in Phases depending upon the availability of fund and *inter-se* priority of work. At present eight laning nearly in 5.2 km of NH-10 in Delhi has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.13.29 crore as a budgeted work. Widening from Delhi/Haryana Border to Hissar under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III has been divided into two packages, Delhi-Haryana/Border to Rohtak with total project cost (TPC) of Rs. 486 crore and Rohtak to Hissar with TPC of Rs. 543 crore. Bids for Delhi-Rohtak section have been received and are under evaluation. For Rohtak-Hissar section, the bids are being invited.

*[English]***Four Laning of NH between Ambala and Shimla**

5517. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the four laning of NH-22 from Ambala to Shimla, under NHDP-IIIA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bids have been invited and finalized for Zirakpur to Parwanoo Section;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent any proposal for optional utilization of road and cost effective measures undertaken in the construction of the aforesaid projects;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) The following stretches of NH-22 have been included in National Highways Development Project Phase-IIIA for four laning on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis:

Stretch of NH-22	Status
Ambala-Zirakpur	Four laning is in progress with target of completions as Nov., 2008.
Zirakpur-Parwanoo including Pinjore-Kalka-Parwanoo bypass	Work of four laning has been awarded on BOT (Toll) basis.
Parwanoo - Shimla	Updation of DPR is in progress

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Three bids were received. The work has been awarded.

(e) No, sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Keeping in view importance of Shimla, NHAI has been directed to 4-lane entire stretch of NH-22 from Zirakpur to Shimla.

Knowledge Ecosystem

5518. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up 'Knowledge Ecosystem' in the country especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up in the country;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to develop tier-2 cities and knowledge satellites;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, as per information received from the State of Tamil Nadu, they are planning to set up IT Parks at Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli. A comprehensive multi-sectoral development plan for these towns have been formulated to provide basic amenities of power, roads, Metro Rail, drinking water, sewerage and storm water drainage.

Delay at Amewadi Toll Plaza due to Rush

5519. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether long queues of vehicles are observed at Amewadi Toll Plaza on National Highway No. 4 on Pune-Satara section;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a lesser number of employees have been deployed by the toll collecting agency at this toll plaza resulting in undue delay;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) At Amewadi Toll Plaza on Pune-Satara Section of NH-4, queues are sometimes

observed during peak traffic hours in Pune-Satara direction as the toll plaza in this direction is currently only two lane as against provision of three lane for want of land which has now been acquired.

(c) Number of employees deployed at the toll plaza by the toll-collecting agency is as per requirement at site.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Action Plan of NHAI for Truck Drivers

5520. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been prepared by the National Highways Authority of India to save the truck drivers plying on the National Highways from the menace of AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the implementation of the said action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is implementing HIV/AIDS awareness campaign through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) along NH-2 (Delhi-Kolkata), NH-28 (Lucknow-Muzaffarpur) NH-26 and NH-7 (Lalitpur to Anantpur-Andhra Pradesh/Karnataka Border) and NH-76 and NH-25 (Chittorgarh-Jhansi). Presently, four NGOs have been awarded contracts for implementing HIV/AIDS awareness campaign along NH-28 (Lucknow-Muzaffarpur).

(c) Presently, the NHAI's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme is being implemented as part of loan commitments to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) along the identified stretches as mentioned in replies to parts (a) and (b) of the question. The estimated expenditure in this respect is around US\$ 4.32 million (Rupees 19.44 crores approximately).

*[English]***Passport Applications through District Collectors**

5521. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced the system to collect applications through District Collectors for getting passports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the year in which the said system was introduced:

(c) the details of number of persons who submitted their applications for passport to the District Collectors during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the number of persons who were issued passports out of such applications during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) In January 2002, Government introduced system to collect passport applications through District Passport Centres (DPCs) in the country, which function under either District Collector or District Police Superintendent.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Mandatory Provisions under PESA

5522. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mandatory and obligatory provisions under PESA implemented by the States having areas Fifth Scheduled demarcated under the Constitution, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to see that these provisions are adopted by the States to check the exploitation of the tribals;

(c) the coordinated approach adopted by the concerned ministries in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While all States have enacted the requisite compliance legislation by amending their respective Panchayati Raj Acts, certain gaps continue to exist. The status of implementation of PESA by States having Areas covered under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) PESA is administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The role of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is to ensure that the central policies, schemes and Act(s) administered by them are in consonance with the spirit of the provisions of PESA. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has asked State Governments to amend existing laws to bring them in conformity with the provisions of PESA.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken the following steps in coordination with other Central Ministries to ensure the effective implementation of PESA:

1. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been in touch with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs throughout the process of enactment of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Clause 13 of the Act provides:

"Save as otherwise provided in this Act and the Provisions of the Panchayat" (Extension the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force."

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also been represented in the Technical Support Group for framing Rules to operationalise the above Act. Many of the provisions of the said Act, such as rights over minor forest produce, deal with the provisions of PESA.

2. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is in touch with the Department of Legal Affairs to identify and get amended various central laws which appear not to be in full consonance with PESA. The Department of Legal Affairs have identified the following Acts for amendment to make them

consonant with the provisions of PESA. These central laws are:

- The Indian Forest Act-1927,
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,
- The Transfer of Property Act-1882,
- The Indian Registration Act-1908, and
- The Land Acquisition Act-1894.

The Ministry has been requesting the Ministry of Law to expedite the process of amending these central laws in coordination with the relevant Central Ministries.

3. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had appointed the Indian Law Institute to study each State law in the PESA states which impinge on the provisions of PESA. Several hundred state laws were examined, specific amendments were drafted and these detailed drafts have been sent to the State Governments of the PESA States for amending their specific subject laws as per PESA provisions.

Statement

The Status of PESA Implementation in different States

Section 4(a): *A State legislation on the Panchayats that may be made shall be in consonance with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources:*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Consequent upon the PESA Act, the State Govt. enacted an Act. No. 7 of 1998 extending the provision of Part-IX of the Constitutions of India relating to Panchayats in Scheduled areas.
Chhattisgarh		State Legislation is in consonance with the customary law and Social, religious and traditional management practices as per the provisions of section 242B and 242C of the State Act.
Gujarat	In consonance	The State has not clarified the current position.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	The State Act provides that while making recommendation in respect of a local area in the schedule areas it shall be ensured that the local area shall ordinarily consist of a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets comprising a community and managing its affairs in accordance with the traditions and customs.
Rajasthan	In consonance	Yes, Section 97-C of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Act, 1997 provides that every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of people, their cultural identity, community resources and without detrimental to any law for the time being in force, the customary mode of dispute resolution.
Jharkhand	Not known	Government of Rajasthan stated that this issue relates to the State Government.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	State has not yet sent its current status.
Maharashtra	In consonance	Section 129C of State PR Act states that Gram Sabha has power to safeguard the tradition and customs of the people.
Orissa		Section 8A(i) of Bombay Villages Panchayat Act.
		State has not clarified the position.

Section 4(b): *A village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets comprising a community and managing its affairs in accordance with traditions and customs*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	As per section 242 B of the State Act a village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs. However, Tribal Welfare Department has requested to extend the definition of village so as to also include land water and forest areas etc., on which they are dependent on their sustenance and livelihood.
Chhattisgarh		Position not known
Gujarat	Not in consonance	There is no definition of the natural village in the state of PESA blocks but in Gujarat State the revenue villages are almost natural village or talas.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	"A village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitation or a hamlet or a group of hamlet thereof comprising a community or communities and managing their affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.
Rajasthan	Not in consonance	As per clause 2A of the notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999 "village" means a village specified for this purpose in the notification in the gazette by the Government.
Jharkhand	In consonance	As per the provision of Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act 2001 in the Scheduled Areas in which there will ordinarily be a residence or a group of residences or a tola or a group of tolas comprising such community as manages its activities according to its customs and usages.
Madhya Pradesh		Definition of village is not clear in Madhya Pradesh
Maharashtra		The State has not clarified its position on the section
Orissa	In consonance	Have pelli sabha consisting of hamlets.

Section 4(c): *Every village shall have a Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for Panchayat at the village level*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Units of the ST in the scheduled area in the Gram Panchayats and such persons shall be deemed to be members of the Gram Sabha. There is suggestion to include such persons or their parents as have been resident of such village prior to the date of notification of scheduled areas or the earliest emergence of settlements whichever is earlier
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	
Gujarat	In consonance	The Gram Sabha shall consists of persons whose names are included in the list of voters of electoral divisions of that village.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Persons whose names appear in the electoral roll of the Panchayat.

Rajasthan	In consonance	As per clause 3-A of notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999, every village will have a Gram Sabha in which persons included their names must exist in the electorate rolls at the village Panchayat level.
Jharkhand	In consonance	Under the provisions of Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act ordinarily there shall be one Gram Sabha for a village but if the members of a gram Sabha may desire, then another Gram Sabha constituted in the manner to be prescribed and in the area of each such Gram Sabha there shall be a residence or a group of residences or group of small village or villages/tolas comprising communities which shall manage their activities to customs and usages.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Gram Sabha" means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.
Maharashtra	Not known	
Orissa	In consonant	In consonance with the provision of PESA.

Section 4(d) of PESA provides that every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their culture identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Section 242-C of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and without detriment to any law for the time being in force in the customary mode of dispute resolution.
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	Section 129-C of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that Gram Sabha shall have power to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity and community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution.
Gujarat	In consonance	Section 4(3)(a) of State Panchayat Raj Act says that the Gram Sabha shall endeavour to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the inhabitants of the village, their cultural identity, community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Section 97-C of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that Section 97(c)(i) of Himachal Pradesh PR Act 1993 lays down that Every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and without detriment to any law for the time being in force, the customary mode of dispute resolution. Rajasthan In consonance Section 8-E(h) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that Gram Sabha may promote unity and harmony among all sections of the society and under clause (m) take control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors. As per clause 3-B of notification of the State Government

dated 30-9-1999 every Gram Sabha will be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their culture identity, community resources; According to that and local conditions, Gram Sabha may take necessary decision.

Jharkhand	In consonance	Section 10(5)(i) of the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act 2001 provides that Gram Sabha shall protect and preserve the traditions and customs of persons their cultural identity and community means.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Section 129C of State PR Act states that Gram Sabha has power to safeguard the tradition and customs of the people.
Maharashtra	In consonance	Section 8A(i) of Bombay Villages Panchayat Act.
Orissa	Not in consonance	Section 5(6) of State PR Act lays down that "The provision as been made subject to relevant laws in force and in harmony with basic tenets of the constitution and human rights".

Section 4(e) of the PESA stipulates that every Gram Sabha shall (i) approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level; (ii) be responsible for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Section 242C(2) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that every Gram Sabha shall (i) approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Gram Panchayat at village level, (ii) be responsible for the identification of selection of persons as beneficiaries under poverty alleviation and other programmes.
Chhattishgarh	Not in consonance	Chhattisgarh PR Act. Section 7(1)(b) lays down that subject to the rules, which the State Government may make in this behalf, and subject to the general or special orders, as may be issued by the State Government from time to time the Gram Sabha shall have the powers to approve all plans including Annual Plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Sabha shall lay down the principles for identification of schemes and developments and select beneficiaries under poverty alleviation programmes.
Gujarat	In consonance	Section 4(3)(b) of Gujarat State Panchayati Raj Act says that the Gram Sabha shall approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up implementation by the village panchayat.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Section 97C(2) of Himachal Pradesh State Panchayati Raj Act says that the Gram Sabha shall approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up implementation by the Gram Panchayat, at the village level.

Rajasthan	In consonance	<p>Section 8E(a) of Rajasthan State Panchayati Raj Act says that the Gram Sabha shall approve the plans, programmes and projects approved by the Ward Sabha before such plans programmes projects are taken up for implementation by Panchayat; (b) identification or selection of beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.</p> <p>As per 3-c(i) of notification of the State Government dated: 30-9-1999, before undertaking the implementation of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development, obtaining the approval of Gram Sabha is necessary.</p>
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	Section 10 (I) of Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act 2001 states that Subject to such rules as the State Government may make in this behalf, and subject to the general or special, as may be issued by the State Government from time to time, the Gram Sabha shall have the powers
Madhya Pradesh	in consonance	The Gram Sabha shall have the powers to approve plans.
Maharashtra	In consonance	Section 8A(ii) of Bombay Village Panchayat Act.
Orissa	In consonance	Section 5(3) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.
<p>Section 4(f) of PESA States that every Panchayat at the village level shall be required to obtain from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilization of funds by that Panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development.</p>		
Andhra Pradesh	Not consonance	No, the funds utilized by the village Panchayat on works are verified by Gram Sabhas. Utilization certificates are issued by village Panchayat/Panchayat Committee.
Chhattisgarh	Not in consonance	Section 7(1)(e) of State Panchayati Raj Act provides that Subject to the rules, which the State Government may make in this behalf, and subject to the general or special orders, as may be issued by the State Government from time to time, the Gram Sabha shall have the following powers to ascertain and certify the proper utilization by Gram Panchayat of funds for plans, programmes and projects
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>In Section 112(1)(A) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that the panchayat shall obtain from the gram sabha a certificate of utilization of funds by the panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects referred to in sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 4. which is as under:</p> <p>the Gram Sabha shall approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up implementation by the Village Panchayat.</p> <p>However, the Gram Sabha does not issue utilization certificates for expenditure of programme funds but Sarpanch is the competent authority to issue UCs for village level works.</p>

Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Section 97C(3) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that every Gram Panchayat shall obtain from the Gram Sabha, a certificate of utilization of funds by the panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects referred to in sub-section (2) which as under: (i) approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Gram Panchayat at Village level; (ii) be responsible for the identification of selection of persons as beneficiaries under poverty alleviation and other programmes.
Rajasthan	Not In consonance	The funds utilized by the village Panchayat on works are verified by Gram Sabhas. Utilization certificates are issued by village Panchayat/ Panchayat Committee.
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	Section 10(1) provides that Subject to the rules, which the State Government may make in this behalf, and subject to the general or special orders, as may be issued by the State Government from time to time, the Gram Sabha shall have the following powers.
Madhya Pradesh	in consonance	Yes, UCs is being issued by Gram Panchayat on the basis of a resolution after Gram Sabha.
Maharashtra	In consonance	Section 8A(ii) of Bombay Village Panchayat Act.
Orissa	In consonance	Section 5(3) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.

Section 4(g) of PESA States that the reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas at every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities in the Panchayat for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. Provided that the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats Further, that all seats of chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Section 242D of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that the reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas to every Gram Panchayat and Mandal Parishad as the case may be: Provided that the reservation for the STs shall be less than one-half of the total number of seats: provided further that all seats of Sarpanchas of Gram Panchayats and presidents of Mandal Parishads shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	Section 13(4) seats shall be reserved in every Gram Panchayat where 50% or less than 50% seats have been reserved both for the SCs and STs 25% of the total number of seats shall be reserved for OBCs and such seats shall be allotted by rotation to different Wards in the Gram Panchayat by the collector in the prescribed manner. Section 129E provides that reservation for STs shall not be less than 1A of the total number of seats provided further that all seats of Sarpanch or President of Panchayats at all levels in Scheduled Areas shall be reserved for STs.

Jharkhand	<i>Sub-judice</i>	In Jharkhand. The High Court of Jharkhand Struck down the provision for reservation of seats for Chairpersons. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has challenged the High Court Order in the Supreme Court.
Gujarat	In consonance	Section 9(5)(ia) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that in the case of a village panchayat, the whole local area of which comprises of any of the Scheduled Areas, the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes under sub-clause (i) shall be increased to such number as is not less than one-half of the total number of seats in the village panchayat.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Section 97D reservation of seats of office bearer in Panchayats:- The reservation of seats in the scheduled areas to every Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti shall be in proportionate to the population of the communities in the Gram Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti, as the case may be: Provided that the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. Provided further that all seats of Pradhan of Gram Panchayats and Chairman of Panchayat Samitis shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Section 129E says that Panchayats will be constituted at village level with reservations for Scheduled Tribes in the manner prescribed in Part IX of the Constitution. Has extended the reservation of elective seats and chairpersons to both for Gram Panchayats, Janpad Panchayats and Zila Panchayats.
Rajasthan	In consonance	Section 16(2) says that number of offices reserved for SCs and STs shall bear the same proportion to the total number of each of such offices as the population of such tribes and castes to the total population of the State.
Maharashtra	In consonance	The state Panchayat is in consonance with the provision of PESA.
Orissa	In consonance	The state Panchayat is in consonance with the provision of PESA.
Section 4(h) of PESA that the State Government may nominate persons belonging to such Scheduled Tribes as having no representation in the Panchayat at the intermediate level or the Panchayat at the district level. Provided that such nomination shall not exceed one-tenth of the total members to be elected in that Panchayat		
Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	Section 242E of the State Panchayati Raj Act states that the Government may nominate persons belonging to such STs who have no representation in Mandal Parishads: provided that such nomination shall not exceed one tenth of the total members to be elected in that Mandal Parishad.
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	Section 129E(2) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that the State Government may nominate persons belonging to such STs who have no representation in a Panchayat in the Scheduled Areas at intermediate or district level provided that nomination shall not exceed 1/10 of the total members to be elected in the panchayat.

Gujarat	In consonance	Section 11A of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that if for any reason an election does not result in the return of any member of Scheduled Tribes in a taluka panchayat or district panchayat, the State Government may nominate from amongst members belonging to Scheduled Tribes who are qualified to be elected, such number of members as not to exceed one-tenth of the total members to be elected in that panchayat.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Under section 97(d) of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 reservation for the Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at all the three levels is required to be provided in proportion to the population of the Scheduled Tribes to the total population and the reservation shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. But in the case of this State the population of the Scheduled Tribes is 75.42% and as such 79% seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.
Jharkhand	In consonance	Section 36(b)(7) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Section 129E(2) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	No provision in the State Panchayati Raj Act.
Orissa	In consonance	Section 6(6) on the Zila Parishad Act.
Rajasthan	In consonance	Section 3(f) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.

Section 4 (i): *The Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects and before re-settling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the Scheduled Areas; the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the Scheduled Areas shall be coordinated at the State level.*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	As per section 242F of the Act the Manda Parishad shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled areas for development projects and before resettling or rehabilitating persons evicted by such projects in the Scheduled areas, the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the scheduled areas shall be coordinated at the state level.
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Subject Act

The AP Land Acquisition Act gives no insight into function of mandal Parishad *vis-a-vis* role of Mandal revenue Officer in the process of Land acquisition.

Chattisgarh	In consonance	The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent but the rehabilitation policy makes consultation with Gram Sabha mandatory.
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Subject Act

Land Revenue Act 1894 as amended states that in scheduled areas private land can be acquired only after consultations only with the Gram Sabha.

Gujarat	In consonance	Section 132-A of PRA provides for the Taluka Panchayat to be consulted before acquisition of land and rehabilitation of persons affected.
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		<p>Subject Act</p> <p>NOC of Taluka Panchayat is required before acquiring under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 97-F of the State Panchayati Raj Act states that the Gram Sabha shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the scheduled areas for development of projects and before re-settling or rehabilitating persons evicted by such projects in the scheduled areas; the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the schedule areas shall be co-ordinated at the State Level.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Section 3(1) of Himachal Pradesh Transfer of Land (Regulation) Amendment Act 2002.</p>
Rajasthan	In consonance	<p>Section 8E(e) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that the Gram Sabha or the Panchayati Raj Institution at such level, as may be prescribed by the State Government, shall be consulted but no such provision made.</p> <p>As per clause 3-g of the notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999, prior to the acquisition of land in the scheduled areas and persons affected by acquisition of such projects, rehabilitation or resettlement of such persons, Gram Sabha OR Panchayati Raj Institutions as prescribed by the State Governments should be consulted. Preparation of actual plans and then implementation will be coordinated at the State level in the Scheduled areas.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Subject Act is silent about it.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 7 & 129C of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that prior consultation with Gram Sabha or Panchayat at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory, prior consultation with Gram Sabha or Panchayat shall acquisition land for development projects and resettlement of displaced persons.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Land Revenue Act 1894, as amended, states that in scheduled areas private land can be acquired only after consultations only with the Gram Sabha.</p>
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Bihar Land Acquisition Act along with amended act of 1984 makes no mention of Panchayats in the matter.</p>
Maharashtra	In consonance	<p>As per Section 45A of State Panchayati Raj Act</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Section 41 of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act has been amended.</p>
Orissa	In consonance	<p>Section 3(6) of Orissa Zila Parishad Act 1997 gives powers to Zila Parishad.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>The Subject Act is silent about it.</p>

Section 4 (l): Planning & management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas shall be entrusted to Panchayats at the appropriate level.

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 242-G of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that planning and management of minor water bodies on the scheduled areas shall be entrusted to Gram Panchayats, Mandal Parishads or the Zilla Parishads, as the case may be in such manner as may be prescribed.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Farmers organizations (which are Parallel bodies) in Scheduled areas ayacut committee are responsible for managing minor water bodies.</p>
Chhattisgarh	Partially consonant	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act has assigned powers up to a specified water areas: Section 7(1) says subject to the rules which the state government may make the Gram Sabha shall have powers under section 7(l)(j-iii) to advice the Gram Panchayat in regulating use to Minor Water Bodies.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Nothing has been mentioned about it by the Irrigation Department in their provisions Acts</p>
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>As per Schedule I (k,i) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No Information exists.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 97-G planning and management of minor water bodies in the scheduled areas shall be entrusted to Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis or the Zilla Parishads as the case may be, in such manner as may be prescribed.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Minor water bodies are handed over to user's groups (parallel bodies) called krishak vikas sangh registered under the State Coop. Act.</p>
Rajasthan	in consonance	<p>Section 8E(K) of the State PRA provides for the planning and management of minor water bodies, as may be specified by the State Government, in the Scheduled Areas Management of minor water sources between 80 to 300 hectare has been shifted from irrigation department to Panchayati Raj Institutions and employees of different levels have been deployed. Their salary and allowances are being paid by Panchayati Raj Institutions.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No information available</p>
Jharkhand	In consonance	<p>As per schedule 76-b of section 5 of the State Panchayati Raj Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No Amendment has been made in Bihar Irrigation Act 1997</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>As per section 129(f)(i) of the State Panchayati Raj Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No information available.</p>
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	<p>The Maharashtra Act does not make a mention in this matter.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No Provision</p>
Orissa	In consonance	<p>The Orissa Act has assigned this subject to District Panchayats.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No Provision</p>

Section 4(k): *The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals by auction.*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 242-H of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that the recommendations of the Gram Panchayat, made in such manner as may be prescribed, shall be taken into consideration prior to grant of prospecting license or mining lease, for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions have been made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act of 1957.</p>
Chhattisgarh	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act has no provision in this regard.</p> <p>Subject Act:</p> <p>Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats have no powers in this regard.</p>
Gujarat	Not in consonance.	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act has no provision in this regard.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>The Gujarat Mines & Minerals (Reg. & Dev.) Act provides that prior to granting the quarry lease and quarry permit, recommendations of GP shall be obtained.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	Not in consonance.	<p>Under the provisions of section 97-H of the HP Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Act, 1997 there is a provision that the recommendation of the Gram Sabha shall be taken into consideration prior to grant of prospecting license or mining lease, for minor minerals in the scheduled areas.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>There is no provision in the Himachal Pradesh minor minerals (concession) revised rules.</p>
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	<p>No provision in the State PR Act 129-C(3) gives a vague reference.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision in the Bihar minor concession rules.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Law has been amended and concurrence of Gram Sabha is necessary.</p>
Maharashtra	In consonance	<p>Section 45A(iii)b of the State PR Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No information available.</p>

Orissa	In consonance	Section 3(6)(a) of the Orissa Zila Parishad Amendments Act 1997 Subject Act No changes made in the relevant laws.
Rajasthan	Partially consonance	As per clause 3(1) of the State Government notification dated: 30-9-1999 " for minor minerals in scheduled areas any person or a body of persons Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions will not accept mining lease without prior license or prior recommendation as prescribed in the notification", in this regard the department of mines has also issued notification dated 12-4-2002.

Section 4(l): *The prior recommendation of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction;*

Andhra Pradesh	<i>In consonance</i>	As per section 242 H (2) of the Act the recommendation of the Gram Panchayat, made in such manner prescribed, shall be taken in to consideration for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction.
Chhattisgarh	Not in Consonance	
Gujarat	Not in Consonance	Not in Consonance
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	Section 4(1) The prior recommendation of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayat at the appropriate level has been made mandatory for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction. Transfer of royalty on minor minerals to the Gram Panchayats is under the consideration of the Government.
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Earlier Gram Panchayat exercised the powers, since year 2000, the auction of minerals is carried by the District administration, after consulting the Gram Panchayat.
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	
Orissa	Not in consonance	
Rajasthan	In consonance	As per clause 3-J of notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999, it is provided that no concession will be accepted without the recommendation at such level and such made as prescribed for the exploitation of the minor minerals by auction in schedule areas from Gram Sabhas or Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Section 4 (m)(l): *The power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.*

Andhra Pradesh	Partially in consonance	As per section 242(1) of the Act the Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of enforcement of prohibition or regulation or restriction of the sale and consumption any intoxicant.
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Subject Act

No Provisions made to empower the Panchayats.

Chhattisgarh Not in consonance

The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.

Subject Act

Chhattisgarh Excise Act has assigned this power to Gram Sabha.

Gujarat Not in consonance/
but the state has
adopted total prohibition

The State Panchayati Raj Act has no provision in this regard as the State has adopted prohibition in the whole state.

Himachal Pradesh In consonance

Section 97 I (1) (b) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that the Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of the follow matters, namely:- (b) enforcement of prohibition or regulation or restriction of the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.

Subject Act

Punjab Excise Act 1914 has empowered the Panchayats.

Madhya Pradesh In consonance

Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha to be endowed with the powers.

Subject Act

Follows the Central Act and M.P. Excise Act, 1915 has been amended to give powers to Gram Sabhas.

Jharkhand Not in consonance

The Jharkhand PR Act is silent on this.

Subject Act

Excise Act provides for total prohibition where Tribal population exceeds 50%

Maharashtra In consonance

Section 8A(v) of Bombay Village Panchayat Act.

Subject Act

No provisions made to empower the panchayats.

Orissa In consonance

Section 442(a) of Orissa Gram Panchayat Act.

Subject Act

No provisions in the act but administrative instructions exist.

Rajasthan Not In consonance

As per 3 K(i) of notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999, it is provided that at the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions or at the Gram Sabha level as may be prescribed under the rules framed for enforce prohibition are to regulate are restrict the sale and consumption of intoxicants in the scheduled areas.

Subject Act

No provisions made to empower the panchayats.

Section 4 (m)(II): *The ownership of Minor Forest Produce*

Andhra Pradesh	Not in consonance.	<p>Section 242 (I) (b) of the AP Act says that Gram Panchayat or Gram Sabha as the case may be, shall exercise powers in this matter, as may be prescribed, in respect of ownership of Minor Forest Produce no provision made in the subject Act hence not in consonance.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats the rights with Girjan Cooperative Corporation.</p>
Chhattisgarh	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>The Government of Gujarat has already amended the Gujarat Panchayat Act from 27/12/97. Accordingly all activities regarding M.F.P. viz. Collection, marketing and trading are entrusted to three tier Panchayats M.F.P. are collected at village level stored at taluka level or block level and marketing and trading are to be done at district level.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>The HPPR Act (section 971(1)) says that either Gram Panchayat or Gram Sabha shall exercise these powers in such manner as may be prescribed but no such provision made in consonance.</p> <p>However, Pradhans of Gram Panchayats have been appointed as the Forest Officer for the issuance of pass for transport of Minor Forest Produce collected from the Forest in concerned Panchayat in respect of 37 species.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Ownership lies with Gram Sabha. There is a MFP Federation that gives back the money collected by the sale of Nationalized MFP to the individuals concerned.</p>
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	<p>The Jharkhand PR Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Maharashtra	Not in consonance.	<p>Section 8 A(vi) of Bombay Village Panchayat Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>

Orissa	In consonance	<p>Section 44(2)(b) the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Ownership of 68 MFP's excluding Tendu leaves, sal seeds and Bamboo have been transferred to Gram Panchayats except MFP from reserved forests sanctuaries and national parks.</p>
Rajasthan	In consonance	<p>As per clause 3 k (ii) of notification of State Government dated 30-9-1999, it is provided that Panchayati Raj Institutions are Gram Sabha level as may be prescribed by the State Government on the receipts of Minor Forest Produce in scheduled areas and the control will be with Panchayati Raj Institutions or Gram Sabha under the laws.</p>
<p>Section 4(m)(III): <i>The power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe.</i></p>		
Andhra Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>Section 242 I (c) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that the Gram Panchayat or Gram Sabha shall have power to the extent prescribed in respect of prevention of alienation of land in Scheduled Areas and restoration of unlawfully alienated land of a ST.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Land (transfer regulation) Act has not been amended.</p>
Chhattisgarh	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>The Gram Sabha are endowed with power of identification and restoration of land.</p>
Gujarat	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Under Section 73 (aa) of the Mumbai Land Revenue code the power to prevent alienation of land in Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled area vested with district Panchayat.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Section 3 of the HP Transfer of Land (Regulation) Act, 1968 provides that no person belonging to Scheduled Tribe shall transfer his interest in any land including any constructed premises by way of sale, mortgage, lease, gift or otherwise to any person not belonging to such tribes except with the previous permission in writing of the State Government provided that the State Government before according such permission shall consult the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level.</p>

Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Subject Act</p> <p>Land Revenue code 1959 has been amended to empower Gram Sabha.</p>
Jharkhand	In consonance	<p>Section 77(a) of the State PR Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>There are already provisions in the subject acts to safeguard against land alienation. However, no changes have been made in terms of PESA.</p>
Maharashtra	In consonance	<p>Section 8 A(vii) of Bombay Village Panchayat Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Orissa	In consonance	<p>Section 44 (2) (c) Orissa Gram Panchayat Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>The subject act has been amended.</p>
Rajasthan	Not in consonance	<p>As per clause 3k(iii) of notification of the State Government dated 30-9-1999 it is provided that to stop the encroachment of land in the scheduled areas and to restore the unlawfully alienated land in the scheduled areas under the prevailing law in the state Panchayati Raj Institutions or Gram Sabha are empowered to take appropriate action.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No amendment in the subject Act.</p>

Section 4 (m)(iv): *The power to manage village markets by whatever name called.*

Andhra Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>As per section 242 I (1) (d) of the Act the Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of Management of Village Market by whatever name called.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision has been made in the Agriculture produce and Livestock market Act Instead the work has been given to market committees.</p>
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	<p>Section 129C(V) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that the Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas shall have power to manage village markets, melas including cattle fair through Gram Panchayat.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision has been made in the subject act.</p>

Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 971 (1) (c) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that the Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of the following matters, namely:- (c) management of village markets by whatever name called.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>All regulatory rights vest with the Panchayats.</p>
Mahya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 129-D (ii) of the State Panchayati Raj Act says that panchayats at appropriate level or the Gram Sabha to be endowed with this power Provisions as per Central Act has been made in the State Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision has been made in the subject act.</p>
Jharkhand	In consonance	<p>Section 75(21) of the State PR Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Krishi Bazar Adhiniyam gives powers to the State Government to operate markets and fairs in partnership with Panchayats.</p>
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>Section 99 of State PR Act states that Gram Sabha is competent to manage village market.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	<p>The State PR Act is silent on the issue</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Orissa	In consonance	<p>The Section 59 of the State PR Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Orissa Agriculture produce marketing Act has excluded the schedule areas and has left it for GP. But the provision has been stayed by the High Court.</p>
Rajasthan	In consonance	<p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats. No provision in the State Agriculture Marketing Act.</p>

Section 4 (m)(v): *The power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes.*

Andhra Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>As per section 242 1(1)(e) of the Act the Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of exercising control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribe.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision has been made in the Subject Act.</p>
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Chhattisgarh	Not in consonance	<p>The State Panchayati Raj Act is silent on this issue.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision has been made in the Subject Act.</p>
Himachal Pradesh	Not in consonance	<p>Section 97-1(1)(d) The Gram Panchayat or as the case may be, the Gram Sabha shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of exercising control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes. The manner and the extent is to be prescribed.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provision in the Himachal Pradesh registration of money lenders Act.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Subject Act</p> <p>MP Anusoochit Janjati Sahukkar Viniyam, 1972 has been amended in the year 2001. It has been sent to the President of India for assent.</p>
Jharkhand	Not in consonance	<p>The PR Act is silent on the issue</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>Section 278 A of State PR Act.</p> <p>No money lender shall lend any money to a member of the scheduled tribe residing in a scheduled areas of the State as referred to in clause (1) of article 214 of the Constitution of India, without previous sanction of the village panchayat of that village.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	<p>No provision has been made in the Subject Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>Under the Maharashtra Act, such license can be granted by Registrar after consultation with Gram Sabha(s) and concerned Panchayat(s).</p>
Orissa	In consonance	<p>Section 44(2) (d) of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act.</p> <p>Subject Act</p> <p>No provisions made to empower the Panchayats.</p>
Rajasthan	in consonance	<p>As per clause 3k(v) of notification of State Government Dated: 30-9-1999 it is provided that controlling of money lending to Scheduled tribes in the Scheduled areas, Panchayati Raj</p>

Institutions or Gram Sabha are empowered. Under Money Lending Act 1963 the notification of the Department of revenue dated 17th April 2002 Panchayat Committee is Appointed as Registrar and Gram Panchayat as sub-registrar.

Subject Act

No provision has been made in the subject act.

Section 4(m)(vi): *Provides that the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed specially with the power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors.*

Andhra Pradesh	Partly in consonance	<p>Section 3 of the State PR Act Mandal Parishad has been given the control.</p> <p>As per section 242 I(2)(a) of the Act the Mandal Parishad shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of exercising control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors.</p> <p>But no functionary has been transferred to Panchayats.</p>
Chhattisgarh	Partly in consonance.	<p>Section 129F (ii) of the state PR act the Janpad Panchayat or the Zilla Panchayat shall exercise, control over Institutions and functionaries in all social sectors transferred to them.</p> <p>Government of Chattisgarh has transferred six types of functionaries to Panchayats.</p>
Jharkhand	Partly in consonance	<p>Section 10(1)(a)(x) of the State PR Act.</p> <p>But no functionary has been transferred to Panchayats.</p>
Gujarat	In consonance	<p>The power have been given to Gram Panchayat "the power to exercise control over gram Panchayat".</p>
Himachal Pradesh	Partly in consonance.	<p>Section 97-1(2)(a) The Panchayat Samiti shall exercise such powers and perform such functions in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed in respect of exercising control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors. The manner is to be prescribed.</p>
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	<p>Section 7(J-i) of the State Panchayati Raj Act. Says that panchayats at appropriate level and the Gram Sabha to be endowed with the power.</p> <p>The powers have been given to the Gram Sabha, Janpad Panchayat and Zila Panchayat.</p>
Maharashtra	Not in consonance	<p>State PR Act has been given.</p> <p>But no functionary has been transferred to Panchayats.</p>
Orissa	Not in consonance	<p>State PR Act the control has been given.</p> <p>But no functionary has been transferred to Panchayats.</p>

Rajasthan	Not in consonance.	As per clause 3k(vii) of notification of the State Government dated: 30-9-1999 it is provided that Panchayati Raj Institutions or Gram Sabha as may be prescribed, in the Scheduled Areas will have power to control to that extent and the mode as specified by the State Government from time to time in all social sectors over institutions and functionaries.
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Section 4(m) Section (vii): *The power to control over local plans and resources for such plans including tribal sub-plans.*

Please refer to 4. e (supra)

Section 4. n: *The State Legislations that may endow Panchayats with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government shall contain safeguards to ensure that Panchayats at the higher level do not assume the powers and authority of any Panchayat at the lower level or of the Gram Sabha.*

Andhra Pradesh	In consonance	It is proposed to follow the principle of subsidiarity to ensure that the interference of higher levels in the powers of the lower levels is not present.
Chhattisgarh	In consonance	Position not known
Jharkhand	Partly in consonance	
Gujarat	In consonance	Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993 has specified distinctive powers and authority to all the three levels of Panchayats. Hence the possibility of power at lower level Panchayats is non-existent. Panchayat Raj institutions are aware of their rights and responsibility. Any levels of Panchayats do not tolerate any such act by the higher authorities including State Govt. Also there are provisions for appeals and revision in the Act itself if any such incident occurs.
Himachal Pradesh	In consonance	There is no such interference, however, to make the functions clear at three levels. Activity Mapping of the functions to be devolved to PRIs at different level is being done by the State Government.
Madhya Pradesh	In consonance	Panchayats are independent of each other.
Maharashtra		The State has not yet responded to this query.
Orissa		The State has not yet responded to this query.
Rajasthan	In consonance.	No Panchayati Raj Institutions at the higher level never interfere in the power of lower level Panchayati Raj Institutions. Advice to the lower level Panchayati Raj Institutions are given and the supervision of their work is done.

[Translation]

Seizure of Ship on Territorial Waters

5523. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether pirates have seized an Indian ship on the territorial waters of Somalia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to free the ship from their clutches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, the last confirmed case was in March 2007. An Indian ship named 'Naimatullah' and its 14-member crew was hijacked by Somali pirates off the Somali Coast on 31st March, 2007 for its cargo. The ship and crew were released within a week. The usual reason for such hijackings is to loot cargo carried by such ships.

(c) The Ministry of External Affairs contacted all its local Embassies/Missions in the area including in Nairobi, Dubai, Addis Ababa and Djibouti and their counterparts in Delhi, and the UN Mission for Somalia through our High Commissioner in Nairobi, on this matter and was in continuous touch with them till the Indian crew were released. Separately, earlier Ministry of External Affairs had also requested the Ministry of Shipping to put out an advisory for Indian ships to avoid Somali waters. The release of the ship and its 14-member crew was secured after concerted efforts.

Production and Sale of Banned Drugs

5524. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Delhi High Court has issued any directions in respect of production and sale of banned drugs; 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) As per information available with the office. In year 2002-03, Delhi High Court has issued directions to stop production and sale of fixed dose combination Vitamin B₁ + B₆ + B₁₂ indicated for

neurological disorder. Instructions have been issued to the concerned State Drug Controller to cancel such manufacturing licenses.

[English]

Processing of Passport Applications

5525. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether special monthly camps are conducted by District Passport Cells to process the applications for passports and to provide counselling to the applicants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has instructed the Regional Passport Officers to chalk out and announce the dates for holding such camps at regular intervals to expedite the process of issuance of passports to the applicants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) (a) and (b). No.

(c) Yes, all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs)/Passport Offices (POs) have been instructed to hold Passport Adalats/Camps in the areas under their jurisdiction at regular intervals to redress the grievances of the public, including disposal of old passport cases in an expeditious manner.

(d) More than 106 Passport Adalats/Camps were held by Passport Offices in the country from January 2006 to April 2007. These have been very useful for the following:

- (i) Answering the queries/complaints of passport applicants;
- (ii) Grant orders for issuance of passports on the spot; and
- (iii) Disposal of old passport cases to the satisfaction of the applicants.

[Translation]

Opening of Duty-free Shops at Major Ports

5526. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open duty free shops at major ports along with cruise facility to attract tourists;

(b) if so, the names of the ports selected for such purpose;

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

(d) the time by which the facilities are likely to be provided at major ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There is no restriction in opening of duty free shops in the Major Ports provided the applicant has taken all the necessary approvals from the appropriate authorities and has also obtained land on lease for this specific purpose from the concerned Port. The draft cruise shipping policy provides for development of the cruise facilities in the ports in a phased manner.

(English)

Concession on Leased Lines

5527. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy on special concessions on the leased lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider the extension of such facility to BSNL for special concessions on leased lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

Effectiveness of Combination Therapy

5528. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and National Institute of Malaria Research Delhi have emphasized on human trials to see the effectiveness of a combination therapy of curcumin with artemisinin derivative artesunate against malaria; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The proposal to try a combination of curcumin and artesunate in a clinical trial is based on excellent results obtained with P.berghoi infected mice, where the combination gave 100% protection to infected mice against mortality and complete clearance of parasite without recrudescence. These results have been published (Nandakumar *et al* (2006) Curcumin - artemisinin combination therapy for malaria. Antimicrobial Agents Chemotherapy 50, 1859-1 860) and patents filed.

A project entitled "Use of artemisinin and curcumin combination in treatment of uncomplicated P.falciparum malaria" has been sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology. The collaborating institutions are ISPAT Hospital, Rourkela, Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar and NIMR field station, Jabalpur. It is proposed to conduct an open trial with about 30 patients to assess the sample size needed to establish the efficacy of artesunate combination Vs Artesunate-SP (approved combination). This is an assessment of equivalence trial, where if artesunate-curcumin combination is found at least as good as artesunate-SP, then curcumin combination would be the choice, since curcumin is non-toxic, no resistance is known and is cheap. The open trial has to be followed up by a large scale double-blinded study before the combination can be approved as a drug.

Petitions Received in the PMO

5529. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petitions received from all over the country in the PMO during the last one year, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the nature of grievances/complaints of the various petitions received;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) the number of grievances redressed so far; and

(e) the number of petitions pending for final disposal?

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

(a) and (b) The total number of petitions regarding Public grievances received in the public wing of the Prime Minister's office during the year 2006 was 86747. The petitions mainly related to complaints against public servants, service related grievances, law & order, unemployment, financial assistance, property/land disputes, etc. The state-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) All actionable petitions received were scrutinized in the Prime Minister's Office and forwarded for appropriate action to the authorities concerned.

Statement

Prime Minister's Office (Public Wing) State-wise Status of Petitions received during 01-Jan-06—31-Dec.06

States	No. of Letters Received
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar	126
Andhra Pradesh	3103
Arunachal Pradesh	29
Assam	1106
Bihar	4295
Chhattisgarh	102
Chandigarh	8
Daman and Diu	17
N.C.T. of Delhi	8502

1	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9
Foreign Letters	945
Goa	124
Gujarat	1971
Haryana	4859
Himachal Pradesh	842
Jharkhand	1800
Jammu and Kashmir	837
Karnataka	2292
Kerala	1915
Lakshadweep	10
Maharashtra	6192
Meghalaya	45
Mizoram	49
Manipur	55
Madhya Pradesh	6531
Nagaland	23
Orissa	1501
Others	426
Pondicherry	204
Punjab	4753
Rajasthan	5456
Tamil Nadu	6312
Tripura	2
Uttarakhand	1325
Uttar Pradesh	16983
West Bengal	3996
Total	86747

Water Disputes between India and Pakistan

5530. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water disputes could be the cause for next war between India and Pakistan as reported in the *Tribune* dated April 10, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Pakistan Foreign Minister is reported to have said on April 8, 2007 to a private TV channel that water disputes could become the cause for future wars in South Asia. However, the Pakistan Foreign Minister subsequently clarified that his statement was misunderstood.

Funds for Construction of Hospital

5531. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for construction of a 100 bedded Hospital and a Ladies' Hostel at Taranatha Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Bellary on October 17, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal is still pending with the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, by when final decision for release of money is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of 100 bedded hospital and a ladies hostel at Taranath Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Bellary has been received through the State Government.

- (c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been approved for this project. The State Government has not yet furnished supporting documents relating to Utilization Certificate for the funds released to the institute in 1993-94.

*[Translation]***Review of Medical Colleges**

5532. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Medical Council of India has any provision for periodical review to examine the quality of medical colleges set up in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh; 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) The Medical Council of India conducts periodical inspection of the medical colleges as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 to ensure that the staff, equipment, accommodation, training and other facilities in medical colleges conform to the standard prescribed by the Council. The MCI carried out inspection of Government Medical Colleges in Madhya Pradesh and recommended to Central Government to withdraw the recognition of MBBS degree in respect of these colleges due to shortage of faculty, tutors/residents, and other deficiencies. The views of the State Government on the recommendations of MCI have been obtained. The State Government has provided higher budgetary allocation to meet the developmental needs of these medical colleges and for creation of teaching and non-teaching posts. The State Government has been advised by the Central Government to rectify the deficiencies within a time frame and report to Central Government in this regard for appropriate decision.

New National Highways in Orissa

5533. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constructed any new National Highways in Orissa during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the number of National Highways proposed to be constructed in Orissa during the next three years along with the location-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Ministry generally does not construct any new National Highway but declares existing State roads as National Highways. During last three years no new National Highways have been declared in the State of Orissa. At present, there is no proposal for declaring more roads as National Highways in the country including Orissa. Emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Agra-Mumbai by-Pass Road

5534. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount incurred on the construction of a by-pass road on the Agra-Mumbai National Highway;

(b) whether any displacement of localities have occurred due to the by-pass road;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the provisions of the Highways Act in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check settlement along the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A bypass for Indore town has been constructed on Agra-Mumbai National Highway (NH-3) as a part of four laning of Indore Dewas section. The amount incurred on this project is Rs. 284.88 crore in which the cost of Indore bypass is approximately Rs.126 Crore.

(b) No displacement of localities have occurred due to construction of Indore bypass.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The National Highways Act 1956 provides for acquisition of land (as defined in section 3 of the Act) and compensation for its acquisition.

(e) The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 has been enacted. Highway

Administration set up under the act have issued notices and encroachments are removed from time to time.

Conservation and Development in Colliery Area

5535. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the works undertaken by the Government for conservation of forests and protection of environment and development of roads etc. in colliery areas of West Bengal during the years. 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(b) the physical targets and achievements during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Environmental protection activities related to the coal mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) are carried out in West Bengal by Eastern Coalfields Limited as per the provision in the approved Environment Management Plan/ Environment Impact Assessment. These activities include:-

- (1) Monitoring of air and water quality
- (2) Monitoring of noise level to keep it under permissible Decibel level.
- (3) Dust suppression by water spraying and other conventional methods.
- (4) Afforestation — During 2005-06 and 2006-07, 1.29 lakh and 0.87 lakh saplings were planted against a target of 2 lakh and 1 lakh respectively.
- (5) Road development—Major works that have been taken up during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are indicated below:—

2005-06:—

- (i) Road railway siding to G.T. road *via* BOCP workshop more (Rs. 67.39 lakhs).
- (ii) Road from Kajora - Bahula DB Road (Rs. 48.78 lakhs)
- (iii) Upgradation and improvement of road from Bahula more upto GT road *via* Real Kajora (Rs. 141.00 lakhs).

2006-07:—

- (i) Road from railway level "X" ing at Parasea to Suri road (Rs. 90.00 lakhs).
- (ii) Road from Niyamatypur to Disergarh Ghat (Rs. 486.00 lakhs).

[English]

**Research Contracts by the Ministry
of External Affairs**

5536. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs award research contracts to the Consultants, the NGOs, and Academic and Research Organizations;

(b) if so, the detailed list of the research contracts along with the names of the organizations which were awarded the research contracts during the last three years and the progress made therein;

(c) whether the research contracts are displayed on the website of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason thereof;

(e) the process involved in deciding the topics of these research contracts; and

(f) the criteria adopted and process followed for awarding research contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Ministry provides partial/full financial assistance to Research Scholars and Research Organisations for carrying out research projects on topics related to international relations.

(b) The detailed list of Scholars and Research Organisations who have been provided financial assistance during the last three years and the current status of their projects are enclosed.

(c) The lists of research projects are published in the Annual Reports of the Ministry which are available on the website www.meaindia.nic.in.

(d) The details of the research projects awarded during the last three financial years are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) The proposals for financial assistance along with the topics are received from Research Scholars/Research Organisations. The topics are then evaluated for their usefulness to the Ministry. If found suitable, the requisite administrative and financial approvals are obtained for releasing the assistance. The Ministry may also ask research scholars/research organisations to conduct research on certain topics by providing requisite financial assistance.

Statement

Sl. No.	Research Project	Name of the Research Scholar/Research Organisation	Amount of financial assistance given	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Research project on "Reshaping the Discourses on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir"	Centre for Strategic & Regional Studies (CSRS), University of Jammu.	Rs. 24,80,000 @ Rs.5 lakh per annum (16 Jan 2004 to 15 Jan 2009)	Expected to be completed in January 2009.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Preparation of reports on three human rights conventions (13 April 2004 to 12 October, 2004)	The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi	Rs.8,22,800	Study completed
3.	Project "China and South Asia : Bangladesh-China relations" by Dr. Shyamali Ghosh (1 April 2004 to 31 January 2005)	Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi	Rs. 3,54,960	Study completed
4.	Project "US Policy towards Muslim countries" (8th April 2004 to 5th January 2005).	Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Institute of Asian Studies, New Delhi	Rs. 4,00,000	Study completed
5.	Research Project "Present significance and Potential of Revival of Silk Route for India's Trade with Central Asia" awarded in Feb., 2005 (2 years project).	Academy of Third World Countries Department, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	Rs. 2,40,000	Expected to be completed shortly.
6.	A project for writing a book on Zimbabwe under President Robert Mugabe by Shri Uma Shankar Jha (June 2005)	The Association of Indian Africanists, New Delhi	Rs. 68,560	Extension given to the scholar till Sept. 07
7.	A study on "India's Economic strategy in Africa" (November 2005)	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi	Rs. 1,50,000	Study completed
8.	A study project to review the security situation in South Asia in current emergent circumstances: (Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan) on 3rd September 2005	Asia Centre, Bangalore	Rs. 3,00,000	Study completed
9.	Research project entitled "India's External Relations: Role of Education Sector" by Dr. Kavita Sharma. (29 March 2005 to 15 Dec., 2006)	Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi	Rs. 4,08,000	Study completed

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Research project entitled fresh look on India's look East Policy; Strategic Dimension" by Dr. Baladas Ghoshal (15 Dec. 2005 to 15 Dec. 2006)	Centre for South, Central & South East Asia & South-West Pacific, JNU, New Delhi	Rs. 6,20,000	Extension given up to August 2007
11.	Research project "Threat of Conservative Ascendancy in Bangladesh & Emerging Challenge to India's Foreign Policy". (28 March 2006 to 27 February 2007)	Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change & Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati	Rs. 9,70,000	Interim Report submitted.
12.	Research project "Identifying Cultural Similarities between Tajikistan and Kashmir". (21 April 2006 to 20 September 2006)	Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 2,62,000	Study completed
13.	Study project on "Lebanon-with particular focus on the implications of the current developments for Lebanon, for the region, for the International order and for India" (Oct 2006)	Group for Economic & Social Studies (GESS), New Delhi	Rs. 75,000	Study completed
14.	Research project on "Newer Dynamics of India's Nepal Policy: Challenges, Options and Way Forward" by Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, JNU, New Delhi. (30 March 2007 - 29 July 2007)	Centre for Public Affairs (CPA), Noida (UP)	Rs. 3,10,000	Study to be completed by the last week of July 2007

Crossing the Indian Ocean through Paddle Boat

5537. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian youth has paddled across the

Indian Ocean from Mumbai to Djibouti in the Southern Africa for the first time in a paddle boat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to accord due recognition to this achievement?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indian youth, Shri Sher Dhillon, accompanied by Mr. Jason Lewis, an Englishman, have travelled on board their boat without sails and without motor for 47 days and about 3000 kms. across the Indian Ocean from Mumbai to Djibouti during March 2007.

(c) Government have instituted the "Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards" which cover such achievements on land, air and water. This achievement may be considered in making selection for the Awards this year, subject to the completion of the required formalities.

[Translation]

By-Pass Road on NH-69

5538. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to construct a by-pass road on the NH-69 in the Baitul district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard;

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

(e) the estimated cost likely to be incurred for the project; and

(f) the time by which the said project is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A bypass for Multai town on NH-69 has been proposed in Betul District.

(c) and (d) Preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress.

(e) and (f) It is premature to indicate the estimated cost and time frame for construction of Multai Bypass at this stage.

Assistance through Chiranjeevi Yojana

5539. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Chiranjeevi Yojana in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which the said scheme was launched;

(c) the number of the people provided assistance under the scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government has not launched "Chiranjeevi Yojna" in Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

National Coastal Project for Maharashtra

5540. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the proposal received from the State Government of Maharashtra for Central assistance of Rs. 195 crore (approx.) under the National Coastal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the Central assistance sanctioned thereof; and

(d) the progress made in the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Maharashtra Maritime Board submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs.195.50 crore in July, 2002 for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCP). The proposal includes 72.36 km of anti-sea erosion works in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigarh, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts.

As the NCPP seeks external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and forwarded through to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for consideration. The ADB deputed an Inception Mission to the concerned States during September - November, 2006 as also a Fact Finding Mission to three States namely Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka during April - May, 2007. The decision about financial assistance by ADB is dependent upon the evaluation by the Mission.

Consultancy Services by Netherlands

5541. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherlands has expressed its interest to provide consultancy on improving logistics, shipping and maritime traffic management of Indian ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Sports Institutions

5542. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to various institutions engaged in the promotion of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in Karnataka during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of modalities of utilization of funds by these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme of "Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs)", financial assistance is provided to recognized National Sports Federations/Associations which are responsible for the promotion of their respective sports disciplines in the country. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is not provided State-wise or to State-level Associations. The details of financial assistance released to various NSFs during last three years are given in the enclosed statement. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is released to an NSF after obtaining utilization certificates and audited accounts in respect of the previous releases.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is also running various sports promotional schemes such as the National Sports Contest Scheme (NSTC); Special Area Games (SAG); SAI Training Centres (STC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) and Centres of Excellence (COX). There are about 13000 trainees at 230 centres all over India under these SAI schemes. In Karnataka, SAI has one Regional Centre at Bangalore and many other centers under their promotional schemes. The details of the number of these centres and the funds provided for trainees under these Schemes in the State of Karnataka during the last three years, are given below:

Number of Centres	Funds provided during (Amount in Rupees)		
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
NSTC -3	3,67,02,985	4,89,35,903	6,30,54,276
STC -3			
ABSC -2			
COX -1			

Statement

Details of Assistance given to National Sports Federations 2003-04 to 2006-07

(Rupees in lakhs)				
Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 31-3-2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	14.25	13.98	12.69
2.	All India Chess Federation	111.90	78.94	112.46

1	2	3	4	5
3.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	0.00	00.00	3.46
4.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	30.02	13.43	19.15
5.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	12.50	07.00	15.49
6.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	14.00	34.57	38.64
7.	Atya Patya Federation of India	7.50	12.00	15.50
8.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	5.50	00.00	0.00
9.	Basketball Federation of India	49.61	41.21	36.31
10.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	6.75	0	30.01
11.	Fencing Association of India	17.07	43.78	45.70
12.	Gymnastics Federation of India	18.88	14.88	66.47
13.	Indian Body Building Federation	0	0	0.00
14.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	16.06	36.50	21.23
15.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	01.10	1.55
16.	Indian Power Lifting Federation	13.00	15.00	8.50
17.	Judo Federation of India	56.37	64.66	48.62
18.	Kho-kho Federation of India	18.92	12.00	2.00
19.	Korfball Federation of India	12.50	09.00	12.50
20.	All India Tennis Association	136.87	77.45	90.07
21.	National Rifle Association of India	218.37	433.43	373.19
22.	Netball Federation of India	7.50	11.50	9.50
23.	Roller Skating Federation of India	15.00	09.00	0.00
24.	Rowing Federation of India	118.43	51.65	9.75
25.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	7.50	10.50	13.00
26.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	12.00	00.00	0.00
27.	Softball Federation of India	14.00	9.80	12.00
28.	Squash Racket Federation of India	119.37	15.42	21.94
29.	Swimming Federation of India	11.76	53.33	13.59
30.	Table Tennis Federation of India	116.78	165.10	178.75
31.	Taekwondo Federation of India	6.00	00.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India.	10.50	11.00	13.00
33.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	7.00	17.00	11.50
34.	Tug of War Federation of India	12.50	11.50	20.75
35.	Volleyball Federation of India	32.17	94.97	58.17
36.	Yachting Association of India	159.88	141.30	78.40
37.	Wushu Association of India	10.50	07.10	13.50
38.	Throwball Federation of India	0.00	09.00	0.00
39.	Para Olympic	0.00	13.50	33.34
40.	Archery Association of India	58.95	51.75	96.48
41.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	23.52	28.57	16.13
42.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	81.28	142.74	85.39
43.	Indian Hockey Federation	194.21	96.48	92.09
44.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	110.35	78.81	111.64
45.	Indian Amateur Kabaddi Federation	25.00	24.69	13.95
46.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	79.88	51.41	3.28
47.	Athletics Federation of India	215.08	227.95	86.83
48.	Badminton Association of India	160.16	271.94	117.65
49.	Equestrian Federation of India	32.76	31.20	29.06
50.	Football	119.36	70.37	30.55
51.	Indian Golf Union	32.48	37.84	23.11
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	225.35	209.82	32.58
53.	Winter Games Federation of India (WGFTI)	9.64	12.51	1.65
54.	Women's Cricket Federation of India	00	00	1.00
55.	Cycling Federation of India	16.38	11.73	1.00
56.	Special Olympic Bharat	0.00	0.00	4.50

Note: Apart from above, during 2006-2007 Central assistance was also provided to SAI, IOA etc. as per details given below under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

Indian Olympic Association	538.10
Bengal Olympic Association for Indo Bangla Games.	150.00
Sports Authority of India	500.00

Widening and Repair of Jessore Road

5543. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jessore Road, the main link with Bangladesh, is not wide enough to meet the demands of the growing traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said road is also in dilapidated condition;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government for widening and repair of this road; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The portion of Jessore Road having a length of 68.4 km from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport to Indo-Bangladesh Border is with Central Government. It comprises a length of 8.80 km of NH-34 from the airport to Barasat and entire length of 59.60 km of NH-35. Width of NH-34 is two lane or more while NH-35 is mostly of intermediate lane width except for end portion of about 3 km which is divided dual intermediate lane carriageway. These width are not adequate to cope up with growing traffic demand.

(c) to (e) These National Highways are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available funds. Government has already planned widening of these National Highways to 4/6 lanes under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) toll basis and preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress. It is too early to indicate time frame for completion of the above said work.

[Translation]

Deportation of Indians by UAE

5544. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 39 Indians were deported back to India by the United Arab Emirates (UAE);

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

(c) whether the Emigration Officers of UAE have found the visa documents of all 39 Indians as fake during checking;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Protector of Emigrants in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action against the guilty officers?

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

(b) and (c) On 23.04.2007, 39 Indian passengers departed for Dubai from IGI Airport by flight No. IC-897 on authority of the boarding cards issued by Indian Airlines and paper fax visa for UAE. On 24.04.2007, 36 passengers were deported back by UAE Immigration by the return flight No. IC-896 and 3 passengers by flight No. IC-893 on the ground of 'No Visa for UAE' as their employer did not turn up at the Dubai Airport to receive them with original visas.

(d) to (f) Information is being collected through concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Enquiry against Kendriya Bhandar Official

5546. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to parts (c) & (d) of USQ No. 2712 dated August 10, 2005 regarding registering of preliminary enquiry by CBI against an official of Kendriya Bhandar and to state the detailed reasons for CBI closing the case of disproportionate assets against an employee of Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): The CBI had informed that from the analysis of the documents *prima facie*, no case of disproportionate assets was made out against the official. There was a violation

of conduct rules in as much as he had failed to intimate the department about certain assets income, various loans/advances by him as well as about the employment of his wife and sons. The matter therefore was closed from the CBI's end.

Mandatory Roles

5547. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the mandated role of the Planning Commission, North Eastern Council (NEC) and Ministry of DONER in the matter of planning and execution of projects and schemes in the North Eastern Region (NER);

*(b) whether a proposal for creation of an infrastructure development agency under the umbrella of Planning Commission is under examination to facilitate execution of various infrastructure development projects in the NER;

(c) if so, the details of the objectives and present status of the proposal;

(d) the future role of DONER and NEC in the event of creation of such body; and

(e) the list of NEC projects which took more than two years in obtaining 'In-principle' approval from the Planning Commission during the Tenth Plan Period and the reason for such inordinate delay, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission, set up by a Resolution of the Government of India in March 1950, is charged with the responsibility of making assessment of all resources of the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the most effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities. The ultimate objective is to promote standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.

North-Eastern Council (NEC), set up under the NEC Act, 1971, is for securing balanced and coordinated development of the North-Eastern areas and to advise the Central Government on the matters of common interest in the field of economic and social planning. NEC was made a Regional Planning Body by an amendment in the Act in 2002.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER), created in 2001, is to act as a nodal Ministry for North East and to deal with matters relating to (i) planning, execution and monitoring of developmental schemes and projects of North Eastern Region, (ii) Non-lapsable Fund for the North Eastern Region, (iii) North Eastern Council, (iv) North Eastern Development Finance Institution (NEDFI), (v) North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), (vi) Sikkim Mining Corporation Limited (SMC), (vii) North Eastern Handlooms and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NEHHDC). While M/o DoNER is to coordinate with other Ministries primarily for their development and welfare activities in NER, overall responsibility of the sectors rest with respective Ministries.

(b) Creation of Infrastructure Development Agency is not under active consideration.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) Detailed examination is necessary for ensuring desirability, technical feasibility, competence of implementing authority, appropriate fund flow etc. before according "in principle" approval to a project proposal. Process can be completed only when all relevant clarifications are made available. Planning Commission did not take more than two years in according "in principle" approval of NEC project proposals once relevant information are made available.

[Translation]

Adverse Effects of Metallic Content in Utensil

5548. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to substandard quality of aluminium and higher contents of nickel and chromium in steel non-stick utensils is reported to be causing accumulation of poison in human body;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of

Medical Research, studies on effect of using substandard quality of the metals namely iron, copper, higher content of Nickel and chromium in steel and non stick utensils on causing accumulation of poison in human body are limited.

The Council has also stated that under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955, certain specifications have been prescribed for chemical composition for cast aluminium and aluminium alloy for utensils.

[English]

Seeking Information under the RTI Act

5549. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria for seeking information under the RTI Act;

(b) whether the Non-Governmental Organisations, Associations and Forums registered under the Societies' Act are eligible to seek information on issues concerning their activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the procedure therefor;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Act to make them eligible for seeking information; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Section 3 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 provides that all citizens have the Right to Information.

(e) and (f) There is, at present, no proposal to amend the Act.

Temporary Closure of Stadiums

5550. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government has temporarily closed down various stadiums particularly the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sports persons particularly of National Capital Territory Region would not be able to prepare for 2010 Commonwealth Games due to non-available of synthetic track;

(d) if so, whether the Government would permit the sports persons to use the warm-up area of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium for practices till the opening up of such stadiums which have been closed down;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken, by the Government for making alternative arrangement in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Activities in various stadia, including the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi, are being scaled down in a phased manner & accommodate the construction schedule for the renovation of these stadia in preparation for the Commonwealth Games-2010.

(c) There will be no dislocation in the preparation of the Indian athletes, as their training camps would be held in the SAI facilities located in Patiala, Bangalore, Kolkata, Bhopal, etc.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The warm-up area shall be open to athletes upto the middle of November 2007 around which time the construction activities at the warm-up area in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium are likely to begin. Once the renovation work starts, practice at warm-up area would not be possible. However, alternative arrangements are being made by deployment of SAI Coaches to other centres in Delhi having good sports infrastructure such as the Department of Sports of the Delhi Government, Delhi University, etc. which are willing to spare their facilities for the training of sportspersons under the SAI System.

General Equilibrium Analysis Indicator

5551. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the computable general equilibrium analysis has made some prediction about India if HIV/AIDS is contained;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The computable general equilibrium analysis by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) based on a study for household level impact of AIDS in six high prevalence states is that at the given prevalence rate of less than 1%, economic impact at national level is not discernible. However, in the absence of remedial policy action, the HIV epidemic in India is likely to bring down the average annual GDP growth rate during 2002-03 to 2015-16 by about 1 percent.

(c) The Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to control the spread of HIV/AIDS by up-scaling targeted interventions among high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness specifically among women and children, expanding the preventive care, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including Treatment of Opportunistic Infections and provision of Anti-retroviral drugs and mainstreaming HIV intervention strategies.

Assessment of Difficulties of Border States

5552. SHRI KIREN RIJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any assessment to find out the ground realities, problem and difficulties of remote and border areas of the States including North Eastern States for implementing the schemes for development of these states.

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) No such assessment has been carried out. However, Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the people of remote and inaccessible border areas. Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is being implemented in the border areas specifically with focus on socio-economic development and to promote sense of security among the people living there. Special weightage of 15% has been given to the hilly states including North Eastern States. Further emphasis is being given to the development of areas closer to the border. In addition, developmental programmes and projects are also taken up by the states of North East including border areas under NEC and NLCPR.

Activity Mapping

5553. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have notified activity mapping;

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

(c) the States which have not completed and notified the activity mapping; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The latest status of Activity Mapping by States is given in the enclosed statement. The progress in Activity Mapping has been regularly reviewed. It had been agreed during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee held on 12th June 2006 that the process of Activity Mapping would be completed within 2006. This was again reviewed during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee held on 12th January 2007 and it was decided that the States should be requested to notify their Activity Maps by 31st May, 2007. The matter is being constantly pursued with the State Governments. The progress was last reviewed during the meeting of the State Secretaries of Panchayati Raj held on 25th April 2007.

Statement**> Status of Activity Mapping:****A. States that have completed Activity Mapping:**

Kerala	Karnataka	West Bengal	Sikkim	Haryana	Orissa*
		Nov. 2005	Oct. 2006	Feb. 2006	Oct. 2006

*However, Haryana and Orissa have not yet issued the requisite departmental notification to operationalise Activity Mapping.

B. States which have completed the basic ground level work but final approval to Activity Mapping is awaited:

Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Chhattisgarh	Himachal Pradesh	Manipur	Punjab	Rajasthan	Uttaranchal
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C. States whose Panchayati Raj Legislation includes delineation of function to Panchayats

Maharashtra	Gujarat	Goa*
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*Goa has nevertheless undertaken to release its activity mapping.

D. Work in progress:

Bihar	Working towards preparing their activity mapping framework.
Arunachal Pradesh	Working towards preparing their activity mapping framework.
Madhya Pradesh	Action has been taken in the past, though reports recommending changes are still under the consideration of the Government.
Uttar Pradesh	Action has been taken in the past though reports recommending changes are still under the consideration of the Government.
Tripura	Going slow in the matter as they have a mix of Sixth Schedule areas and areas covered by Panchayati Raj, which therefore require a judicious approach when devolving activities and responsibilities. However, they have also agreed during the recent visit of the Union Panchayati Raj to expedite the process.
Tamil Nadu	It is anticipated that reforms in this direction will commence since Panchayat elections have been completed.

During the First Round Table Meeting of Panchayati Raj Ministers' of States held in June 2005, it was agreed by consensus that Activity Mapping would be completed by 1 April 2006. Since then the matter has been reviewed several times and the deadline extended, in the light of the slow progress by States. During the review of the progress on Activity Mapping undertaken during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National

Development Council held on 11 January 2007, it was decided that Activity Mapping would be completed in all States by 31st May, 2007.

Prospects of Overseas Medical Degrees

5554. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian students who studied medicine abroad in the year 2005-06;

(b) whether all such doctors are permitted to practice medicine in India;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the criteria applied for granting permission to practice medicine;

(d) the procedure being followed by the Government for according them recognition to practice as full-fledged Medical Practitioners; and

(e) the total number of doctors who have obtained permission for practising as doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Medical Council of India has informed that the Council does not maintain information on the total number of Indian students who studied medicine abroad. As per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government, have framed the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 whereby an Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India or any State Medical Council on or after 15.3.2002 shall have to qualify a Screening Test conducted by the Prescribed Authority for this purpose. The primary medical qualification must be a recognized qualification for enrolment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and is equivalent to MBBS in India. Since 2003, 2848 doctors have been granted registration after passing the Screening Test.

[Translation]

Mobile and Tarang Service in Maharashtra

5555. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mobile/Tarang services has been started in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Details of Mobile/Garuda services provided by Maharanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in metro areas of Mumbai and details of Mobile / Tarang services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in rest of Maharashtra State are as follows:

MTNL

MTNL launched Cellular Mobile Service under brand name 'Dolphin' (Postpaid) and Trump (Prepaid) w.e.f. 8.1.02 and 27.2.01 respectively in Mumbai. As on 31.3.07, 1415386 number of GSM connections (Post paid and Prepaid combined) have been provided in Mumbai.

MTNL launched CDMA based limited mobility services in Mumbai since the year 2001-02 under the brand name 'GARUDA'. As on 31.3.07, 48934 number of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) mobile connections are working in MTNL, Mumbai.

BSNL

Cellular Mobile Services

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered all the District Head Quarters, Sub-Divisional Head Quarters, Tehsil Head Quarters and Block Head Quarters of the State of Maharashtra. 9407 villages of Maharashtra are already covered with BSNL GSM mobile services. In Maharashtra State, 22,43,064 mobile connections of BSNL were working as on 31.3.07. BSNL has also plans to cover villages having population greater than 1000 based on techno-commercial viability.

WLL Tarang Mobile Services

Main Switching Centers (MSCs) for providing WLL (Tarang Services) are already working at Nagpur and Pune while MSC at Aurangabad is under installation. In Maharashtra, 372624 WLL connections were working as on 31.3.07. Out of 304 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) including Nagpur, 298 SDCAs are already covered by WLL and the remaining are to be covered during this financial year.

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

*(English)***GDP Growth**

5556. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-06 has been revised;

(b) the reasons for the increase in the rate;

(c) whether there has been a change of inflation rate due to revised GDP growth rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the highest GDP growth recorded by the Government earlier and the present growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. The growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices, for the year 2005-06 was estimated as 9% by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in its Press Note dated 31st January, 2007 on Quick Estimates of National Income. The CSO in its Press Note dated 7th February, 2007 on Advance Estimates of National Income, 2006-07 has not revised the same and retained it at 9%.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

(e) The highest ever GDP growth rate of 10.5% was recorded during the year 1988-89 (in terms of GDP at factor cost at 1993-1994 prices). As per the Advance Estimates brought out by the CSO, the GDP growth rate for the year 2006-07 is estimated at 9.2%.

Killing of Embryos

5557. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether there is a rising trend in the killing of embryos;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Child Sex Ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c) Total number of ongoing Court/Police cases filed under Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act are 412 and 64 ultrasound machines seized/sealed as on 3rd May, 2007. Though most of the cases are for non-registration of the Centre/Clinics, 58 cases relate to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus in the country.

(d) National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC) has been continuously monitoring the action taken report on the court cases. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) constituting representatives from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development, NGOs and Central Supervisory Board Members at the Centre takes stock of the ground realities by field visits to the States. The report is sent to the Chief Secretary of the State for taking action on the same. The States have also been requested to constitute State Inspection and Monitoring Committee (SIMC). The Government of Gujarat has already constituted it and the State of Delhi is in the process of constituting it. In the State of Punjab, registration of a doctor has been suspended for five years by State Medical Council of Punjab. In Haryana, a doctor & his assistant in the district of Palwal were sentenced for simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5000 each under PC & PNDT Act. In Delhi, two doctors were sent to jail for 24 hours after search/seizure of their machine was done by District Appropriate Authority.

Setting up of a Chemical Laboratory

5558. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has set up a laboratory in the Red Cross Building on the Red Cross Road, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the lab is going to use chemicals and gases which are hazardous for human health;

(d) if so, whether there is any possibility of causing health risk in the surrounding area because of the activities in the lab; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, a small laboratory for routine nutrition analysis such as hemoglobin estimation etc. is envisaged to be set up at Tuberculosis Association of India Building at Red Cross Road, New Delhi.

(c) to (e) This is only a nutrition analysis laboratory and routine chemicals are likely to be used. These chemicals has no health risk.

[Translation]

Money Order through Mobile Phones

5559. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various mobile operators and private mobile companies and GSM Association have started a pilot project jointly for sending money order through mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to introduce such schemes through BSNL and MTNL; 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) At the recent 3G World Congress held in Barcelona in February, 2007, the GSM Association launched its mobile Money Transfer project. This is a global GSM Association project and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents all the GSM operators in India is a part of the Project Working Group.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to introduce such schemes through BSNL and MTNL.

[English]

Status of two Lane Bridge Across Tapi River

5560. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of construction of additional two lane bridge across river Tapi near Surat has not been completed even within extended time limit;

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

(c) the total cost of the project;

(d) the action taken by the Union Government to expedite the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The work costing Rs. 30.36 crore was awarded to M/s UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd. About 48.50% of the work has been completed so far. The progress was slow due to poor performance of the Contractor.

(d) The original contract has been terminated. It is proposed to carry out the balance work through concessionaire of the six-laning project from Bharuch to Surat section of NH-8.

(e) The work is likely to be completed before July, 2009.

Bhikshuk Pravesh Kendras

5561. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to grant funds for setting up of Bhikshuk Pravesh Kendras to provide employment to beggars; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no scheme in operation for granting funds for setting up Bhikshuk Pravesh Kendras to provide employment to beggars, nor is there any proposal at present for such scheme in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj or the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Herbal Medicine for Oral Cancer

5562. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

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

(a) whether the scientists/ ayurvedic physicians have sought a patent for an ayurveda herbal mixture to control oral cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be patented;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make a study on the medicine;

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

(f) the reaction and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) A patent is reported to have been filed for an Ayurvedic formulation, which was tested as mouth wash in patients undergoing radiation for oral cancer and was found to give relief to pain caused by swelling of gums and cheek due to inflammation resulting

from radiation. However, the herbal medicine needs to be standardized before it is commercialized.

C.B.I. Raids on NHAI Officials

5563. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted raids on the premises of some of the officials of the National Highways Authority of India during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officers found guilty and are still in service and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted raids on the premises of some officers of the National Highways Authority of India in connection with irregularities committed in maintenance contract package from km. 86 to km. 95 on NH-1 for the year 2004-2005. The details have not been received from the CBI.

Works of Kottappuram-Kollam Waterway

5564. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works on the Kottappuram-Kollam portion of Inland Waterway-III (IW-III) have been completed;

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

(c) whether the IW-III has utilized the first year allocation of funds from the Twelfth Finance Commission;

(d) if so, the amount utilized till date, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Out of

the total length of 205 km of the National Waterway No.3 navigational channel with 2 meter depth has been provided between Kochi and Thakazhi Jetty (84 km) and also in most parts of the Kochi-Kottapuram stretch (25 km) as well as Udyogmandal canal (23km) and Champakara Canal (14 km). One Cutter Suction Dredger and one survey launch has also been deployed on the waterway. Annual maintenance works are carried out regularly by IWA on the waterway. Round the clock navigational aids are also provided between Kochi and Alapuzha. Terminals have been constructed at Kottappuram, Alluva, Kayamkulam, Vaikom, Thanneermukham, Trikkunappuzha and Maradu. A project to provide terminal at Kollam has also been sanctioned. At Allapuzha, the terminal will be constructed after handing over of land by the State Government.

However, due to various problems such as non-availability of suitable sites for disposal of dredged material, presence of fishing nets in the waterway, court cases in respect of land acquisition and contractual litigations etc., the capital dredging work could not be completed in the entire stretch. In some portions of Kochi-Kottappuram sector (5 km) and many places between Thakazhi jetty and Kollam (25 km), capital dredging has not been done on account of the reasons stated above.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The Twelfth Finance Commission has not provided funds for National Waterway No. 3 in Kerala. However, the 12th Finance Commission has awarded special fund of Rs. 500 crore to the State of Kerala as under:-

	Rs. in crore
(i) For inland waterways and canals	225.00
(ii) Coastal Zone Management	175.00
(iii) Improvement of quality school	100.00
Total	Rs. 500.00

Medical Tourism Project

5565. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Gujarat Government for medical tourism projects for the visiting tourists from various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Loans to State Governments

5566. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans taken by the various State Governments from World Bank and Asian Development Bank for various road projects during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the names of projects for which loan was taken, State-wise;

(c) the present status of these projects;

(d) whether the funds allocated have been utilised;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for non-utilisation of funds?

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

Anti-Asthmatic Drug

5567. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inhalers containing anti-asthmatic drug and steroids are being marketed by some drug companies;

(b) if so, whether the steroid has no role to play for treatment of Asthma;

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

(d) whether steroids have toxic effects;

(e) if so, the details of such effects; and

(f) the justification for granting marketing permission of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Inhalers containing a combination of long-acting bronchodilator plus corticosteroids helps patients with asthma for better control of their symptoms and are convenient to use. The combination works to effectively treat asthma by (i) the bronchodilator works by widening airways, making it easier to breathe and (ii) the steroids reduce and prevent inflammation of airways. Such combination anti-asthmatics are used all over the world.

(d) and (e) Steroids are a group of medicines that are used to treat conditions where there is inflammation or swelling. The most common side-effect of taking steroids from inhaler is a sore in the mouth due to an infection called oral thrush. To reduce the chances of this infection, doctors advise the use of a spacer device and rinsing of the mouth after inhalation.

(f) Marketing permissions of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) like Salmeterol + Fluticasone and Budesonide + Formoterol are granted based on the satisfactory safety, efficacy and quality control data base.

Software Developed by NIC

5568. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Software produced by NIC is of a very poor quality and based on outdated technology;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from various Ministries about the non functioning of the software created by NIC;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether the NIC search engine is of a very poor quality and is unable to search pages which are even on the NIC server;

(f) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation;

(g) whether the NIC proposes to take any security steps before entertaining registration for domain name;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the registration done by NIC during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. NIC has been developing software/applications since its inception for the various user departments. The software/application is developed using the state-of-the-art technology available at that time. By the time application stabilizes, newer technology may be available as Computer is a fast growing area. The stabilized application is continued under the earlier technology, which was state-of-the-art at that time, as migration of a running application is a tedious task. However, NIC has been working on migration of applications to newer technologies on a continuous basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no specific complaint on record. NIC has set up technical support units in various Government departments for providing IT based support on a continuous and regular interaction basis. Any problem projected by the user department is solved there itself.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. NIC has been using the Netscape Search Engine which provides good enough search capabilities. It has basic as well as advanced search facility. However, NIC is trying to get new search engine from companies like Google, Yahoo, etc. Once NIC has settled the terms, it will move to new search engine.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Before entertaining registration for domain name, the following security steps are being taken:

1. NIC provides the facility of on-line registration for the domains under gov.in. For this the domain seeker has to sign-up with gov.in registry by visiting the website registry.gov.in. On registration of every domain, a unique ID is allocated. The Domain seeker sends the authorization letter in the prescribed format as available in website registry.gov.in and quote the above stated unique ID along with other details. NIC then verifies all the details in the letter

against on-line registration and recommends the case for domain registration. Domain name is then allocated after due approval from the Competent Authority.

2. Authorization letter should be in the pre-specified format on letter head of the department/organization and should be signed by Head of the Department/organization or a Senior level officer in the Government owning the domain.
 3. NIC has developed the EPP (Extensible Provisioning Protocol) based software application to interface with the Shared Registration System (SRS) of the IN registry of the Government, which was also duly tested & certified through a detailed process by IN registry.
- (i) During the last three years the total number of domains registered are 2339 and the State-wise details are enclosed at statement.

Statement

State-wise Domains registered so far

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of Domains
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	154
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
4.	Assam	53
5.	Bihar	14
6.	Central/Union	124
7.	Chandigarh	156
8.	Chhattisgarh	32
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
10.	Daman and Diu	1
11.	Delhi	476
12.	Goa	17
13.	Gujarat	49

1	2	3
14.	Haryana	92
15.	Himachal Pradesh	62
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	17
17.	Jharkhand	8
18.	Karnataka	157
19.	Kerala	126
20.	Lakshadweep	6
21.	Madhya Pradesh	41
22.	Maharashtra	188
23.	Manipur	13
24.	Meghalaya	61
25.	Mizoram	8
26.	Nagaland	6
27.	Orissa	25
28.	Pondicherry	12
29.	Punjab	26
30.	Rajasthan	38
31.	Sikkim	29
32.	Tamil Nadu	95
33.	Tripura	23
34.	Uttar Pradesh	51
35.	Uttaranchal	38
36.	West Bengal	123
		Total Domains = 2339

[Translation]

Medical Audit

5569. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the irregularity is being encouraged by not conducting medical audit in hospitals of the country as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated February 16, 2007;

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

(c) the number of hospitals under the Central Government where audit has been conducted;

(d) whether management of some of the hospitals were found guilty during medical audit; and

(e) if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In the article appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated 16.02.2007, observations have been made about non-conductance of medical audit in most of the Hospitals in Delhi. Health being State list subject, it is for the respective State Government to regulate the functioning of the Private Sector as also State Government controlled hospitals. In so far as Central Government controlled Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, internal death and medical audit committees are in existence in each hospital. Periodical review is being undertaken by these committees which review the patient care system in the hospital and modify the action in order to provide the quality patient care. Besides this, Grievance Redressal Cell is also functioning in each of the above mentioned hospitals to address the complaint of the patients.

Sports Persons Playing Kabaddi, Football and Hockey

5570. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of players in the country who have played Kabaddi, Football and Hockey at the National level during the last three years;

(b) the state-wise and year-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of players who have been selected by the Sports Authority of India, particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government provides special relaxation to these players in Government jobs or gives them priority in selection; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The number of players who have played Kabaddi, Hockey and Football at national level, state-wise and year-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) At present, two SAI Training Centres are running in Himachal Pradesh at Bilaspur & Dharmshala. Apart from these Centres, SAI has adopted the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya under the NSTC Scheme at JNV, Pekhubela, Distt. Una and the DAV Central Public School, Una under the Indigenous Games & Martial Arts Schools. The total number of trainees during the last three years in these centres are as under:

S.No	Year	STC Bilaspur	STC Dharmshala	JNV, Una	DAV Central Public School, Una
1.	2004-05	53	82	25	—
2.	2005-06	62	81	25	—
3.	2006-07	47	83	22	—

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training, upto 5% vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Government

Departments/Ministries/Public Sector Undertakings can be filled up through Meritorious sportspersons.

Statement**Kabaddi (Men)**

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	36	36	36
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	36	36
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	36	36
4.	Assam	36	36	36
5.	Bihar	36	36	36
6.	Chandigarh	36	36	36
7.	Chhattiegarh	36	36	36
8.	Daman and Diu	36	36	36
9.	Delhi	36	36	36
10.	Goa	36	36	36
11.	Gujarat	36	36	36
12.	Haryana	36	36	36
13.	Himachal Pradesh	36	36	36
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	36	36	36
15.	Jharkand	36	36	36
16.	Karnataka	36	36	36
17.	Kerala	36	36	36
18.	Madhya Pradesh	36	36	36
19.	Meghalaya	36	36	36
20.	Manipur	36	36	36
21.	Maharashtra	36	36	36
22.	Mizoram	36	36	36
23.	Nagaland	36	36	36
24.	Orissa	36	36	36
25.	Pondicherry	36	36	36

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Punjab	36	36	36
27.	Rajasthan	36	36	36
28.	Sikkim	36	36	36
29.	Tamil Nadu	36	36	36
30.	Tripura	36	36	36
31.	Uttar Pradesh	36	36	36
32.	Uttaranchal	36	36	36
33.	West Bengal	36	36	36

Kabaddi (Women)

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	36	36	36
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	36	36
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	36	36
4.	Assam	36	36	36
5.	Bihar	36	36	36
6.	Chandigarh	36	36	36
7.	Chhattisgarh	36	36	36
8.	Daman and Diu	36	36	36
9.	Delhi	36	36	36
10.	Goa	36	36	36
11.	Gujarat	36	36	36
12.	Haryana	36	36	36
13.	Himachal Pradesh	36	36	36
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	36	36	36
15.	Jharkand	36	36	36
16.	Karnataka	36	36	36

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Kerala	36	36	36
18.	Madhya Pradesh	36	36	36
19.	Meghalaya	36	36	36
20.	Manipur	36	36	36
21.	Maharashtra	36	36	36
22.	Mizoram	36	36	36
23.	Nagaland	36	36	36
24.	Orissa	36	36	36
25.	Pondicherry	36	36	36
26.	Punjab	36	36	36
27.	Rajasthan	36	36	36
28.	Sikkim	36	36	36
29.	Tamil Nadu	36	36	36
30.	Tripura	36	36	36
31.	Uttar Pradesh	36	36	36
32.	Uttaranchal	36	36	36
33.	West Bengal	36	36	36

Football (Men)

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	18
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	72	54
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	36	18
4.	Assam	36	72	54
5.	Bihar	72	72	72
6.	Chandigarh	54	90	72

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Chhattisgarh	18	90	72
8.	Daman and Diu	36	18	36
9.	Delhi	72	90	72
10.	Goa	72	90	72
11.	Gujarat	36	90	72
12.	Haryana	36	90	72
13.	Himachal Pradesh	54	72	72
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	54	90	72
15.	Jharkand	18	72	72
16.	Karnataka	54	72	54
17.	Kerala	72	90	54
18.	Madhya Pradesh	54	72	72
19.	Meghalaya	36	72	54
20.	Manipur	72	72	54
21.	Maharashtra	54	90	72
22.	Mizoram	72	90	72
23.	Nagaland	18	54	54
24.	Orissa	54	90	72
25.	Pondicherry	54	90	54
26.	Punjab	54	90	72
27.	Rajasthan	54	72	72
28.	Sikkim	18	36	36
29.	Tamil Nadu	72	90	72
30.	Tripura	54	72	54
31.	Uttar Pradesh	54	90	72
32.	Uttaranchal	18	72	72
33.	West Bengal	72	90	72

Football (Women)

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	NII	NII	NII
2.	Andhra Pradesh	NII	NII	18
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NII	NII	NII
4.	Assam	36	18	54
5.	Bihar	54	18	54
6.	Chandigarh	54	18	36
7.	Chhattisgarh	36	NII	54
8.	Daman and Diu	NII	NII	NII
9.	Delhi	18	18	54
10.	Goa	54	18	54
11.	Gujarat	NII	NII	18
12.	Haryana	54	18	54
13.	Himachal Pradesh	18	NII	36
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	54	18	54
15.	Jharkand	36	18	54
16.	Karnataka	18	18	18
17.	Kerala	54	18	54
18.	Madhya Pradesh	18	NII	54
19.	Meghalaya	18	NII	NII
20.	Manipur	54	NII	54
21.	Maharashtra	54	18	54
22.	Mizoram	NII	NII	18
23.	Nagaland	NII	NII	NII
24.	Orissa	54	18	54
25.	Pondicherry	NII	NII	54
26.	Punjab	54	18	54

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Rajasthan	54	18	54
28.	Sikkim	Nil	18	18
29.	Tamil Nadu	54	18	54
30.	Tripura	54	18	54
31.	Uttar Pradesh	54	18	54
32.	Uttaranchal	36	18	54
33.	West Bengal	54	18	54

Hockey (Men)

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2004-05	2005-06*	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	18		Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	52		36
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil		18
4.	Assam	Nil		36
5.	Bihar	52		36
6.	Chandigarh	52		36
7.	Chhattisgarh	70		Nil
8.	Daman and Diu	Nil		Nil
9.	Delhi	68		36
10.	Goa	18		Nil
11.	Gujarat	36		36
12.	Haryana	70		36
13.	Himachal Pradesh	68		Nil
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	54		36
15.	Jharkand	68		36
16.	Karnataka	52		Nil

* The Indian Hockey Federation has informed that no national Championship was held in 2005-06.

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Kerala	68		36
18.	Madhya Pradesh	35		NII
19.	Meghalaya	NII		NII
20.	Manipur	68		36
21.	Maharashtra	52		36
22.	Mizoram	52		18
23.	Nagaland	NII		18
24.	Orissa	72		NII
25.	Pondicherry	54		36
26.	Punjab	70		36
27.	Rajasthan	52		36
28.	Sikkim	NII		NII
29.	Tamil Nadu	72		36
30.	Tripura	52		36
31.	Uttar Pradesh	70		36
32.	Uttarakhand	52		36

Hockey (women)

S.No.	State	No. of Players Participated Year-wise		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	NII	NII	NII
2.	Andhra Pradesh	48	32	48
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NII	NII	NII
4.	Assam	32	32	48
5.	Bihar	48	32	32
6.	Chandigarh	NII	32	32
7.	Chhattisgarh	48	32	48
8.	Daman and Diu	NII	NII	NII
9.	Delhi	48	48	48

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Gujarat	48	32	32
12.	Haryana	48	48	48
13.	Himachal Pradesh	48	32	16
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	32	16
15.	Jharkand	48	48	48
16.	Karnataka	16	48	48
17.	Kerala	32	48	48
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	32	32
19.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Manipur	32	48	48
21.	Maharashtra	48	48	32
22.	Mizoram	16	32	16
23.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Orissa	48	48	48
25.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	Punjab	48	48	48
27.	Rajasthan	32	32	48
28.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Tamil Nadu	48	32	48
30.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	16
31.	Uttar Pradesh	48	48	32
32.	Uttarakhand	48	32	48
33.	West Bengal	16	32	16

[English]

**Physically Challenged Persons in
Government Service**

5571. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons employed in various
Central Government departments during the last three
years, year-wise;

(b) the number of visually handicapped, hearing
impaired and orthopaedically handicapped persons
employed during the said period; and

(c) the percentage of physically challenged persons employed in relation to the total recruitment during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) As per information received from 50 Ministries/Departments, a total of 7522 appointments were made during 2004 of which 150 were of the visually handicapped 100 hearing impaired and 395 orthopaedically handicapped. As per information received from 47 Ministries/Departments, a total of 5600 appointments were made during the year 2005 of which 54 were of the visually handicapped, 74 hearing handicapped and 261 orthopaedically handicapped.

(c) The percentage of persons with disability appointed during the years 2004 and 2005 was about 8.6% and 6.9% respectively.

Pandu-Kolkata Waterway

5572. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pandu-Kolkata Waterways has been inaugurated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cargo movement for the last three years on Kolkata-Pandu-Bangladesh route;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct one permanent inter model terminal at Pandu;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the actions so far taken thereon and the time by which it would be completed;

(f) whether the night navigational facilities between Dhubri and Pandu will be provided; and

(g) if so, the time by which the facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) River Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya was declared as National Waterway in 1988. As and when cargo is available for inland water transport, vessels of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Kolkata or of private sector operators, operate between Pandu and Kolkata. This is a traditional inland water transport route and no formal inauguration of this route has been done in recent years. There is a Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh.

(c) The cargo movement for the last three years on Kolkata-Pandu-Silghat and Kolkata/Haldia to Bangladesh and *vice-versa* are given below:

Year	Kolkata-Pandu-Silghat	Kolkata/Haldia to Bangladesh
2004-05	8,18,683 tonnes	4,16,125 tonnes
2005-06	8,04,401 tonnes	5,68,435 tonnes
2006-07	2,86,026 tonnes	7,99,347 tonnes

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A low level jetty at Pandu is already under construction through Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on deposit work basis and is scheduled to be completed by end May 2007. Construction of high level jetty at Pandu was sanctioned on 03.03.06 and the work was awarded to CPWD on deposit work basis. Tendering is in process and the work is scheduled to be completed in 21 months after award of work by CPWD.

(f) and (g) Night navigational facilities between Dhubri and Pandu have already been installed and are being maintained.

Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate

5573. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the United Nations Children's Fund has initiated any new scheme to conduct a study on Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Anganwadi workers can work effectively to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Anganwadi workers have requested the Government to allow them to work as full time workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) UNICEF uses data on the estimates of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) obtained from the results of the Sample Registration System (SRS) published by the office of Registrar General of India (RGI) in October 2006.

UNICEF is working with various State Governments to help them streamline their existing maternal and perinatal death audit protocols and practices. It is currently supporting the implementation of maternal and perinatal death inquiry in five States, namely Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal since 2004-2005, by the development and implementation of Maternal and Perinatal (Child Death within 7 days of birth) Death Inquiry and Response (MAPEDER). It is a tool for retrospective verbal autopsy of maternal and perinatal deaths, which will strengthen community participation and provide an evidence based method for providing feedback to enable communities, local governments and NGOs etc. to take definitive action against the factors contributing to these deaths. This tool, which is basically a structured verbal autopsy questionnaire, has been provided to the respective states by UNICEF.

(c) to (f) The Anganwadi Centre has been identified as the hub of service provision for the Integrated Child Development Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Rural Health Mission along with the Reproductive and Child Health Programme - Phase-II of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It serves as a platform for inter-sectoral convergence between the two programmes and an interface with the community. The objectives of reducing maternal mortality and infant and child mortality are sought to be achieved through provision of a package of services namely, supplementary nutrition, immunization, referral services, health check ups, pre-school non-formal education and

nutrition and health education at the Anganwadi center. The health related services, that is, immunization, health check ups including those for pregnant women, immunization and referral services are delivered by a team of functionaries comprising of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) in conjunction with each other and with involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), at the monthly Village Health and Nutrition Day organized at the Anganwadi Centre. Some of the key interventions are ante-natal and post-natal checkups, promoting institutional delivery, counseling on danger signs of pregnancy and nutrition, providing information on referral transport, availability of funds under JSY, etc.

The Government of India has been receiving from time to time, memoranda from various Associations/Federations. The major demands listed in these are:

- > Accord status of Grade "C" & "D" employees of the Government with the consequential benefits.
- > Payment of salary at par with Government employees.
- > Linkage of remuneration with Consumer Price Index.
- > A lump sum ex-gratia benefit on retirement of Rs. 1,00,000 to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Rs. 50,000 to Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs)
- > Extension of social security benefits like Provident Fund, Pension etc. to all Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi Helpers.
- > Enhancement of honorarium to Rs. 3,000 for AWWs and Rs. 2,000 for AWHs.

National Policy on Non-Governmental Organisations

5574. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised and approved a National Policy on the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) A National Policy on the Voluntary Sector has been drafted by Planning Commission to facilitate the working of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The Policy is at an advanced stage of consideration.

[Translation]

Traffic Control on NH

5575. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-wheelers and other vehicles on the main track and flyovers of expressway have been prohibited recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Highways Authority has signed Memorandum of Understanding with several companies for control of traffic on NHs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of companies which have violating provisions of MoU; and

(f) the action 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) and (b) Two-wheelers are only not allowed on expressway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Joint Venture Projects of CIL

5576. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to set up joint venture projects in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such joint venture projects that are likely to be set up; and

(c) the details of investment proposed to be made by CIL in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) With a view to enhance the energy security of the nation, Coal India Limited (CIL) is considering to invest abroad in coal mines/blocks having metallurgical and low ash thermal type of coal. The domestic reserve of this type of coal, which can be extracted with techno-commercial feasibility, is scarce. To achieve this objective of acquiring coal properties abroad, joint venture route would be one of the options.

The countries where CIL proposes to pursue its foreign venture initiatives, through joint venture or otherwise, would be those, such as Australia, Canada, Mozambique, etc., which have sufficient reserves of targeted coal, suitable geographic location to make the logistics cost for importing coal competitive and favourable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for investment in coal mining.

(c) No specific opportunities have yet been identified to be taken up for acquisition, and as such it would not be possible to furnish the exact amount of investment required for this venture;

Haryalidisha Nirdesh Programme

5577. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Land Development Programme and the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme are being run by the Panchayati Raj Institutions under the 'Haryali Disha Nirdesh' programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the targets set and achieved after entrusting the programme to the Panchayati Raj Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three area development programmes i.e. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert

Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) by rejuvenating the natural resource base under common guidelines called "Hariyali" for Wasteland Development, Drought Proofing and Desertification Control. The Hariyali guidelines came into effect from 1.4.2003. The projects are implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions/Line

Departments etc. with the involvement of local people from planning to implementing stages under the overall supervision of the Zila Parishads/DRDAs.

(c) A statement showing physical & financial Achievements from 2003-04 to 2006-07 under DPAP, DDP and IWDP is enclosed.

Statement

Physical & Financial Achievements from 2003-04 to 2006-07 under DPAP, PDF and IWDP

Physical Achievement

(Area in Lakh hectare)

Programme	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
DPAP	13.00	12.68	14.00	12.75	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.38
DDP	8.50	7.81	9.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	11.30	11.35
IWDP	11.00	10.06	10.00	11.18	16.31	22.62	15.00	22.58

Financial Achievement

(Rs. in crores)

Year	DPAP			DDP			IWDP		
	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.
2003-04	295.00	295.00	295.00	265.00	195.00	215.00	335.00	329.00	312.90
2004-05	300.00	300.00	300.19	215.00	215.00	215.19	368.00	368.00	334.42
2005-06	353.00	353.00	353.18	268.00	268.00	268.17	485.00	485.00	486.74
2006-07	360.00	360.00	359.20	270.00	270.00	269.20	485.00	485.00	485.00

Juvenile Justice Act

5578. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide them a lump sum Central share for construction of buildings for observation homes and special homes presently operating in temporary structures and for training of its staff in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the said proposal; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government is likely to accord its approval?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme — A Programme for Juvenile Justice - under which grants-in-aid are provided to State Governments/UT Administrations to meet 50 per cent of

their expenditure requirements for the construction and maintenance of homes under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the upkeep of children staying in these homes. In the last financial year 2006-07, that Ministry received proposals from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking financial assistance under this Scheme for the construction of new observation homes and juvenile homes under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. That

Ministry considered these proposals as per the norms of the Scheme and released grants-in-aid of Rs. 1,27,09,000 for construction of 11 juvenile and observations homes. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

2. Under this Scheme, there is no provision to provide grant-in-aid to State Governments/UT Administrations for providing training of their staff in matters relating to the Juvenile Justice Act. Accordingly, that Ministry does not provide grants for this purpose.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts	Capacity of home [No. of children]	Types of home	Amount sanctioned/ released [in rupees]
1.	Indore	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
2.	Shahdol	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
3.	Murena	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
4.	Shivpuri	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
5.	Sehore	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
6.	Hoshangabad	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
7.	Harda	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
8.	Rajgarh	100	Juvenile Home	12,50,000
9.	Balaghat	50	Observation Home	9,03,000
10.	Panna	50	Observation Home	9,03,000
11.	Mandsaur	50	Observation Home	9,03,000
				1,27,09,000

**Land for Construction of New
Post Office Buildings**

5579. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the land/plots allotted for construction/ opening up of Post Offices in some parts of the country

have not been utilized so far for the purpose;

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

(c) the time by which the buildings are likely to be constructed for the purpose of Post Offices at these sites?

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

(b) There are 1871 vacant plots available for construction of buildings for Post Offices and other administrative offices in the country. The details of the vacant plots are given in the enclosed statement. The funds allotted by the Planning Commission were not sufficient from as early as in the 8th Five Year Plan to meet the demand for building activities.

(c) No time frame can be fixed for the construction of buildings. Construction of building on vacant plots of land depends on allocation of plan funds by the Planning Commission. Thus, construction on vacant plots is taken in a phased manner depending upon priority and availability of funds.

Statement

Details of vacant plots, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of plots
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	229
2.	Assam	33
3.	Bihar	86
4.	Chhattisgarh	8
5.	Delhi	20
6.	Gujarat	112
7.	Haryana	19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9
10.	Jharkhand	65
11.	Karnataka	364
12.	Kerala	145
13.	Maharashtra	87
14.	Goa	4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
17.	Tripura	2

1	2	3
18.	Meghalaya	3
19.	Manipur	3
20.	Nagaland	7
21.	Mizoram	10
22.	Orissa	42
23.	Punjab	17
24.	Rajasthan	200
25.	Tamil Nadu	154
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80
27.	Uttaranchal	20
28.	West Bengal	87
29.	Sikkim	1
Total		1871

Aero Sports

5580. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian youth are now showing an avid interest in aero sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is encouraging aero sports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Aero Sports is becoming increasingly popular among those who can afford it.

(c) and (d) The promotion of Aero Sports is primarily the responsibility of the Aero Club of India (ACI). The Central Government gives Grant-in-Aid to hold national championships for the sub-junior, junior and senior

categories as admissible under the Scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations. During the last three years, the Ministry did not render any Central assistance to ACI, as the Federation did not seek any assistance for organizing National Championships in India. However, it has been reported by ACI that the Ministry of the Civil Aviation has spent approximately Rs. 2.00 crores during the period 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 on Aero Sports Development projects.

Outsourcing in Shipping Sector

5581. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has global outsourcing business for services and very little for labour-intensive manufacturing in the shipping sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether reservation of many items for manufacture by small-scale industries checks development of ship-building activity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) India is one of the leading players in the world market for global outsourcing business in various service sectors but has very little share of labour intensive manufacturing in the shipping sector. During the past 3-4 years, order book position of Indian shipyards has shown a phenomenal growth specially in export orders. The order book position

has increased from Rs.150 crore in 2002 to about Rs. 14,000 crore in 2006. India is expected to soon move up in the global ranking with the proposed capacity addition by various shipyards.

(c) Presently, there are no reservations for small scale industries in the shipbuilding sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Complaints Received by CIC

5582. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Information Commissioner has received a number of complaints in regard to delay of information and refusal of information under the RTI Act;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last six months, institution-wise; and

(c) the details of persons/institutions who/which have been penalised by the Chief Information Commissioner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Central Information Commission received 937 complaints regarding delay in furnishing of information and refusal of information under the Right to Information Act during the period from 1.11.2006 to 30.4.2007. Break-up of such complaints is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Commission imposed penalty on about 30 officers in 32 cases during the period.

Statement

UT of Delhi	81
Ministry of Human Resource Development	77
Banking and Insurance	65
Ministry of Railways	63
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation	55
Ministry of Home Affairs	52
Ministry of Defence	44

Department of Revenue	41
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	36
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	35
MCD, GNCTD	33
Ministry of Civil Aviation	27
Ministry of External Affairs	26
Ministry of Coal	26
Ministry of Agriculture	23
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	20
Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises	17
UT of Chandigarh	15
Ministry of Labour and Employment	15
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	13
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	12
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	9
Supreme Court	8
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	8
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, food and Public Distribution	8
Prime Minister's Office	8
Comptroller & Auditor General	7
Ministry of Textile	7
Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, GNCTD	7
CBI	6
UPSC	6
Ministry of Power	5
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	5
Ministry of Law and Justice	5
Ministry of Steel	5
Directorate of Education, GNCT, Delhi	5
UT of Daman and Diu	4

Registrar Cooperative Society, GNCT, Delhi	4
Department of Company Affairs	4
Ministry of Environment and Forests	4
Cabinet Secretariat	4
Ministry of Science and Technology	3
President's Secretariat	3
CVC	3
National Women's Commission	3
Ministry of Water Resources	2
Department of Expenditure	2
Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, GNCTD	2
DSSB	2
DTC, Govt. of NCT Delhi	2
Election Commission of India	2
Central Information Commission	2
Delhi Jal Board, GNCTD	2
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1
Department of Space	1
Planning Commission	1
National Human Rights Commission	1
UT of Ladshadweep	1
Social Welfare, GNCT, Delhi	1
Ministry of Tourism	1
Department of Atomic Energy	1
Ministry of Mines	1
Ministry of Rural Development	1
UT of Pondicherry	1
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1
Ministry of Culture	1
PGC, GNCT, Delhi	1

Total

9371

Millennium Development Goals

5583. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Global Monitoring Report 2007 recently released by the World Bank, the prevalence of underweight children due to malnutrition has been on the rise in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether the UN has set eight millennium development goals for the Member States to achieve the desired result by 2015;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of India's performance in the areas of eradication of hunger and poverty, combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to recently released World Bank's Global Monitoring Report 2007, prevalence of underweight among children younger than five years is between 38 and 51 percent in India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(b) and (c) The Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000 adopted 8 development goals to achieve the desired results by 2015. The eight goals are as under.

- MDG 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- MDG 2 : Achieve universal primary education,
- MDG 3 : Promote gender equality and empower women,
- MDG 4 : Reduce child mortality,
- MDG 5 : Improve maternal health,
- MDG 6 : Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- MDG 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability, and
- MDG 8 : Develop a global partnership for development.

(d) Regarding hunger, according to Report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) entitled, "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households 2004-05", in the rural areas, the percentage of households who reported enough food everyday throughout the year rose from 94.5% in 1993-94 to 97.4% in 2004-05. For urban areas the percentage of households who reported enough food everyday throughout the year increased from 98.1% in 1993-94 to 99.4% in 2004-05.

Based on the NSSO latest large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure (NSS 61st Round), covering the period July 2004 to June 2005, Planning Commission has estimated the poverty ratio in 2004-05 based on Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution data, (in which 30-day recall period has been used for all the items), and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution (in which data for five nonfood items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses have been collected using 365-day recall period and 30-day recall period for the remaining items). The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution (27.5 percent) is comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94, (36 percent). The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption (21.8 percent) is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, (26.1 percent).

Under five mortality rate (U5MR) declined from 125 deaths per thousand live births in 1988-92 to 98 per thousand live births during the period 1998-2002. The infant mortality rate (IMR) has also declined from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 60 per thousand in 2003 and 58 per thousand in 2005. Adult HIV has come down from 0.92 per cent in 2004 to 0.91 per cent in 2005. Condom use rate has increased from 2.4 per cent in 1992-93 to 5.3 per cent in 2005-06 of the corresponding contraceptive prevalence rate of 40.7 per cent in 1992-93 to 56.3 per cent in 2005-06. The prevalence and death rates associated with malaria are consistently coming down. The death rate associated with TB has come down from 67 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990 to 30 per 100,000 population in 2004. The proportion of TB patients successfully treated has also risen from 81 per cent in 1996 to 86 per cent in 2005.

*[Translation]***Investment by Vodafone in Telecom Sector**

5584. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
 SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
 DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
 SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) whether the Government has deferred its decision regarding the approval of British Telecom Company, Vodafone acquiring a 74% stake in India's leading cellular phone service provider Hutchison Essar Limited;

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

(c) whether the Government has sought details on Hutch deal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the total amount of investment proposed to be made in the British Telecom Company, Vodafone in the telecom service provider sector in India; and

(g) the details of investment made in the said sector by other foreign telecom service provider companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Application of Vodafone International Holdings B.V. Netherlands, seeking approval of the Government for acquisition of an effective shareholding of 51.96% in Hutchison Essar Limited has been approved.

(f) The proposal does not involve any inward inflow of FDI as the acquisition is by a Non-resident entity from another Non-resident entity.

(g) Total amount of major FDI inflow in Telecom Sector from August, 1991 to January, 2007 is Rs. 11817.78 crore. A detailed list is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement***Current FDI Investments in Telecom Services Sector******(Major Cases)***

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian company	Nature of the Project	Amount proposed to be invested	Name of the foreign Investor
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s Aircel Ltd.	Cellular telephone, ILD/NLD Services	US\$ 800 million	M/s Global Communication Services Holding Ltd.
2.	M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.	UASL, Long Distance, Broadband and Data Services	US\$ 370 million	M/s Vodafone, U.K.
3.	New joint venture company to be formed	UASL Service	US\$ 100 million	M/s Byceli Holding AG Switzerland
4.	M/s AT&T Global N/W Services India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Network Services	US\$ 3.6 million	M/s AT&T Inc., USA

1	2	3	4	5
5.	M/s World Phone Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	Internet Service Provider	US\$ 3.6 million	M/s Advance Internet Services Ltd. Mauritius
6.	M/s BT Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.	ILD/NLD Services	US\$ 5 million	M/s BT Global Communications (Mauritius) Ltd.
7.	M/s Spice Communications Ltd.	Cellular telephone, ILD/NLD Services	US\$ 6 million	M/s Distacom Communications (India) Ltd., Mauritius
8.	M/s Essar Telecom India Ltd.	Investment Company	US\$ 500 million	Essar Communications, Mauritius

*[English]***Indian Ports Association**

5585. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated a Committee under the Indian Ports Association (IPA) to evolve common guidelines for port insurance;

(b) if so, the details of the issues for which the Committee has been set up;

(c) whether any time frame has been set up for the Committee to submit its recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In the wake of contingencies such as Tsunami, cyclone, earthquake etc., it was *inter-alia* decided by the Government to speed up the insurance of assets of Major Ports. A Committee was constituted by the Indian Ports Association (IPA) to frame broad policy guidelines for insurance of port properties at Major Ports and to explore the possibility of Common Insurance Fund for all the Major Ports to cover their insurance requirement, listing of facilities and other liabilities which will form the Minimum Common Insurance Programme (MCIP) and action plan for insurance of properties.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of Committee were circulated by IPA to all Major Ports advising them to take necessary insurance cover as early as possible.

Setting up of Solatium Fund

5586. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to create Solatium Fund for providing financial assistance to the dependent of the victims of the road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the time by which the said Fund is likely to be created;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to allow out-of-court settlements for road accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the guidelines for such settlements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A Solatium Fund is already in existence since 1989 to provide compensation to the

road accident victims in the hit and run cases. The Government also made a scheme called "Solatium Scheme 1989", specifying the manner in which the scheme shall be administered by the General Insurance Corporation as well as the procedure to be followed by the authorities while considering the application for compensation in the hit and run cases.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. It has been proposed that the insurer shall endeavour to settle the claims out of the Tribunal or a civil court directly with the claimant either *suo-moto* or on receipt of a notice within a period of three months, by mutual consent and on receipt of the compensation by the claimant, the Tribunal or the court shall, if satisfied that a lawful compromise or agreement has been arrived at by them, dispose of the application filed by the claimant in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Incidents of Ill-Treatment of Indian Labourers

5587. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indian labourers working for an American company 'Signal' have alleged that they are being treated as slaves as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 18, 2007;

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

(c) whether the incidents of misbehaviour with the Indian labourers working abroad have increased over the years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) Information is being collected through concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Revenue and Expenditure Pattern under Central Schemes

5588. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quarter-wise expenditure pattern under Central Schemes during the financial year 2006-07;

(b) the break-up of revenue and capital expenditure under the Central Schemes;

(c) whether the allocations under the Central Schemes have not been spent evenly during the financial year;

(d) if so, the schemes which have not been able to use even half the funds till December, 2006, Ministry-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken for a more efficient and even utilization of funds of the Central Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is the principal Accounts Adviser to the Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound management accounting system. The information on Ministry/Department-wise actual Plan expenditure upto December, 2006 against Budget Estimates (BE) of 2006-07 as brought out in their monthly Bulletin is given in the enclosed Statements-I, II & III. However, as indicated by CGA, it does not compile Central Scheme-wise accounts of Ministries/Departments which are being maintained by the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(e) Regular monitoring is done for more efficient and even utilization of funds of Central schemes.

Statement*Controller General of Accounts*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
UNION GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS
AT A GLANCE
 (As at the end of December, 2006)
 Plan Expenditure (2006-07)
 (Net of Receipts and Recoveries)

(Rs. crore)

Grant No.	Ministry/ Department	BE (2006-07)	Actuals upto Sept. 2006	% of Actuals to Budget Estimates Upto Sept.	Actuals upto Dec. 2006	% of Actuals to Budget Estimates Upto Dec. 2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ministry of Agriculture	6967	3515	50%	5059.1	73%
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	4840	2520.55	52%	3493	72%
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	1360	782.77	57%	1122.4	83%
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and fisheries	777	231.68	30%	443.66	57%
	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	967	436.44	45%	611.03	63%
4.	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	967	436.44	45%	611.03	63%
	Department of Atomic Energy	4124.1	991.31	24%	2084	51%
5.	Atomic Energy	1621	553.02	34%	825.77	51%
6.	Nuclear Power Schemes	2503.1	438.29	18%	1258.2	50%
	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers	229.81	275	120%	334.56	146%
7.	Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals	131	274.75	210%	273.26	209%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Department of Fertilisers	98.81	0.25	0%	61.3	62%
	Ministry of Civil Aviation	130	0.28	0%	20.19	16%
9.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	130	0.28	0%	20.19	16%
	Ministry of Coal	168.71	0.08	0%	65.72	39%
10.	Ministry of Coal	168.71	0.08	0%	65.72	39%
	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	1923.3	649.21	34%	1156.8	60%
11.	Department of Commerce	1423.3	537.86	38%	948.01	67%
12.	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion	500	111.35	22%	208.8	42%
	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	1722.6	339.88	20%	900.2	52%
13.	Department of Posts	419	50.7	12%	90.46	22%
14.	Department of Telecommunications	213.61	52.54	25%	63.64	30%
15.	Department of Information Technology	109	236.64	22%	746.1	68%
	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	258.6	38.3	15%	131.9	51%
17.	Department of Consumer Affairs	163	30.84	19%	87.07	53%
18.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	95.8	7.47	8%	44.89	47%
	Ministry of Culture	470	120.05	26%	200.86	43%
19.	Ministry of Culture	470	120.05	26%	200.86	43%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	1350	671.56	50%	927.2	69%
28.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	1350	671.56	50%	927.2	69%
	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1338.9	404.65	30%	735.03	55%
29.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1338.9	404.65	30%	735.03	55%
	Ministry of External Affairs	222.3	0	0%	155.89	70%
30.	Ministry of External Affairs	222.3	0	0%	155.89	70%
	Ministry of Finance	30614	14826.94	48%	23940	76%
31.	Department of Economic Affairs	1214.9	0.07	0%	533.49	44%
33.	Payments to Financial Institutions	36	0	0%	0	0%
35.	Transfers to State and UT Governments	29562	14826.55	50%	23406	79%
38.	Department of Expenditure	0.63	0.32	51%	0.47	75%
	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	166.9	49.84	30%	118.47	71%
45.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	166.9	49.84	30%	118.47	71%
	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	11671	4091.33	35%	6667.3	57%
46.	Department of Health and Family Welfare	11290	3967.83	35%	6482.2	57%
47.	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	381.6	123.5	32%	186.12	49%
	Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	481.5	24.82	5%	100.02	21%
48.	Department of Heavy Industry	450	9.16	2%	76.15	17%
49.	Department of Public Enterprises	31.5	15.66	50%	23.87	76%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ministry of Home Affairs	1122.2	166.6	15%	409.0	36%
50.	Ministry of Home Affairs	24.5	8.0	33%	15.5	64%
52.	Police	312.8	100.9	32%	145.74	47%
53.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	28.53	0.39	1%	1.36	5%
54.	Transfers to UT Govts.	756.37	57.24	8%	246.4	33%
	Ministry of Human Resource Development	25540	10399.44	41%	17550	69%
55.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy <i>Gross</i>	25874	6563.69	25%	17227	67%
	<i>Less: Expenditure met from Prarambik Shiksha Koeli</i>	8746	0	0	5100	58%
	<i>Net</i>	17128	6563.69	38%	12127	71%
56.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	3616	1565.41	43%	2332.8	65%
57.	Department of Women and Child Development	4795.9	2270.34	47%	3090.4	64%
	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	538	145.96	27%	166.47	31%
58.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	538	145.96	27%	166.47	31%
	Ministry of Labour and Employment	311.36	107.53	35%	159.76	51%
59.	Ministry of Labour and Employment	311.36	107.53	35%	159.76	51%
	Ministry of Law and Justice	203.95	0	0%	0.13	0%
61.	Law and Justice	203.95	0	0%	0.13	0%
	Ministry of Mines	241	72.25	30%	118.43	49%
63.	Ministry of Mines	241	72.25	30%	118.43	49%
	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	597	74.68	13%	151.29	25%
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	597	74.68	13%	151.29	25%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Department of Ocean Development	438	84.23	19%	161.16	37%
66.	Department of Ocean Development	438	84.23	19%	161.16	37%
	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	3825	234.57	6%	1055.1	28%
67.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	3825	234.57	6%	1055.1	28%
	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions	95.3	14.67	15%	23.42	25%
69.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	95.3	14.67	15%	23.42	25%
	Ministry of Planning	89.76	16.82	19%	28.69	32%
71.	Ministry of Planning	89.76	16.82	19%	28.69	32%
	Ministry of Power	5500	1296.07	24%	2276.4	41%
72.	Ministry of Power	5500	1296.07	24%	2276.4	41%
	Ministry of Rural Development	31444	15507.34	49%	20470	65%
76.	Department of Rural Development	24026	12749.85	53%	15387	64%
79.	Department of Land Resources	1418	704.05	50%	980.48	68%
80.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	6000	2053.44	34%	4122.9	69%
	Ministry of Science and Technology	2836	1182.57	42%	1718.3	61%
81.	Department of Science and Technology	1340	429.66	32%	663.14	49%
82.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	975	476.11	49%	703.76	72%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
83.	Department of Biotechnology	521	276.8	53%	351.43	67%
	Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	13916	4384.33	32%	9757.6	70%
84.	Department of Shipping	735.38	161.85	22%	372.6	51%
85.	Department of Road Transport and Highways <i>Gross</i>	21384	5702.76	27%	16101	75%
	<i>Less Expenditure met from:</i>					
	(a) 'Central Road Fund'	8113.5	1468.48	18%	6694.3	83%
	(b) National Highways Permanent Bridges Fees Fund	90	11.8	13%	21.56	24%
	<i>Net</i>	13181	4222.48	32%	9385	71%
	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	466.33	202.02	43%	259.13	56%
86.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	466.33	202.02	43%	259.13	56%
	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	1750	593.88	34%	915.34	52%
87.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	1750	593.88	34%	915.34	52%
	Department of Space	3220	750.83	23%	1208.	38%
88.	Department of Space	3220	750.83	23%	1208.1	38%
	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1663.4	715.27	43%	1017.5	61%
89.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1663.4	715.27	43%	1017.5	61%
	Ministry of Steel	45	7	16%	7	16%
90.	Ministry of Steel	45	7	16%	7	16%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ministry of Textiles	1349.5	571.52	42%	1113.3	82%
91.	Ministry of Textiles	1349.5	571.52	42%	1113.3	82%
	Ministry of Tourism	830	147.8	18%	579.3	70%
92.	Ministry of Tourism	830	147.8	18%	579.3	70%
	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1656.9	953.62	58%	1268.3	77%
93.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1656.9	953.62	58%	1268.3	77%
	U.T.s without Legislature	1672	371.81	22%	777.76	47%
94.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1119.1	151.47	14%	456.21	41%
95.	Chandigarh	216.66	112.74	52%	168.31	76%
96.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	70.42	26.14	37%	43.55	62%
97.	Daman & Diu	64.12	23.48	37%	39.6	62%
98.	Lakshadweep	201.69	57.98	29%	70.09	35%
	Ministry of Urban Development	1849.8	595.74	32%	1040.7	56%
99.	Department of Urban Development	1716.6	560.81	33%	984.89	57%
100.	Public Works	133.22	34.93	26%	55.8	42%
	Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	421.67	117.42	28%	200.23	47%
102.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	421.67	117.42	28%	200.23	47%
	Ministry of water Resources	700	165.96	24%	304.53	44%
103.	Ministry of Water Resources	700	165.96	24%	304.53	44%
	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	600	164.15	27%	362.59	60%
104.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	600	164.15	27%	362.59	60%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ministry of Minority Affairs	0	110			
105.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	0	110			
	Railways	6800.1	3400.07	50%	5100.1	75%
	Ministry of Railways	6800.1	3400.07	50%	5100.1	75%
	Grand Total	172728	68878.87	40%	111518	65%

Statement II*Break-up of Revenue and Capital Expenditure of Plan Expenditure*

	Budget Estimates (BE) 2006-07 Rs. Cr.	Actuals upto June 2006 Rs. Cr.	% of Actuals to BE	Actuals upto Sept. 2006 Rs. Cr.	% of Actuals to BE	Actuals upto Dec. 2006 Rs. Cr.	% of Actuals to BE
Plan Expenditure	172728	38524	22.30%	68879	39.90%	111518	64.60%
On Revenue Account	143762	33262	23.10%	57757	40.20%	93901	65.30%
On Capital Account	28966	5262	18.20%	11122	38.40%	17617	60.80%

Statement III

List of Ministry/Departments where Plan Expenditure upto December 2006 was less than 50% against Budget Estimates of 2006-07 Plan Expenditure (Net of Receipts and Recoveries)

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Ministry/Department	BE 2006-07	Actuals Upto December 2006	% of Actuals to Budget Estimates
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	130.00	20.19	16%
2.	Ministry of Coal	168.71	65.72	39%
3.	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion	500.00	208.80	42%

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Department of Posts	419.00	90.46	22%
5.	Department of Telecommunications	213.61	63.64	30%
6.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	95.80	44.89	47%
7.	Ministry of Culture	470.00	200.86	43%
8.	Department of Economic Affairs	1214.86	533.49	44%
9.	Department of AYUSH	381.60	185.12	49%
10.	Department of Heavy Industry	450.00	76.15	17%
11.	Ministry of Home Affairs	1122.22	409.09	36
12.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	538.00	166.47	31%
13.	Ministry of Law and Justice	203.95	0.13	0%
14.	Ministry of Mines	241.00	118.43	49%
15.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	597.00	151.29	25%
16.	Department of Ocean Development	438.00	161.16	37%
17.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	3825.00	1055.06	28%
18.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	95.30	23.42	25%
19.	Ministry of Planning	89.76	28.69	32%
20.	Ministry of Power	5500.00	276.43	41%
21.	Department of Science and Technology	1340.00	663.14	49%
22.	Department of Space	3220.00	1208.05	38%
23.	Ministry of Steel	45.00	7.00	16%
24.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	421.67	200.23	47%
25.	Ministry of Water Resources	700.00	304.53	44%

Upgradation of PWD Link Roads

5589. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal seeking Central grant of Rs. 516 crores for upgradation of 38 P.W.D. link/arterial roads to decongest the Bangalore city traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has accorded approval to the proposal;

(d) if so, the funds released so far; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Karnataka

Government has sought assistance for upgradation of 38 roads of economic importance around Bangalore in form of one time assistance amounting to Rs. 518.00 crore from Planning Commission.

(c) to (e) Above roads are not National Highways and as such State Government is primarily responsible for their development and maintenance. The Planning Commission has intimated that the proposal of Government of Karnataka has been examined by them but Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is not available for funding the said proposal. Planning Commission has further stated that State Government should explore the possibility of getting the same funded through National Urban Renewal Mission.

Indo-China Friendship Year

5590. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are going to celebrate "Indo-China Friendship Year";

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the salient features;

(c) the special efforts made during this year to promote tourism, trade, cooperation in IT, culture, sports and other fields;

(d) whether India and China have decided to set up a joint memorial for the ancient Chinese traveller Hiuan Sang at Nalanda; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India and China held a series of cultural events in 2006 to mark the Year of India-China Friendship, including, a photo-exhibition on India; an 'India Cultural Festival'; an Indian Film Festival and a major exhibition of ancient Indian art entitled "Treasures of Ancient India". This year, both sides have agreed to organise the "India-China Year of Friendship Through Tourism" in 2007 with a joint logo and to open tourism offices in each others countries. As agreed during the visit of the Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides are taking steps to further strengthen cooperation in trade, information technology, industry, finance, agriculture, water resources, energy, environment,

transportation, infrastructure, health, education, media, culture, tourism, youth affairs and other fields.

(d) and (e) The Xuan Zang Memorial Hall, established by the Government of India with Chinese assistance was inaugurated on 12 February 2007 at Nalanda, Bihar during the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to India.

[Translation]

Watch on Neighbouring Countries

5591. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KIREN RIJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to keep a watch on the scenario in the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the changing scenario in these countries is likely to encourage the fundamentalists activities; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by India to strengthen democratic institutions in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of developments in our neighbouring countries.

(c) to (e) While it is our policy not to comment or intervene in the internal affairs of the other countries, all developments affecting India's interests will be suitably taken into account in Government's policies.

[English]

Stoppage of Calls by MNC Call Centres

5592. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether some foreign Multi-National Companies have decided to stop all customer calls at their call centers located in India as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March 03, 2007;

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

(c) the impact of its repercussion in terms of jobs to Indians; and

(d) The steps taken/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) and (b) There is a news item in the 'Times of India' dated March 03, 2007 on a UK based Bank, namely, M/s Lloyds TSB Group having operation in Mumbai.

As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) no such incident has been reported to them officially.

As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the above Unit is not a STPI member.

(c) As per NASSCOM such news may not have impact in terms of jobs to Indians.

(d) Does not arise.

Shooting Incident at Virginia University

5593. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian student and a professor are among the victims of the recent shooting incident at the Virginia Technology University Campus in the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the US authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the kind of assistance being provided to them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Amongst those who perished in the shooting were Prof. G.V. Loganathan, Professor in the Engineering Department of the University and Ms. Minal Panchal, a first year Building Science student in the Faculty of Agriculture. Prof. Loganathan was a US citizen with OCI status, while Ms. Panchal was an Indian citizen.

(c) to (e) Senior officials of the Indian Embassy established contact with US authorities and met Indian students at the University immediately after the incident. The Indian Embassy in Washington provided all possible help to the affected Indians. The Embassy was closely involved in assisting the families of the missing/deceased Indians. Passports for four members of Prof. Loganathan's family were arranged by Passport Office, Chennai on an emergency basis and nine family members were flown to United States with tickets purchased by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Government Hospitals for Children

5594. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government-run Children Hospitals in the country;

(b) whether there has been reports of deaths in such hospitals due to lack of life saving drugs and equipment and also inadequate nursing staff;

(c) if so, the number of such death cases, hospital-wise in the last three years;

(d) whether proper inspection regarding the functioning of these hospitals are regularly conducted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There is only one Central Government Hospital exclusively for Children namely Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, New Delhi. No case of death of any child patient attributed to lack of life saving drugs and equipment or nursing staff in any Central Government Hospital has been reported. The functioning

of all Central Government Hospitals is constantly monitored by the officers of Dte. General of Health Services.

Accidents due to Lack of Reflectors

5595. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of accidents caused by the absence of reflectors on the rear side of the vehicles like tractors, trucks etc., are in Mumbai -Agra National Highway and other National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Union Government to curb such accidents;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to involve NGOs in any such scheme; 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) and (b) The data in respect of number of road accidents caused due to absence of reflectors on the rear side of the vehicles is not compiled by this Ministry.

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

- (i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the States.

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

(vii) Conferment of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, rear view Mirror, etc.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

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

(d) and (e) Under the scheme "Grant of financial assistance for administering Road Safety Programme", grants are given to various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for creating road safety awareness among road users through various activities.

[Translation]

Four-Laning of NH-8

5596. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Bayader-Bhim-Nathdwara-Udaipur lane segment of NH-8 into four lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost of the project;

(d) whether the said segment of Delhi-Mumbai National Highway has not been converted into four lanes;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (f) Bids are being invited for Feasibility study for four laning of Beawar-Udaipur section of NH-8 on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern. It is premature to indicate project details, cost of the project and time frame for completion at this stage. The alternate route to Kishangarh - Beawar- Udaipur section of NH-8 has been four laned as part of Golden Quadrilateral.

(English)

Infrastructure for Container Traffic

5597. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government regarding development of infrastructure for container traffic for the proposed Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Cochin, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals regarding road development, construction of bridges and extension of railway line to the above port;

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto;

(d) the details of the stages of implementation of each proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Central Government is undertaking the Rail and Road Connectivity Projects to the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) project site at Vallarpadam in Cochin Port.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Government has approved the Rail and Four (4) Lane National

(e) Highway Connectivity projects on 22 March, 2007 and 12th April, 2007 respectively. The estimated cost of Rail and Four (4) Lane National Highway Connectivity projects is Rs. 245.67 crores and Rs. 557 crores respectively. The Rail and Road Connectivity Projects are likely to be completed within twenty four (24) months and thirty (30) months respectively from the date of commencement of work.

Agricultural Marketing in Concurrent List

5598. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on agriculture for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has suggested for shifting agriculture marketing from State to the Concurrent List;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the working group has also suggested changes in the agricultural marketing system in order to promote export of agricultural products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has accepted the suggestions made by the working group;

(f) if so, the estimated funds required for accepting these suggestions;

(g) whether the Government has written to the States for eliciting their views in this regard; and

(h) if so, the response of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission for 11th Five-Year Plan on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure and Policy Required for Internal and External Trade has recommended to shift 'agricultural marketing' from the list of States subjects to the Concurrent list.

(c) and (d) The same Working Group, as mentioned in answer to parts (a) & (b) above, has made a number of recommendations to promote export of agricultural

products. Some of the major recommendations include: development of supply chain infrastructure, improving process of domestic marketing channels through amendment in States' Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts, simplification of other marketing regulations, promoting market aggregators, taking up promotional activities for specific products for specific countries, financing projects/operations in Agri-Export Zones (AEZs), providing reinsurance to the insurers and credit guarantees, etc.

(e) and (f) As a process of the formulation of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), the Planning Commission had constituted Working Groups on various aspects of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The recommendations of these Working Groups would be used in preparation of the 11th Five-Year Plan document.

(g) No, sir.

(h) The question does not arise.

Coal Washeries

5599. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to encourage setting up of coal washeries on Build-Own-Operate basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal which is presently supplied to various consumers by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries contain high percentage of ash; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of coal washeries would help consumers in getting coal with less percentage of ash contents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has been encouraging Power Sector and other coal consumers and private entrepreneurs to set up coal washeries on Build-own-operate basis for supply of washed coal to the linked consumers. To encourage setting up coal washeries by consumers/private entrepreneurs, CIL has been providing land and other infrastructural facilities on lease/chargeable basis subject to its availability. The following washeries

are under construction by the respective consumers with the support of infrastructural facilities from the coal companies:

(i) Kalinga Washery (11.0 million tonnes per annum) in Orissa on Build-own-Operate scheme for supply of washed coal to thermal power stations of APGENCO from Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

(ii) KDH Washery (3.50 million tonnes per annum) in Jharkhand on Build-own-Operate scheme for supply of washed coal to the thermal power stations of PSEB from Central Coalfields Ltd.

CIL has also decided in principle to set up washeries with the State-of-the-art technologies on "Build and Operate" (BO) basis where Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies will provide the capital funding and other infrastructure facilities. Further, it has been decided that all new opencast projects of more than 2.50 million tonnes capacity, which are not linked to pit-head power stations should be designed with an integrated washery.

(c) Of the total production of about 361 million tonnes per annum from CIL in 2006-07, about 8% is coking coal, 20% is superior grade non-coking coal and about 72% is inferior grade non-coking coal having high ash percentage of about 40%.

(d) The purpose of washing coal is to improve the quality by reducing its ash content, removing extraneous materials and increasing the heat value. By setting up coal washeries, the consumers will be supplied with improved quality of coal with reduced ash content along with increased heat value. Coal can be washed upto the desired level of ash percentage of the consumer. However, the yield of washed coal is a reckoning factor of level of washing for such high ash coal.

Transfer of Schemes to States

5600. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified some of the schemes which have outlived their lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the recently held meeting of the Planning Commission, the Government has decided to transfer some of the schemes to the States:

(d) if so, the details of the schemes proposed to be transferred to the States;

(e) whether a corpus fund of Rs. 5,000 would be created to give incentives to the States which are carrying on programmes and achieving the targets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives and priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly. There is no proposal for transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States.

(e) and (f) No proposal for creation of corpus fund of Rs. 5000 crore is under consideration of Planning Commission to give incentives to the States which are carrying on programmes and achieving the targets.

Bid for Asian Games-2014

5601. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether India has lost its bid to host the 2014 Asian Games,

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

(c) whether there was lack of coordination between Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Indian Olympic Committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to bid for hosting the 2018 Asian Games;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) It would appear from the outcome that the presentation made by the Republic of Korea carried more weight with the Electoral College than the Indian presentation partly because the RoK delegation said they would be showcasing all of Asia at Incheon, and not just RoK alone, and because they argued that such Games are awarded to cities not countries and Delhi had earlier been the venue of two Asian Games, in 1951 and 1982, whereas Incheon had not earlier hosted the Games. As the ballot was secret and no explanation of vote was required either before or after the vote, it is not possible to categorically state the reasons for vote was lost but it is to be noted that the Chairman of the Olympic Council for Asia announced that the vote was decided by "a narrow margin".

(c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was part of the delegation that went to Kuwait.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is too early to make a bid for these.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

Eligibility Criteria for Promotion in CSS Cadre

5602. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Eligibility Criteria for inclusion of Section Officers (SO) in the Selection List for appointment to Grade-I of CSS (Under Secretary) and the year-wise number of Section Officers included in the lists for the years 1995-2000;

(b) the year-wise number of SOs from the Direct Recruit Quota and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) included in the Selection List for the years 1995-2000;

(c) the methodology adopted for filling up of the vacancies belonging to the Direct Recruit Quota and the ST Quota vacancies and the reasons for having different yardsticks;

(d) the total number of SOs promoted from ST Quota who have completed more than 10 years of service but not included in the Select Lists;

(e) whether Direct Recruit SOs belonging to ST community who resigned from the service still continued to be included in the SLs even after a lapse of 5 years after their resignations;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to improve the representation of ST officers 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 PACHOURI): (a) Vacancies in Grade-I (Under Secretary) of CSS is filled by promotion of Section Officers who have rendered not less than 8 years approved service. For this purpose Select List is prepared annually in accordance with the procedure laid down in CSS (Promotion to Grade-I and Selection Grade) Regulations, 1964. The year-wise number of officers included in the Select Lists are as below:

1995	-	60
1996	-	76
1997	-	66
1998	-	43
1999	-	45
2000	-	74

(b) the following is the number of DR and ST:

Year	DR	ST
1995	9	1
1996	11	1
1997	14	1
1998	8	-
1999	13	2
2000	15	2

(c) There is no quota for Direct Recruit Section Officers for inclusion in the Select List. All Section Officers, irrespective of their category are considered for inclusion in the Select List from the Combined Seniority List of Section Officers, in order of their seniority. The STs are given the reservation in accordance with the existing reservation policy subject to their availability in the extended zone of consideration.

(d) The total number of ST officers promoted as Under Secretary on an *ad hoc* basis and yet to be included in the List is 77.

(e) The Section Officers who have resigned from the Service are not required to be included in the Select Lists of Grade-I.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The zone of consideration for inclusion in the Select List has been extended to five times the number of the vacancies.

Construction of Regional Research Institute of Thiruvananthapuram

5603. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status on the proposal for the construction of building complex for the Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda Research Centre) at Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) whether the land offered by the State Government has been taken over;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether estimate for the building complex has been prepared and forwarded to the Union Government for sanction; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The State Government allotted land measuring 1.54500 acres in Thirumala Village for construction of a building for Regional Research Institute

(Drug Research), Thiruvananthapuram. The land was taken over by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) on 4.8.2003. The final design of the proposed building and the estimate could be finalized with CPWD in November 2006 due to certain modifications in the existing plan and revision of the estimate by CPWD. The CCRAS has received the estimate in December 2006 and the same has not been forwarded to the Central Government since the Review Committee constituted for re-organisation of the Council has not submitted its report.

(e) Does not arise.

**Funds to Promote Sports in Andaman
& Nicobar Islands**

5604. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Funds are being provided to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for promotion of games and sports in the colleges and the universities located in the Island State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise including the number of colleges and universities covered in each year; and

(c) the benefits achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No proposals were received from the Union Territory of Andman & Nicobar Islands during the last three years under the erstwhile scheme of "Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges", which has been transferred to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

However, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) is running various sports promotional schemes viz.; National Sports Contest Scheme (NSTC), Special Area Games (SAG), SAI Training Centres (STC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) and Centres of Excellence (COX). The details of the number of centres under these Schemes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the funds provided for trainees under these schemes for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the last three years, are given below:

Number of Centres	Funds provided during (Amount in Rupees)		
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
NSTC-1	44,13,848	37,54,506	60,79,376
SAG-1			

**Funds under Central Government
Schemes to States**

5605. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the various heads and schemes under which Union Government provides funds to the State Government;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government under these heads and schemes to the State Government of Rajasthan and other States, during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the amount utilised by the State Governments out of the Central allocation during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to check under utilisation of funds by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Centrally aided schemes in the road sector operated by the Ministry. The Ministry provides funds to the State Governments under the schemes of the Central Road Fund (CRF) including the scheme of economic importance and inter-state connectivity (EI&ISC) for development of State roads.

(b) and (c) The amounts allocated and released to the State Governments/Union Territories including the State of Rajasthan under the said schemes during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Amount allocated under CRF including EI&ISC	Amount released under CRF including EI&ISC
2004-2005	964.00	624.28
2005-2006	1705.95	1385.36
2006-2007	1706.07	1531.36

(e) State Governments are regularly requested to increase the pace of the progress of the works approved under these schemes and the utilization of funds is regularly monitored.

Reproductive Health Care

5606. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to save one million lives every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department for International Development had worked with the Government of India in designing a comprehensive programme aimed at providing good quality re-productive healthcare for the poor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In order to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and to improve the health status of Infants, children and pregnant women in the country the Government of India has launched the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II. The Programme has been designed in partnership with all stakeholders including Department for International Development Fund (DFID), World Bank, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and all other Development Partners. The Programme commenced from April, 2005 for a period of 5 years, with joint funding from Government of India Budget, Department for International Development (DFID), World Bank and UNFPA. DFID has committed to provide financial assistance of 245 million in addition to the 7 million for technical cooperation.

The RCHII Programme envisages a paradigm shift, encompassing and integrating the overall activities covered under the Family Welfare Programme with a view to achieve the goals of National Health Policy 2002 & National Population Policy, 2000. The Programme is reviewed from time to time by the Joint Review Mission led by the Government of India in partnership with all

Development Partners and State Governments. The Programme is now in the third year of its implementation.

Performance in International Sports Events

5607. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sports-persons who are being trained by the Government for better performance in International events;

(b) the details of International events of sports which India is likely to host during the next ten years;

(c) the plan being made for better hosting and best performance by Indian players; and

(d) the total budgetary support to the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Around 13000 sportspersons are being trained in different centres under various schemes being implemented by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Further, around 3500 sportspersons (including some trainees in the SAI's centres) are being trained every year under National Coaching Camps in the context of international events.

(b) The 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games are being held at Pune in October, 2008 and the 19th Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in Delhi in October, 2010.

International Championships/competitions in different disciplines are allotted by the World/International body concerned normally about a year in advance. As per information received from Federations concerned, the World Badminton Championship in 2009, the 10th Jr. and 4th Cadet World Archery Championships in 2008 and the 17th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in 2007 are proposed to be hosted by India.

(c) The Government is taking systematic steps for the creation/upgradation of the sports; infrastructure required for the Commonwealth Games, and for up-gradation of the civic; infrastructure and creation of other required facilities for the smooth and successful conduct of the Games.

As far as the performance of Indian players is concerned, the Government is already providing assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for holding national/international sports events in India and for participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international tournaments abroad to enable them to get adequate competition exposure; for training and coaching in India (and abroad) through Indian and foreign coaches, with requisite scientific, technical and equipment support; and, for procurement of equipments etc., in terms of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) agreed between NSFs and Government. Detailed discussions are also being held with the NSFs and other stakeholders, including the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and SAI, with a view to ensuring focused attention by all concerned on various measures for the improvement of performance at the international level.

In addition, Government also provides financial assistance to identified meritorious sportspersons for the purchase of equipment, scientific support, and training and participation in events within the country and abroad under the schemes relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

(d) A provision of Rs. 150 crores has been made during 2007-08 for preparations for the Commonwealth Games. As regards other competitions in India, the Government provides financial assistance under the Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations mentioned in para (c) above. The expenditure incurred under the above mentioned schemes during the last three years is indicated below:

Name of the Scheme	Rupees crores		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations	50.31	42.90	37.08
Scheme Relating to Talent Search and Training	01.49	0.50	02.90
Scheme of National Sports Development Fund	0.63	0.48	0.96

Coal Reserve of BCCL

5608. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal reserves including coking and non-coking coal of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) at the time of nationalization and as on January 01, 2007, seam-wise and area-wise;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the life of these reserves under BCCL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The geological reserves in the coalfields under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) at the time of nationalization were 19251 Million Tonnes (MT). The geological coal reserves upto a depth of 1200m as on January 01, 2007 is 18228.83 MT. The area-wise break up is as follows:—

I. Jharla Coalfield

Prime coking coal	— 4691.61 million tonnes
Medium coking coal	— 5488.91 million tonnes
Non-coking coal	— 6642.47 million tonnes
Total Jharla Coalfield	— 16822.99 million tonnes

II. Raniganj Coalfield (Chanch Victoria Area)

Prime coking coal	— Nil
Medium coking coal	— 321.77 million tonnes
Non-coking coal	— 1084.07 million tonnes
Total Jharla Coalfield	— 1405.84 million tonnes

III. BCCL Total (I+II)

Prime coking coal	— 4691.61 million tonnes
Medium coking coal	— 5810.68 million tonnes
Non-coking coal	— 7726.54 million tonnes
Total Jharla Coalfield	— 18228.83 million tonnes

(b) and (c) No detailed assessment of the life of the reserves under BCCL has been made. However, considering that reserves lying under various constraints are removed, the life of the reserves will be 180 years @ 30 million Tonnes of production of coal per year.

Trauma Centres in Delhi

5609. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of trauma centres working in Delhi under the administrative control of the Union Government;

(b) whether the supply of essential surgical items to centres has been discontinued as a result of which the seriously injured patients are suffering;

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

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper supply of surgical items to these trauma centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre as a part of AIIMS is functioning in Delhi. The centre has been receiving uninterrupted supply of essential surgical items and the seriously injured patients are receiving satisfactory patient care service in this trauma centre. As regards other Central Government hospitals in Delhi, while trauma care facilities are available in the emergency/casualty Departments of these hospitals, there is no functional full-fledged trauma centre as such in these hospitals. There is no shortage of essential surgical items in the Central Government hospitals in Delhi.

[Translation]

Decrease in Landline Subscribers in Rural Areas

5610. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the number of landline telephone subscribers in rural areas is decreasing as reported in the "Rashtriya Sahara," dated April 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of mobile users in rural areas is increasing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of increase in the number of mobile users in comparison to that of landline users during the year 2006-07 as on date, State-wise?

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

(b) The main reasons for decrease of landline telephone subscribers are as under:

(i) Decrease in tariff rates of mobile phones;

(ii) Availability of pre-paid facility in mobile phones;

(iii) Easy mobility of mobile phones;

(iv) Entry of private service providers in mobile market of rural areas; and

(v) Availability of number of features in mobile phones which are generally not available on landline phones.

(c) and (d) There was no segregation between landline and mobile phone before March, 2007 in rural areas. As on 31st March, 2007, the total number of landline users in rural areas is 1,25,49,077 as compared to mobile users of 1,07,57,755 in these areas.

(e) A Statement indicating the State-wise percentage of increase in the number of mobile users in comparison to that of landline users in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the year 2006-07 is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise percentage of increase in the number of mobile users and that of landline users during the year 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Rural Achievement during 2006-2007		%age of increase of mobile connections in comparison to Fixed connection
		Fixed	Mobile	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	-3,521	7,380	Not applicable
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-53,181	282,057	Not applicable
3.	Assam	37,027	72,323	95%
4.	Bihar	22,319	63,449	184%
5.	Chhattisgarh	22,463	59,848	166%
6.	Gujarat	-28,041	72,589	Not applicable
7.	Haryana	1,230	116,639	9383%
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-1,343	144,758	Not applicable
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20,078	677,203	3273%
10.	Jharkhand	10,093	57,812	473%
11.	Karnataka	5,099	133,902	2526%
12.	Kerala	183,332	136,251	26%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	122,286	50,982	56%
14.	Maharashtra	134,696	442,28	2228%
15.	North East-I	17,797	22,796	26%
16.	North East-II	7,443	16,413	121%
17.	Orissa	42,838	90,326	111%
18.	Punjab	-69,820	423,196	Not applicable
19.	Rajasthan	3,732	300,743	7958%
20.	Tamil Nadu	146,388	71,116	51%
21.	Uttaranchal	9,948	87,561	780%
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	52,862	491,689	830%
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	-1,578	68,511	Not applicable
24.	West Bengal	30,675	138,225	351%
25.	Kolkatta	0	29,333	Not applicable
26.	Chennai	6,604	-8,605	Not applicable
Total		719,428	4,048,781	463%

*[English]***Rural Telephone Exchanges**

5611. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rural telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) whether the condition of these telephone exchanges is unsatisfactory; 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 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, there are about 29,000 rural telephone exchanges of BSNL as on 31st March, 2007. These are state-of-art digital electronic exchanges.

(b) The condition of rural telephone exchanges is satisfactory in general. However, performance of some of the exchanges is affected sometimes because of the following reasons:-

- (i) Non-availability/poor availability of usable commercial power supply.
- (ii) Wear and tear of engine alternator provided for back up power supply due to continuous running.
- (iii) Non-availability/transport difficulty for diesel supply for engine alternator in some remote and hilly areas.
- (iv) Severe unprecedented floods in many parts of the country encountered during monsoon season.
- (v) Damage of Optical Fibre cables by national highways/State PWD authorities during expansion of the road network going on across the country in a big way.

(c) Steps being taken to further improve the services of rural telephone exchanges are as follows:

- (i) Periodic monitoring of performance of telephone exchanges/media.
- (ii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port rural exchanges into AN Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAXs).

(iii) Conversion of Single Base Modules (SBMs) into Remote Switching Units (RSUs).

(iv) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and engine alternators for backup power supply.

(v) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs) and provision of AMC in new supplies.

(vi) More Base Transceivers Stations (BTS) are planned to enhance coverage of WLL systems.

(vii) Do's and Don'ts have been issued to customers to increase their awareness on proper use of FWTs so as to minimize FWT related faults.

Penalty to Telecom Operators

5612. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has raised a demand of over Rs. 300 crore on the GSM Telecom Operators as interest charges for delayed spectrum payments for the period 1999-2001;

(b) if so, the names of the operators alongwith the amount to be recovered from them, operator-wise;

(c) the details of the amount recovered so far, operator-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to penalize the defaulting GSM Operators who have not paid the amount;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) An amount of approximately Rs. 192 crores was outstanding as spectrum charges, including interest on delayed payments, as on 31st December, 2001 from the GSM operators. Details are given in the enclosed statement. An amount of approximately Rs.162 crores has been recovered out of the same. The interest is levied on delayed payments of spectrum charges.

Statement*Details of Payments to be recovered from Telecom Operators*

Sl. No.	Service area	Operator	Outstanding Spectrum dues including interest upto 31.12.2001 (In Rupees)	Amount recovered (In Rupees)
1.	Delhi	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	20,23,94,375	20,23,94,375
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Commn. Ltd.	21,76,76,372	21,76,76,372
		Hutchison Max Ltd.	2,68,70,862	2,68,70,862
3.	Kolkata	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	3,23,46,257	3,23,46,257
		Hutchison Essar	5,79,77,450	5,79,77,450
4.	Chennai	Aircel Ltd.	5,23,20,530	5,23,20,530
		Bharti Airtel Ltd.	2,28,84,322	2,28,84,322
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	1,12,9,411	1,12,69,411
6.	Assam	Reliance Telecom	18,42,367	0
7.	Bihar	Reliance Telecom	1,36,34,763	0
8.	Haryana	Idea Mobile	5,15,17,851	5,15,17,851
		Aircel Digilink	8,65,38,157	8,65,38,157
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	1,57,02,342	1,57,02,342
10.	Karnataka	Spice Commn.	8,46,69,254	0
		Bharti Airtel Ltd.	2,68,30,317	2,68,30,317
11.	Kerala	Hutch Essar Ltd.	6,86,20,332	6,86,20,332
		Idea Mobile	7,44,50,997	7,44,50,997
12.	Maharashtra	Hutch Essar Ltd.	11,12,14,964	11,12,14,964
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1,77,05,666	1,77,05,666
13.	Madhya Pradesh	BTA Celcom (IDEA)	5,14,87,738	5,14,87,738
14.	North East	Reliance Telecom.	6,95,019	0
15.	Orissa	Reliance Telecom.	22,96,183	0
16.	Punjab	Spice Commn.	19,90,31,730	0
17.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink	6,81,86,172	6,81,86,172
		Bharti Hexa Ltd.	6,29,81,771	6,29,81,771
18.	Tamil Nadu	Hutch Essar Ltd.	9,35,62,863	9,35,62,863
		Aircel Ltd.	5,41,66,992	5,41,66,992
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	Idea Mobile	9,85,08,416	9,85,08,416
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	Aircel Digilink	11,66,44,714	11,66,44,714
		Total	1,82,40,80,177	1,62,18,58,871

Complaint Regarding Short Supply of Coal

5613. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a general complaint of short supply of coal to power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the requirement of coal of each of the power projects and the coal supplied there against during the year 2006-07;

(c) the reasons for short-supply of coal, if any, to these power projects; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Coal companies have sufficient coal stock to meet the assessed demand of power plants. Off-take by power utilities from CIL sources during 2006-07 was less than the Annual Action Plan target by about 4% on account of non materialization of demand, infrastructural bottlenecks, unloading constraints, transportation constraints and reluctance in building up normative level stocks by power plants at their end.

(d) The following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply of coal to power utilities during 2007-08:-

- (i) Emergency coal production has been planned in CIL.
- (ii) Commissioning of Coal blocks allotted to NTPC and other power sector consumers being expedited.
- (iii) Import of Coal by major Power Utilities being resorted to by Ministry of Power.
- (iv) Unloading infrastructure to be improved at Power House and to reduce turnaround time of Rail ways wagons.
- (v) Power Houses/SEBs requested not to control inventory, as this leads to depletion of coal stocks.
- (vi) Coal movement being improved through augmentation of wagons in circuit where more coal is available.

(vii) More Captive coal blocks have been allotted to consumers in power sector.

Uranium Reserves

5614. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of Uranium identified in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the reserves of Uranium are adequate to continue the nuclear programme of the country;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action plan has been chalked out by the Government for exploration of Uranium, its extraction and use in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The total identified reserves of Uranium in the country as on date are about 1,07,268 tonnes (U_3O_8). The state-wise distribution of the same is as follows:

State	Uranium Resources Tonnes (U_3O_8)
Jharkhand	47,809
Meghalaya	17,233
Andhra Pradesh	27,870
Chhattisgarh	3,986
Karnataka	4,233
Rajasthan	4,113
Uttar Pradesh	785
Himachal Pradesh	784
Maharashtra	355
Uttaranchal	100
Total	1,07,268

[1 Tonne of U_3O_8 = 0.848 Tonnes of Uranium Metal]

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The reserves are adequate to meet the requirement of about 10,000 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), for a period of 40 years in the first stage of the Nuclear Power Programme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, a constituent unit under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has intensified exploration activities during XI Plan in potential areas by way of Airborne and ground Geophysical surveys and detailed surveys and drilling. It is envisaged to establish about 75,000 tonnes of uranium resources during XI Plan period.

Pre-Qualification Proposals for NHDP-V

5615. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has received 143 Pre-Qualification (PQs) proposals for just 8 BOT (Toll) projects under NHDP Phase V;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these bids are likely to be finalized and jobs awarded;

(d) whether the competition in the Highways Sector has not resulted in lower usage charges;

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

(f) whether the toll charges in India are the lowest globally as claimed by NHAI; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to pass on the benefits of lower usage charges to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There are 186 proposals for pre-qualification for 8 Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) (Toll) projects under National Highways Development Project Phase-V. The details of 186 proposals is enclosed as Statement. Evaluation of proposals is under process. Work will be awarded after clearance from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) and Competent Authority.

(d) and (e) User charges are fixed by the Government and therefore, completion has nothing to do with lowering of user charges.

(f) and (g) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not claimed that toll charges in India are the lowest globally.

Statement

Details of proposals for pre-qualification for 8 Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) (Toll) projects under NHDP Phase-V

Sl. No.	Stretch	NH No.	No. of Bids Received
1.	Chennai-Tada	5	30
2.	Surat - Dahisar	8	19
3.	Gurgaon-Kotputli- Jaipur	8	21
4.	Chandikhol-Jagatpur- Bhubaneswar	5	27
5.	Delhi-Hapur	24	29
6.	Panipat-Jalandhar	1	18
7.	Chilikaluripet-Vijayawada-Elluru-Rajamundri	5	20
8.	Delhi-Agra	2	22
Total			186

*[Translation]***Construction of Road Over Bridges**

5616. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Railways for construction of road over bridges from the Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to enhance the said allocation of funds to Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The allocation of funds received from Central Road Fund by Railways for construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROB)/RUB out of the total fund earmarked for Railways during last three year are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Funds Received under CRF for ROB/RUB
2004-05	251.00
2005-06	410.81
2006-07	435.86

(b) The Railway's share from the Central Road Fund is fixed in accordance with formula laid down in Section 10 of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Retail Outlets on National Highways**

5617. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not cleared the proposals of the States of Haryana and Punjab regarding the sanction of retail outlets of public sector oil corporations on the National Highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The proposals for access permission to National Highways for retail outlets of oil corporations, which are found suitable as per prescribed guidelines, are recommended by National Highways Authority of India and approved by this Ministry.

Wayside Amenities on Golden Quadrilateral

5618. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI proposes to set up wayside amenities on the Golden Quadrilateral in line with international models;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the same; and

(c) the time by which the wayside amenities would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The wayside amenities would include the following facilities:

- (i) Eating place, drinking water and toilets;
- (ii) Dormitory for rest;
- (iii) Facility of telephone;
- (iv) Fueling facilities;
- (v) Sufficient parking space for different categories of vehicles segregating the parking for buses and trucks from car and other light vehicles;
- (vi) Repair shops (mechanical and electrical) and shops for spare parts;
- (vii) A kiosk for sundry items;

(viii) A space for spreading awareness about various government welfare programmes including first aid facility; and

(ix) Landscaping.

The wayside amenities at km. 24 and km. 78 on Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway are operational. In addition to above, wayside amenities at the following locations are under various stages of implementation:

- (i) Km 20.057 to Km 20.357 Right Hand Side (RHS) on NH-8 (Jaipur Bypass) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (ii) Km 20.432 to Km 20.732 Left Hand Side (LHS) on NH-8 (Jaipur Bypass) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (iii) Km 46.700 to Km 46.900 (LHS) on NH-4 in the State of Karnataka.
- (iv) Km 61.130 to Km 61.330 (LHS) on NH-7 in State of Tamil Nadu.
- (v) Km 528.200 on NH-2 in the State of West Bengal.
- (vi) Km 617.530 on NH-2 in the State of West Bengal.
- (vii) Km 170.243 to Km 170.661 on NH-76 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (viii) Km 213.425 to Km 213.725 on NH-5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ix) Km 285.396 to Km 285.656 on NH-5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) Km 355.575 to Km 355.890 on NH-5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) Km 81.0 on NH-5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) Km 18.425 to Km 18.575 on NH-2 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiii) Km 235.473 to Km 253.673 on NH-5 in the State of Orissa.
- (xiv) Km 305.225 to Km 305.375 on NH-5 in the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

Per Capita Average of NH in Jharkhand

5619. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita average of National Highways in the State of Jharkhand at present;

(b) the length of National Highways in kilometre repaired in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the total amount spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Length of National Highways per lakh population in Jharkhand is 6.7 km.

(b) and (c) Ordinary repair is taken up in entire NH network. Besides this from Maintenance & Repair funds, renewal in 178 km length of NHs had been done in Jharkhand during last three years. The amount spent under Maintenance and Repair (M&R) head during the last three years on NHs in Jharkhand was Rs. 49.32 crore.

[English]

GDP Ranking of India

5620. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is among the first ten countries of the world in terms of Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the rate at which their Gross Domestic Product has increased;

(c) whether despite having higher GDP, India's per capita income is very low as compared to these countries; and

(d) if so, the position of India in terms of its per capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) A document of the World Bank entitled "World Development Indicators 2006", ranks India at 11th position out of 195

countries, in terms of gross national income, and at 159th position in terms of per capita gross national income in the year 2004. The lower per capita income of India is on account of high population as compared to most of

the countries. A Statement on the gross national income and per capita gross national income for the first 11 countries ranked in terms of gross national income for the year 2004 is enclosed.

Statement

Gross National Income and Per capita Gross National Income for the year 2004

S. No.	Countries	Gross national income		Per capita gross national income	
		\$ billions 2004	Rank 2004	\$ 2004	Rank 2004
1.	United States	12,168.5	1	41,440	5
2.	Japan	4,734.3	2	37,050	9
3.	Germany	2,532.3	3	30,690	18
4.	United Kingdom	2,013.4	4	33,630	13
5.	China	1,938.0	5	1,500	129
6.	France	1,888.4	6	30,370	19
7.	Italy	1,513.1	7	26,280	28
8.	Spain	919.1	8	21,530	34
9.	Canada	905.0	9	28,310	21
10.	Mexico	704.9	10	6,790	70
11.	India	673.2	11	620	159

Source: World Development Indicators, 2006.

Note: Names and ranking of the countries are in terms of descending order of Gross National Income.

[Translation]

Issue of Bahadurshah Zafar's Grave

5621. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the intellectuals of India and Pakistan have urged the Government of India to bring back the grave of Bahadurshah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Bahadur Shah Zafar

Memorial Society in Delhi had, in 1949, proposed that the mortal remains of Bahadur Shah Zafar be transferred from Yangon to Delhi. Government have not received any proposal from Pakistani scholars in this regard.

(b) It was decided the proposal need not be pursued.

[English]

Financial Performance of NEHDC

5622. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Handicrafts and

Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) has been running at a loss;

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

(c) whether any other Central Government undertakings in the North East and Sikkim which are incurring losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Corporation has been incurring losses since its inception owing to various reasons which include managerial and procedural infirmities.

(c) and (d) There were ten Central Public Sector Enterprises functioning in the North Eastern States during 2005-06, of which four incurred losses. The details are as follows:

S.No.	Name of Enterprise	Loss (Rs. in lakh)
1.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC)	263
2.	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC)	110
3.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	1402
4.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation Ltd.	9978

(e) The steps being taken to make these corporations viable are as follows:

NEHHDC

- Sanction of funds for renovation of the showrooms for enhanced sales.
- Activation of the Common Facility Centre for Bamboo and wood-based products at Guwahati with assistance from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- Emphasis on aggressive marketing of North East Handicrafts & Handlooms through various means, including launching of a web-site, development of designs, arranging buyer-seller meets and a more proactive approach on the part of the management of NEHHDC.

NERAMAC

- Rationalisation of trading items by NERAMAC to get reasonable returns and the adoption of a proactive role by its management.
- Strengthening of backward linkages for trading items as well as for raw materials required for processing activities, through entering into

Memoranda of Undertaking (MoU) with Self Help Groups, farmer cooperatives/societies, etc.

- Diversification of Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant at Nalkata to produce other products, apart from pineapple juice concentrate, to make the unit operational for about 300 working days in a year.
- Setting up of a Cashew Nut processing unit at Mankachar in Assam.

Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Ltd.

Government have recently sanctioned a revival plan for this company.

Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation Ltd.

This company is making losses primarily because of low energy efficiency in the production of urea and inadequacy of gas for running the plant at 100% capacity utilization. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India have informed the DoNER Ministry that proposals for special dispensations to this company in terms of energy efficiency and mobilization of costs are under consideration with them so that this company avoids suffering cash losses.

*[Translation]***Four-laning of NH-12**

5623. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved conversion of Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawad National Highway No. 12 upto Madhya Pradesh border into four lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Four-laning of Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 is included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III A. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Jaipur-Tonk-Deoli section of NH-12 is in progress. Bids for consultancy work for feasibility study of Deoli-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 for implementation on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern are under evaluation. It is premature to indicate estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects at this stage.

There is no proposal for four-laning of Jhalawar - Madhya Pradesh Border section of NH-12.

*[English]***Favoured Destination for Dental Surgery**

5624. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India is fast becoming a favoured destination for dental surgery as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of facilities offered to the visiting dental patients in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness regarding dental diseases among the public and to boost dental education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Dental Council of India with the increase in standard of Dental Education India is becoming a favoured destination of dental surgery. All type of dental treatments are available in India on the same standard at cheaper cost as in advance countries. Low international air-fare along with plenty of tourist destinations in India is also favouring Dental Tourism. It is proposed to launch a Programme on Oral Health Care during the 11th Five Year Plan with focus on increasing public awareness thereby preventing the common risk factors associated with this disease.

Release of Fund to Medical College

5625. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has submitted a proposal for release of second instalment of grant-in-aid to Government Unani Medical College, Bangalore under State Model College Scheme on July 15, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal is still pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, by when final decision for release the amount is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A request for release of 150.00 lakhs has been received.

(c) and (d) The Utilisation Certificate and supporting documents for Rs. 150.00 lakhs released to the college towards first instalment in September, 2005 have not been received from the State Government so far.

*[Translation]***Condition of Roads in Madhya Pradesh**

5626. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways of Madhya Pradesh are in a bad shape;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has any scheme to improve the condition of these National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; 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) No Sir. National Highways in Madhya Pradesh are in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuing process. At present development works amounting to Rs.189 Crore have been taken up and these works are at different stages of progress. Besides this, four laning works have been taken up in 542 km, length by NHAI which are likely to be completed by the end of 2009.

Faulty Telephone Bills

5627. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of faulty telephone bills have been delivered in the rural areas of the country especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of officials found guilty in this regard alongwith the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/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) No, Sir. The cases of faulty telephone bills are not many as compared to the number of bills issued by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). In Uttar Pradesh, there is no such case.

(b) Details of number of case of faulty telephone bills during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No individual was found responsible.

(d) Standing instructions are there on faulty bills/complaints. These are re-iterated from time to time keep such incidences to the barest minimum.

Statement

Details of Cases of Faulty Telephone Bills during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of cases		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	166	561	983
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	106	15	9
6.	Gujarat	289	1161	1030

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	6	20	11
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Maharashtra and Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Orissa	199	414	947
20.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Rajasthan	Nil	54	578
22.	Tamil Nadu	252	88	23
23.	Pondicherry	Nil	9	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil

*[English]***Gujarat Fishermen in Pak Jails**

5628. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs from Gujarat had met the Prime Minister in connection with the release of fishermen of Gujarat languishing in Pakistan jails; and

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

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

(b) Government have consistently taken up the issue of Indian fishermen with the Government of Pakistan at various levels. 258 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan since March 2006 till date. Prime Minister of India and Pakistan Prime Minister met on 4 April 2007 on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in New Delhi. Pakistan Prime Minister assured that Pakistan would take early action to return fishing boats seized from Indian fishermen to their owners. The two leaders also agreed to review the status of each other's citizens held prisoners in the two countries.

*[Translation]***Computerisation of Database in Post Offices**

5629. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computers installed for registration of registered posts in the post offices in the country particularly in Bihar during the last three years, State-wise, location-wise; and

(b) the places where computers are proposed to be installed in the country during the current year, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 8263 Post Offices across the country including 293 Post Offices in Bihar have been provided with Multi Purpose Counter Machines i.e. computers for registration of registered posts in the last 3 years. Number of Post Offices provided with computers in the country, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement I. Number of Computers installed for registration of registered posts in the Post Offices in Bihar in last three years, location-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement II.

(b) List of 463 Post Offices where computers are proposed to be installed in the country during the current year, State-wise and location-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement III.

Statement I

*Number of Post offices provided with computers in the country,
State-wise, during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Circle	Year 2004-05	Year 2005-06	Year 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	170	282	42
2.	Assam	110	0	197
3.	Bihar	57	70	166
4.	Chhattisgarh	33	113	9
5.	Delhi	150	0	128
6.	Gujarat	131	190	206
7.	Haryana	40	116	14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	48	72	8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	68	0	14
10.	Jharkhand	33	71	22
11.	Karnataka	137	260	114
12.	Kerala	173	372	63
13.	Madhya Pradesh	72	110	34
14.	Maharashtra	252	612	65

1	2	3	4	5
15.	North-East	65	0	99
16.	Orissa	60	119	76
17.	Punjab	54	185	16
18.	Rajasthan	163	96	24
19.	Tamil Nadu	225	623	52
20.	Uttar Pradesh	114	74	580
21.	Uttarakhand	31	93	14
22.	West Bengal	186	354	136
Total		2372	3812	2079

NB: Northeast Circle includes the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland.

West Bengal Circle includes State of Sikkim.

Maharashtra Circle includes the State of Goa.

Statement II

Number of computers installed for registration of registered posts in the post offices in Bihar during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, location-wise

Sl.No.	Post office/ location	No of computers installed
1	2	3
1.	Amarpur	1
2.	Anandpur	1
3.	Ander	1
4.	Anisabad	1
5.	Ara Chowck	1
6.	Ara Kutchery	1
7.	Araria	1
8.	Areraj	1
9.	Arrah HO	2
10.	Arwal	1
11.	ASC Center	1
12.	Asthawan	1
13.	Aurangabad HO	2

1	2	3
14.	B.C.Road.	1
15.	B.O. Refinery	1
16.	B. Rajdham	1
17.	B.S.E.B. Patna	1
18.	Bachawara	1
19.	Bagha	1
20.	Bahadurganj	1
21.	Bahadurpur Housing Colony	1
22.	Bahera	1
23.	Balei	1
24.	Bajpatti	1
25.	Bakhra	1
26.	Bakhri Bazar	1
27.	Bakhtiyarpur	1
28.	Baniapur	1
29.	Banka HO	2
30.	Bankipur HO	2
31.	Banmankhi	1
32.	Barahia	1

1	2	3
33.	Barauni	1
34.	Barbigha	1
35.	Bargania	1
36.	Barh	1
37.	Barh RS	1
38.	Barharia	1
39.	Bariarpur	1
40.	Barquli	1
41.	Barsoihghat	1
42.	Basantpur	1
43.	Basopatti	1
44.	Bataganj	1
45.	Beagampur	1
46.	Begusarai HO	2
47.	Beheri	1
48.	Belaganj	1
49.	Belhourri	1
50.	Belsand	1
51.	Benipatti	1
52.	Benipur	1
53.	Bettiah HO	2
54.	Bhabua	1
55.	Bhagalpur HO	2
56.	Bhagalpur City	1
57.	Bhagwanpur	1
58.	Bidupur	1
59.	Bihari Ganj	1
60.	Biharsharif HO	2
61.	Bihia	1
62.	Bihpur	1
63.	Bihta	1
64.	Bikram	1
65.	Bikramganj	1

1	2	3
66.	Biraul	1
67.	Birpur	1
68.	Biounsi	1
69.	BPSC	1
70.	Brahmpur	1
71.	Buniadganj	1
72.	Buxar HO	2
73.	C.R.Building	1
74.	CDA	1
75.	Chakla	1
76.	Chapra HO	2
77.	Chiraiyatand	1
78.	Daimia Nagar	1
79.	Dalsinghsarai	1
80.	Danapur Cantt	1
81.	Daraunda	1
82.	Darbhanga HO	2
83.	Darbhanga Medical College	1
84.	Darul Mallick	1
85.	Daud Nagar	1
86.	Daudpur	1
87.	Dehri-on-son	1
88.	Deo	1
89.	Deoria	1
90.	Desari	1
91.	Dhaka	1
92.	Dholi	1
93.	Digha	1
94.	Digha Ghat	1
95.	Dighwara	1
96.	Diwan Mohalla	1
97.	Dumraon	1
98.	Ekangersarai	1

1	2	3
99.	Ekma	1
100.	Fathepur	1
101.	Fatwa	1
102.	Forbisganj	1
103.	Garhara	1
104.	Garkha	1
105.	Gamokha	1
106.	Gaya HO	2
107.	Gaya R.S	1
108.	Ghoghardiha	1
109.	Gopalganj HO	2
110.	Gulabbag	1
111.	Gulzarbagh	1
112.	Guru Bazar	1
113.	H. Kharagpur	1
114.	H. Bilaspur	1
115.	H.S. Mills	1
116.	Hajipur HO	2
117.	Hajipur Industrial Area	1
118.	Harnaut	1
119.	Hasua	1
120.	Hatwa	1
121.	Hazrat Sain.	1
122.	Hilsa	1
123.	Hotel Republic	1
124.	Indian Nation	1
125.	Ishipur	1
126.	Islampur	1
127.	Jagdishpur (Bhagalpur)	1
128.	Jagdishpur (Bhojpur)	1
129.	Jainagar	1
130.	Jalalpur	1
131.	Jamal Road	1

1	2	3
132.	Jamalpur	1
133.	Jamalpur Gogri	1
134.	Jamui HO	2
135.	Janakpur Road	1
136.	Jandaha	1
137.	Jehanabad HO	2
138.	Jhajha	1
139.	Jhanjharpur	1
140.	Jhanjharpur RS	1
141.	Jogbani	1
142.	Kadam Kuan	1
143.	Kahalgaon	1
144.	Kamtaul	1
145.	Kanti	1
146.	Karaowl	1
147.	Kasba	1
148.	Kashipur	1
149.	Katihar HO	2
150.	Katri Sarai	1
151.	Keoti Runway	1
152.	Kesaria	1
153.	Khagaria	1
154.	Khagaul	1
155.	Khajauli	1
156.	Khizersarai	1
157.	Khushrupur	1
158.	Kishanganj	1
159.	Kishanganj Bazar	1
160.	Kudra	1
161.	L.B.S. Naga	1
162.	Laheriasarai HO	2
163.	Lakhisarai	1
164.	Lakhminia	1

1	2	3
165.	Laiganj	1
166.	LIC Patna	1
167.	Lohianagar	1
168.	Machua Toli	1
169.	Madhepur (Madhepura)	1
170.	Madhepur (Madhubani)	1
171.	Madhubani HO	2
172.	Magadh University	1
173.	Mahendru	1
174.	Mahnar	1
175.	Mahraiganj	1
176.	Mahua	1
177.	Mairwa	1
178.	Maner	1
179.	Manihari	1
180.	Manjhaulia RS	1
181.	Manjhual	1
182.	Mansi	1
183.	Marhorah HO	2
184.	Masaurhi	1
185.	Maarakh	1
186.	Mehai	1
187.	Mirganj	1
188.	Mirjapur Jandaur	1
189.	MIT Muzaffarpur	1
190.	Mithapur	1
191.	Mohania	1
192.	Mokama	1
193.	Mokamah Ghat	1
194.	Motihari HO	2
195.	Motihari Court	1
196.	Motipur	1
197.	Mukhudumpur	1

1	2	3
198.	Munger HO	2
199.	Murliganj	1
200.	Muzaffarpur HO	2
201.	Nabinagar	1
202.	Nagra	1
203.	Naraipur	1
204.	Narhan	1
205.	Narkatiaganj	1
206.	Nasiriganj	1
207.	Nathnagar	1
208.	Naubatpur	1
209.	Naugachia	1
210.	Nawada HO	2
211.	Naya Tola	1
212.	Nayatola	1
213.	Neora	1
214.	Nirmali	1
215.	Obra	1
216.	Pakri Barawan	1
217.	Paliganj	1
218.	Panchgachia	1
219.	Panchrukhi	1
220.	Parihar	1
221.	Parsa	1
222.	Parsagarh	1
223.	Parwalpur	1
224.	Pattiputra	1
225.	Patna City	1
226.	Patna Collectorate	1
227.	Patna GPO	4
228.	Patna High Court	1
229.	Patna Medical College Hospital	1
230.	Patna Sectt.	1

1	2	3
231.	Patna University	1
232.	Patori	1
233.	Phulwari sharif	1
234.	Piero	1
235.	Pirpainti	1
236.	Punpun	1
237.	Purnea HO	2
238.	Pusa	1
239.	R. Factory	1
240.	Rafiganj	1
241.	Raghunathpur	1
242.	Rajendra Nagar	1
243.	Rajgir	1
244.	Ram Nagar	1
245.	Ramgarhwa	1
246.	Ramna, Muzaffarpur	1
247.	Raxual	1
248.	Righa	1
249.	Rosera	1
250.	Runni Saidpur	1
251.	S.M. Mills	1
252.	Sabour	1
253.	Sadaquat Asharam	1
254.	Sahabad Distt Board	1
255.	Saharsa HO	2
256.	Sahebpur Kania	1
257.	Sakari	1
258.	Samastipur HO	2
259.	Sarai	1
260.	Sasaram HO	2
261.	Shahpur Patti	1
262.	Sheikhpura	1

1	2	3
263.	Sheohar, Sitamarhi	1
264.	Sherghati	1
265.	Silout	1
266.	Simri Bakhtiyarpur	1
267.	Singheshwar	1
268.	Singhia	1
269.	Sitalpur	1
270.	Sitamarhi HO	2
271.	Sitamarhi Bazar	1
272.	Siwan HO	2
273.	Sohsarai	1
274.	Sonepur	1
275.	Sri Krishna Puri	1
276.	Sultanganj	1
277.	Sultanganj Bazar	1
278.	Supaul	1
279.	Surajgarha	1
280.	Sersand	1
281.	T N B college	1
282.	Tajpur	1
283.	Taraiya	1
284.	Tarapur	1
285.	Teghra	1
286.	Tekari	1
287.	Thakurganj Bazar	1
288.	Turkaulia	1
289.	Usari	1
290.	Vidyapati Nagar	1
291.	Vidyut Parishad	1
292.	Warsaliganj	1
293.	Zeradai	1

N.B.: H.O. denotes Head Post office

Statement III

Post offices where computers are proposed to be installed in the country during the current year, State-wise, location-wise

Sl.No.	Post office/location
1	2
A. Assem State: 317 Post offices	
1.	Baghmara Bazar
2.	3harihat
3.	Bajali College
4.	Barpeta Bazar
5.	Bhella
6.	Jalahaghat
7.	Kalgachia
8.	Kakilabari Farm
9.	Mandia
10.	Mayanbari
11.	Nitya Nanda
12.	Patacharkuchi
13.	Santinagar
14.	Simlaguri
15.	Thakurbazar
16.	Assam Syntex
17.	Baganpara
18.	Banagram
19.	Banekuchi
20.	Bangaon
21.	Barimakha
22.	Bartola
23.	Bidyapur
24.	Chowk Bazar
25.	Dhanbil
26.	Dhoomni
27.	Ghagrapar

1	2	3
28.	Gopalbazar	
29.	Haribhanga	
30.	Jagara	
31.	Koithalkuchi	
32.	Kalag	
33.	Kamarkuchi	
34.	Karia	
35.	Kazipara	
36.	Khatabari	
37.	Kumarikata	
38.	Makhiballa	
39.	Milanpur	
40.	Morowa	
41.	Mukalmua	
42.	Nagriju	
43.	Nij Dhamdhama	
44.	Rampur	
45.	Sanekuchi	
46.	Solmara	
47.	Thamna	
48.	A.P Mills	
49.	Agomani	
50.	Agia	
51.	A.M. Co Road	
52.	Alomganj	
53.	Bhowraguri	
54.	Boitamari /	
55.	Chapor	
56.	Dotma	
57.	Dhubi Bazar	
58.	Dingdinga	
59.	Dhupdhara	
60.	Fakirganj	

1	2
61.	Jaleswar
62.	Jogighopa
63.	Kachangaon
64.	Manikpur
65.	N.T. Bonagaigaon
66.	Patiladaha
67.	Rangjuli
68.	Rajapara
69.	Srirampur
70.	Salmara North
71.	Serlanguri
72.	Sidli
73.	Santinagar
74.	Sal South
75.	Tamarhat
76.	Shakti Ashram
77.	Darrangiri
78.	Fekamari
79.	Boro Bazar
80.	Runi Khata
81.	Choraikhola
82.	Bengtol
83.	Barpara
84.	Bagribari
85.	Matia
86.	Damra
87.	Barkhola
88.	Bhagabazar
89.	Bekpar
90.	Assam University
91.	C.R. Avenue
92.	Dalu
93.	Derby

1	2
94.	Dewan
95.	Fulertal
96.	Hospital Road
97.	Jaraitola Bazar
98.	Jirighat
99.	Kabuganj Bazar
100.	Kumbhir
101.	Kumbhigam
102.	Madhurbond
103.	Motinagar
104.	Narsingpur
105.	Rongpur
106.	Silcuri
107.	Sonabarighat
108.	Srikona
109.	Salgonga
110.	Silchur Court
111.	Tarapur Pt VII
112.	Aggumi
113.	Bamunigaon
114.	Barduar
115.	Bezara
116.	Digaru
117.	Darkuchi
118.	Hengrabari
119.	Hahim Bazar
120.	Indrapur
121.	IIT Guwahati
122.	Jalukbari
123.	Charghuli
124.	Khetri
125.	Kukumara
126.	Kulhati

1	2
127.	Lachit Nagar
128.	Maharipara
129.	Narayani
130.	Pathar Quarry
131.	Pachim Samaria
132.	Rampur
133.	Rani
134.	Singra
135.	Soneswar
136.	Borbam
137.	Khowanh Ghat
138.	Naoholia
139.	Panchai
140.	Machkhowa
141.	Simen Chapori
142.	Sissiborgaon
143.	Badati
144.	Bhogpur Chariali
145.	Islamgaon
146.	Lilabari A/F
147.	Moidumia
148.	Panigaon
149.	Pathalipahar
150.	Pathalipam
151.	Vivekananda Road
152.	Haflong PTC
153.	Harangajao
154.	Badarpur Bazar
155.	Baraigram
156.	Bazarghat
157.	Bazaricherra Bazar
158.	Langting
159.	Charbazar

1	2
160.	Hatikhira
161.	Isabeel
162.	Kaliganj Bazar
163.	Karimganj Station Rd.
164.	Kayasthagram
165.	Mahisashan
166.	Subhash Nagar
167.	Tilabazar
168.	Jalalpur
169.	Barjalenga
170.	Badarpurghat
171.	Jaffirbond
172.	Kalibari Bazar
173.	Jamirabazar
174.	Mnnakandighat
175.	Katirail
176.	Ratabari
177.	Anilgarh
178.	Olivacherra
179.	Silchar Road
180.	Rajyeswarpur
181.	Itachali
182.	Baraguri
183.	Digboichariali
184.	Dinjan
185.	Durgabari
186.	Hansara
187.	Hijiguri
188.	Jagun
189.	Kundil
190.	Makumpathar
191.	Bhuragaon
192.	Muliabari

1	2
193.	Netaji Road
194.	Parbotia
195.	Pengree
196.	Philobari
197.	Prakashbazar
198.	Rangagora
199.	Rupaisiding
200.	Sadiya
201.	Sripuria
202.	Sukreting
203.	Tipong
204.	Bahana
205.	Bhogdoimugh
206.	Chengeligao
207.	Dakhin Pat Satra
208.	Dhalarsatra
209.	Gotongga
210.	Jengraimukh
211.	JEC
212.	Kakilamukh
213.	Kakajan
214.	Kharikatia
215.	Korokatali
216.	Lahdoigarh Chariali
217.	Miacharhat
218.	Naali Dhekia Juli
219.	ONGC Jorhat
220.	Tarajan
221.	Amguri Halowating
222.	Charing
223.	Desangmugh

1	2
224.	Geleky
225.	Hahchara
226.	Joy Sagar
227.	Kaloo Gaon
228.	Konwarpur
229.	Lakwah
230.	Lakwah Rly. Station
231.	Nemuguri
232.	Nital Pukhuri
233.	Phukan Nagar
234.	Rangpur Nagar
235.	Santak
236.	Teok Ghat
237.	Dhekial
238.	Kamarbanha Ali
239.	Kamar Gaon
240.	Kaziranga National Park
241.	Leteku Jan
242.	Maheema
243.	Oating
244.	Police Training College, Dergaon
245.	Merapani
246.	Nematighat
247.	Numaligarh Refinery Project
248.	Dergaon Chariali
249.	Ambagan
250.	Baligaon
251.	Kuwartol
252.	Laharighat
253.	Missa
254.	Nonoi

1	2
255.	Salona
256.	Bakalighat
257.	Bokajan CF
258.	Baithalangso
259.	Dokmoka
260.	Dhansiripar
261.	Donkamokam
262.	Diphu Govt. College
263.	Hamren
264.	Hoowraghat
265.	Jogijan Bazar
266.	Kherani
267.	Manja
268.	Murazar Bazar
269.	Nilbagan
270.	Sankardev Nagar
271.	Nagaon Girls' College
272.	Marowwary- Patty
273.	Morikalong
274.	Alisinga
275.	Borjuli
276.	Bediti
277.	Behali
278.	Besseria
279.	Bihaguri
280.	Bindukuri
281.	B.N. Ghat
282.	Darrang Panbari
283.	Dekargaona
284.	Ghoramari
285.	Gingia

1	2
286.	Hazarapar
287.	Howajan
288.	Kacharigaon
289.	Kalahari
290.	Koliabhomra
291.	Kaliban
292.	Karsontola
293.	Ketekibari
294.	Khalihamari
295.	Mahabhoirab
296.	Mijikajan
297.	Naharbari
298.	Napam
299.	Pabhoi
300.	Panchmile
301.	Sirajuli
302.	Telenbari
303.	Thelamara
304.	Atterikhat
305.	Bhairabkunda
306.	Bhakatpara
307.	Deomormoi
308.	Dhula
309.	Duni
310.	Harisingha
311.	Kopati
312.	Lalpul Bazar
313.	Orang
314.	Pathorighat
315.	Purani Tangla
316.	Rowta
317.	Dalgaon

B. North East Circle: 131 Post offices

*(North East Circle includes the States of Meghalaya,
Mizoram Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh,
Tripura and Nagaland)*

Sl.No.	Post office/Location
1	2
1.	Basar
2.	Longding
3.	Calaktang
4.	Jang
5.	Lumla
6.	Bhalukpong
7.	Tanga Market
8.	Hill Top
9.	Mebo
10.	R.K. Mission
11.	Palin
12.	Bamderdewa
13.	Namong
14.	Likabali
15.	Mechuka
16.	Vijoyanagar
17.	Bordumsa
18.	Tuting
19.	Anini
20.	Hayuliang
21.	Sunpura
22.	Ritbong
23.	Laitkor
24.	Mawlai

1	2
25.	Sumer
26.	Umsmomp
27.	Balat SO
28.	Bholagang Bazar
29.	Pynursla
30.	Cherra Bazar
31.	Shella
32.	Mawsynram
33.	Mawkyrwat
34.	Smit
35.	Mawiong
36.	Mawphlang
37.	Umsaw
38.	Thadlaskein
39.	Ladrymbai
40.	Aralmile
41.	Bagmara
42.	Mahendraganj
43.	Nangwalbibra
44.	Resubelpara
45.	Tikrikilla
46.	Rongjeng
47.	Mendipathar
48.	Rongra
49.	Ampati
50.	Manipur University
51.	Porompat
52.	Senapati

1	2
53.	Temenglong
54.	Tulihal
55.	Bilkhawthlir
56.	Vairengte
57.	Aibawk
58.	Lengpui Airkport
59.	Doyang
60.	Peren
61.	Chizami
62.	Chumukedima
63.	Chozumba
64.	Chiechama
65.	Plutsero
66.	Tseminyu
67.	Zalukie
68.	Meluri
69.	Akuluto
70.	Tizit
71.	Chamamg
72.	Mangkolemba
73.	Kiphire
74.	Changtongla
75.	Chuchuyimlang
76.	Impur
77.	Longkhim
78.	Onkpangkong
79.	Tuli
80.	Zunheboto

1	2
81.	Nagimimora
82.	Papernager
83.	Longleng
84.	Noklak
85.	T.T.C.
86.	T.V. Sava
87.	Khayerkpur
88.	Nirjuli
89.	T.E. College
90.	Gakulpur
91.	Gargee
92.	Muhuripur
93.	Bankar
94.	Rishyumukh
95.	Anandpur
96.	Kulaibazar
97.	Halfiongcheria
98.	Trikkuar Damcheria
99.	Pecharthai
100.	Jampui
101.	Dasdabazar
102.	Chailengta
103.	Panichowki Bazar
104.	Salema
105.	Paiturbazar
106.	Sonamukhi
107.	Sarma
108.	Manikbhander

1	2
109.	Kanchanbari
110.	Monkhola
111.	Bawnkawn
112.	Bynghmuh
113.	Chawnte
114.	Darlawn
115.	Tlabung
116.	Hnahthial
117.	Kawnpui
118.	Zawinuam
119.	Lungdar
120.	Lungsen
121.	Ngopa
122.	Phaileng W
123.	Reiek
124.	Sairang
125.	Sangau
126.	S. Khawbung
127.	Thingdawl
128.	Thingsai
129.	Thingsulthlah
130.	Tuipang
131.	Zotlang
C. Siklhm State: 15 Post offices	
1.	Chungthang
2.	Deorall
3.	Dickachu
4.	Gangtok Bazar

1	2
5.	Majitar
6.	Melli Bazar
7.	Pakyong
8.	Pelling
9.	Rajbhawan
10.	Rangli Bazar
11.	Ranipool
12.	Ravangla
13.	Rhenock
14.	Sichey Gaon
15.	Tashiling

Total : 317+131+15 = 463

[English]

Mobile and Broadband Service of BSNL

5630. SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

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

(a) whether mobile and broadband services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are mostly unavailable and have largely failed to reach out to large parts of Assam especially in the strategic districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to augment the BSNL mobile and broadband services to all the districts and the sub-divisional headquarters of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is presently

available in all the District Head Quarters and in 47 out of 49 Sub-Divisional District Headquarters (SDHQs) of Assam. All SDHQs in Dibrugarh and Tinsukhia are covered with GSM based Cellular Mobile Service of BSNL.

Broadband service of BSNL is presently available in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Silchar, Tinsukhia, Dispur, Duliajan and Nagaon.

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

(c) The GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL is available in 606 District Headquarters (DHQs) out of total 607 DHQs and in 2235 Sub-Divisional District Headquarters (SDHQs) out of 2317 SDHQs in its Licensed Service Areas (LSAs). Action has been initiated to cover the remaining areas during the current financial year, except those which may be falling under the no service/ buffer zone near International border.

BSNL has plans to provide Broadband Services in all District Headquarters and important SDHQs during the current year in its LSAs. Remaining SDHQs are to be covered during the period 2008 to 2010 progressively.

[Translation]

Control on the Production of Captive Coal Blocks

5631. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government exercises any control on the production of Captive Coal Blocks entrusted to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the rules framed by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any demand has been made for imposing more tax and recovery of royalty on production and marketing of coal by the private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mining of coal from captive coal blocks allocated to private companies would also be subject to the same legal and regulatory framework as is applicable in the case of public sector coal mining companies. Coal mining would be subject to, *inter alia*, the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, the Mines Act, the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, the Coal Mines Regulations, the Mineral Concession Rules, and all other mineral, forest, environment, and labour laws governing the mining activity.

(c) and (d) There are suggestions received from a Member of Parliament to the effect that coal blocks allocated to private sector should be subjected to higher rates of royalty and taxes, based on production of coal.

(e) No decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

**Proposal for Central Legislation
in Medical College**

5632. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for Central Legislation on admission to Medical Colleges in different States in the light of the Supreme Court judgement in TMA Pai case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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) to (c) Yes Sir. In view of the Supreme Court judgement in the TMA Pai case along with judgement in the case of P.A. Inamdar Vs. State of Maharashtra and the requests received from several

sources including Government of Maharashtra, the Central Government, after considering the issue in detail, has drafted "The Private Medical Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Bill 2005" for regulating admission process and fee structure in private medical institute and circulated among the states. The Bill has not yet been finalized.

India's Financial Assistance to Neighbouring Countries

5633. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government is providing any financial assistance to the neighbouring countries and other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to those countries during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to increase the assistance during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Ministry of External Affairs provides financial assistance to neighbouring and other developing countries under its 'Aid' Budget,

(b) Details of such assistance provided to the neighbouring countries and other developing countries are as below:

Year	Rs. in Crores
2004-05	1347.61
2005-06	1492.82
2006-07	1286.74

(c) Yes.

(d) A budgetary provision of Rs. 1567.50 crore has been made for 2007-08 for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

US Congress Report on Pakistani Terrorism

5634. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Service of US Congress has submitted any report in regard to Pakistan Sponsored Terrorist Activities in America and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any contradiction between the statement of American President and the aforesaid report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In March 2007, the Congressional Research Service of the U.S. Congress brought out a report titled *Pakistan and Terrorism: A Summary*, which provides a review of issues related to Pakistan and terrorism, especially in the context of U.S. interests, policy goals and relevant assistance.

(c) and (d) The American President has made several statements with reference to Pakistan. The U.S. has designated Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally in 2004 and considers her a vital ally in the war on terror.

[*English*]

Four Laning of Baihata-Bandardowa Section of NH

5635. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the four laning of Baihata-Bandardowa section of NH 52 as part of the State Capital connectivity of NHDP;

(b) the details of the agency entrusted, total source of funding, allocation made for the project for 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Four laning of Balhata Charali-Banderdewa section of NH 52 in the State of Assam has been approved by the Government in April, 2007 for being taken up under National Highways Development Programme-III and National Highways Authority of India has been entrusted with its implementation on Build Operate Transfer basis. Funding of the project is proposed on public private partnership basis. The National Highways Authority of India has taken action for preparation of Detailed Project Report and it is too early to indicate total outlay of the project. Since the project is at pre-construction stage, no specific allocation has been made for this project during 2007-08.

(c) The project is targeted for completion by December, 2013.

Campaign for AIDS by Cricket Teams

5636. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Cricket Council (ICC) has sought the help of players and officials from each participating team in the World Cup 2007 by wearing the Red-and-Blue AIDS campaign Ribbon to support UNICEF funded HIV/AIDS programme throughout the Caribbean;

(b) if so, whether the permission of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials has been obtained by the ICC;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which the campaign has proved to be a successful campaign?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have informed Government that at the request of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to nominate a player to participate in the UNICEF-funded HIV/AIDS Programme in the Caribbean, the BCCI nominated Shri Sachin Tendulkar, who participated in the programme along with cricketers from five other countries. It has been reported that the programme was a success.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Ayurvedic Universities

5637. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the new Ayurvedic Universities set up by the Government during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up any new Ayurvedic University in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said University is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Central Government does not set up Ayurvedic Universities or Medical Universities which are set up under State Acts.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of wrong information under RTI Act

5638. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (PPG) have received representations on supply of wrong information under the RTI Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has looked into the matter;

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to make RTI more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) to (f) The Act provides for making complaints to the Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions and also for making of two appeals, first to the officer senior in the rank to the Public Information Officer and second to the concerned Information Commission. Thus, the Act has an inherent mechanism for dealing with the cases of supply of wrong information.

Impetus to various Central Schemes

5639. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to convene a Conference of District Magistrates/Collectors with a view to giving impetus to various Central Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had received objections to the said proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not any plan to convene Conference of District Magistrates/Collectors with a view to giving impetus to various Central Schemes. Such information from other Ministries that might be concerned also does not reveal any proposal to convene such a Conference.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

ADB offer to upgrade Hilly Roads

5640. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) has offered to upgrade hilly roads to enhance road safety;

(b) if so, the details of such roads, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the kind and amount of assistance offered; and

(d) 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Four Laning of Road in Kanyakumari district

5641. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land survey has been finalized for the proposed four laning in Kanyakumari District,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there were objections and grievances raised by the owners of the lands;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has considered their representations and cleared their apprehension; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Land survey has been finalized for proposed four-laning of NH-7 in Kanyakumari District as a part of North-South Corridor except for certain additional land required for easing of curves and improvement of junction.

(c) to (f) During the process of land acquisition, certain objections were raised, which were duly heard/considered by the Competent Authority as per NH Act. Land was acquired subsequently.

[Translation]

Private Dental Colleges

5642. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the private dental colleges functioning in the country;

(b) whether most of the dental colleges are functioning without fulfilling the prescribed criteria;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the action being taken by the Government against such medical colleges;

(e) whether the Dental Council of India has suggested to the Government for imposing ban on the setting up of new dental colleges and to improve system/working of the old colleges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) At present 209 private dental colleges are functioning in the country. State-wise number of dental colleges in private sector is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The standard of dental education is maintained by ensuring that such permission for opening of new dental colleges/renewal of permission by Central Government is granted only after ensuring that the colleges have the required infrastructure as per the Regulations and through periodic inspections by Dental Council of India as per the Statute.

(e) and (f) The DCI had made a proposal for imposing moratorium on opening of new dental colleges in the country for a period of 5 years. However, the Central Government has not agreed to the said proposal, keeping in view the fact that permissions for opening of new Dental Colleges are granted only on compliance of the requirements laid down in the Regulations and the need for more dentists to ensure better oral health.

Statement

State-wise details of Private Dental Colleges

State	Number of Colleges	BDS Seats
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	18	1610
Bihar	6	280

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	4	400
Gujarat	7	480
Haryana	10	860
Himachal Pradesh	4	280
Jammu and Kashmir	1	100
Karnataka	12	2840
Kerala	14	750
Madhya Pradesh	10	870
Maharashtra	24	1990
Orissa	3	210
Pondicherry	1	100
Punjab	9	720
Rajasthan	10	910
Tamil Nadu	17	1380
Uttar Pradesh	26	2510
Uttaranchal	2	150
West Bengal	1	100
Total	209	16540

[English]

Incentives to Private Companies Working in RBH

5643. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give incentives in the form of soft loans/tax soaps to the private companies partnering in the Rural Business Hubs (RBH);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering a tie-up between RBH and Distributed Generation (DG) and Rural

Electrification Scheme being complimentary to each other; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. RBHs are not being incentivized by giving tax breaks or soft loans, but by converging extant schemes of State and Central Governments, as well as financing institutions/banks and promotional bodies, to promote integrated business relationships between decentralized rural production units and larger corporate entities through the intermediation of the Panchayats.

(c) and (d) The Electricity Act, 2003 enjoined the Central Government to formulate a National Policy for rural electrification and for the management of local distribution in rural areas through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) or franchisees. The Rural Electrification Policy, approved in 2006, stated that electricity has been recognized as a basic human need and further that a village would be classified as electrified based on a Certificate issued by the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat shall certify and confirm the electrified status of the village as on 31st March each year. Panchayati Raj Institutions would have both a supervisory as well as advisory role in rural electrification and electricity supply. The State Government could encourage Panchayati Raj Institutions to take on the responsibility of franchisees as and when they are deemed ready to undertake contractual obligations, raise resources and discharge associated legal responsibilities. Panchayati Raj Institutions will have an important role in overseeing the delivery of services by franchisees in accordance with their identified responsibility, in an advisory capacity. Under the Franchisee Guidelines of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana 2006, Panchayati Raj Institutions are perceived as the primary interface for communication and advocacy of a participatory approach towards rural distribution management. With these provisions in view, a series of MoUs have already been entered into in the State of Karnataka between Panchayati Raj Institutions and electricity generation and distribution companies (both public and private sector), to promote Rural Business Hubs.

Review of Panchayati Raj System

5644. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the meetings of the various Ministries called by the Union Government during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 for the reviewing the Panchayati Raj system alongwith the dates of these meetings;

(b) the details of the decisions taken in these meetings;

(c) the details of the decisions out of the above which could not be implemented; and

(d) the details of assessment of the success of the Panchayati Raj in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) After the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was set up, a Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of rural development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj" was organized in New Delhi on 29-30 June 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IX A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as the agenda for discussions by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. In this Conference, a decision was taken to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj between July, 2004 and December, 2004. A set of around 150 action points was evolved by consensus and adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur in December, 2004. Consultative mechanisms have been set up by the Government of India and State Governments to follow up the Round Table Conferences which comprise a Council

of Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and a Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and Panchayati Raj Secretaries under the Chairmanship of the Union Secretary (Panchayati Raj).

Details of the Round Table Conferences and other meetings of Ministry of Panchayati Raj with the Ministers for reviewing the Panchayati Raj System are as follows:

Meetings	Invitees	Date	Location	Details of decisions/ discussions in these meetings
1	2	3	4	5
First Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/ UTs.	24th and 25th July, 2004	Kolkata	Effective devolution comprising functions, functionaries and finances as well as Gram Sabhas
Second Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs.	28th and 29th August, 2004	Mysore	Planning and implementation including the question of parallel bodies, Rural Business Hubs
Third Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs.	23rd and 24th September, 2004	Raipur	Reservations in Panchayati Raj comprising Scheduled Tribes (including implementation of PESA), Scheduled Castes and Women.
Fourth Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs.	7th and 8th October, 2004	Chandigarh	Panchayati Raj in Union Territories and Panchayati Raj Jurisprudence.
Fifth Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs	28th and 29th October, 2004	Srinagar	Annual Reports on the State of the Panchayats (including preparation of a Devolution Index)
Sixth Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs	27th and 28th November, 2004	Guwahati	Panchayati Raj elections and audits
Seventh Round Table	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs	17th, 18th and 19th December, 2004	Jaipur	Capacity building and training of Panchayati Raj Institutions, IT enabled e-Governance for Panchayats

1	2	3	4	5
First Meeting of Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs	5th and 6th August, 2005	Kochi, Kerala	Progress on activity mapping was reviewed. A joint statement of conclusion was as signed at the end of the meeting regarding fixation of milestones in activity mapping, training programmes for Panchayat representatives as well as officials of line departments to sensitize them to the scope and implications of devolution, creation of Panchayat Sector in State Budgets to operationalise the transfer of schemes to Panchayats by 2006-2007.
Second Meeting of Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj	Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the Union and State/UTs.	15th and 16th June, 2006	Bhubaneswar	In this Meeting the main focus was on decentralised Planning. The participating Ministers indicated the implementation status in their respective states on Activity Mapping, Creation of Panchayati Sector in State Budgets, fiscal devolution and constitution of District Planning Committees.
Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj of States.	Chief Secretaries and Secretary Panchayati Raj of the States.	25th April, 2007	New Delhi	Detailed discussion was held on the BRGF guidelines and the Rural Business Hubs (RBH).
Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council.	Chief Ministers and Ministers of State of Panchayati Raj	12th January 2007	New Delhi	Activity mapping, DPCs, Implementation of PESA and BRGF.
Central Advisory Committee	Experts in the field of Panchayati Raj	5th February 2007	New Delhi	Discussion was on Activity mapping and devolution of fund, function and functionaries.

(c) The performance across the States in taking appropriate measures for streamlining and empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions for implementation of the decisions taken during these meetings has been uneven. The Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj in their second meeting at Bhubaneswar observed that in many states, the preliminary task of Activity Mapping across the three levels of Panchayats has been completed, however progress across States in the constitution of District Planning Committees has been uneven and somewhat slow. With a view to interacting with Panchayats and carrying out a review with authorities concerned of the progress in implementing the points for action mutually agreed to in the Round Tables, a process of visiting the States and UTs at the level of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been initiated. Eighteen States and three Union Territories have been covered so far, including Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Each visit is concluded with a Statement of Conclusions jointly signed with the Chief Minister of the State concerned, laying out the points of action on which the State would move to operationalise the recommendations of the Round Tables. Most of these action points revolve around follow up measures on activity mapping, matching transfer of funds and functionaries, creation of Panchayat sector in the State budget, constitution and operational guidelines for District Planning Committees within an agreed time frame.

(d) West Bengal completed Activity Mapping in 2005 and have also constituted the District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243ZD of the Constitution. The State is generally recognized as being among the leading States in implementing Panchayati Raj, but, of course, there is always room for further improvement. West Bengal has had a continuous record of doing so since even before the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution were passed by Parliament in December, 1992. Evaluation of progress is at present being measured against the Joint Statement signed by CM, West Bengal and the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj in May 2005. More stringent, scientific and independent evaluation will be undertaken as soon as NCAER's Devolution Index is given final shape and arrangements being negotiated with the Institute of Rural Management at Anand (IRMA) are operationalised.

Curative Care for Common Illness

5645. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the private sector provides over 75 per cent of curative care for common illness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether data from private health providers is not yet included in any disease surveillance system; 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) As reported by Task Force on Medical Education, 58% hospitals and 81% doctors in the tertiary health care are from the private sector.

(c) and (d) Under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP), it is envisaged to involve selected sentinel Private Practitioners to be part of the project so as to detect early warning signals of impending outbreak and epidemics, to facilitate study of disease patterns in the country and to identify new emerging diseases. It is also envisaged to include at least one sentinel private practitioner/private hospital in each surveillance unit at block level to report regularly on specified diseases under IDSP.

Out of 23 States under Phase I & II of IDSP, data from 10 states covering 202 districts included data from private health providers of 67 districts.

Guideline for Angioplasty

5646. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KAIRE:

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

(a) whether the International Society for Cardiovascular angioplasty and Interventions has released a guidelines for stand along Angioplasty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; .

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and interventions—an international professional organization of interventional cardiologists—have released a set of guidelines for health centers doing angioplasty and advised patients going in for angioplasty to now check into centres that provide standardized care, enhanced patient safety and a reliable back-up infrastructure.

According to AIIMS, the most widely followed angioplasty guidelines is the one periodically provided by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology (ACE-AHA).

[Translation]

Employment Generation by Foreign Companies in India

5647. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies have generated employment avenues in various sectors in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the sectors in which these companies are operating;

(c) the State-wise percentage of employment avenues provided by these companies in comparison to the employment opportunities for Indians in foreign countries; and

(d) the impact on the foreign exchange earning of the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The total FDI inflow into equity capital from August 1991 to March 2007 is US \$ 54.6 billion. Sector-wise inflow from August 1991 to February 2007 is enclosed as statement. Foreign investment, like other investment, has the potential for generation of employment opportunities and foreign exchange earnings. However, this cannot be compared to employment opportunities for Indians in foreign countries.

Statement

(Amount in millions)

Sl.No.	Sector	Amount of FDI inflows		%age to total FDI inflows
		(In Rupees)	(In US\$)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Electrical Equipments (Including Computer Software & Electronics)	356,920.46	8,149.00	18.86
2.	Service Sector (Financial and Non-Financial)	331,520.46	7,593.51	17.51
3.	Telecommunications	166,750.33	3,888.59	8.81
4.	Transportation Industry	153,043.73	3,615.96	8.09
5.	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	120,263.37	2,813.45	6.35
6.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	94,932.02	2,344.30	5.02

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Constructions Activities#	62,363.32	1,384.16	4.22
8.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	52,792.20	1,221.75	2.79
9.	Food Processing Industries	49,245.93	1,227.30	2.60
10.	Cement and Gypsum Products	42,515.66	971.83	2.25
11.	Metallurgical Industries	35,945.88	825.51	1.90
12.	Consultancy Services	26,232.81	574.19	1.39
13.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	23,322.45	574.52	1.23
14.	Hotel & Tourism	22,406.48	512.02	1.18
15.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	22,163.88	554.70	1.17
16.	Trading	19,630.84	481.99	1.04
17.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	14,277.93	368.54	0.75
18.	Rubber Goods	10,687.23	251.75	0.56
19.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	10,426.23	277.46	0.55
20.	Glass	10,368.94	257.08	0.55
21.	Industrial Machinery	9,479.53	232.06	0.50
22.	Machine Tools	8,299.74	191.99	0.44
23.	Agricultural Machinery	8,042.86	191.96	0.42
24.	Ceramics	5,730.18	139.82	0.30
25.	Timber Products	4,668.88	107.12	0.25
26.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	4,576.92	103.94	0.24
27.	Fermentation Industries	4,362.23	103.59	0.23
28.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	3,967.69	90.37	0.21
29.	Fertilizers	3,521.16	83.23	0.19
30.	Earth-Moving Machinery	3,397.88	75.07	0.18
31.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	2,344.08	60.24	0.12
32.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	2,217.73	53.61	0.12

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Glue And Gelatin	1,475.76	36.04	0.08
34.	Sugar	1,458.97	33.82	0.08
35.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	1,055.74	30.61	0.06
36.	Industrial Instruments	841.72	22.06	0.04
37.	Photographic Raw Film And Paper	737.49	18.06	0.04
38.	Scientific Instruments	619.77	14.93	0.03
39.	Dye-Stuffs	592.04	16.01	0.03
40.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	332.60	8.26	0.02
41.	Defence Industries	2.37	0.05	0.00
42.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.15	0.00	0.00
43.	Miscellaneous Industries	199,323.89	4,691.14	9.60
Sub Total		1,892,659.53	44,191.59	100.00
43.	Advance of Inflows (From 1999 to 2004)	98,689.96	2,178.72	—
44.	RBI's—NRI Schemes	84,269.48	2,509.86	—
45.	Acquisition of Existing Shares* (From 1996 To 1999)	72,780.18	1,848.86	—
46.	Stock Swapped	2,848.71	61.23	—
Grand Total		2,151,447.86	50,790.26	—

Note:

1. Inflows through ADRs/GDRs/FCCBs, against the FDI approvals have not been included.
2. *Data prior to 1996 not provided by RBI & since 2000, inflows included under country/Sector specific route.
3. # Year-wise/data available from January 2000 onwards only.

[English]

Clinical Trials by MNCs

5648. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the some multinational companies have been conducting clinical trials in India in view of stringent law in many European countries;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact a law with regard to clinical trials in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that stringent laws in Europe and other countries have driven these multinational companies to India for clinical trials.

India has some inherent and natural advantages in clinical research. India's highly skilled medical fraternity, many world class medical institutions, a large treatment native population, and the cost competitive of Indian research institutions gives India a definite advantage over other countries in the matter of Clinical Research.

(c) to (e) Regulation for conducting Clinical Trials in the country are prescribed under Rules 122 DA-122 E and Schedule Y of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules which was amended in the year 2005.

Good Clinical Practices (GCP) Guidelines were introduced by the Ministry in the year 2001 and Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research were issued by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in the year 2000.

Cargo Traffic through Ports

5649. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 per cent of the current Exim trade flows through Jawaharlal Nehru port cluster;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the other ports are being under-utilised as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 20.95% of the cargo traffic handled in Major Ports is through Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Mumbai Port. Total traffic handled in 12 Major Ports during the year 2006-07 was 463.843 Million Tonnes. Out of this Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai Ports together handled 97.182 Million Tonnes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Proposal to Increase Posts

5650. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of posts of all cadres of the personnel services;

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

(c) the number of officers working and vacancies in different services as on date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information regarding the number of officers working and vacancies in different services is not maintained centrally, in DOPT.

(d) The filling up of vacancies is done by the respective Ministries/Departments within the framework of existing instructions/rules.

Development of Infrastructure

5651. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India needs investment worth US\$ 320 billion for infrastructure development by 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended for using Forex reserves for infrastructure development projects; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Planning Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) A preliminary macro-level exercise done by the Planning Commission had estimated an investment of about US\$350 billion during 2007-12 in infrastructure; comprising of irrigation, electricity, wind energy, gas, water supply, ports, airports, railways, communications, roads and

storage. These estimates will, however, be reassessed in the light of the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has not made any formal recommendations to use foreign exchange reserves for infrastructure development. However, a Committee constituted by the Ministry of Finance under the chairmanship of Shri Deepak Parikh has recommended, inter alia, use of a small part of the foreign exchange reserve without the risk of monetary expansion for financing infrastructure.

Backlog Vacancies of SCs and STs

5652. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has written a letter to all Ministries to launch a special recruitment drive to clear the backlog vacancies of SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard, Ministry-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog vacancies?

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

(a) to (d) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched by the Government in August, 2004 to fill up the backlog vacancies of SCs and STs. The Prime Minister wrote letters to the Ministers in-charge of all the Ministries/Departments on 9.9.2005 urging them to monitor the progress of the Drive.

Ministry/Department-wise number of vacancies filled is shown in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Special Recruitment Drive Number of Backlog Vacancies Filled (As on 11.5.2007)

S.No.	Ministries/Department/Organisation	No. of backlog vacancies filled
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Railways	34119
2.	D/o School Education & Literacy	776
3.	D/o Economic Affairs	109
4.	D/o Economic Affairs (Bank & Ins)	3360
5.	Ministry of Defence	2554
6.	Ministry of Home Affairs	2226
7.	D/o Revenue (CBDT and CBEC)	1844
8.	D/o Defence Production	1610
9.	D/o Posts	1130
10.	M/o Labour and Employment	778
11.	D/o Higher Education	424
12.	Ministry of Coal	2

1	2	3
13.	Ministry of Urban Development	903
14.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	427
15.	Department of Atomic Energy	688
16.	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	15
17.	Department of Agricultural Research and Educations	233
18.	Ministry of Shipping	262
19.	Ministry of Information Technology	133
20.	Ministry of Water Resources	96
21.	Ministry of Power	142
22.	Department of Commerce	60
23.	Department of Space	44
24.	Department of Culture	34
25.	Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	27
26.	Ministry of Mines	5
27.	Cabinet Secretariat	22
28.	Ministry of External Affairs	71
29.	AYUSH	47
30.	Department of Scientific and Indl. Research	58
31.	Ministry of Environment and Foests	16
32.	Ministry of Road Transport Highways	25
33.	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation	42
34.	Planning Commission	6
35.	Ministry of Industrial Policy and Prom.	17
36.	Department of Consumer Affairs	17
37.	Ministry of Rural Development	0
38.	Department of Fertilizers	3
39.	Ministry of Statistics and Prog. Impl.	6
40.	Department of Women and Child Development	10
41.	Ministry of Science and Tech (Excl. AB)	2

1	2	3
42.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	10
43.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	2
44.	Department of Legal Affairs	5
45.	Department of Telecom	12
46.	Ministry of Textiles	26
47.	UPSC	7
48.	Department of Biotechnology	7
49.	Ministry of Food and Public Distri.	4
50.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	2
51.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	2
52.	Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pensions	57
53.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro Rural Industries	4
54.	Election Commission of India	1
55.	Department of Heavy Industry	173
56.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	10
57.	Ministry of Company Affairs	0

Note: 18 Ministries/Departments/Establishments have reported that there were no backlog vacancies of SCs and STs in their establishments.

[Translation]

Toxic Contents In Genetic Foodgrain Products

5653. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether information about toxic, contents in certain generatically engineered foodgrains was sought under the Right To Information Act during the last year;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether information in this regard was refused;

(c) whether the central information officer had intervened in the matter; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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.

Reservation for Women in Government Services

5654. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make provision for reservations of women while making promotions in the Government Services;

(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 PACHOURI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to make a provision for reservation in promotion for women in services under the Government of India.

National Knowledge Commission

5655. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended for enactment of a legislation for extending ownership and patent right to the Universities and research institutions over their inventions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the extent to which such rights will allow inventors to receive a share of the royalty on their inventions.

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

(b) As per the statement.

(c) and (d) the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission for enactment of a legislation that creates a uniform legal framework for the government funded research and gives universities and research institutions ownership and patent rights, has been sent for examination to the concerned Ministries.

Statement

Extracts from the D.O. letter of Chairman, National Knowledge Commission to the Prime Minister dated 16th January, 2007 for enactment of a legislation that creates a uniform legal framework for the government funded research and gives universities and research institutions ownership and patent rights.

The National Knowledge Commission while deliberating on issues related to the creation and application of knowledge recognizes the need to provide impetus to government funded research and to translate this knowledge into relevant and useful applications to benefit the widest cross-section of people. Our consultation with diverse stakeholders has revealed that there is a need to provide incentives to increase innovations, collaborations, licensing and commercialization.

It is therefore recommended to enact legislation that creates a uniform legal framework for the government funded research and gives universities and research institutions ownership and patent rights. This will create an enabling environment for them to commercialize such inventions through licensing arrangements where inventors would also be allowed to receive a share of the royalty. Conferring ownership rights on universities and linking such ownership with the patent system and the market, will make research more attractive and in the process bring about a radical change in the research landscape in India. The proposed enactment could also incorporate important safeguards for exceptional circumstances where the government could be given 'march in rights to protect the public good.

Uniformity of policy for inventions generated out of government-funded research will provide incentives to various stakeholders as follows:

- Government: The government could retain the right to a non-exclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable paid up license to practice the invention throughout the world. It could also have the responsibility and power to monitor the implementation of the act by a provision that requires concerned parties to report to the government on an annual basis on matters pertaining to utilization of the invention. Since the patent applications would be filed and owned by the relevant institutions, the government would be spared from bearing the costs of filing applications. The government could also be given the right to own the invention where the party decides not to retain title or fails to file the requisite patent application. Finally, 'march in rights' accorded to the government in certain situations involving the public good as well as exceptions for circumstances involving, inter alia, national security and defence imperatives would help assuage fears of the same.

- **Universities/R&D:** For universities and research institutions, revenue generating incentives lie in ownership and control over the fruits of research generated out of government funds. This should encourage filing patents in their own name and entering into commercialization processes with industry. Further, the inventor, through profit sharing of royalties from licensees, would also get rewarded accordingly. The proposed enactment could also provide that the balance of any royalties or income earned after payment of expenses, be ploughed back for scientific research and education.
- **Industry:** A higher degree of industry participation in university research will result due to clear legal title, a uniform legal regime for all government funded research, commercial gain through collaborative arrangements, opportunities to obtain exclusive licenses and new businesses opportunities for the new inventions.
- **People:** Finally, the taxpayer, whose resources are used in government funding of research, will also get the benefit of inventions, in the form of products and services once they are commercialized and made available in the market.

Issues that need special attention in drafting the proposed legislation are:

- Calculating exact ratios in which revenues will be divided and the percentage made available to various stakeholders including the actual inventor
- Understanding national security implications where they arise and carving out exceptions in such situations
- Identifying specific guidelines, rules and existing provisions of laws that need to be overridden to bring a uniform legislation in place for inventions arising out of government funded research
- Establishing the precise nature of various licensing arrangements as well as conditions governing the grant of exclusive licenses where applicable
- Clarifying situations requiring the invocation of 'march in rights' for government intervention and

clarification of exceptional situations to the general right of ownership

- Determining whether plant varieties come under the scope of 'inventions' in light of India's own patent and plant varieties, legislation and analyzing the relationships between the proposed act and India's own patent and plant varieties acts

There are precedents for such legislation such as the American enactment entitled the Patent and Trademark Law Amendments Act, enacted in 1980 and commonly known as the Bayh-Dole Act. It is perhaps significant to note that in the United States, before the Bayh-Dole Act was enacted, the country's federal agencies owned about 28,000 patents, out of which only 5% were licensed to industry to develop commercial products. Subsequent to the enactment of the said act, there has been a massive rise in the number of patents filed by and granted to universities, the number of universities involved in patenting and licensing of inventions and in the number of new companies that have been set up on the basis of new inventions licensed by universities. There have also been innovative breakthroughs in the form of inventions, technologies and processes, arising from university research. Economic activity of a scale running into billions of dollars has been generated, further creating new jobs in the economy.

In our view, introduction of legislation generally along the lines of the Bayh-Dole Act, while keeping in mind India's specific interests, is necessary to help scientific research develop far reaching innovations, generate employment and function as a vehicle of significant economic growth. We are aware that the process of drafting such legislation is already underway. We urge that this be done expeditiously and look forward to being consulted in the process.

National Advisory Council

5656. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up National Advisory Council (NAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof including its composition, objective and the terms of references;

(c) the details of funds allotted and expenses incurred therefrom on NAC since its inception, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to review the utility of the NAC; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by a Chairperson was constituted on 31st May, 2004 to provide inputs for the formulation of policy by the Government and provide support to the Government in monitoring the progress of implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).

The Present Membership of the Council is as follows:-

- (i) Dr. V. Krishnamurthy
- (ii) Shri Jairam Ramesh
- (iii) Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao
- (iv) Dr. D. Swaminadhan
- (v) Dr. N.C. Saxena
- (vi) Dr. Madhav Chavan
- (vii) Dr. A.K. Shiva Kumar
- (viii) Prof. Mrinal Miri
- (ix) Ms. Sehba Hussain

(c) The information in respect of allotment of funds and the expenditure incurred for the Office of the NAC is shown below:-

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	1.56	0.85
2005-06	1.34	0.68
2006-07	1.41	0.50

(d) and (e) The discussions in the NAC have covered a range of subjects, including the Right to Information, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the Universalization of Elementary Education, the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, the Integrated Child

Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Watershed and Wasteland Development Programmes, Modernization of Revenue Administration, Revitalization of Indian Agriculture, Integrated Energy Policy and Issues relating, amongst others, to Tribal Development, Equality of Women, Judicial Reforms, Workers in the Unorganized Sector, Governance, Resettlement and Rehabilitation and the Health Sector. Between April 2006-April 2007, the discussions held have addressed, inter alia, the ICDS, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the MDM, the National Rural Health Mission, the Comprehensive Modernization of Land Records, the National River Conservation Programme including the Ganga Action Plan, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Jawaharlat Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the use of Geo Textiles, Poverty Alleviation Programmes, Vocational Education and Rural Electrification.

Considering the need to continually review the progress of the NCMP and the importance of ensuring timely follow-up action, the term of the NAC has been renewed by the Government from time to time. The Right to Information Act came into force in June 2005 and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in September 2005. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act to give women equal rights in inheritance of property, including agricultural land, also came into force in September 2005.

A National Rural Health Mission was launched in April 2005 and a dedicated, non-lapsable fund called the "Parambhik Shiksha Kosh" constituted in November 2005 for utilization, exclusively, for the SSA and the MDM Scheme. In the first phase of expansion of the ICDS, orders sanctioning an additional 466 Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were issued in the financial year, 2005-06. In the second phase of expansion, 173 additional Projects, 1.07 lakh AWCs and 25,961 mini-AWCs are being covered. The MDM Scheme was revised in June 2006 and the nutritional content enhanced to 450 calories and 12 grams of protein. All States and Union Territories are implementing the Programme.

Training Centres for Cyber Crime Cases

5657. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up specialized training centres for training of judges appointed

in the Cyber Appellate Tribunals in order to expedite disposal of cases relating to Cyber Crimes; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation and Employment Policy of CIL

5658. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has separate policies for rehabilitation and employment of Project Affected Families (PAFs) in the country;

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

(c) whether the existing policy have failed to rehabilitate and PAFs and to provide employment opportunities to them; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) policy of Coal India Limited (CIL) is in vogue since 2000 and is followed by subsidiary companies in conjunction with State policies wherever available.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Supply of Equipment to BSNL

5659. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

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

(a) whether the Government is allowing ITI to have 30% quota reserved for the supply of equipment to BSNL;

(b) if so, whether the U.S. Commerce Secretary has issued a letter in February objecting to the quota system;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. U.S. Commerce Secretary had issued a Letter on 13th February, 2006 objecting to the quota system on the grounds that it would not be in keeping with open and fair procurement practices. BSNL in view of various considerations have decided to continue with 30% quota reservation to ITI at the L1 prices, determined on the basis of open competition.

National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme

5660. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Government has expressed concern over non-performance of the Vector Borne Diseases Control and Mental Health Programmes as reported in 'The Hindu' dated April 12, 2007;

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

(c) whether there is any shortcoming in the implementation of the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The vector borne diseases like Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue and Chikungunya are seasonal and epidemic prone. The occurrence of the diseases is determined by various factors like rainfall, temperature, humidity, water storage practices etc.

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is implemented for prevention and control of vector borne diseases like Malaria, Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Dengue/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DF/DHF) and Chikungunya. NVBDCP is implemented by the States while the Government of India provides policy and programme directives as well as technical, logistics and financial support. States are being urged to improve implementation. Regular reviews are being held with them.

There is no specific anti viral drugs for cure of JE, Dengue and Chikungunya. The effective control of such diseases depends upon community participation.

For control of malaria, Government of India has been using insecticides like DDT and malathion over the years. There is emerging insecticide resistance in vector Anopheline mosquitoes.

Similarly, the conventional anti malaria drug Chloroquine is showing declining effect on Plasmodium falciparum malaria in many areas of the country.

There is shortage of staff in many States, due to which effective implementation of the Programme is sub-optimal.

Relatively there is lack of community ownership and participation regarding appropriate health seeking behaviour and adoption of suitable preventive measure due to diverse socio-cultural backgrounds.

For strengthening the National Mental Health Programme, emphasis on school and college mental health services, suicide prevention programme, stress management, etc., and creating more infrastructures for training of personnel to address acute shortage of mental health professionals has been given by the Government.

(e) The Government of India has taken the following remedial measures:

- (i) Introduction of Rapid Diagnostic Test kits for detection of malaria parasite in remote and inaccessible areas.
- (ii) Introduction of Artemisinin based combination therapy in Chloroquine drug resistant areas.
- (iii) Scaling up alternative vector management interventions like insecticide treated bed nets in high malarious areas.
- (iv) Scaling up use of larvivorous fish in water bodies that eat mosquito larvae.
- (v) Use of alternate insecticide such as Synthetic Pyrethroids for indoor residual spray.
- (vi) Establishing Fever Treatment Depots at village level for early detection and treatment of malaria cases.
- (vii) Intensification of Behaviour Change Communication for scaling up community participation.

[Translation]

Financial Loss Due to Bad Road

5661. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has assessed the loss incurred by the country as a result of bad conditions of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the corrective 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Theft of Telephone Cables**

5662. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of theft of BSNL cable in the country, specially in the Uttar Pradesh during 2006;

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

(c) whether these cases have normally taken place in rural areas where private operators have launched their services or in the process of launching such services;

(d) if so, the number of such cases detected in rural areas during 2004-05 and 2005-06, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with the State Governments to prevent such large scale theft; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, there has been an increase in the number of theft cases of cables of BSNL in the country during the year, 2006.

(b) Circle-wise details of theft of BSNL cables during 2006 are given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) and (d) Cable theft cases are reported both in urban and rural areas. However, it cannot be ascertained whether these are due to presence of private operators in rural areas. Circle-wise details of theft of BSNL cables in rural areas during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) Sir, matter has been taken up with the State Governments as well as the police authorities to prevent such large scale thefts. In addition, following steps have been taken by BSNL to curb incidences of theft:

- (i) Regular patrolling of important cable routes.
- (ii) Diversion of routes of theft prone cable.
- (iii) Lodging FIRs at concerned Police Stations.

(iv) Persuasion with the police authorities to check theft of cables.

(v) Posting of security guards at cable dumps.

(vi) Coordination with local bodies to minimize the theft.

Statement-I*Circle-wise details of Cases of Theft of Cable of BSNL in the Country during the year 2006*

Sl.No.	Telecom Circle/ Telephone District	No. of theft of cable cases
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	546
3.	Assam	89
4.	Bihar	1290
5.	Chhattisgarh	15
6.	Gujarat	377
7.	Haryana	37
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1399
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	03
10.	Jharkhand	429
11.	Karnataka	147
12.	Kerala	23
13.	Madhya Pradesh	25
14.	Maharashtra	528
15.	North East-I	38
16.	North East-II	47
17.	Orissa	267
18.	Punjab	319
19.	Rajasthan	164
20.	Tamil Nadu	97

1	2	3
21.	Uttaranchal	05
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	404
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	343
24.	West Bengal	69
25.	Kolkata Telephone District	305
26.	Chennai Telephone District	52
TOTAL		7018

Statement-II

Circle-wise details of Cases of Theft of BSNL Cables in Rural Areas in the Country during the Years 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl. No.	Telecom Circle/ Telephone District	No. of theft of cable cases in rural areas	
		2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	119	278
3.	Assam	50	65
4.	Bihar	87	186
5.	Chhattisgarh	04	20
6.	Gujarat	49	53
7.	Haryana	02	06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	282	770
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	01	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	27	35
11.	Karnataka	29	42
12.	Kerala	31	16
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	46	97

1	2	3
15.	North East-I	19 58
16.	North East-II	09 03
17.	Orissa	09 109
18.	Punjab	15 22
19.	Rajasthan	34 23
20.	Tamil Nadu	56 111
21.	Uttaranchal	Nil 05
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	54 92
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25 74
24.	West Bengal	19 43
25.	Kolkata Telephone District	Nil Nil
26.	Chennai Telephone District	04 Nil
TOTAL		971 2108

Injectable Contraceptives

5663. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether clinical studies on Cycloferm, a monthly injectable contraceptive and NET-EN, a two-monthly injectable contraceptive have been carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such clinical studies;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce such contraceptives in the National Family Planning Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details of the clinical studies is placed at enclosed statement-I & II.

(c) and (d) There is no immediate decision to introduce the injectables in the National Family Welfare Program till the completed studies are evaluated.

Statement-I

CYCLOFEM

ICMR has conducted a study on monthly injectable contraceptive, Cycloferm through its network of Human Reproduction Research Centres (HRRCs). A total of 63,754 women attended family planning clinics at 15 HRRCs of the Council were given a balanced presentation of all the contraceptive methods available in the national programme including Cycloferm (Cafeteria approach). Out of these 26,856 (42.3%) accepted Tubectomy, 116 (0.2%) couples opted for the Vasectomy, 25% accepted condoms, 15.8% accepted IUD, 14.7% accepted Oral pills and monthly injectable Cycloferm was opted by 1330 (2.1%) of total family planning seekers.

A total of 1330 women have been enrolled in the study and observed for 11518 women months of use. Mean age of acceptors is 26.0±4.1 years and mean parity of 1.8±1.0. Mean weight and height of acceptors is recorded as 48.2±10.9 kgs and 152.3±17.7 cms respectively. 87% of the acceptors are literate and 17.8% are employed.

539 women have used 12 injections. The continuation rates at 6, 9 and 12 months are 79.2, 73.9 and 70.3 per 100 users respectively. Majority of the discontinuations were due to menstrual irregularities 9.2 per 100 users at one year, (discontinuations due to amenorrhoea was 2.2, 2.4 and 2.7 at 6, 9 and 12 months, discontinuation due to heavy and prolonged bleeding were 1.9, 2.1 and 2.7). Infrequent and reduced bleeding did not result in women discontinuing the method. Discontinuations due to personnel reasons were 4.7, 7.0 and 8.4 at 6, 9 and 12 months of use.

No method failure has been reported in this study. Discontinuation rate due to other medical reasons like nausea, vomitings, high Blood Pressure Rashes and itching, Weight gain and Breast tenderness were 2.2, 3.5 and 3.8 at 6, 9 and 12 months.

116 women discontinued from the study due to personal reasons like transfer to other city (56), husband separated (18), objection from family members (16) and illness of the husband (12) were the major personal reasons for discontinuations.

The study has just completed and the final reports have been received in the Health Ministry for evaluation.

Statement-II

NET-EN

Summary of the Council's trials with Net Oen

The Indian Council of Medical Research has been carrying out studies with Injectable Contraceptive Northisterone Oenanthate since early 80s in different doses and in combination with Oestrogen. A brief write up on the studies carried out by the Council's are as follows:

1981-1983 Comparative evaluation of contraceptive efficacy of norethisterone oenanthate (200mg) injectable contraceptive given every two or three monthly, (published in Journal of Contraception December 1984, vol. 30, No. 6)

Comparatively evaluation of Contraceptive efficacy of Northisterone Oenanthate 200 mg Injection given every 2 or 3 monthly was done in a study carried out in 1981 in 2388 women which were observed for 24 months, 1181 women in 60 ± 5 days group and 1207 in 90 ± 5 days group. A results of the study indicated that NET OEN 200mg given every 2 months ± 5 days provides adequate contraceptive protection. The higher method failures were reported with 90 ± 5 days regimen which were mainly in the 3rd month of giving the injection suggesting reduced contraceptive efficacy during the 3rd month. Women weighing less than 40kg. were at a higher risk of involuntary pregnancy.

1983-84: Phase II randomized clinical trial with Norethisterone Oenanthate 50mg alone and in combination with 5 mg or 2.5 mg of either estradiol valerate or cypionate as a monthly injectable contraceptive, (published in Journal of Contraception October 1985, Vol. 32, No. 4)

A randomized clinical trial with Northisterone Oenanthate 50mg alone and in combination with either 5 or 2.5mg of either Oestradiol Valerate or Cypionate as a Monthly Contraceptive was evaluated. A total of 364 women were observed for 1686 women months of use. Analysis of the bleeding pattern data indicated that NET OEN 50mg. when given alone gave rise to delayed cycles and/or amenorrhoea. However, the addition of estrogen esters in a dose of either 2.5 or 5mg provided significantly

better bleeding patterns. Of the different treatment schedules investigated, the combination of NET OEN 50mg. with E2 Val. 5mg. provided more consistent and better cycle control.

1984-1987: A multicentre phase-III comparative study of two hormonal contraceptive preparations Net-Oen (50mg) + E2 valerate (5mg) given every month and Net-Oen (200mg) given every 2 months as intramuscular injection—A report of 12 month study, (published in Journal of Contraception August 1990, Vol. 42, No. 2)

In a Multicentre Phase-III comparative study in which NET OEN 200mg. given every 2 months was compared with NET OEN 50mg in combination with Oestradiol Valerate given every month were compared for efficacy, side effects, acceptability and side effects. A total of 849 subjects were observed for 7817 women months of use. The results of the study indicated that women using monthly Injectable Contraceptive had better control of the menstrual cycle as compared to the 2 monthly regimen but the discontinuation were similar in both the groups.

1984-86: Return of fertility following discontinuation of an Injectable Contraceptive—Norethisterone Oenanthate (Net-En) 200mg dose, (published in Journal of Contraception December 1986, Vol. 34, No. 6)

The return of fertility following discontinuation of Net-En 200mg injectable contraceptive was studied in women who have used Net-En for a period of 6 months or more for planning pregnancy. 69 women who discontinued the method for planning pregnancy were enrolled in the study. Former users of Copper T 200 were enrolled as a control group. Another 161 women who had discontinued Net-En due to other reasons like Amenorrhoea, excessive bleeding are personal reasons were also studied for return of fertility after ensuring that they were not using any other method of contraception and were exposed to the risk of pregnancy. The subjects were followed for a period of 1 year. The cumulative conception rates at the end of 1 year showed that future return of fertility in Net-En users does not appear to be adversely affected. In subjects who discontinued Net-En due to Amenorrhoea, the return of fertility was predictably slower and less. The return of fertility in subjects who discontinued for other reasons e.g. excessive bleeding and other personal reasons was similar to Ex Net-En and Copper T users.

1984-88: Programme introduction study with Injectable Contraceptive Net-Oen 200mg in Postpartum centres B&C type and Primary Health Centres attached to Medical Colleges under ROME scheme. 1983-88

Based on the results of the studies carried out by the Council which showed that NET OEN 200mg. given 2 monthly is a good contraceptive option for women desiring spacing of children. The Council from 1983 to 1988 initiated a pre-programme introductory study at Urban Post partum centre B&C type and primary health centres attached to Medical Colleges under ROME scheme. The study was initiated with the objectives of identifying the acceptability, logistic and supplies, training needs, and follow up needs and mechanisms. A total of 2449 women were observed for 11691 women months of use at 42 urban post partum centres and 531 women observed for 3180 women months of use at primary health centres selected by 11 Medical Colleges. The method failure rate was observed to be 2.1 per 100 users at post-partum centres and 1.7 per 100 users at primary health centres. Detection of pregnancy was mainly on clinical judgement and not by the pregnancy test and all such cases were recommended to undergo Medical Termination of pregnancy (MTP). Majority of the discontinuations as expected were due to menstrual irregularities; 41.2 per 100 users at post partum centres and 34.6 per 100 users at primary health centres. Continuation rates at the end of 1 year were 22.9 per 100 users at post partum centres and 29.3 per 100 users at primary health centres. The rates observed in this study were much less than those observed in clinical trials conducted at the medical colleges. The possible reasons could be that the participating centres were not familiar with this new technology and the importance of motivation and counselling skills were not available and were not taken in the right perspective. Continuation rates were better at primary health centres; this could be because of the fact that the ANMs have better rapport with the woman and thus have more frequent contacts. Percent loss to follow up was high 24.1 at post partum centres and 15.1 at primary health centres. The study concluded that Net-Oen could be made available under medical supervision only at those centres such as urban family welfare centres where adequate facilities for screening, counseling and follow up are available.

Study at NIRRH, Mumbai (a permanent Institute of ICMR) 2002-2007

NIRRH initiated a multicentre study on 2 monthly injectable contraceptive (Norethisterone Enanthate) after

enrolling 1209 women across India. The approved duration of total study period was 4 years and extended by one year later. The objectives were to assess user acceptability and continuation rates of this injection, to study side effects and also women's views and attitudes towards injectable contraceptives. The major emphasis of this study was on counseling by skilled councilors and quality services to the users. The results are very reassuring. The observations based on 17268 months of injection use show cumulative continuation rates at the end of 12, 18 and 24 months as 65%, 53.6% and 48.3% respectively. It was interesting to note that 39% of women requested to provide them injections beyond study period of 2 years. Over 79% women were satisfied with the method. About 89% said that the injectable should be available in our national programme and also 79% of them would recommend this method to their friends and relatives. The method was acceptable by the majority of women and was found very effective, the cumulative method failure rate was 0.3% at the end of one year.

There was no adverse effect on general or reproductive health necessitating hospitalization. About 91% of women conceived within 12 months and majority (52%) within 6 months after the discontinuation of injection was over.

The study is now nearing completion.

Ganguly Committee Report on Health Care

5664. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Ganguly Committee which was set up to draft and review the course structure for full-time and distance education programmes in respect of health facility planning and healthcare engineering and management has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has examined these recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, ICMR has submitted its report to the Government. The Committee has recommended that the following two courses be started in the country at the earliest:-

1. Master's in Health Facility Planning & Designing.

Eligibility: Graduate or equivalent with 16/17 years education in Engineering, Architecture, Town Planning, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Vet. Sciences (for Vet. Hospitals).

2. Master's in Healthcare Engineering Management.

Eligibility: Graduate or equivalent in any branch of Engineering, Architecture and Town Planning:

Both under full time and Distance Education Programmes to be suitably structured at P.G. Certificate Diploma and Master's level by each Institute as deemed.

The Committee have also made recommendations about various issues relating to starting of these courses —Course contents; recognition from AICTE/Council of Architecture; facility for these courses; Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for starting these courses and other ancillaries issues. A follow-up Committee has been constituted under Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General of ICMAR to interact with various universities to prepare a finance Model and to locate knowledge partner to develop PPP Model etc.

[Translation]

Regional Passport offices

5665. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) functioning in the country particularly in Tamilnadu are over burdened with ever increasing applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the applicants have to wait for months together to receive the passports;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the waiting period, RPOs-wise;

(e) the number of complaints received during the last three years in this regard;

(f) the number of persons found guilty and the action taken by the Government against them; and

(g) the steps taken to mitigate the work-load of the offices and the hardships being experienced by the Applicants in RPOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. There has been a surge in the number of passport applications received in the whole country, including in Regional Passport Offices functioning in Tamil Nadu. The details of passport applications received and passports issued by the two Passport Offices currently functioning in Tamil Nadu (Chennai and Tiruchirappalli) during the last three years are given below:

Passport Office	Number of Passport Applications received			Number of Passports issued		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Chennai	230529	237561	291916	216367	212143	300503
Tiruchirappali	222368	225403	279713	261803	220429	303684

(c) and (d) Passports are issued to applicants as expeditiously as possible either under the Tatkal category on post-police verification basis or in the normal category on receipt of police verification reports. The average time taken for issuing a passport is now 65 days in Chennai and 43 days in Tiruchirappalli subject to completion of requisite formalities. This time varies in keeping with rush of applications on various occasions and time taken for police verification. However, continuous efforts are made to curtail the time for rendering passport services.

(e) The number of complaints received in RPOs during the last three years are as a given below:

Passport office	Number of complaints received		
	2004	2005	2006
Chennai	33	49	194
Tiruchirappali	39	43	92

(f) The number of persons found guilty in the above offices, against whom action was taken by the Government is given below:

	2005	2006	2007
Suspension	2	1	1
Departmental Charge sheet	1	1	
Penalty Imposed	1	1	1

(g) The Ministry has been continually taking a number of measures to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier for the comfort and convenience of the passport seeking public. Some of these important steps are delineated as under:

- (i) Revised passport issuance guidelines were introduced during the Passport Officers' Conference in Chennai on 22 December 2006. These guidelines are given enclosed statement. These guidelines, together with the strengthening of the grievance redressal mechanism, have mitigated the hardship of passport applicants to a great extent.
- (ii) Pendency is monitored across all Passport offices on a fortnightly basis and steps are taken to curtail the same as required.
- (iii) The State Governments have been requested to dispatch the police verification reports in three weeks.
- (iv) The submission of applications has been decentralised for the convenience of the applicants and to expedite police verification. Under this scheme, passport applications are also received at District level in the District Passport Cells (DPCs) located in the office of

District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police (as decided by the respective State Government). In addition, they are also received at designated Speed Post Centres and Passport Application Collection Centres in various states. Currently there are 31 DPCs and 140 Speed Post Centres accepting passport applications in Tamil Nadu.

- (v) Government have sanctioned 293 additional posts in various categories for Passport Offices, including in Tamil Nadu. The process for filling up these posts has been set in motion.

Statement

Revised Passport Issuance Guidelines

A number of decisions have been taken to simplify further the Passport Issuance Procedures with effect from 23 December 2006.

Salient features of the new scheme are as under:

1. Revised Rules relating to issue/reissue of passports

Presently fresh passports are issued under Normal and Tatkal categories – (1) Under first category, passports are issued on receipt of clear police verification reports and (2) Under the Tatkal scheme, a passport valid for 10 years is issued on the basis of a Verification Certificate (VC) obtained from the authorities indicated in para 2 (B) and on payment of additional fee of Rs. 1500 in case the applicants desire to have the passports in 1-7 days (*as opposed to the earlier slab of 1-10 days*) and additional fee of Rs. 1000 in case the applicant desires to have the passport in 8-14 days (*as opposed to the earlier time slab of 11-20 days*). Under the Tatkal scheme, passports are issued on post-police verification basis

OR

on submission of (i) three documents from the list of following 14 documents given at 2(A), provided one of the three documents is a photo identity document and at least one of the three is amongst the documents indicated at (a) to (i) below, and (ii) a standard affidavit duly attested by a Notary:

2(A) List of 14 documents:

- (a) Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC)
- (b) Service Identity Cards issued by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Local bodies or Public Limited Companies
- (c) SC/ST/OBC Certificates
- (d) Freedom Fighter Identity Cards
- (e) Arms Licenses
- (f) Property Documents such as Pattas, Registered Deeds etc
- (g) Ration Cards
- (h) Pension Documents such as Ex-Servicemen's Pension book/Pension Payment Order, Ex-Servicemen's Widow/Dependent Certificates, Old Age Pension Order, Widow Pension Order
- (i) Railway Identification Cards
- (j) Income Tax Identity (PAN) cards
- (k) Bank/Kisan/Post Office Passbooks
- (l) Student Identity Cards issued by recognised educational institutions
- (m) Driving Licenses
- (n) Birth Certificates issued under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act

2(B) List of authorities competent to issue Verification Certificates (VCs)

- (a) An Under Secretary /Deputy Secretary/Director/ Joint Secretary/Special Secretary/Secretary/ Cabinet Secretary in the Government of India;
- (b) A Director/Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary/ Special Secretary/Chief Secretary in a State Government;
- (c) A Sub-Divisional Magistrate/First Class Judicial Magistrate/Additional DM/District Magistrate of the District of residence of the applicant;
- (d) A District Superintendent of Police, DIG/IG/DGP of District of residence of the applicant;

- (e) A Major and above in the army, Lt. Commander and above in the Navy and Sq. Leader and above in the Air Force;
- (f) General Manager of a Public Sector Undertaking;
- (g) A member of an All India Service or Central Service, who is equivalent to or above the rank of an Under Secretary to the Government i.e. in the pay scale of Rs. 10,000-15,200 or above;
- (h) Resident Commissioners/Additional Residential Commissioners of all State Governments based in Delhi;
- (i) Concerned Tehsildars or concerned SHO for an applicant staying in the area under his/her jurisdiction;
- (j) Chairman/Chairperson of Apex Business Organisations such as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in respect of owners, partners or directors of the companies that are members of the concerned Chamber.

2(C) As is the practice the passports under the Tatkal categories would be issued subject to post-police verification. The Police authorities would be requested to send the Police verification reports within a period of three months. If no report is received within this period or a clear report is received, the passport will be allowed to run its normal course. However, if an adverse report is received at any stage after issuance of a passport, the PIA (Passport Issuing Authority) shall impound the passport and take necessary action under the Passports Act. Tatkal fees as mentioned at Para 1 above would be payable in all Tatkal categories. No proof of urgency is required to be produced by any applicant desiring to apply under Tatkal scheme. Those applicants, who are unable to produce either of the three documents or VC for obtaining passports under Tatkal scheme would be issued passports after police verification.

2(D) There may be instances where an applicant has a verification certificate and/or the three documents as prescribed in para 2(A), but he or she does not want to pay the additional fee as required under Tatkal. In such cases, Passport Officers will issue the passport within a period of 30 days on post-police verification basis. The applicant will also have to furnish a Standard Affidavit.

3. Employees in the Government Service and PSUs and their immediate family members (wife and minor dependent children only) whose identity is certified in prescribed proforma by the Head of Department or the Head of the PSU or a person duly authorized by them for this purpose, may be issued a passport valid for ten years without any pre or post-police verification.

4. The necessary certificate in respect of categories at Para 2(B) and 3 above will be given in duplicate by the certifying authority indicating clearly the full name, designation and address of the certifying authority. One copy of the certificate so given will be returned by the Passport Office by post to the certifying authority after issuance of passport. In case any indication of a forged certificate is received from the authority so intimated, the passport in question will be impounded and suitable action taken against the holder under the relevant provisions of the Passport Act, 1967. Passport Issuing Authorities will compulsorily check Passport Information Services On Net (PISON) and Prior Approval Category (PAC) in each and every case before issuing passports on Post-Police Verification basis.

5. In addition, the following provisions will apply for issuance of fresh passports in the case of the relevant categories of applicants mentioned below:

(A) Minors: No pre or post-issuance police verification will be required in the case of applicants upto 18 years of age. However, in all cases of minor applicants, concurrence of the parents need to be submitted in each and every case. For identification purposes, such minor applicants may submit the following:

(a) Valid passports held by the parents/legal guardians along with suitable proof of parentage and prescribed affidavit from a parent

OR

(b) Three documents in respect of the parents as per Para 2(A) above to establish the identity of one of the parents together with suitable proof of parentage and standard affidavit from a parent.

In case of minor applicants 'up to the age of 18 years, passports would be issued for five years at a time due to frequent change in appearance.

(B) Re-issue cases: Passports would be renewed/reissued for a period of 10 years within three working days under Tatkal scheme on payment of additional fee of Rs. 1500. Alternatively, passports would be renewed/reissued for 10 years on payment of normal fee of Rs. 1000 within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of application. Further, in the absence of anything adverse against the applicant in the notice of PIA (Passport Issuing Authority), no police verification will be required for renewal/reissue of a passport. In the case of change of address of an applicant, only a document establishing the latest address would be insisted upon.

Mere change of address will not warrant police verification. In the case of major change of physical appearance of an applicant, any one of the procedures listed at paras 1 - 3 above, as the case may be, for issuance of fresh passports, may be followed to establish the identity of the applicant. An applicant may be allowed to apply for a new passport in lieu of an expired/about to expire passports upto 3 years after and one year before the expiry of the passport. In case a new passport is applied after more than three years after expiry of the old passport, the procedure listed at paras 1 - 3 above as the case may be, will be followed.

(C) Duplicate passports: In this case, if there is no adverse report in the notice of the passport issuing authority, a duplicate passport in lieu of a lost passport would be issued to an applicant for a period of 10 years subject to production of a police report regarding loss of passport and subject further to the details of the applicant tallying with those in the file of the lost passport in the PISON/PAC system. No pre/post issuance police verification will be needed in these cases. Lost passport circulars are to be issued immediately and Damaged/Revoked/Impounded/Lost (DRIL) passport entries made in PISON system.

(D) Chairman/Chairperson of Apex Business Organisations i.e. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) would issue Verification Certificates (VCs) in respect of owners, partners or directors of Companies that are members of the concerned Chamber. Based on these Verification Certificates (VCs) and the standard affidavit, passports would be issued to such applicants for ten years and would be subject to post-police verification.

[English]

Proposal from West Bengal for Sports Development

5666. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from West Bengal for development and promotion of sports has been received during the last three years and till-date;

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

(c) the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Under the scheme of "State Sports Academies", a proposal has been received from West Bengal but has been found deficient in certain respects. The deficiencies have been communicated to the State Government for doing the needful.

Apart from this, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has a Regional Centre at Kolkata. SAI is also running various sports promotional schemes such as the National Sports Contest Scheme (NSTC), Special Area Games (SAG), SAI Training Centres (STC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) and Centres of Excellence (COX). The details of the number of centres under these Schemes in West Bengal, and the funds provided for trainees under these Schemes in the State of West Bengal during the last three years, are given below:

Number of Centres:	Funds provided during (Amount in Rupees)		
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
NSTC-2	1,10,71,699	73,57,407	85,74,906
STC-4			
COX-1			

In addition, SAI is also pursuing with the State Government two proposals of a Water Sports Centre at Kalyani and in SAG Centre at Bolpur.

Heavy Water Production

5667. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI K.S. RAO

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heavy water producing plants in the country and their capacity;

(b) the target set and achieved during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the present rate of production is sufficient to meet the domestic demand;

(d) if not, the efforts made by the Government to increase the production;

(e) whether the Government proposes to export heavy water; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) At present following six (6) heavy water plants are operating in the country and their capacities are given below:

Plant	Capacity
Manuguru	185 MT
Kota	80 MT
Hazira	80 MT
Thai	78 MT
Tuticorin	49 MT
Baroda	17.7 MT

(b) The overall percentage target achieved by the operating heavy water plants during the last three years are as under:

2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005
106.4	117.4	121.6

(c) Yes sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Heavy water has been exported in the past. The export of heavy water is decided on case to case basis.

[Translation]

Visas to Nigerian Nationals

5668. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether visas were issued to Nigerian nationals by the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many of them have not left the country even after the expiry of their visas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some of the Nigerian Nationals are engaged in drug trafficking, supply of weapons and espionage etc.;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. 7908, 9769 and 11178 visas were issued to Nigerian nationals in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(c) and (d)) Instances of Nigerian nationals overstaying their visa period in India have been coming to the notice of the Government from time to time. Their overstay is mainly because of economic reasons.

(e) and (f) Some cases of involvement of Nigerians in narcotic trade, forgeries, fraud, cheating etc., have come to the notice of the Government. 50, 75 and 72 Nigerian nationals were arrested during year 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively for various crimes.

(g) The Indian Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to scrutinise strictly visa applications of Nigerian nationals keeping in view their financial status, availability of return ticket and proper verification of their antecedents.

They are required to ensure that the type of visa is commensurate with the actual purpose of visit. Missions/Posts are also required to insist on personal interviews of Nigerian nationals to assess their financial status. They have been further instructed to avoid generally granting multiple-entry visas.

Chinese Acceptance on Pak Terrorist Camps

5669. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has accepted that terrorist training camps are being run in Pakistan;

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

(c) whether India has contacted the Chinese Authorities in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the facts gathered therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports stating that a Chinese national was involved in recruiting people for the East Turkistan Liberation Organisation and sending them to terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Registration of Nursing Schools and Colleges

5670. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) the number of nursing schools/colleges in private/ Government Sector in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these institutions have been registered with the Nursing Council;

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

(d) the number of such institutions running without proper registration in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has any plan to open more nursing schools/colleges to cater to the needs of the health sector in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Indian Nursing Council has inspected various nursing schools and nursing colleges in the country; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There are 1704 Nursing Schools and 591 Nursing Colleges functioning in the country. State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement-I. These institutions have been registered with the concerned Nursing Councils of the States but out of these only 1312 Nursing Schools and 580 Nursing Colleges are approved by the Indian Nursing Council, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Out of the above 1704 Nursing Schools and 591 Nursing Colleges, there are 492 Nursing Schools and 11 Nursing Colleges which are functioning in the country without the approval of the Indian Nursing Council. However, these institutions have the approval of the State Nursing Council. Candidates qualifying from these institutions can only practice in the particular state and not outside the state and abroad. There are 185 Nursing Schools, 57 Nursing Colleges in Karnataka which are functioning without the approval of Indian Nursing Council. But they have the approval of State Nursing Council.

(f) and (g) The Government has already issued instructions to State Governments for opening new Schools/Colleges in their States where there are no or insufficient institutions to cater to the need of the states.

(h) and (i) The Indian Nursing Council has inspected all the 1312 Nursing Schools and 580 Nursing Colleges as per detail given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Distribution of Nursing Institutions recognized by respective States Nursing Council

Sl. No.	States and Union Territory	GNM	B.Sc (N)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	343	70
2.	Assam	27	2
3.	Bihar	0	0
4.	Gujarat	26	2
5.	Haryana	30	10
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8	0
7.	Karnataka	577	294
8.	Kerala	202	61
9.	Mahakoshal	25	21
10.	Maharashtra	112	25

1	2	3	4
11.	Mizoram	5	2
12.	Orissa	6	1
13.	Punjab	0	29
14.	Rajasthan	75	5
15.	Tamil Nadu	128	50
16.	Tripura	3	0
17.	Uttar Pradesh	58	3
18.	West Bengal	35	0
19.	Delhi	15	5
20.	Jharkhand	13	0
21.	Meghalaya	5	0
22.	Chattisgarh	8	9
23.	State Medi. Faculty & Uttranchal Nurees Midwives, Uttrankhan.	3	2
Total		1704	591

Statement-II

State-wise list of Schools/colleges as approved by the Indian Nursing Council

Sl.No.	State	General Nurses and Midwifery Schools			Colleges of Nursing (B.Sc.)		
		Government	Private	Total	Government	Private	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1		1			
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8	174	182	3	104	107
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	2			
4.	Assam	3	8	11	1	2	3
5.	Bihar	8	7	15			
6.	Chandigarh				1	1	
7.	Chattisgarh		1	1	1	8	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Delhi	7	10	17	3	2	5
9.	Goa	1	1	2	1	1	2
10.	Gujarat	19	9	28	1	4	5
11.	Haryana	3	22	25	1	2	3
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1	6			
13.	Jharkhand		2	2			
14.	Jammu and Kashmir		2	2			
15.	Karnataka	7	385	392	2	235	237
16.	Kerala	10	127	137	3	56	59
17.	Madhya Pradesh	6	18	24	1	22	23
18.	Mahaarashtra	24	47	71	2	21	23
19.	Manipur		4	4			
20.	Meghalaya	2	3	5	1		1
21.	Mizoram	2	2	4	2		2
22.	Nagaland		1	1			
23.	Orissa	3	17	20	1	7	8
24.	Puducherry		1	1		5	5
25.	Punjab	3	89	92	3	16	19
26.	Rajasthan	6	68	74	1	4	5
27.	Sikkim				1		1
28.	Tamilk Nadu	13	89	102	2	47	49
29.	Tripura	2	1	3			
30.	Uttar Pradesh	1	49	50		6	6
31.	Uttaranchal					2	2
32.	West Bengal	27	11	38	1	4	5
Grand Total		162	1150	1312	32	548	580

Setting up of CCTV on Noida Toll Bridge

5671. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Noida Toll Bridge Company have proposed to set up Closed-Circuit TVs (CCTVs) on the Noida Toll Bridge to regulate traffic and check crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CCTVs will also be set up on the National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) and (d) As part of Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), including CCTVs are proposed at following stretches under NHAI:-

(i) Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway (km 0.00 to km 93.30) of National Expressway (NE)-I

(ii) Agra-Gwalior section (km 8 to km 103) of National Highway (NH)-3 (iii) Nellore-Chilakaluripet section (km 161.03 to 358.00) of NH-5 (iv) Tambaram-Tindivanam (km 28 to km 121) section of NH-45

(e) By Financial Year 2008-09.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Roster System for Reserved Category

5672. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when the roster system of reservation has been implemented for the SCs/STs and the OBCs;

(b) the details of the initial and the current position;

(c) whether various Central Government Departments are complying with the said roster system;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of post based and vacancy based roster system implemented for SCs/STs?

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

(a) and (b) Roster system for implementation of reservation for SCs and STs was introduced in 1952. This system was suitably modified to implement reservation for OBCs introduced in 1993. The rosters to implement the reservation were vacancy based till 1.7.1997 which were replaced by post based rosters with effect from 2.7.1997.

(c) and (d) Ministries/Departments of the central Government are required to comply with the roster system to implement reservation in services.

(e) In case of vacancy based rosters, reservation was determined on the basis of the number of vacancies arising in a cadre. In case of post based rosters, reservation is determined on the basis of number of posts in the cadre.

[English]

Unsafe Injections

5673. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether as per WHO report one in every 10 patients is suffering from medical error in developed countries and the figure is very high in the case of developing countries;

(b) if so, whether the WHO has suggested for improving patient safety during his treatment;

(c) if so, whether the Government has examined the report of WHO; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government for the safety of patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no specific report of WHO mentioning that one in every 10 patients around the world suffer from medical errors and that the figure is high in the case of developing countries. However, on 2nd May, 2007, WHO has launched the "Nine Patient Safety Solutions" to reduce medical errors which reportedly affect one in every 10 patients around the world. These nine solutions will be available in an accessible form for use and adaptation by all WHO Member countries including India to re-design patient care processes and make them safer.

The Government has been associated with various WHO programmes relating to patient care like (i) launch of the Global Safety Challenge 2005-06 with the theme "Clean Care is safer Care" focusing on WHO guidelines on "Hand Hygiene and Health Care" for adoption in the hospitals, (ii) signing of the pledge relating to Global Patient Safety Challenge in July, 2006 with the commitment to address health care associated infection in the country etc.

National AIDS Control Programme III includes Infection Control & Waste Management Plan while NRHM also has guidelines for waste management and infection control in Government health care institutions at all levels.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Four-lane Highways to Eight-lane

5674. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to convert four lane National Highways into eight lane National Highways;

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

(c) the percentage of four lane, six lane and eight lane National Highways out of the total National Highways as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the National Highways on which the work has not been started even after the sanction and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are some proposals to convert four lane National Highways into eight lane National Highways around Delhi.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise details of percentages of four lane, six lane and eight lane National Highways are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) There are no works, out of the sanctioned works of eight laning of the National Highways mentioned above, which are yet to be started.

The details of works on National Highway for conversion to Eight Lanes

S.No.	State	Section	NH No.	Length (in km)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi/Haryana	Delhi-Gurgaon (Access Controlled 8/6 lane)	8	22.33	Involves 5 km widening from 6 to 8 lane and 17.33 km widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Delhi	8-laning of Haryana-Delhi Border to Mukarba Chowk	1	12.5	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started
3.	Delhi	Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road	1	8.5	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work completed
4.	Delhi	km 3.4 to km 5.7	24	2.3	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started
5.	Delhi	km 5.7 to km 7.7	24	2.0	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work included in current year's Annual Plan

Statement II

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Percentage of length of National Highways having four lane, six lane and eight lane
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1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0
2.	Assam	0.7
3.	Bihar	6.0
4.	Chandigarh	63.7
5.	Chhatisgarh	2.5
6.	Delhi	100
7.	Goa	9.7
8.	Gujarat	34.5
9.	Haryana	26.9
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.2
11.	Jharkhand	10.2
12.	Karnataka	15.7

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	3.7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3.2
15.	Maharashtra	16.7
16.	Manipur	1.5
17.	Meghalaya	0.0
18.	Mizoram	0.0
19.	Nagaland	0.0
20.	Orissa	9.8
21.	Pandicherry	3.0
22.	Panjab	17.2
23.	Rajasthan	15.6
24.	Sikkim	0.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	12.1
26.	Tripura	0.0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15.7
28.	Uttanchal	0.4
29.	West Bengal	18.4
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.0

Modernisation of Postal System

5675. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed and achievements made under various schemes including Rural Postal Life Insurance and other insurance schemes accomplished by the Department of Posts during each of the last three years and the current year, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Department of Posts has failed in providing better services to the customers in comparison to the banks in the country as also in providing attractive returns in traditional deposit schemes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

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

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Department of Posts is retailing Post Office Savings Bank products to the customers under Post Office Small Savings Schemes on behalf of Ministry of Finance. The rules are framed under Post Office Savings Bank Act, 1873, Post Office Saving Certificate Act, 1959 and PPF Act, 1968 by Ministry of Finance. Banks are providing services under different Acts. There is no comparison between Banks and Department of Posts.

[English]

Development of Cheap Hepatitis-C Drug

5676. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether the 15 million people have chronic hepatitis-C in the country;

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

(c) whether an Indian Professor of infectious diseases have developed a cheap hepatitis-C drug at Imperial College with the help of London School of Pharmacy;

(d) if so, whether they have approached Union Government for co-sponsoring the clinical trials;

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

(f) whether the testing of affordable hepatitis-C drug is also going on in other laboratories of the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the likely cost of the drug; and

(i) the time by which the human tests of this drug is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As informed by ICMR, it is estimated that there are 12.5 million Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) carriers in the country. It is generally accepted that chronic hepatitis occurs in about 55% of HCV infected individuals within 15-20 years of infection. Data regarding people infected with HCV is not maintained State-wise.

(c) to (i) According to Hammersmith Research News dated 2nd October 2006, a team led by Prof. Sunil Shaunak and comprising researchers from Hammersmith hospital, Imperial college, London School of Pharmacy has claimed that the new drug 'Pegylated interferon' for treatment of Hepatitis-B is effective in curing Hepatitis-C also. However, no request for clinical trials of the drug has been received by the Government.

India's Agreement with Kuwait

5677. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government has entered into agreement with Kuwait in respect of Indian Labourers in Kuwait;

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

(c) the time by which the agreement would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development with the State of Kuwait. The Memorandum of Understanding *inter-alia*, would facilitate recruitment of manpower between the two countries and ensure welfare of the Overseas Indian workers. The Memorandum of Understanding also envisages constitution of a Joint Working Group of the two countries to implement the same.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective from the date of serving a final notice by both parties announcing that it has fulfilled the legal requirement to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.

Unlimited Talks on Basic, Mobile and WLL Phones

5678. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether any new scheme for unlimited talk on

the Basic, Mobile and the WLL phones has been launched by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above plan of BSNL has also been made available on both post-paid and pre-paid mobile phones; 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) Sir, a new scheme for unlimited free calls within BSNL Network has been launched in respect of Fixed and WLL services in Andhra Pradesh Circle only. Besides this, an unlimited talk time scheme within BSNL Cellular Network of a circle viz. Plan 725 under Post-paid Cellular services is already in operation since August, 2006 through out the country. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II. In addition to above, field units of BSNL have also offered similar packages considering needs of customers and local market conditions.

(c) The new scheme for unlimited talk in respect of fixed and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services in Andhra Pradesh Circle has not been extended to Cellular services.

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

Statement I

BSNL unlimited free calls scheme within BSNL network under Fixed/WLL services

Particular	Unlimited free Call within SDCA in BSNL Fixed Network	Unlimited free Call within Circle in BSNL Fixed Network	Unlimited free Call within Circle in BSNL Fixed/ Cellular Network
1	2	3	4
Monthly Charges	Rs. 399	Rs. 599	Rs. 899
Free Calls MCU (for other calls)	75	Nil	Nil
Unit Rate	1.20	1.10	1.00
Call Charges			
Call to BSNL Fixed WLL	Unlimited free call within SDCA	Unlimited free call within Circle	Unlimited free call within Circle
Call to BSNL Cellular	As per existing rates	As per existing rates	Unlimited free call within Circle

1	2	3	4
All Other Calls to 95, CellWLL, other Network, Internet, STD & ISD	As per existing rates	As per existing rates	As per existing rates
Migration	Allowed Free of Charge	Allowed Free of Charge	Allowed Free of Charge

Note: (i) The above plans are launched only in AP Circle.

(ii) The above packages have been launched with effect from 07.05.2007.

(iii) The above package is not applicable to PCOs/DID Franchisees etc to whom the commission is payable.

Statement-II

Post-paid tariff of BSNL Cellular Services as on 31.03.2007

Particulars		Plan-725
1		2
1.	Activation charges in Rs.	100
2.	Monthly Fixed charges in Rs.	725
3.	Free calls/month - any Network (Worth Rs.)	0
4.	Call charges/mts in Rs.	
	Pulse rate for Intra/Inter Circle calls (In seconds)	60
A.	Intra Circle Calls	
	To GSM/UASP (Own)	0.00
	To GSM/UASP (Others)	0.40
	To Fixed/WLL (Own)	0.40
	To Fixed/WLL (Others)	0.40
	CWC/F/W (Own network) any two numbers (at least one number should be landline):	0.10
B.	Inter Circle Calls	
	To GSM/UASP (Own)	0.40
	To GSM/UASP (Others)	1.50
	To Fixed/WLL (Own)	1.50
	To Fixed/WLL (Others)	1.50
	Pulse rate for ISO calls (In seconds)	60

1	2
C. ISO calls	
(a) USA, Canada, UK	6.00
(b) Srilanka	7.20
(c) Europe [other than UK] Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong	8.00
(d) Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Oman & Qatar	9.60
(e) Rest of the world	10.00
5. SMS Charges in Rs./SMS	
A. Plain P2P SMS (max. 160 characters/SMS)	
a. Free SMS in Nos. (Own Network)***	Nil
b. Free SMS worth Rs.	Nil
c. Local (within LSA)	
(i) Own network	0.00
(ii) Other network	0.40
d. National (outside LSA)	
(i) Own network	0.40
(ii) Other network	0.40
e. International	5.00
B. Plain non-P2P SMS	0.80
C. SMS Delivery report	0.10
6. Roaming call Charges with 60 sec pulse (Rs/Min)	
A. National Roaming	
a. Fixed monthly charges	Nil
b. Outgoing calls within visited LSA (Local)	1.40
c. Outgoing calls beyond visited LSA	2.40
d. Incoming calls	0.65
e. Outgoing SMS (max 160 characters)	0.80
B. International Roaming	
(a) . International in-roamers with 60 seconds pulse Rs./Min.	
(i) Outgoing Local/STD call charges	49

1	2
(ii) Out going ISO call charges	99
(iii) Incoming call charges	75
(iv) Outgoing SMS (max 160 characters)	20
(v) Incoming SMS	Nil
b. International outbound roamers	
(a) Fixed Monthly charges	99
7. GPRS charges:	
A. Option-I	
(i) Activation Charges (Rs.)	0
(ii) Monthly subscription (Rs.)	49
(iii) Download charges (Rs.)/KB beyond free usage	0.01
(iv) Free usage in MB	5 MB
(v) Usage charges on roaming (Rs.)	0.02
B. Option-II	
(i) Activation Charges (Rs.)	0
(ii) Monthly subscription (Rs.)	199
(iii) Download charges (Rs.)/KB beyond free usage	0
(iv) Free usage in MB	Unlimited
(v) Usage charges on roaming (Rs.)	0.02
8. MMS charges	
(i) Free MMS	0
(ii) Rate P ₂ P/MMS (Rs.)	3
(iii) M ₂ P (Downloader to pay)	As per rate fixed by content provider

Note: ***Free 200 SMS (within LSA) for new connection for two months from the date of activation.

Rehabilitation of HIV Patients

(b) if so, the details thereof?

5679. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for rehabilitation of HIV-positive patients by the Central Government; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under National AIDS Control Programme (Phase-III), there is provision of free Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) of eligible HIV/AIDS patients, which is expected to prolong survival, improve the quality

of life and functional capacity. These services are being provided through 126 ART Centres where currently more than 73 thousand HIV/AIDS patients are being treated. In addition, 122 Community Care Centres have been set up in the non-government sector to treat opportunistic infections, where counselling on prevention, drug adherence and nutrition is also provided.

Grants under CRF

5680. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released during the last three years to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the Central Road Fund (CRF), yearwise;

(b) the details of the State Highways and the major district roads developed during the said period;

(c) whether the utilization certificates have been received by the Union Government from the State administrations; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be 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) The funds released during the last three years under CRF to Andaman & Nicobar Island are as follows:

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakhs)
2004-05	—
2005-06	58.00
2006-07	74.83

(b) A length of 1.5 Km of Andaman Trunk Road (subsequently declared as NH 223 in 2004) has been completed and the work in remaining 8.5 Km length is in progress.

(c) and (d) Utilization certificate upto 28.02.2007 has been received from Andaman & Nicobar Administration & based on the same funds have been released.

[Translation]

Increasing Cases of Dyslexia

5681. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rapid increase in the number of cases of learning disorder dyslexia in children has been registered in the entire country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to fight this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to check this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no epidemiological data on the prevalence of dyslexia in the country. There is no available data to suggest that dyslexia is registering rapid increase in the country.

(c) to (e) Remediation and Accommodation are the major management strategies in the fight against dyslexia. The remedial efforts for dyslexia need to focus on phonological awareness training which can improve reading decoding skills.

The Rehabilitation Council of India under M/o Social Justice & Empowerment recognizes courses that train special educators. The NCERT and the CBSE, ICSE and some state boards give exemptions in languages and certain subjects to assist these children. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme also has, as its aims, attention to these children in regular schools.

[English]

Sale of Excess Output from Captive Coal Mines

5682. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies with captive coal mines are allowed to sell excess output as reported in 'Business Line' dated April 16, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers have examined the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the development phase of a coal block and/or in the event of approved mine capacity exceeding the assessed requirement of coal for the linked end use plant, a captive coal block allocatee is required to dispose of surplus coal to the local subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

Pitiable Condition of Hospitals

5683. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical facilities in the Government hospitals in the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been poor as mentioned in the C&AG Report; and

(b) if so, the details of its findings and measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In the Audit Report Vol-II (Performance Audit of Civil Department) Delhi of CAG for the year 2005-06, observations have been made about functioning of four hospitals in Delhi namely Lok Nayak Hospital and Deen Dayal Hospital under the Government of NCT of Delhi, Hindu Rao Hospital under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Charak Palika Hospital under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

In so far as Central Government hospitals in Delhi are concerned, adequate medical facilities are available. Further, medical facilities are constantly being reviewed

and up-graded as per requirements of patient care and availability of resources.

Trespassing of Land of NHAI

5684. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land owned by the National Highways Authority of India has been illegally occupied by hospitals, malls, petrol pumps as well as other people;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the time since when the above land has been illegally occupied by various agencies/people;

(d) the action taken by the Government to get the land vacated and also take action against officers responsible for illegal occupation of the land; and

(e) the time by which the said land is likely to be vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) During demarcation of land from Ashram to Badarpur section of NH-2 done upon the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, it was found that Indraprastha Apollo Hospital had encroached upon some land of National Highways Authority of India (NHA). Subsequently, Monitoring Committee appointed by Hon'ble High Court recommended to remove the encroachment.

As per decision taken by Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the re-demarcation was done on 04.05.2007 and Indraprastha Apollo Hospital Authorities were issued with a notice to remove their encroachments. Consequently, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital has shifted its structures and balance encroachment has been removed on 14.05.2007. As on date, there is no encroachment.

Apart from above, although certain encroachments are existing on various National Highways. However, illegal occupations by hospitals, malls and petrol pumps have not been reported.

(d) Wherever, there exist encroachments on National Highways, these are being removed with the help of the State/District Administration and sometimes the matter is

also taken up with State nodal officers for expediting the process.

(e) The encroachments would be cleared during the course of execution of work.

Post-Graduate Examination

5685. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors serving in Government services are not getting admission to Post-graduate Courses by virtue of non passing the PG Entrance Examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring any Legislation to reserve a certain number of Post-graduate Medical Seats for doctors serving in Government services so as to attract doctors to rural health services

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has reviewed any representation from the State Government of Kerala requesting for exemption of serving doctors from P.G. Medical Entrance Examinations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the Medical Council of India Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2000, admission to various Post Graduate courses can be made only on the basis of results of the entrance examination conducted by the prescribed authorities. It is understood that doctors serving in Government services are finding it difficult to pass the Post Graduate Entrance Examination.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However the Government of Kerala sent 'The Kerala Medical Officers Admission to Post Graduate Courses under Service Quota Bill, 2006' to the Central Government for comments. The Bill envisages for reservation of seats among medical officers of the State of Kerala and to have selection procedure

for admission to various post graduate courses in the Medical colleges under the service quota considering their service under the Government. This Ministry has supported the Bill.

High-Tech Monitoring Agency

5686. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up high-tech monitoring agency in the country;

(b) the aims and objectives for the setting up of the agency;

(c) the names of organizations that has been appointed as the nodal agency in this regard;

(d) the amount allocated by the Planning Commission for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up a Centre for Communication Security Research and Monitoring.

(b) The main objective for setting up the above Centre is to provide mandatory access to Law enforcement agencies for intercepting, monitoring and analysis of the activities of the criminal elements and their social networking both proactively, online and through post-analysis of information.

(c) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous body of the Government of India has been appointed as the nodal agency for implementation of the project.

(d) A budget provision of Rs. 50 crores has been provided during 2007-2008 for setting up the above Centre.

Primary Health Centres

5687. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres sanctioned and set up in Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether Government has a proposal to upgrade any such Health Centres during the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether Government has a proposal to engage mobile health centre in the inaccessible areas in the State; and

(d) if so, the number of mobile health van, doctors and other allied services with medicines proposed to be provided to such centres for the purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There was no target given to the State of Rajasthan for setting up of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) during the 10th plan. The State of Rajasthan has set up 49 Community Health Centres (CHCs) during the 10th plan as against the target of 49 CHCs.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all CHCs in Rajasthan are being upgraded to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) over the XI Plan. The PHCs are also being upgraded and residential accommodation provided to medical officers and staff nurses

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The State of Rajasthan, under NRHM has been released funds for provision of Mobile Medical Unit (MMUs), @ one Unit per district in State. The State proposes to provide two vehicles each for all 32 districts of the States with provision of a vehicle with essential accessories along with a vehicle for the staff for 27 districts and a vehicle with diagnostic accessories for 5 districts of the State along with a vehicle for the staff.

Review of Tibet Policy

5688. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Tibet's spiritual leader, Dalai Lama on CNN-IBN channel that India's over-cautious attitude towards Tibet was creating resentment among Tibetans and urged India to periodically review its Tibet Policy as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 9, 2007;

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

(c) the present policy of the Government on Tibet?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have seen the report carried in the 'Hindustan Times' of 9 April 2007.

Government have recognised the Tibet Autonomous Region as part of the territory of the People's Republic of China.

Status of by-pass Roads on NH

5689. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of by-pass roads in different National Highways including Thripunithura, Muvattupuzha and Kothamangalam by-passes in NH-49 in Kerala, which are proposed for constructions; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the works of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There are ten bypass proposed for construction on various National Highways in the State of Kerala. The status of these bypasses is enclosed as statement.

As regards Tripunithura, Muvattupuzha and Kothamangalam bypasses on NH 49, the alignment of all the bypasses has been approved by the Ministry. Land acquisition is in progress in part length of Tripunithura bypass. The land acquisition estimates for Muvattupuzha and Kothamangalam bypasses and the balance length of Tripunithura bypass have not been received from the State Government of Kerala.

The balance work of remaining seven bypasses falling on NH 17 and NH 47 is proposed to be taken up along with four laning of NH 17 and NH 47 under NHDP Phase III.

Statement*Bypasses proposed for Construction on various National Highways in Kerala*

Sl. No.	Name of Bypass	NH No	Total Length (in km)	Status	Remarks
1.	Thalassery-Mahe bypass	17	18.031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in 9.14km and in balance portion yet to be taken up. Construction yet to be taken up 	Balance work to be taken up under NHDP Phase III
2.	Koilandy deviation bypass	17	11.213	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in entire length. Construction yet to be taken up 	-do-
3.	Kozhikode bypass	17	28.124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in entire length. Construction completed in 13.624 km Construction in progress in 2.74 km In balance length construction yet to be taken up 	-do-
4.	Kodungallur bypass	17	4.66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment approved LA and construction yet to be taken up 	-do-
5.	Allapuzha bypass	47	7.58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in entire length. Construction completed in 3.73km Balance work in progress except 2 ROBs 	-do-
6.	Kollam bypass	47	13.141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in entire length. Construction completed in 4.74 km Balance construction yet to be taken up 	-do-
7.	Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara	47	44.253	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA completed in 25.87 km and in progress in 5.47 km. Construction completed in 22.6 km LA and construction in balance portion yet to be taken up 	-do-
8.	Tripunithura bypass	49	12.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA in progress in 3.75km and in balance portion yet to be taken up. Construction yet to be taken up 	To be done out of NH(O) funds
9.	Muvattupuzha bypass	49	4.58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment approved LA and construction yet to be taken up 	-do-
10.	Kothamangalam bypass	49	3.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment approved LA and construction yet to be taken up 	-do-

IAS (Pay) Rules, 2007

5690 .SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 2007 introducing 'No Training-No Promotion' rules for the IAS officers as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 09, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein and the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the Surinder Nath Committee and the Yugandhar Committee on the issue;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations given by both the Committees in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) This Department has issued IAS (Pay) Rules, 2007 on 20.3.2007 providing, inter alia, that an IAS officer shall be appointed to Junior Administrative Grade and Super Time Scale of the IAS only after he has completed Phase III and IV of the prescribed mandatory mid career training respectively. Further, these rules provides that an IAS officer shall be eligible for drawing increment after completion of 28 years of service only after he has completed Phase V of such training. These provisions have been incorporated to ensure that specific training inputs needed to be given at key stages so that an officer is adequately equipped to deal with the challenges of his job for about the next ten years of his service.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Committee to Review In-Service Training of the IAS officers headed by Shri B.N. Yugandhar, in its Report, had recommended imparting of Phase III training of 8 weeks durations for the IAS officers in their 12th year of service, phase IV of 12 weeks duration in the 20th year of service and phase V in the 28th year of service. The Surinder Nath committee, in its Report had recommended that merit based system of promotion be

introduced and career training programmes made mandatory for promotion of All India Services officers to different levels.

(e) These recommendations were examined by the Government in detail and implemented with suitable modifications through the relevant provisions of IAS (Pay) Rules, referred to in the reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question.

Increasing Toll Tax

5691. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the toll taxes charged on the National Highways in the country;

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

(c) the estimates amount of toll incurred by the Government annually on the maintenance of the National Highways in the country; and

(d) the present criteria of fixing the toll taxes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) User Fee (Toll) charged on National Highways in the country are subject to revision, based on wholesale Price Index (WPI). The rates notified for public funded project are revised every 5 years whereas the rates for BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) projects are revised on the basis of concessionaire agreements.

(c) The revenue realised from toll forms a part of the General revenue of the Government. Funds for maintenance of National Highways are provided separately in the Budget.

(d) The levy and collection of the User fee (Toll) is governed by the National Highway (rate of fee) rules 1997 and as amended from time to time.

*[Translation]***National Highways in Andhra Pradesh**

5692. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of each of the National Highways passing through Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of National Highways converted into four lanes;

(c) the number of National Highways linked with the Golden Quadrilateral alongwith their names;

(d) whether there is any delay in the construction of the said quadrilateral;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The length of each of the National Highways (NHs) passing through Andhra Pradesh is enclosed as statement.

(b) Only One National Highway namely NH-5 has been fully converted into four lane. In addition 39 Km of NH-7, 80 Km of NH-9 and 21 Km of NH-202 have been converted into four lane.

(c) Only NH-5 forms part of the Golden Quadrilateral.

(d) to (f) The entire length of Golden Quadrilateral passing through State of Andhra Pradesh has been four laned.

Statement*Length of each of the National Highways passing through Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	NH No.	Route	Length Km.
1	2	3	4
1	4	Karnatka Border-Palmaner-Chittoor Naraharipeta-upto Tamil Nadu Border.	83
2	5	From Orissa Border-Ichhapuram-Narasannapeta-Srikakulam-Bhimunipatnam-Vishakhapatnam-Prattipadu-Rajahmundry-Eluru-Vijaywada-Guntur-Ongal-Nellore-Gudur upto Tamil Nadu Border	1000
3	7	From Maharashtra Border-Adilabad-Nirmal-Ramayampet-Hyderabad-Kurnool-Gooty-Anantpur-Penukonda-Karnatka Border	753
4	9	From Karnataka Border-Zahirabad-Hyderabad-Suriapet-Vijaywada-Machilipatnam	430
5	16	Nizamabad-Armur-Jagtial-Chinnur upto Maharashtra Border.	220
6	18	Kurnool-Nandya-Cuddapah-Rayachot-Chittoor.	369
7	43	From Orissa Border-Ramabhadrapuram-Vizianagaram-Jn. with NH-5 near Natavalasa.	83
8	63	From Karnatka Border-Guntakal-Gooty.	62
9	202	Hyderabad-Warrangal-Venkatapuram upto Chhattisgarh Border.	244

1	2	3	4
10	205	Ananthapur-Kadiri-Madanapalle-Renigunta upto T.N. Border	360
11	214	Kathipudi-Razole-Kakinada-Narasapur-Pamurru	270
12	214A	The Highway starting from the junction of NH-214 near Digamarru connecting Narasapur-Machilipatnam-Challapalle-Avanigadda-Repalle Bapatla-Chirala and terminating at its junction with NH-5 near Ongole	255
13	219	Madanpalli-Punganuru-Palmaner-Kuppam upto Tamil Nadu Border	128
14	221	The Highway starting from the junction of NH-9 near Vijaywada connection Kondapalli-Mallavaram-Tiruvuru-Penuballi-Kottagudam-Paloncha-Bhadrachalam-Nellipaka-Chinturu-Konta upto Chattisgarh border	155
15	222	From Maharashtra border to junction with NH-7 near Nirmal	60
Total			4472 Km

*[English]***PTT Services by the Mobile Companies**

5693. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently given permission to the Cellular Mobile Service Companies and Universal Access Service Companies to offer Push to Talk (PTT) services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the users from the use of PTT services; and

(d) the time by which it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) As per the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services (UAS) Licenses, the service providers can provide any type of mobile service. Push To Talk (PTT) is a kind of mobile service and can be provided with prior intimation to the licensor.

Disconnection of VPTs

5694. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are either being disconnected by the Department of Telecommunications or by the customers themselves;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revive the connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to the willing custodians for provision of telecom services in the rural areas. No instructions have been issued by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for disconnection of VPTs. However, the service providers may disconnect VPTs against which dues are outstanding for payment by the custodian. As on 31st March, 2007, 25,526 VPTs have been disconnected out of a total of 5,52,633 VPTs in the country, due to non-payment.

(c) Subject to availability of willing custodian, the VPTs disconnected due to non payment are shifted to new location/custodian after waiting for payment for three months.

International Treaties and Agreements

5695. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the constitution to ensure that all international treaties and agreements come into effect only after these are ratified by the Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision on the recommendations of Dr. M.N. Venkatachalaiah Committee on Constitutional Reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Government do not propose any amendment to the constitution. The Union Government with the approval of the Cabinet conclude all treaties and agreements with foreign countries. Legislature's approval is required for any impending legislation, wherever necessary.

(c) The Government have not taken any decision on the recommendations made by Dr. M.N. Venkatachalaiah Committee on Constitutional Reforms.

(d) Does not arise.

Applications of Space Technology

5696. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for Central support from Human Resource Development in the applications of Space Technology; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As part of National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) under the aegis of the Planning Commission for which the Department of Space, Government of India is the nodal agency, close coordinated activities pertaining to space technology

applications are taken up jointly with the Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. Further, the officials from the Gujarat Government periodically make use of the training and education facilities available at Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad; National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad; and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, (IIRS), Dehradun towards acquiring proficiency in the field of remote sensing, geo-informatics and GPS Technology for natural resources and disaster management.

Strengthening of Coastal Services

5697. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to strengthen coastal service in the eastern and the western coasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a scope to operate coastal service between India and Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the Tenth Plan;

(e) whether any programme has been drawn to expand coastal service in the Eleventh Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In order to strengthen coastal service, Government have given certain concessions, viz., (i) Coastal ships have been exempted from filling a bill of coastal goods at load ports and bill of entry at the discharge port; (ii) Coastal ships are exempted from light dues; (iii) Dedicated terminals have been provided for coastal shipping at various major ports in India; (iv) Vessel related charges for coastal vessels and cargo related charges for coastal cargoes have also been reduced and are now at 60% of the rate charged from other (foreign going) vessels; and (v) Tonnage tax is available to coastal ships registered under Merchant Shipping Act.

(c) to (f) Shipping service between India and Bangladesh is treated as international service. The 10th Plan did not make any specific reference to international

service between India and Bangladesh. As such, there is no proposal to operate coastal service between India and Bangladesh. However, there is a feeder service operating on the 'Chennai-Kolkata-Chittagong,' route that caters to the east coast of India shipments to the Bangladesh Port. Also, another feeder service operating on the 'Colombo-Chittagong' route caters to shipments from west coast of Indian Ports to Bangladesh. No programme has been drawn to expand coastal service between India and Bangladesh in the Eleventh Plan.

[*Translation*]

Indian Diaspora in Ireland

5698. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people of Indian Origin residing in Ireland;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding discrimination between people of Indian origin and the people from other countries in Ireland;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per information from the Indian Mission, there are around 8460 Indian nationals in Ireland. Further 299 OCI cards and 267 PIO cards have been issued by the Mission in 2004-2006.

(b) to (d) As per information received from the Indian Embassy, there is no discrimination between people of Indian origin and the people from other countries in Ireland, other than preferential treatment available to EU/EEA nationals. All cases of discrimination of Indian nationals that come to the attention of the Embassy are taken up with the Irish Government by the Embassy.

[*English*]

Evaluation of Performance of Panchayats

5699. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the performance of the Panchayats are monitored and evaluated;

(b) the authority entrusted to monitor the implementation of programmes under Panchayati Raj;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a mechanism of incentives and disincentives to encourage Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure implementation of productive economic performance and employment generation programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has submitted its Interim Report on Devolution Index;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which its final Report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The progress in fostering and nurturing Panchayati Raj in the States is monitored on the basis of information made available by State Governments, as reflected in the Report on "The State of the Panchayats—A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal" tabled in Parliament on 23 November, 2006. Evaluation is undertaken in terms of the consensual conclusions that are contained in the Compendium adopted unanimously after the Seven Round Table conferences held between July-December, 2004, and the series of Joint Statements signed by Chief Ministers (or other authorities concerned) with the Union Panchayati Raj Minister at the end of his Panchayati Raj tours of States/UTs. Thus far, 21 such Joint Statements have been concluded. It is now proposed to undertake independent evaluation through the Institute of Rural Management at Anand (IRMA) on the basis of the Devolution Index prepared and being further refined by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

(c) and (d) The Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is intended to incentivize State Governments to empower Panchayats and incentivize Panchayats to be transparent and

accountable in their transactions. On the basis of the experience gained PEAIS is being strengthened.

(e) and (f) The Fifth Round Table at Sringer in October 2004 made an initial attempt at drawing up a Devolution Index that would be fair, objective and removed from all political bias or subjective personal prejudice. The Sringer exercise was then passed on for refinement to the NCAER. The working Devolution Index prepared

by NCAER is given in the enclosed statement. PEAIS was operationalised during 2006-07 on this basis.

(g) NCAER are continuing their work on refining and making more nuanced the Devolution Index with a view to undertaking in a measurable manner all indicators relating to the empowerment of PRIs. It is hoped to give final shape to this Devolution Index during the course of the current financial year.

Statement

Devolution Index Scores and Ranking of State/Union Territories

S.No.	State	Rank	Index	Score
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kerala	1	100.00	4.51
2.	Karnataka	2	88.40	3.98
3.	West Bengal	3	87.70	3.95
4.	Tamil Nadu	4	86.30	3.89
5.	Sikkim	5	85.20	3.84
6.	Madhya Pradesh	6	77.10	3.47
7.	Orissa	7	76.50	3.45
8.	Rajasthan	8	74.00	3.33
9.	Assam	9	72.90	3.29
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10	70.80	3.19
11.	Andhra Pradesh	11	65.60	2.95
12.	Chhattisgarh	12	65.40	2.94
13.	Haryana	13	62.20	2.80
14.	Maharashtra	14	61.50	2.77
15.	Goa	15	59.80	2.69
16.	Punjab	16	56.60	2.55
17.	Manipur	17	56.40	2.54
18.	Gujarat	18	52.00	2.34
19.	Tripura	19	50.60	2.28

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Uttar Pradesh	20	47.60	2.15
21.	Uttarakhand	21	47.00	2.12
22.	Bihar	22	46.10	2.07
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	30.30	1.42
	Union Territory			
1.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1		100.00
2.	Lakshadweep	2		90.70
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3		78.40
4.	Daman and Diu	4		69.30
5.	Puducherry	5		50.70
6.	Chandigarh	6		40.20

Tender for Procurement of Equipment by BSNL

5700. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tender issued by the BSNL for procurement of equipment for 60 million GSM lines;

(b) whether there is delay in finalisation of the tender and commissioning of the capacity addition;

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

(d) the corrective measures taken/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) Sir, BSNL issued NIT for planning, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 45.5 Million lines GSM based 2G/3G Combo Network on 22.03.2006.

(b) to (d) Techno Commercial bid was opened on 12.06.2006 and financial bid was opened on 09.10.2006. One of the bidders whose bid was found techno-commercially, non-complaint, had approached Delhi High

Court against the decision of BSNL. The case has now been withdrawn by them on 16.04.2007. The evaluation process has been concluded and the Advance Purchase Order (APO) is likely to be issued soon.

[Translation]

Issue of Passports/Visas to Passengers of Samjhauta Express

5701. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers travelling in Samjhauta Express have been issued special passports and visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of passports and visas issued by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation into the accident in Samjhauta Express;

(d) if so, whether the Government has received report in this regard;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The investigation is currently in progress.

Border dispute between India and Nepal

5702. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Bhikhnathori border dispute between India and Nepal; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to resolve the border dispute?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The India-Nepal boundary is based on the Treaty of Sugauli of 1816 between British East India Company and Kingdom of Nepal and subsequent treaties and agreements. India and Nepal have established a Joint Technical Committee (JTC), with the objective of, inter alia, resolving the differences of perception on the alignment of boundary in some segments, which also includes Bhikhnathori. The last meeting of JTC was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on December 21-22, 2006. The JTC is yet to complete its mandated tasks.

Pak Citizens Killed in Samjhauta Express

5703. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani citizens killed in the accident in Samjhauta Express whose dead bodies were handed over to Pakistan; and

(b) the status of the on-going peace process in the aftermath of the said incident?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Sixty-eight people were killed in the incident. Forty identified dead bodies of Pakistani nationals were handed over to their relatives.

(b) The process to address outstanding bilateral issues continues. Several high level meetings have taken

place since the incident. The Samjhauta tragedy underscores the need to fight terrorism.

Development Index of Sick States

5704. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the development index, the sick States are lagging far behind in comparison to the other States of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to accelerate the development of the sick states; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Development index is not computed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission also does not categorise the states as sick.

(b) to (d) In view of above, do not arise.

IT Payment of BCCI

5705. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has paid income tax dues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BCCI is being criticised for its financial management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Board of Control for Cricket in India and when received will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) The BCCI is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. They do not take any financial assistance from the Government and Government is not privy to substantiated criticisms of the financial management of the BCCI. If any such substantiated allegations are brought to notice, these can certainly be looked into.

Administrative control over IAS/IPS

5706. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government or the State Government exercise administrative control over the IAS and IPS officers posted in the States;

(b) the role of the Union Government in the matter of such officers if the administrative control vests with the State Government;

(c) the provisions and the procedure to be followed in case an IPS officer posted in the State is found guilty in a case of corruption; and

(d) the Union Government-wise and State Government-wise details of the cases regarding which State Governments or the Union Government have taken action against IAS and IPS officers during the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The IAS and IPS officers, which working in the States, are under the administrative control of the State Governments. However, in certain matters, such as negotiating for or undertaking any employment, taking up any employment during leave of any kind, approval of the Union Government is required. Further, the power to impose the penalty of compulsory retirement, removal or dismissal from Service lies only with the Union Government.

(c) In terms of the provision of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969 and the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules, 1958, State Governments are competent to initiate action against serving members of the All India Services for any irregularity or malpractice committed by them while serving in the State and to impose penalty. However, a reference is to be made to the Union Government if it is proposed to impose one of the major penalties of compulsory retirement, removal and dismissal from service. Approval of the cadre controlling authority in the Union Government is also required for initiation of proceedings as well as or imposition of the penalty of cut in pension on a retired officer. Further, the Cadre Controlling Authority in the Union Government alone is competent to accord sanction or prosecution of an officer of All India Service under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The Union Government can also initiate disciplinary proceedings and impose appropriate penalties on serving/retired All India Service officers for irregularities or malpractices committed by them while serving in the Union Government.

(d) A Statement is enclosed. Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the information in respect of IPS officers serving in the State is not maintained centrally.

Statement

		Indian Administrative Service (2004-2006)				Indian Police Service (2004-2006)		
		Sanction of prosecution issued by the Centre	Penalties imposed by the Centre	Disciplinary cases initiated by Centre	Penalty imposed by State Governments	Sanction of prosecution issued by Centre	Penalties imposed by the Centre	Penalty imposed by State Governments*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	1	2	—	—	
2.	Assam—Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Bihar	—	—	1	—	—	—	
4.	Chhattiegarh	1	—	—	2	—	—	
5.	Gujarat	—	3	—	2	—	—	
6.	Haryana	2	1	—	3	—		
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	—	1	—	—	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	2	—	—	
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11.	Karnataka	1	3	—	—	—	—	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	3	3	—	
14.	Manipur—Tripura	—	—	—	—	1	—	
15.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16.	Orissa	2	—	—	1	—	—	
17.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18.	Rajasthan	1	1	—	—	1	—	
19.	Sikkim	—	—	—	1	1	—	
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	1	—	1	—	
21.	Uttarakhand	—	—	—	—	2	—	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1	1	—	—	—	
23.	West Bengal	—	—	—	1	—	1	
24.	AGMUT	10	1	—	2	—	1	
Total		23	16	4	20	9	2	

*Ministry of Home Affairs have intimated that the data in this regard is not centrally maintained.

Mahatma Gandhi's Picture In a Credit Card

5707. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the picture of Mahatma Gandhi with lip movements has been depicted in an advertisement campaign for a credit card of Richard Branson Group of Britain and his picture has also been used in that credit card;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with the Richard Branson Group of Britain in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Group thereto;

(e) whether certain organisations of South Africa have termed it as an insult to 'the Messiah of Peace' and protested against it; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A South Africa based company 'Virgin Money', part of Virgin Group established by Richard Branson of UK, had used the picture of Mahatma Gandhi for a TV advertisement in South Africa promoting its credit card. The advertisement was run in March 2007.

Our High Commission in London was asked to ascertain details from the Virgin Group in UK. They were informed that the advertisement had been withdrawn from the media stations following complaints.

(e) and (f) Some individuals in South Africa including Mr. R. Kallideen, Secretary, Phoenix Settlement Trust and Mr. Ram Maharaj, President, South African Hindu Dharma Sabha, have voiced their concern over the advertisement.

Schemes/Projects of NGOs

5708. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) the details of proposals received from various NGOs for different schemes/projects, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals approved for grant or rejected, State-wise;

(c) the details of NGOs which have been black listed alongwith the action being taken against them; and

(d) the procedure followed by the Government for monitoring the utilization of the sanctioned funds to the NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) State-wise details of proposals received from various NGOs during the year 2006-07 under the Schemes for the Promotion of National Integration, Promotion of Adventure, Development & Empowerment of Adolescents and Financial Assistance for the Promotion of Youth Activities & Training are given at the enclosed statement.

(c) The NGOs blacklisted under the Schemes for the Promotion of National Integration Promotion of Adventure and Promotion of Youth Activities & Training are as follows:-

Promotion of National Integration

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation
1	2
1.	Grameena Abhivridhi and Swayam Upadi Sikshana Society, Mysore, Kamataka
2.	Shiv Sewa Sansthan, Rae Bareli, U.P.
3.	Uttar Pradesh Gram Sewa Sansthan, Rae Bareli, U.P.

Promotion of Adventure

1.	Navchetna Vikas Kendra, Santkabr Nagar, U.P.
2.	Gram Utthan Parishad, Santkabr Nagar, U.P.
3.	Bhagwan Budh Seva Sansthan, Santkabr Nagar, U.P.
4.	Manila Evam Viklang Jan Sewa Sansthan, Santkabr Nagar, U.P.
5.	Star Gramin Manila Vikas Samiti, Moradabad, U.P.
6.	Sankalp, Bijnour, U.P.
7.	Sarv Hitkari Sansthan, Kushinagar, U.P.
8.	Krishna Shiksha Prasara Samiti, Mau, U.P.
9.	Azad Prashikshan Kendra, Azamgarh, U.P.
10.	Gramin Vikas Samiti, Azamgarh, U.P.
11.	Prakash Development Society, Ballia, U.P.

1	2
<i>Promotion of Youth Activities & Training</i>	
1.	Grameen Vikas Samiti, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
2.	Samaj Kalyan Vikas Sansthan, Jamui, Bihar
3.	Kakanmath Manav Vikas Samiti, Morena, M.P.
4.	Kshitij Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Teekamgarh, M.P.
5.	Rajendra Institute of Education and Social Welfare, Sitamarhi, Bihar
6.	Internika Welfare Society, Darbhanga, Bihar
7.	Vishwa Bandhu Ramavtar Jamuna Madhya Vidyalaya, Sitamarhi, Bihar

No further grants were given to these blacklisted organizations. The District Magistrates/Collectors concerned were requested to take action against them.

(d) A system of monitoring has been devised involving the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan/NSS Regional Centres and the recommending authority for the inspection of the programme undertaken from time-to-time by the grantee institutions under the Schemes of Promotion of National Integration, Promotion of Adventure and Promotion of Youth Activities & Training. In so far as the Scheme for the Development & Empowerment of Adolescents is concerned, the NGO is required to submit a report from the designated authority with regard to the conduct of the programme along with audited accounts for seeking the release of the balance grant.

Statement

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of Proposals received in 2006-07	No. of Proposals considered in 2006-07	No. of Proposals approved in 2006-07	No. of Proposals not recommended
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Name of the Scheme: Promotion of National Integration</i>					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16	5	3	2
3.	Bihar	26	1	1	—
4.	Chandigarh	1	1	1	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	—
6.	Daman & Diu	1	1	1	—
7.	Delhi	37	11	6	5
8.	Goa	2	2	—	2
9.	Gujarat	11	5	2	3
10.	Haryana	82	15	2	3
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	—	1
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Jharkhand	3	3	3	—
14.	Karnataka	4	4	2	2
15.	Kerala	3	3	1	2
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	9	7	4	3
18.	Maharashtra	11	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	60	—	—	—
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	4	4	3	1
22.	Rajasthan	4	3	3	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	4	4	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	21	5	5	—
25.	Uttaranchal	2	—	—	—
26.	West Bengal	8	4	3	1
Total		311	70	45	25

North Eastern Region

27.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	1
28.	Assam	9	7	5	2
29.	Manipur	29	1	1	—
30.	Meghalaya	2	—	—	—
31.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
32.	Nagaland	7	—	—	—
33.	Sikkim	4	—	—	—
34.	Tripura	2	—	—	—
Total		54	9	6	3
Grand Total		365	79	51	28

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Name of the Scheme: Promotion of Adventure</i>					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
4.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	22	3	3	—
8.	Goa	—	—	—	—
9.	Gujarat	10	3	2	1
10.	Haryana	73	5	3	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
13.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
14.	Karnataka	1	—	—	—
15.	Kerala	—	—	—	—
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	4	4	1	3
18.	Maharashtra	12	5	—	5
19.	Orissa	30	—	—	—
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	3	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—
25.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
26.	West Bengal	1	1	1	—
Total		160	21	10	11

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>North Eastern Region</i>					
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
28.	Assam	1	1	—	1
29.	Manipur	3	—	—	—
30.	Meghalaya	6	6	2	4
31.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
32.	Nagaland	3	3	—	3
33.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
34.	Tripura	1	—	—	—
Total		14	10	2	8
Grand Total		174	31	12	19

Name of the Scheme: Development and Empowerment of Adolescents

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11	11	11	—
3.	Bihar	17	11	8	3
4.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	—
6.	Daman and Diu	1	1	1	—
7.	Delhi	16	16	10	6
8.	Goa	6	6	2	4
9.	Gujarat	14	14	8	6
10.	Haryana	91	10	8	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	1	2
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
13.	Jharkhand	5	5	—	—
14.	Karnataka	6	6	4	2
15.	Kerala	83	—	—	—
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12	12	12	—
18.	Maharashtra	158	24	19	5
19.	Orissa	60	16	14	2
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	1	1	1	—
22.	Rajasthan	40	14	11	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	8	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	48	23	20	3
25.	Uttaranchal	5	5	3	2
26.	West Bengal	26	13	8	5
Total		591	192	142	50

North Eastern Region

27.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	1
28.	Assam	38	5	3	2
29.	Manipur	127	6	6	0
30.	Meghalaya	6	3	1	2
31.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
32.	Nagaland	16	4	1	3
33.	Sikkim	4	4	3	1
34.	Tripura	2	1	1	—
Total		194	24	15	9
Grand Total		785	216	157	59

Name of the Scheme: Promotion of Youth Activities & Training

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9	9	8	1
3.	Bihar	24	10	5	5
4.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Daman & Diu	3	3	1	2
7.	Delhi	43	5	4	1
8.	Goa	1	1	—	1
9.	Gujarat	27	10	7	3
10.	Haryana	108	5	5	—
11.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
13.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
14.	Karnataka	5	5	3	2
15.	Kerala	22	10	6	4
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	13	9	2	7
18.	Maharashtra	63	9	5	4
19.	Orissa	60	10	9	1
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	16	10	8	2
23.	Tamil Nadu	12	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	65	10	8	2
25.	Uttaranchal	6	3	2	1
26.	West Bengal	37	10	8	2
Total		515	119	81	38
<i>North Eastern Region</i>					
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
28.	Assam	20	—	—	—
29.	Manipur	46	—	—	—
30.	Meghalaya	5	—	—	—
31.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
32.	Nagaland	6	—	—	—
33.	Sikkim	4	—	—	—
34.	Tripura	3	—	—	—
Total		84	—	—	—
Grand Total		599	119	81	38

British Deportation Orders to IIM Alumni

5709. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR RANA:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Britain has issued deportation order to an IIM Alumni and engineer working there on visa obtained under the Highly-Skilled Migrants Programme (HSMP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has taken up the issue with the British Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of British Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Highly Skilled Migration Programme (HSMP) Group to the High Commission of India, London, since April 2007, the UK Home Office has been issuing Notice of Immigration Decision conveying "Refusal to Vary Leave or Variation of Leave" to remain in the UK as a highly skilled migrant.

(c) and (d) The High Commission of India in London has taken up the matter with the British Government as well as with British Parliamentarians. It has been informed by the Government of UK that the point-based system is designed to allow highly skilled people to migrate to the UK over long run. They have further informed that to those who are already in the UK, Government will be as helpful as possible. The necessity of not applying the amendments with retrospective effect, and the need to have some policy in the transition period in order to ameliorate the impact of the amendments in immigration rules on Indian professionals entering UK has been highlighted to the UK Government.

Use of Kerosene in the Launching of Satellites

5710. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research work has been undertaken to propel rockets through kerosene to reduce the cost of launching satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds estimated to be incurred on the said research project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ISRO has taken up the research work of using Kerosene as fuel in the rocket systems. Use of Kerosene as fuel in the rocket systems will reduce the cost of propulsion systems, thereby lowering the per kg cost of launching satellites into orbit.

(c) As a part of advanced R&D, an amount of Rs 25 crores has been identified towards this activity.

[English]

Insurance for Commonwealth Games

5711. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake the insurance for all the players participating in the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the spectators and other employees as well;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As per the Host City Contract, the Organizing Committee Commonwealth Games, 2010 is required to arrange at its own expense adequate insurance coverage in respect of all risks associated with the organization and staging of the Games. Such risks include, without limitation and in connection with the Games:-

(i) public liability and comprehensive general liability insurance;

(ii) accidental insurance and medical insurance for the benefit of the Games Family; and

(iii) coverage for spectator injury, property damage and other personal injury.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Hindus into Islam

5712. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of attacks and forcible conversion of Hindus into Muslims have increased in Pakistan and Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been raised by India with the respective Governments of the concerned countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Governments of these countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Pakistan press continues to carry reports of violence including kidnapping and forced conversion against citizens of Pakistan belonging to minority groups, including Hindus. No recent attack on Hindus in Malaysia has come to the notice of Government. In 2005, there was an incident of alleged forced conversion of a Hindu to Islam in Malaysia.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Underground and Open Cast Mines

5713. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground and open cast mines, company-wise;

(b) the number of such mines where excavation are being carried out;

(c) whether different compensation are being granted by the Government to the persons deployed in the underground and the opencast mines; and

(d) if so, the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Subsidiary-wise number of working mines in CIL (Coal India Limited) as on 01.04.2007 (provisional) are as under:

Subsidiary	Underground	Opencast	Mixed*	Total
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	88	20	5	113
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	50	15	20	85
Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)	22	33	4	59
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	0	9	0	9
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	42	36	6	84
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	69	20	1	90
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)	9	14	0	23
North East Coalfields (NEC)	3	2	0	5
Coal India Ltd. (CIL)	283	149	36	468

*Mixed mine means both underground and open cast mine under administrative control of one Manager).

(c) and (d) Payment of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act is uniformly applicable to the persons deployed in underground and opencast mines.

[English]

Development of Border Area

5714. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken up for Border Area Development in the North-East;

(b) if so, whether any work has started in the North-Eastern Region as part of such an initiative;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on

the development work during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Border Area Development Programme (BADP), a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme to facilitate development and welfare of people in border areas, is implemented in all the Community Development blocks of the country having a land border with neighbouring countries. All the eight North-East States are covered under the Scheme. BADP is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the State Governments.

State-wise details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the Scheme during the last three years are shown in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Allocation and expenditure under BADP in NE States (Position as on 11.05.07)

(Rs. in lakh)

State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
Arunachal Pradesh	1351.00	1351.00	1935.49	613.96	4498.00	0.00
Assam	998.00	998.00	1081.00	1081.00	2338.34	0.00
Manipur	555.00	555.00	592.00	517.18	1250.00	217.21
Meghalaya	900.00	900.00	494.00	494.00	1313.36	0.00
Mizoram	1556.00	1556.00	903.48	886.94	2262.00	0.00
Nagaland	416.00	416.00	456.00	456.00	1577.00	318.67
Sikkim	1256.20	1256.20	622.00	471.94	1566.04	0.00
Tripura	2109.60	2095.24	1296.00	1001.09	2678.48	0.00
Total	9141.80	9127.44	7379.37	5522.11	17483.22	535.88

*[Translation]***WHO's Report on HIV/AIDS**

5715. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

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

(a) whether according to the World Health Organisation report, the number of HIV positive patients in rural areas is more than that of the urban areas in India as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 27, 2007;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make special medical arrangements in rural areas in view of the WHO report;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The WHO report is based on annual sentinel surveillance 2005. As per surveillance report, 58.7% of the total HIV infection are in rural areas and 41.3% are in urban areas. The higher percentage of HIV+ persons in the rural areas is due to the larger population base as compared to the urban areas.

(e) and (f) The Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to control the spread of HIV/AIDS by up-scaling targeted interventions among the high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness specifically among women and children, expanding the preventive care, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including treatment of opportunistic infections and provision of free antiretroviral drugs and mainstreaming HIV intervention strategies.

*[English]***Applications through District Passport Cells**

5716. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received through district passport cells for issuing passports from each district in West Bengal from January, 2006 to March 31, 2007; district-wise; and

(b) the details of applicants to whom passports have been issued district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

*[Translation]***Instruments for Expansion of CDMA/GSM Network**

5717. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and MTNL are procuring the instruments for the expansion of their CDMA and GSM based network from the foreign companies;

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

(c) whether UT starcom has been awarded the contract by BSNL to develop broadband network, whereas the company does not have any manufacturing units in the country as stipulated in the contract; and

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. BSNL and MTNL are not procuring any instruments directly from foreign Companies. However, BSNL and MTNL are procuring equipments required for its communication network from companies registered in India.

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

(c) The Purchase Order for supply of 1.34 million broadband ports has been placed by BSNL on M/s. UT Starcom on 28.12.2006. The indigenous manufacturing capability was not mandatory for the ordering of the first phase of the broadband equipment. Order for subsequent phases will be placed among short listed bidders on satisfactory demonstration of 30% value addition in hardware, indigenously.

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

Emigration Permission to Women

5718. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNALIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has recommended for fixing the minimum age limit at 21 years instead of 30 years for grant of emigration permission to women working as domestic maids in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also recommended for security, minimum wage, accommodation, health facilities, fixing working hours and determining other conditions related to job of women employee in foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The National Commission for Women has recommended for fixing minimum age limit as 21 years instead of 30 years for granting emigration permission for seeking employment in a foreign country subject to the following conditions: (i) total ban on minors migrating for any form of work/employment to foreign countries (ii) protection to women employed in foreign countries to ensure minimum wage, housing, medical facilities, working hours and other conditions of service and a sound mechanism for grievance redressal against ill-treatment and sexual exploitation (iii) utilization of welfare fund for providing legal representation to women who are victim of sexual abuse and trafficking (iv) strict action against recruiting agents or any person if they are found to traffic young girls under guise of domestic or any other work

(v) establishing women/gender cells in embassies abroad
(vi) compulsory orientation and awareness programme for domestic maids.

[English]

Approved Laboratories for Drug Testing

5719. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the details of the laboratories approved by the Drug Controller Port Offices, where samples of drug can be tested to avoid delay and harassment to genuine importers;

(b) whether the importers are being exploited to pay higher charges for samples to be tested;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to simplify the procedure in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action 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) A list of private laboratories, approved by the Port Offices to test samples drawn on random basis from the consignments imported into the country, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Samples from the drug consignments are drawn by the Port Officers on random basis to assess the quality of drugs imported into the country. These samples are to be tested by the government laboratories under the control of the Ministry of Health and FW. At the request of importers to avoid delay some of the samples from the imported consignments are forwarded by the port offices to other testing laboratories that already have approval in Form-37 under the provisions of Rules made under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The rates being charged by these laboratories is a matter between the importer and the laboratories.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Statement*List of Private Laboratories***Kolkata**

1. Vimta Laboratory, Hyderabad
2. Superintendent India Ltd, Kolkata
3. National Test House (Govt. of India) Kolkata.

Mumbai

1. Bee-Pharma Laboratories, Mumbai
2. Geo-chem Analytical Laboratory, Mumbai
3. Ita Lab Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai
4. Hexa Analytical Lab, Mumbai
5. Maneesha Analytical Lab, Mumbai
6. Chemo Test Lab, Mumbai
7. Para Lab Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai
8. Invo-chem Lab, Mumbai

Chennai

1. A to Z Laboratory, Chennai
2. SGS Laboratory, Chennai

Delhi

1. Sri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi
2. Arbro Pharmaceutical Ltd., New Delhi

Assistance from European Union

5720. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Council has recently announced any aid/assistance for health and education programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of amount sanctioned; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the said aid/assistance including the period for which the amount is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The European Commission provides assistance to India in the form of grant for the implementation of mutually agreed projects, with priority to projects in the health and education sectors.

The European Commission made an announcement in Brussels on 16.02.2007 that it was proposing Euros 470 million under the new Country Strategy Paper for India for 2007-2013. However, Government of India have not yet received any formal communication from the European Commission in this regard.

Code of Conduct for Doctors

5721. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the pharmaceutical companies are publishing attractive advertisements and giving gifts for the doctors to prescribing their medicines;

(b) if so, whether any code of conduct has been formulated for the doctors:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the step being taken by the Government to identify the doctors violating this code of conduct; and

(e) the details of action being taken against such doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) No specific complaints have been received in this regard. There is a code of conduct prescribed in the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002. This stipulate that a physician shall not give, solicit, or receive not shall he offer to give solicit or receive, any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of or return for the referring, recommending or procuring of any patient for medical, surgical or other treatment. A physician shall

not directly, or indirectly, participate in or be a party to act of division, transference, assignment, subordination, rebating, splitting or refunding of any fee for medical, surgical or other treatment. This shall apply with equal force to the referring, recommending or procuring by a physician or any person, specimen or material for diagnostic purposes or other study/work. The violation of any of the provisions of the said regulations will invite disciplinary proceedings. Further, an aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under Consumer Protection Act, 1996, in cases of such unethical practices.

The Medical Council of India and the appropriate State Medical Council have been empowered to take disciplinary action against physicians for violation of the provisions of the regulation.

Indians Living in Iran

5722. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indians living in Iran intend to return to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding harassment of these Indians by the Indian Embassy; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such complaint has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Harmful Effect of Synthetic Drug

5723. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growing number of synthetic drug users is a matter of grave concern as their increased use is reflected in their seizure rates;

(b) if so, whether the synthetic drugs are more harmful than traditional ones;

(c) whether according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an Amphetamine-type Stimulation (ATS) is the largest narcotics problem faced by most nations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau has extended its co-operation to face the day-to-day problems keeping;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Consumption pattern of certain synthetic compounds indicate increasing number of drug abusers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Most of the synthetic drugs are more addictive than naturally occurring/plant products having addictive properties.

(c) and (d) As per the report of UNODC, abuse of Cocaine, a synthetic drug is the major drug abuse in Many Nations. However, in South-East-Asia and South Asia recent reports suggest increasing abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulation (ATS) like compounds

(e) and (f) Steps taken by Narcotics Control Bureau to check, detect and prevent illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances are:

- > Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices etc.
- > Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.
- > Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.
- > Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.
- > Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of precursor chemicals.

- > Building of an electronic data base of offenders.
- > Conducting training programme for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.
- > Implementing a scheme of monetary rewards for information leading to seizures of Narcotics drugs to informants and officers.
- > Financial assistance being provided to eligible States for strengthening their narcotic units.

Steps taken by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to reduce the problem of drug abuse in the society includes awareness creation and education programme on ill effects of drug/alcohol abuse, motivation, counseling, treatment, follow-up and social reintegration of cured addicts, capacity building through imparting rehabilitation training and counseling in the area of drug abuse/alcohol prevention to volunteers and staff and effective networking and linkages with the service providers involved in prevention of alcohol abuse with the objective of reducing incidence of drug abuse in the society. Ministry of Health also provides schemes for Drug De-addiction Programmes through various Zonal Institutions.

[Translation]

Nuke Park by Pak

5724. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan is preparing to set up a nuclear park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have seen press reports about Pakistan's interest in setting up "Nuclear Parks" as a means to attract foreign investors interested in setting up private nuclear power plants. The stated reason for this is to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

[English]

Application of Indian laws to PIOs

5725. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government has proposed to make Indian laws applicable to the persons of Indian origin (PIOs) settled in UK and the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with these countries to work out a legal arrangement in this matter; and

(d) if so, the response of the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Indian Construction Workers in UAE

5726. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Watch has conducted any study on the conditions of the Indian construction workers in U.A.E;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for implementation of the suggestions and observations made in the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) In November 2006, The Human Rights Watch, a US-based Non Government Organisation published a report entitled "Building Towers, Cheating Workers -Exploitation of Migrant Construction Workers in the UAE". The report was researched and written by Mr. Hadi Ghaemi, researcher in the Middle East and North Africa Division of the Human Rights Watch.

(b) Major recommendations of the report were as follows:

1. Minimum wage structure should be implemented in UAE.
2. Free trade unions and collective bargaining should be allowed in UAE.
3. The number of labour inspectors in UAE should be increased.
4. Stringent punishment should be imposed on employers and recruiting agents who flout the law.
5. International standards should be imposed for the health and safety of workers.
6. Qualitative database on labour disputes, deaths and injuries should be provided by the Government.

(c) and (d) Since the report is not India-specific and covers all expatriate workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is for the UAE government to consider implementation of the recommendations made therein. On its part, the Government of India keep a close eye on the condition of Indian workers abroad and takes steps as required from time to time including through consultation with the host governments, to ensure their welfare.

Degrees and Diplomas in Pharmacy

5727. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of approved institutions imparting Diplomas and Degrees in Pharmacy in various parts of the country and number of students who have got their Diplomas and Degrees so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more institutions on Pharmacy in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Pharmacy Council of India is conducting inspections on the activities of institutions;

(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) The statewide number of Diploma and Degree Pharmacy Institutions along with admission capacity approved by Pharmacy Council of India is given in the enclosed Statement-I & II and approved by AICTE is given in the enclosed statement-III

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

(d) to (f) Yes, the Pharmacy Council of India is conducting inspections to verify the compliance of prescribed norms like:—

1. Infrastructural facilities

- Accommodation area-laboratories, lecture halls, museum, machine room etc.;
- Teaching staff-Number, qualification, experience, pay scales, etc.;
- Non-teaching staff-Number, qualification, etc.;
- Equipments;
- Gas, water, electricity supply;
- Library books etc.

2. Academic performance

- To verify as to whether prescribed number of hours for theory and practical are taught to students;
- Number of exercises conducted;
- Staff student ratio;
- Number of working days etc.

Statement I

List of Approved Diploma in Pharmacy Institutions by PCI

Sl.No.	States	Institutions	Admissions
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	2340
2.	Assam	3	200

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	2	120
4.	Chandigarh	2	100
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	187
6.	Delhi	8	480
7.	Goa	1	60
8.	Gujarat	9	640
9.	Haryana	14	875
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	60
11.	Jharkhand	2	120
12.	Karnataka	93	5820
13.	Kerala	21	1310
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	670
15.	Maharashtra	103	6250
16.	Manipur	1	30
17.	Mizoram	1	33
18.	Orissa	28	1600
19.	Punjab	18	1030
20.	Rajasthan	17	1020
21.	Sikkim	1	60
22.	Tamil Nadu	43	2960
23.	Tripura	1	60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13	680
25.	Uttanchal	11	500
26.	West Bengal	10	490
27.	Jammu and Kashmir (u/s 14)	1	40
TOTAL		461	27735

Statement-II*List of Approved Degree in Pharmacy
Institutions by PCI*

Sl.No.	States	Institutions	Admissions
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	1440
2.	Assam	1	40
3.	Bihar	1	30
4.	Chandigarh	1	50
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	120
6.	Delhi	3	180
7.	Goa	1	60
8.	Gujarat	12	700
9.	Haryana	6	360
10.	Jharkhand	1	60
11.	Karnataka	47	2700
12.	Kerala	5	300
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11	660
14.	Maharashtra	52	2870
15.	Orissa	11	640
16.	Pondicherry	1	60
17.	Punjab	10	470
18.	Rajasthan	8	440
19.	Sikkim	1	60
20.	Tamil Nadu	37	2180
21.	Tripura	1	30
22.	Uttar Pradesh	18	1010
23.	Uttanchal	4	210
24.	West Bengal	2	120
Total		261	1479

Statement III*Details of AICTE approve Degree and Diploma level Pharmacy Institutions for the year 2006-2007*

Region	States/UTs	Pharmacy			
		Degree		Diploma	
		NOI	Intake	NOI	Intake
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	Madhya Pradesh	58	3495	38	1995
	Chhattisgarh	6	360	12	580
	Gujarat	50	2820	25	1540
Eastern	Mizoram	1	30	1	30
	Sikkim	1	60	1	60
	Orissa	16	925	15	840
	West Bengal	11	685	10	560
	Tripura	1	30	1	60
	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
	Assam	1	40	2	150
	Manipur	0	0	1	20
	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
	Jharkhand	1	60	2	150
North	Bihar	1	15	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh	68	4065	9	430
	Uttaranchal	9	510	11	501
North West	Chandigarh	1	98	1	180
	Haryana	18	1108	11	1350
	Jammu & Kashmir	1	30	1	40
	New Delhi	5	324	2	220
	Punjab	24	1294	28	1890
	Rajasthan	36	2116	20	1110
	Himachal Pradesh	3	160	3	110

1	2	3	4	5	6
South	Andhra Pradesh	106	6252	57	3160
	Pondicherry	1	60	1	20
	Tamil Nadu	42	2455	15	1170
South West	Karnataka	69	4043	83*	5220*
	Kerala	26	1410	4*	240*
West	Maharashtra	108	6986	203	10380
	Goa	1	88	1	60
	Daman and Diu, Dadar	0	0	0	0
Total		665	39517	558	32066

As on now AICTE has not received the recommendation of State Level Committee for extension of approval of Diploma in Pharmacy Institutions beyond 2004-2005.

Normal Times to Release Pension

5728. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time laid down under the rules for releasing pension to the retired Government employees;

(b) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding inordinate delay in releasing the pension; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to eliminate delays and to release pension at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, stipulate the time schedule for determination and authorization of pension. As per these Rules the pension is sanctioned and Pension Payment Order (PPO) issued to the Pension Paying Authority one month before the date of retirement of the Government employee for release of pension.

(b) and (c) The data on complaints regarding delay in release of pension is not maintained centrally as the process of authorization, sanction and disbursement of pension is decentralized and is undertaken by the Head

of Office of the respective administrative Ministries/ Departments/Offices. The complaints regarding delay in release of pension are disposed of by the respective administrative Ministries/Departments/Offices, directly as the process of authorization, sanction and disbursement of pension is decentralized.

Vaccine for TB and Malaria

5729. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any external assistance for supporting the efforts taken in the development of vaccines for tuberculosis and Malaria in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information received, so external assistance has been received for the development of TB vaccine in the country during the last three years.

As far as development of malaria vaccine is concerned, the field sites are being developed at two field units of NIMR in Orissa and Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for future vaccine trials. For Orissa, Department

of Biotechnology (DBT) has provided funds and vaccine is being developed at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biology (ICGEB), Delhi. ICMR has funded the studies at Jabalpur and CDC Atlanta, USA is developing the vaccine.

(b) Orissa: This is a collaborative project with International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, being funded by the Department of Biotechnology. The studies are being carried out to understand the epidemiology of malaria in Sundargarh district, Orissa which will facilitate the future field trials for malaria vaccines through collection of clinical, entomological and molecular epidemiological/immunological indicators from the study site. The project was initiated during August, 2000 and was initially up to July, 2002 but has been extended for the tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Logitudinal and cross-sectional epidemiological studies are being continued in two sets of villages in forest and plain areas characterized by hyper-and meso-endemic malaria situations respectively. Initially there were 13 study villages with a total population of 4,473. During 2003, the study population was increased to 15,525 with the addition of 23 villages. The proposed peptide vaccine is a recombinant vaccine against blood stages of *P.falciparum*.

Jabalpur: Study was initiated in May, 2005 keeping target to cover a population size of 32,700 residing in 53 villages. A community cohort study on pregnant women, new born infants and children is being carried out along with hospital-based surveillance of all age groups. This study is mainly focused on to develop a well-characterized site, where the epidemiology of the disease, immune responses, parasite genetic diversity and vector characteristics are well understood for future malaria vaccine trial. The proposed vaccine is peptide-based multistage molecule.

Revamping of Major Ports

5730. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an investment of over Rs. 50,000 crore has been approved for upgrading, expanding and revamping the 12 major sea ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the break-up of financial outlay, year-wise;

(d) whether the infrastructure available after completion of these projects would be comparable to the best in similar ports around the globe;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the work is likely to be completed in all these major sea ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). Under the Programme, a total of 387 projects involving an investment of Rs. 1,00,339 crores have been identified to be taken up for implementation over a defined period. Out of this, 276 projects involving an investment of Rs. 55,804 crores have been identified in the 12 Major Ports. The projects in the Major Ports relate to deepening of port channels, development of berths, modernization and upgradation of cargo handling equipment, enhancement of rail/road connectivity between the ports and the hinterland and other associated projects. Out of the investment for the Major Ports, Rs. 34,505 crores are envisaged through private investment mainly in commercially viable activities like berths/terminals. The projects identified under the Programme are expected to be taken up for implementation over a period upto 2011-12. However, the year-wise financial outlays would depend on the timeframes involved in various processes like approval of the Competent Authority and the award of work for individual projects under the Programme as also the pace of execution and related factors including the demand projection and the funds availability. The objective is to upgrade and modernise the port infrastructure in India which will enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards.

[Translation]

Loss of revenue to the States

5731. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States are suffering a loss of revenue to be accrued for them from registration and stamp duty on account of the absence of any kind of contract with the coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to repeal the Coal Bearing Act for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Ministry of Coal is not aware about any loss of revenue being caused to the State Governments towards registration and stamp duty in the absence of any kind of contract with the coal companies.

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

(c) There is no proposal before the Ministry of Coal for repeal of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above

[English]

Proposals by Assam for National Highways and Bridges

5732. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the project proposals submitted by the Government of Assam during each of the year for the Tenth Five Year Plan for construction of roads, National Highways and bridges;

(b) the details of roads, National Highways and bridges approved and sanctioned by the Central Government;

(c) the estimated cost thereof including the Central aid sought and allocated;

(d) the proposals which are pending for clearance; and

(e) the progress made in the construction of these projects including the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways and roads included under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme—North East (SARDP-NE) The details of the project proposals submitted by the Government of Assam for construction of roads, National Highways and Bridges during each of the year of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the proposals approved and sanctioned and the funds allocated are given below:

Year	Proposals received in number		Proposals approved in Rs. Crore		Funds allocated in Rs. Crore	
	Plan Works	SARDP-NE	Plan Works	SARDP-NE	Plan Works	SARDP-NE
2002-03	37	—	119.86	—	73.75	—
2003-04	28	—	102.32	—	108.00	—
2004-05	21	—	93.03	—	79.80	—
2005-06	19	—	77.45	—	59.50	—
2006-07	15	15	92.94	342.33	79.10	56.00

(d) No Proposal of Assam Government for National Highways and Roads under SARDP-NE is pending for Clearance in the Ministry.

(e) The construction of roads and National Highways

is a continuous process and works are executed by Assam PWD against the funds allocated by the Ministry on yearly basis and balance is carried over to the next year. The expenditure incurred during the last 5 years on Plan and SARDP-NE works is given below:

Year	Plan Works Expenditure (In Rs. crore)	SARDP-NE Expenditure (In Rs. crore)
2002-03	73.17	—
2003-04	106.98	—
2004-05	78.00	—
2005-06	58.00	—
2006-07	77.14	39.21

Implementation of MPLAD Scheme

5733. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for orientation of the district officers and other officers engaged in the implementation of MPLAD Scheme in the light of the revised MPLAD guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the district officers work in a transparent, accountable and effective manner in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes sir. As per MPLAD Scheme guidelines, every State/UT Government is required to make arrangements for training of the district officers concerned with the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation provides training materials for conducting such training of district officers, as and when these are organized by the State/UT Governments.

During 2006-07 such trainings were organized by the States of UP, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Guidelines on the MPLAD Scheme ensure financial discipline, greater transparency and increased

accountability as fund release is linked to receipt of Monthly Progress Reports, Utilization Certificates and Audit Certificates.

The progress of the Scheme is periodically reviewed at the Central and State/UT level. Each district has been asked to upload the progress of implementation on the web-site of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Physical Monitoring of MPLADS works by an independent agency has also been initiated to further strengthen transparency and accountability under the Scheme.

[Translation]

Printing of Postal Stamps

5734. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to frame a policy for permitting the printing of postal stamps on payment by individuals or organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the postal stamps on Eminent Personalities is proposed to be discontinued by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to frame a policy for printing of postal stamps on payment by individuals or organizations.

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

(c) There is no proposal to discontinue the printing of postal stamps on eminent personalities.

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

[English]

Technical aid for Reconstruction of Roads/Bridges

5735. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the last year's unprecedented floods in Mumbai, State Government of Maharashtra has sought special technical and other aid for upgrading and reconstruction of roads and bridges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) No such aid has been sought from this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint Venture for Bio Medical Research

5736. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some neighbouring countries have shown interest for a tie-up in the field of bio-medical research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any point action is proposed to be taken with these countries to control the communicable and non-communicable diseases; 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) According to Indian Council of Medical Research Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan etc. have shown interest for a tie up in bio-medical research in Kala-azar, Malaria and Influenza.

(c) and (d) The joint action proposed to be undertaken with these countries to control these diseases includes development of improved strategies for early case detection and treatment providing training for use of rapid diagnosis and up date information and hands on training about preparedness and response to the participants.

Setback to BSNL Mobile Service In Assam

5737. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL mobile service has suffered a serious setback in Assam due to ongoing construction work on the National Highways and theft of fiber cable in addition to internal operational sabotage to facilitate private operators;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL will be able to sustain as a commercially viable organization in the NER;

(c) the action taken by the Government to rectify and to improve the situation;

(d) whether alternate satellite radio system is introduced to ensure uninterrupted services in those vulnerable areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been affected in Assam due to the following reasons:

(i) Disruption of long distance communication network because of ongoing works of National Highways;

(ii) Theft of Galvanized Iron (GI) pipe;

(iii) Suspected sabotage activity by unknown miscreants.

No case of internal operational sabotage has been found till date in this regard. However, BSNL makes all-out efforts to restore the traffic/breakdown at the earliest.

(b) During financial year 2005-06, BSNL's North East Region which consists of three telecom circles namely Assam, North East-I and North East-II, has earned profit to the tune of Rs.199.53 crores. So North East Region circles are commercially viable units of BSNL.

(c) BSNL has lodged complaints with the State Authorities regarding thefts/sabotage. In addition, bandwidth/optical fiber has been leased from infrastructure providers in the area.

(d) and (e) Limited bandwidth on Satellite media is available. Satellite links due to inherent techno-economic constraints, can not provide effective back up for the capacities available in the optical fiber cable system.

Kashmir Issue

5738. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sociologist from Norway had sent a formula to the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding solution of Kashmir issue;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Press reports from Oslo have reported that a Norwegian scholar has sent a solution to Governments of India and Pakistan suggesting an India-Pakistan condominium for the Kashmir valley and Muzaffarabad district of POK.

(c) Government do not comment on speculative press reports and private opinions of this nature.

Expediting Road Projects

5739. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee of Secretaries to expedite road sector projects and to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting and environmental approvals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has directed the Ministry to implement Highways projects estimated at Rs. 2,20,000 crore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Committee will help expediting the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) headed by Cabinet Secretary to resolve bottlenecks in ongoing National Highways Development Project

(NHDP) projects requiring Centre-State and Inter-Ministerial Coordination. Three meetings of CoS have been held till date; first on 01.04.2005, second on 03.11.2005 and third on 03.08.2006. Many issues considered during these meetings have since been resolved.

(c) and (d) The Committee on Infrastructure headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister had outlined implementation of NHDP under seven phases with an estimated investment of Rs. 2,20,000 crore. Government has now approved Phase IIIA and IIIB of NHDP with enhanced scope and NHDP Phase V and VI. Accordingly the investment would be of the order of Rs. 2,35,430 crore.

(e) Issues requiring Centre-State and Inter-Ministerial Coordination are addressed by the Committee to resolve bottlenecks in the projects.

[Translation]

Declining Number of Indians Abroad

5740. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the number of Indian Nationals living abroad has been constantly declining during the past few years;

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

(c) the names of countries from which maximum number of Indians have migrated;

(d) whether the Government has considered the problems of such Indians; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir. As per the information available with the Ministry the number of Indian Nationals living abroad is rather increasing, except for a few countries.

(b) to (e) Details as per list enclosed as statement.

Statement*Population of Overseas Indians: Country-wise*

Sl. No.	Country	Overseas Indians living abroad
1	2	3
1. *	Afghanistan	3,500
2. *	Albania	8
3. *	Algeria	450
4.**	Andorra	200
5. *	Angola	1,000
6. **	Anguilla	N.A
7. **	Antigua and Barbuda	60
8. *	Argentina	1,400
9. *	Armenia	720
10. **	Aruba	N.A
11. *	Australia	2,23,600
12. *	Austria	17,000
13. **	Azerbaijan	250
14. *	Bahamas	400
15. *	Bahrain	2,60,400
16. *	Bangladesh	1800
17. **	Barbados	2,200
18. *	Belarus	632
19. *	Belgium	16,133
20. **	Belize	500
21. **	Benin	450
22. *	Bhutan	Nil
23. **	Bolivia	N.A
24. *	Bosnia and Herzegovina	30
25. *	Botswana	11,000

1	2	3
26. *	Brazil	1,000
27. *	Brunei Darussalam	7,500
28. *	Bulgaria	192
29. *	Burkina Faso	175
30. *	Burundi	250
31. *	Cambodia	300
32. **	Cameroon	250
33. *	Canada	10,00,000
34. *	Cape Verde Islands	12
35. *	Cayman Islands	600
36. **	Central African Republic	N.A
37. **	Chad	125
38. *	Chile	1180
39. *	China (including Hong Kong)	47,250
40. **	Colombia	345
41. **	Comoros	50
42. *	Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	4,000
43. **	Congo (Republic of)	N.A
44. **	Cook Island	N.A
45. *	Costa Rica	32
46. *	Cote d'Ivoire	300
47. *	Croatia	39
48. **	Cuba	N.A
49. *	Cyprus	2700
50. *	Czech Republic	500
51. *	Denmark	4,313
52. *	Djibouti	608
53. **	Dominica	20
54. **	Dominican Republic	N.A

1	2	3
55. **	East Timor	N.A
56. **	Ecuador	5
57. *	Egypt	1400
58. *	El Salvador	25
59. **	Equatorial Guinea	N.A
60. **	Eritrea	1,753
61. *	Estonia	60
62. *	Ethiopia	2200
63. *	Fiji	3,16,100
64. *	Finland	2,490
65. *	France	2,85,160
66. **	Gabon	N.A
67. *	Gambia	103
68. *	Georgia	115
69. *	Germany	68,500
70. *	Ghana	6,000
71. *	Greece	12,000
72. **	Grenada	N.A
73. **	Grenadines	N.A
74. *	Guatemala	24
75. *	Guinea	250
76. *	Guinea Bissau	31
77. *	Guyana	3,27,032
78. **	Haiti	N.A
79. **	Holy See	N.A
80. *	Honduras	52
81. *	Hungary	159
82. *	Iceland	222
83. *	Indonesia	62,000

1	2	3
84. *	Iran	1500
85. *	Iraq	9,000
86. **	Ireland	1,600
87. *	Israel	64,000
88. *	Italy	48,499
89. *	Jamaica	53,000
90. *	Japan	15,000
91. *	Jordan	8000
92. *	Kazakhstan	2400
93. *	Kenya	75,000
94. **	Kiribati	N.A
95. **	Korea (DPR)	10
96. *	Korea (Republic of)	4,000
97. *	Kuwait	5,49,080
98. *	Kyrgyzstan	300
99. **	Lao, PDR	N.A
100.*	Latvia	40
101.*	Lebanon	2
102.*	Lesotho	1,000
103.*	Liberia	1,010
104.*	Libya	12,000
105.*	Liechtenstein	3
106.*	Lithuania	71
107.*	Luxembourg	500
108.*	Macedonia	7
109.	Madagascar	28,000
110.*	Malaysia	20,50,000
111.*	Malawi	5,000
112.*	Maldives	21,196

1	2	3
113.*	Mali	35
114.**	Malta	N.A
115.**	Marshall Islands (Republic of)	N.A
116.*	Mauritania	33
117.*	Mauritius	7,15,756
118.**	Mexico	400
119.**	Micronesia	N.A
120.*	Moldova	15
121.*	Mongolia	46
122.**	Montserrat	N.A
123.*	Morocco	211
124.*	Mozambique	21,000
125.*	Myanmar	25,00,000
126.*	Namibia	120
127.**	Nauru	N.A
128.*	Nepal	55,00,000
129.*	Netherlands	21,000
130.*	New Zealand	97,000
131.*	Nicaragua	16
132.*	Niger	40
133.**	Nigeria	25,000
134.*	Norway	7,154
135.*	Oman	3,84,961
136.**	Pakistan	N.A
137.**	Palau (Republic of)	N.A
138.**	Palestine (PLO)	N.A
139.*	Panama	6000-7000
140.**	Papua New Guinea	1,000
141.*	Paraguay	300

1	2	3
142.*	Peru	300
143.*	Philippines	50,000
144.*	Poland	1642
145.*	Portugal	75,000
146.*	Qatar	2,00,000
147.*	Romania	700
148.*	Russian Federation	15,000
149.*	Rwanda	540
150.**	Samoa	N.A
151.**	San Marino	N.A
152.**	Sao Tome and Principe (Republic of)	N.A
153.*	Saudi Arabia	14,25,252
154.*	Senegal	187
155.*	Serbia & Montenegro	28
156.**	Seychelles	5,000
157.*	Sierra Leone	820
158.*	Singapore	4,00,000
159.*	Slovak Republic	60
160.*	Slovenia	30
161.**	Soloman Islands	20
162.*	South Africa	9,18,400
163.*	Spain	28,000
164.*	Sri Lanka	15,01,500
165.**	St. Kitts and Nevis	200
166.**	St. Lucia	200
167.**	St. Vincent	160
168.*	Sudan	8,500
169.**	Suriname	265,150
170.*	Swaziland	350

1	2	3
171.*	Sweden	17,000
172.*	Switzerland	13,004
173.*	Syria	360
174.*	Tajikistan	400
175.*	Tanzania	45,000
176.*	Thailand	90,000
177.*	Togo	200
178.**	Tonga	N.A
179.*	Trinidad & Tobago	5,21,400
180.*	Tunisia	35
181.*	Turkey	287
182.*	Turkmenistan	300
183.*	Turks & Caicos Islands	200
184.**	Tuvalu	N.A
185.*	Uganda	13,500
186.*	Ukraine	3,000
187.**	UAE	1,400,000
188.*	UK	15,00,000
189.*	USA	16,96,000
190.*	Uruguay	20
191.*	Uzbekistan	120
192.**	Vanuatu	50
193& 194*	Venezuela & Netherlands Antilles	3500
195.*	Vietnam	299
196.*	Yemen	1,12,000
197.*	Zambia	13,000
198.*	Zimbabwe	16,700

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6561/2007)

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 209(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March 2007 approving the Dangerous Goods (Arrival, Receipt, Transport Handling and Storage) in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Regulations, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6562/2007)

- (3) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 318(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April 2007 under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

...(Interruptions)(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6563/2007)*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You please speak after the papers are laid. You can raise any topic after this.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 44 of the Emigration Act, 1983:—

*Updated with information from Indian Missions

**As per Report of HLCID, appointed by the Government.

N.A.-Not available with the Ministry

- (1) S.O. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2007 exempting every citizen of India going to Vatican City from the operation of section 22 of the Emigration Act, 1983:—

- (2) S.O. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2007 prohibiting emigration of Indian Citizens for going to Iraq.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6564/2007)

12.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan and some other hon. members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You people are aware that this can be taken up after the papers are laid. After the papers are laid, we will come to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that these can be raised after the papers are laid.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952:—

- (1) The Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2007.
- (2) The Notaries (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 86(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6565/2007)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please speak after two minutes

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(i) The All India Services (Performance Appraisal Report) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.197(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2007.

(ii) The All India Services (Performance Appraisal Report) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 296(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2007.

(iii) The All India Services (Leave) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 207(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2007.

(iv) The All India Services (Leave) Second Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 208(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2007.

(v) The Indian Forest Service (Probationers Final Examination) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 281(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2007.

(vi) The Indian Forest Service (Probation) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 282(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6566/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6567/2007)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6568/2007)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6569/2007)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2005-2006.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6570/2007)

- (9) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2005-2006.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6571/2007)

- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian 468 Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 6572/2007)

- (13) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (10th Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 773(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December 2006 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 242(E) dated the 28th March, 2007.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 6573/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of the Telecommunications for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 6574/2007)

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of the Telecommunications for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 6575/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 622(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2007 authorizing Officers

to acquire regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of the National Highway No. 12 (Rajmarg Crossing-Bareilly section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) S.O. 681(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2007 regarding rates of fee to be recovered per trip from the users of the Rewa By-Y-Pass on National Highway No. 7 in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) S.O. 611(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of the National Highway No. 4 (Haveri-Hubli section) in the State of Karnataka.

(iv) S.O. 368(E) to S.O. 370(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of the National Highway No. 26, including construction of By-Pass, if any, (Jhansi-Lakhnadon section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(v) S.O. 413(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Gwalior By-Pass of National Highway Nos. 3 and 75 (Agra-Gwalior and Gwalior-Jhansi sections) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(vi) S.O. 517(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Lakhnadon-Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra Border section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(vii) S.O. 525(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 12 (Jabalpur-Rajmarg Crossing section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (viii) S.O. 397(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.33 (Ranchi-Jamshedpur section) in the State of Jharkhand.
- (ix) S.O. 500(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.77 (Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section) and Muzaffarpur By-Pass in the State of Bihar.
- (x) S.O. 408(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building maintenance, management and operation of National Highways No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Faridabad section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xi) S.O. 409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.3(E) dated the 2nd January 2007.
- (xii) S.O. 296(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 215 (Panikoli-Rimuli section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xiii) S.O. 385(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 200 (Sukinda-Bhubana section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xiv) S.O. 499(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2007 authorizing the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jalandhar-II as the competent authority to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1 (Jalandhar-Amritsar section) in the State of Punjab.
- (xv) S.O. 457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2007 regarding

acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 76 (Chittorgarh-Kota section) in the State of Rajasthan.

- (xvi) S.O. 419(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated the 4th August 2005.

- (xvii) S.O. 587(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2007 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users of different Bridges on various sections of National Highway Nos. 11A and 12 in the State of Rajasthan.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6576/2007)

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 418(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2007 entrusting the stretches mentioned therein of National Highway No. 1 to National Highways Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6577/2007)

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. F.No.NH-11014/2/2004-P&M (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2007 assigning additional charge of the National Highway Tribunal, Chennai to the Presiding Officer, National Highway Tribunal, Lucknow with immediate effect till Presiding Officer, National Highway Tribunal, Chennai is appointed, issued under sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6578/2007)

- (4) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 276(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6579/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6580/2007)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please resume your seats

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that I can listen to you only after the papers are laid

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir first of all you will take up calling attention.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provision of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2007."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2007 agreed without any amendment to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2007."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 2007.

12.02³/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-eighth Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thirty-first Report

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2005'.

12.03¹/₄ hrs.**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE****Fifty-sixth Report***[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Fifty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

Statements*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the following Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Fourteenth Lok Sabha).

- (1) Fifteenth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).
- (2) Sixteenth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).

12.03³/₄ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
WATER RESOURCES**

Statement*[English]*

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a Statement (Hindi

and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources contained in their Sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha).

12.04 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Constitution of Committee to look into instances
of misconduct including misuse of Parliamentary
privileges and facilities by Members of Parliament**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may recall that on 26th April, 2007, I had requested Shri Babubhai K. Katara, Member of Parliament not to attend the sittings of the House till the matter against him under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Passport Act had been deliberated upon by the leaders and a decision taken in that regard. I had also observed that considering the gravity of the situation, I would hold a meeting of the hon. Leaders so that a course of action can be decided upon as to how such matters may be dealt with in future so that the prestige of this great institution is upheld.

I held a meeting with the hon. Leaders of different Parties on 15 May 2007 to deliberate upon the matter. I am thankful to all the hon. Leaders for their very valuable suggestions in the matter. Hon. Leaders were unanimously of the view that a Committee of Members of Lok Sabha may be constituted to inquire into instances of misconduct including misuse of their privileges and facilities by Members of Lok Sabha.

I have accordingly decided to constitute a Committee consisting of the following Members, and it is all in alphabetical order:

1. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo — *Chairman*
2. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta
3. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
4. Shri C. Kuppusami
5. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra
6. Shri Shriniwas Patil
7. Shri Mohammad Salim

8. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
9. Shri Rajesh Verma
10. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav
11. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav

The Committee will inquire into cases of misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha including misuse of parliamentary privileges and facilities by them as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time and will recommend action, if any, to be taken in each case and submit the same to the Speaker.

The Committee may also, if it deems fit, look into the desirability of defining what acts would amount to misconduct on the part of the Member and make suitable recommendations regarding the action to be taken in cases of such misconduct.

The Committee is authorized to follow its own procedure consistent with the well-established principles of law and natural justice.

The Committee will endeavour to submit its report ordinarily within one month of the reference of any matter by the Speaker.

The Speaker will decide whether the Member or Members concerned in each case will be asked not to attend the House till a suitable decision is taken after the submission of the Report by the Committee.

Shri Babubhai Katara is requested not to attend the sittings of the House unless he is permitted to do so by the Speaker.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

1. (i) **Expansion of coverage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Uttar Pradesh***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with

*Laid on the Table and also placed in library See No. LT 6581/2007.

your permission, I beg to lay my statement on the table of the House.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 passed with unanimous consensus was notified on 7th September, 2005. NREGA guarantees local employment in the form of unskilled manual work upto 100 days in a financial year to every rural household if it demands such employment. Section 1(3) of NREG Act states that the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of the enactment of this Act.

Initially, 200 districts from all the States in the country were identified and the Act was implemented with effect from 2nd February, 2006. With a view to expand the coverage of the Act, 130 additional districts were identified for the second phase. Criteria for selection of 130 additional districts alongwith the names of 113 districts from all States, excluding Uttar Pradesh, were laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament on 7th March, 2007. The districts of Uttar Pradesh were not declared due to the imposition of Model Code of Conduct in the State in view of the State Assembly elections. Now that the election process is over, a list of these 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Names of Districts of Uttar Pradesh to be Added under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the second phase

S.No.	Names of the Districts
1	2
1.	Jhansi
2.	Kanpur Dehat
3.	Mau
4.	Sultanpur
5.	Ambedkar Nagar
6.	Basti
7.	Maharajganj
8.	Siddharthnagar
9.	Bahraich

1	2
10.	Balrampur
11.	Shrawasti
12.	Gonda
13.	Ballia
14.	Budaun
15.	Etah
16.	Farrukhabad
17.	Sant Kabir Nagar

(II) Status of Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I beg to lay my statement on the table of the House.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was notified on 2nd February, 2006 in 200 identified districts in 27 States in its first phase of implementation. Section 1(3) of the Act states that the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the Territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of its enactment. Accordingly, it has been decided by the Government to extend the coverage under the Act to 130 additional districts in the 2nd phase. 113 districts out of the additional 130 districts were notified from 1st April on 26th March 2007. The names of the 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh were not declared due to Model Code of Conduct being in place in the State in view of the State Assembly Election. Now that Election process in the State is over, these 17 districts have been notified on 15th of May 2007.

2. Budget Provision: The Central Government had made a budget provision of Rs. 11300 crore for the year 2006-07. During the year, an amount of Rs. 12072.51 crore was available with 200 phase one districts for implementing NREGA. This included Central release of Rs. 8263.66 crore. State share of Rs. 801.91 crore and Opening Balance as on 1.4.2006 of Rs. 2052.92 crore. Besides, an amount of Rs. 377.20 crore were released

to 113 phase two districts for preparatory arrangements and initial expenses thus making a total central release of Rs. 8640.86 crore to the 313 districts during 2006-07 under NREGA. The Central Government has made a budget provision of Rs 12000 crore for the current financial year (2007-2008) for implementation of the Act against which an amount of Rs. 1247.66 crores have been released.

3. Programme Outcomes: 2.10 crore households were provided employment during 2006-07. A total of 90.40 crore person days of employment has been provided under the Programme in 200 districts while under SGRY in 2005-06 the total mandays generated were 82.18 crore mandays in 586 districts. Thus on an average 45.2 lakh person days of employment have been generated in a district, while under SGRY in 2005-2006, the average person days was 14.02 lakh per district. In NREGA against a total fund availability of Rs. 12072.51 crore with the States during 2006-07 Rs. 8812.60 crore has been utilised under the Programme. The average fund utilisation per district is Rs. 44.06 crore in 2006-07, while under SGRY for 2005-6 the average fund utilisation for a district was Rs. 12 crore. A total of 8.31 lakh works have been undertaken under the Programme, out of which 3.83 lakh works have been completed. A total of 2.66 lakh water conservation works, such as digging of new ponds, percolation tank, check dams have been undertaken. 59924 renovation of traditional water bodies works have been undertaken. 80794 works to provide irrigation facilities have been undertaken on the land owned by scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and beneficiaries of land reform. 27682 micro irrigation works, such as minor irrigation canals have been undertaken and 88557 land development works have been undertaken. Afforestation works undertaken are 77305. Road works taken up in the Programme are 1.79 lakh which have so far added 22.89 lakh kilometer of road length. Over all out of total number of works undertaken 74% are water conservation works and 22% are road works.

4. Monitoring and Vigilance:

- National level monitors have visited all the 200 phase-I districts, feedback received from the NLMS have been shared with the State Governments.
- A web enabled MIS www.nrega.nic.in wherein all critical data on NREGA is placed in public domain. To facilitate operationalisation of web enabled MIS a User Manual has also been

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 6582/2007.

made available to the State Government and put on the website.

- Social Auditing Process has been started in the States. NGOs have been involved in generating awareness at the field level.

2. Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 29th, 30th, and 31st reports of the Standing Committee on Information Technology pertaining to the Departments of Information Technology, Telecommunications and Posts respectively (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 1st September 2004, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 29th, 30th and 31st Reports of the Standing Committee on Information Technology in respect of Department of Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications and Department of Posts respectively under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The Reports No. 29, 30 and 31 contain 48, 34 and 35 recommendations in respect of Department of Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications and Department of Posts respectively. I would like to lay the detailed Action Taken Report on the Table of the House without taking the valuable time of the House.

12.08 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Status of the Sethu-Samudram Canal Project and reported controversy regarding its alignment

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am going to take Item No. 17, namely, Calling Attention. Hon. Members, a Calling

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 6583/2007.

Attention regarding the status of the Sethu-Samudram Canal Project and the reported controversy regarding its alignment is listed today at Item No. 17 in today's Order Paper in the names of Sarvashri Dharmendra Pradhan, A. Krishnaswamy, N.S.V. Chitthan, S.K. Kharventhan and M. Appadurai.

In the meantime, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has vide his letter dated 16.5.2007 requested that Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra may be allowed to call the attention of the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways instead of him.

I have acceded to this request as a very special case, but it should not be treated as a precedent.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra may now call the attention of the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

May I earnestly appeal to all sections of the House that sometimes some sensitive matters are taken up very emotionally, but after all, these are important matters for which Calling Attention is given. Please let us hear each other and give replies, so that we can proceed with the matter in a manner that behoves us.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir these people leave after making their speeches, but they never listen to anybody *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I too have a matter *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seats. Please allow me to conduct some business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As per the rules firstly I am taking up calling attention.

[English]

I am following the rules, nothing else.

[Translation]

I have not framed the rules. All of you have jointly framed it.

(English)

Let us do it in a dignified manner.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The status of Sethu-Samudram Canal Project and the reported controversy regarding its alignment."

*THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, with the pendency of two court cases vide OS no. 59 of 2006 in the hon. Court of Subordinate Judge, Ramanathapuram and Writ Petition No. 2262 (M/B) of 2007 in the hon. High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, the matter pertaining to implementation of Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project is sub-judice. However, without prejudice to the ongoing proceeding in the courts, I am submitting the factual position before this august House.

Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project

The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP), which has been a longstanding demand for over 150 years of the people of peninsular India specially the people of Tamil Nadu, envisages dredging of a ship channel to connect the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal through Palk Bay so that the ships, depending on draft required, moving between the 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 up to 424 nautical miles of distance and up to 30 hours of sailing time for these ships.

The project is of great significance from national defence and security point of view as well as it will enable quicker access between the coasts as well as shortened response time.

The hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the commencement of works on the Project on 2nd July 2005 in the presence of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Chairperson, UPA, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, presently

the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and other senior leaders. The work on the project has been progressing uninterruptedly since then. A total quantity of 14.56 million cubic metre has been dredged so far.

Selection of Alignment of Sethusamudram Channel

In the year 1996, the Government decided to make the Tuticorin Port Trust as Nodal Agency for the Project. Tuticorin Port Trust in March, 1998 engaged M/s National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to conduct the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) of the Project. M/s NEERI considered 5 alternative routes for the channel, out of which alignment numbers 1, 2 and 3 were rejected earlier. The alignment number 4, cutting through Rameshwaram Island (between Kodandaramasamy Temple and Dhanushkodi) and alignment number 5, around Dhanushkodi, were discussed with the Steering Committee headed by the Development Adviser (Ports), Department of Shipping. The alignment number 4 suggested by the Steering Committee near the Moonru Iruppu Chatram was recommended as the best alternative, keeping in view various aspects including environmental, ecological and navigational.

Presentation of IEE by NEERI was made before the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) in March, 1999. MoEF vide their letter dated April 1999 conveyed that *prima facie* they were not in favour of this project as the project had serious environmental implications with respect to marine park and the biosphere reserve located in that particular area. In view of the categorical views expressed by MoEF, it was proposed to take up preparation of the Detailed Feasibility Study and the Environmental Impact Assessment Study before taking a final decision on the project. The approval for instituting fresh studies was given by Shri Arun Jaitely, the then Minister (Surface Transport) on 09-03-2001. These studies were assigned to NEERI in October 2001.

Copy of the progress report on Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment for Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was received from NEERI in Oct. 2002, a copy of which along with the brief on the subject was given to office of the then Minister (Shipping) Shri V.P. Goyal. A review meeting was convened by the then Minister of State (Shipping) [Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar] on 23.10.2002.

It is pertinent to note that the progress report on Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment for Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project on 'Analysis of Alternatives' recommended as follows:

"Thus, from all considerations including environmental and ecological, the alignment farther away from the Dhanushkody Island appears to be the best choice. Hence, it is proposed that the canal should originate from the Tuticorin new harbour in the Gulf of Mannar, extend towards east and further north-east up to south of Pamban Island, then cut through the Adam's Bridge, thereafter proceed parallel to the International Medial Line before finally joining the Bay of Bengal channel."

The then Minister of State (Shipping) put up a note to the then Minister (Shipping) [Thiru. V.P. Goyal] on 25.10.2002 seeking decision on the initial depth of 7 meters and a clear-cut 'in-principle' approval of deepening of this canal to 9 metres/12 metres/14 metres in subsequent stages. On 29.10.2002, the then Minister (Shipping) Thiru. Goyal approved for not to consider beyond 9-10 metre (depth and constitution of a Coordination Committee under the Secretary (Shipping) to review the progress and put the project on fast track.

The then successive Minister of Shipping, Thiru Shatrughan Sinha had in response to a matter of Urgent Public Importance (Special Mentions) raised in Rajya Sabha by Prof. Sankaralingam, while informing him about the progress of the project on 23.9.2003, inter-alia, mentioned about the alignment of the channel through Adam's Bridge east of Pamban Island.

The broad principles and parameters of the channel alignment thus considered by the NDA Government is the present alignment of the channel, that is the Alignment number 6.

Public Hearings conducted in respect of SSCP

Fourteen public hearings for consideration of environmental clearance of the project were held in six coastal districts in three rounds during the period from September, 2004 to February, 2005. Subsequently, on 31.03.2005, the Ministry of Environment and Forests granted environmental clearance to the Project after following due procedure and detailed scrutiny.

Geotechnical Studies

Adam's Bridge, as per information available to the Project Authorities, is a series of sand shoals created by sedimentation over a long period of time in the area.

To assess the dredgability and the quantity of sub-soil to be dredged, Project Authorities had conducted Geotechnical Studies such as Bathymetry, Sub-Bottom Profiling, Vibro-coring and Borehole Investigations. Borehole Investigations were conducted at 81 locations up to 20 meters of depth in Adam's Bridge area by various agencies. International guidelines and practices were followed. The samples have been preserved by the project authorities and are available for any scrutiny.

The then Union Minister, Coal & Mines, Ms. Uma Bharati, desired that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) should take up an R&D project on the past climatic fluctuations in the Adam's Bridge Area to establish a probable Palaeogeography of the terrain. The GSI, accordingly, conducted these studies as a part of "Project Rameshwaram" during December, 2002 to March 2003. The studies included Reconnoitry Survey, Drilling and Off-shore Surveys, Collection of Bathymetric data, Sea-bed samples and Side Scan Sonar Images of the Sea Bed in Dhanushkodi foreland and drilling in one of the islands within EEZ of India and laboratory studies etc. In this study, the boreholes were drilled even up to a depth of 205 metres. Core sediment/logs of these boreholes indicate presence of compact clay, calcareous sandstone and fossiliferous limestone deposited in an episodic manner. The sedimentation pattern clearly points to the past sea level fluctuations. Preliminary studies suggest that all the boreholes are within the Upper Quaternary period (5 to 7 lakh years from today).

In this context, it may be noted that on the issue of origin of Adam's Bridge, NASA, USA on its website has mentioned—"Better known tomboles include the now partially submerged giant tomboles forming Adam's Bridge (Palk Strait) connecting Sri Lanka to India. Such tomboles usually indicate a constant sediment source and a strong unidirectional or bidirectional (monsoonal) long shore current."

Tombole means a bar of sand connecting an island with another island or the mainland. Adam's Bridge area in fact has a constant sediment source from the rivers flowing into Palk Bay and experiences bi-directional long shore current, due to South West and North East monsoon.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

The project authorities on 6th February 2007 and subsequently the Ministry have taken up the matter for seeking more details from NASA.

None of the studies and investigations conducted so far has produced any tangible scientific evidence of any man-made structure in the area.

Heritage site

As per the information available, no archaeological studies have revealed the existence of any structure of archaeological importance in the area. In the absence of any clinching evidence, none of the successive Governments including the NDA Government, have neither declared nor initiated any action to declare the project site or parts thereof as Monument of National Importance.

In view of the aforementioned, I would like to state that the alignment of Sethusamudram Ship Channel does not contain any UNESCO declared World Heritage Site or any Government declared Monument of National Importance. Therefore, there is no question of damage being caused to any such heritage by the implementation of this Project.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, here people are clapping their hands ...*(Interruptions)* I have thoroughly gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister. It is highly disappointing, objectionable.* He mentioned about many Ministers of the NDA regime. Sir, I would like to say that there is no dispute regarding Setu Samudram Canal project. Dispute is with regard to its alignment. Deliberately whenever they talked about the Canal project and at the time of granting approval to the Canal project, this alignment was never given approval. We have got an alternate alignment plan. The way in which Suez Canal and Panama were created, similarly, if we build the Canal on the land segment lying adjacent to Dhanushkodi and the navigation is directed through it, then neither Ram Sethu ...*(Interruptions)* You please go there and then say that there is no Ram Sethu there ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him say. Why are you objecting to it? You can reply to that later.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): There is Ram sethu ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kharabela ji, kindly take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to yield to them. Shri Swain, Please sit down. Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is very difficult. Let him speak. You can reply to that later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it can be built near Dhanushkodi and it can be saved, but the Minister is very adamant about his stand in this regard. His adamant stand is going to deal a crushing blow to the Hindu sentiments and in one way or the other the said stand is going to completely destroy it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to present before you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. He will reply. Why are you worried? Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Here we do act as they do. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There are four hon. Member to take part in this discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has mentioned about the names of many Ministers many names have been quoted....(Interruptions) Justice K.C. Thomas who has been awarded Padma Bhushan recently and who is held in high esteem, has no links with our party, he has links with their own party. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

He says:

"In project like this, Sethu-Samundram Shipping Canal Project, decisions are to be based not only on a study of geological implications, the religious sentiments of the people of Bharat must be honoured and there exists a tradition in this land, of honouring religious sentiments. So, it is my definite opinion that Ram Sethu must not be broken."

This is what Justice Thomas says.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Justice Krishna Iyer who is generally considered as a leftist has written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister

[English]

He says:

"I should address you better late than never".

MR. SPEAKER: You have to vouch for them.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, I will give it to you. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to me now. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu, what is going on here?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is this all about ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

[English]

I am controlling the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are disturbing him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to sit down. Do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is competent to look after him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Their understanding has reached at such a level that now they are defending them. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Chakraborty, I thoroughly disapprove of what you are doing. I request that only Prof. Malhotra will speak and nobody else's intervention will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra Ji, You please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He wrote a letter to the Prime Minister in which he says:

"I should address you better late than never. The subject must have already been within your attention,

and is known as Sethu-Samundram Shipping Canal project..... the facts with scientific objectivity and national anxiety. My appeal to you is to stop building any bridge or other construction, an action hostile to the nation and its Swaraj. Our nation will be weakened and may suffer new dangers with American presence in the Sethu-Samundram waters by doing what for centuries has never been considered necessary or feasible or in any manner advantageous to us."

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Where is the American presence there?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may note down the points and reply to them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not keeping silent. Again and again I am requesting. I have said that I apprehended this.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has a right to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly, Prof. Malhotra, I am speaking in your favour. I had requested all sections of the House because it is a matter which is disturbing many people either on this side or that side. Since we are discussing this matter in this House, let it be done in a proper atmosphere. You can fully reply. I will give you full opportunity. If you do not get the opportunity to reply I will delete the entire debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, you are repeatedly defying the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who is using that word? Please stand up. Is that how you treat your colleagues? You have not got the courage.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He further writes:

"In the name of India, that is Bharat, and appealing to your patriotic statesmanship, I beseech you to

reconsider the stand taken. This is a matter of a political party business or popularity or pro-American yen. I hope you will give great thought as the Executive Head of India to the grave issue implied in the enclosed paper and with which the nation shall define its survival."

MR. SPEAKER: That is the view of a gentleman.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He says that the project should not be done.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to authenticate that.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to other points also. Demolishing 'Ram Setu' will render 15 lakh fishermen jobless and 600 species of fish found there will also be destroyed. They have also raised their voice against it. Even when Tsunami had struck the nation, it was established that in the absence of this dam, the coastal area of Kerala would have been destroyed completely. People of Kerala have also raised objections against demolishing it. Thorium reserves are also there at this stretch. The inputs being used for demolishing this Setu will damage these reserves also. It has been ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will take only five minutes. Long speeches have been made here. Some Members have spoken even for 25 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No other Member except you has given such a lengthy speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You will get your opportunity. You will be called next.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The hon'ble Minister has mentioned about American pressure. Shri Raghupathy had written a letter to Prime Minister's office in which he highlighted these things.

[English]

"Both India and Sri Lanka have tried to register the water as historic in 1970-80. US do not recognize this claim."

MR. SPEAKER: Where are you reading from?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am reading from Mr. Raghupathy's letter to the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Who is he?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is the Chairman.

[Translation]

He had been mentioned earlier also. This letter has been written by him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot read every letter here without authentication.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am telling about the American pressure.

MR. SPEAKER: You know it very well. I do not have to tell you. Please do not violate the rules.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has asked about American Pressure. The issue of Scam is a different one but the question of religious belief is a big one. He has questioned the existence of 'Ram Setu'. Last year Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had visited to see "Ramila". I was also present there. The episode in which Ram Sena

was passing through 'Ram Setu' was being repeated there. Since thousands of years crores of people strongly believe in the existence of Ram Setu....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Baalu, he is saying that you need not accept it. You can reply properly. Mr. Malhotra, now you have to put your question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I will take five minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that it is the question of religious faith ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is the meaning of raising point of order during calling attention ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. Please let me hear.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He may not, be having faith in religion but why he is trying to stop it ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want it, then everything will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, he is referring to some documents and letter. He has to authenticate them.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will authenticate every document I am speaking from...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can refer to it but you cannot read like that.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the question of religious faith is a very important one.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not come.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Lutyens zone here ...*(Interruptions)* Our bungalows in Lutyens zone ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am coming to that.

[Translation]

If not a single room of bungalows in Lutyens Zone cannot be demolished, how can the Ram Setu. It is a question of our religious belief.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that it is the question of religious belief of crores of people of our country. If Ram Setu is demolished and thereafter ...*(Interruptions)* Ram Setu is being demolished ...*(Interruptions)* we will not let them demolish Ram Setu. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, he is interrupting every time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you bothered? Let him put a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I will delete your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will delete your speech. I am sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. I will delete the speech. Will you sit down?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How can he interrupt like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who are you to say this? Only Shri Malhotra will speak. I will decide about this. I will go through the proceedings and see. I am adjourning the House now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Why the hon'ble Minister raise from his seat again and again ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, I will call you immediately after this. Shri Malhotra, please put your question. Please do not arouse sentiments here.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the hon'ble minister is saying time and again that the bridge in

question is not Ram Setu. However, the pictures taken by NASA also prove that it is the same "Ram Setu". Crores of people of our country believe it. You also visit to see Ramlila every time and enjoy the scene of Ram Setu. We worship Ram Setu. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question and nothing more.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon'ble Minister has risen again. Why he is rising from seat again and again ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is too much. What you all are doing is too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Status of Sethu-Samudram Canal Project and reported controversy regarding its alignment—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us complete the discussion under Calling Attention.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was on his legs. He may conclude now.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy. Speaker, Sir, at that time I was submitting that whatever efforts have been done by the hon'ble Minister to supply facts are nothing but a bundle of lies and such wrong statements are being made quite deliberately. He said that there is only dune there and there is no such thing as bridge or Setu there. All the cutters that were employed for dredging have broken and foreign technicians are being called to mend them. Recently people had gone there and walked on that bridge. People can walk on that bridge for miles. Ram Setu is a symbol of religious faith of 100 crore Hindus of India. Every year it is being shown during the staging of Ram Lila at lakhs of places in the country. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that when there is alternative of this project and can be constructed at much lower cost, one tenth of its present cost and impression of American presence would not have been there. Then what are the difficulties in executing that alternative proposal? It is not appropriate to open all routes under the pressure of the USA and commit a big scam in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Prof. Malhotra should be recorded and nothing else.

...(*Interruptions*)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would only like to bring to your attention the fact that under Calling Attention, only questions are asked and no speeches are made ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will request them also to calm down. Please let him conclude his speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mistry ji, Malhotra ji is concluding, you please cooperate.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, you will also get opportunity and opportunity will also be given to DMK.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have said a new thing. All the gadgets and the cutters have broken. It is a kind of conspiracy that is being hatched. It is on account of this that a big countrywide movement is going to be started in the country and lakhs of 'Saints' are going to launch movement and 'Satyagrah'. Conspiracy is being hatched to blast the Ram Setu by dynamite. ...* I would also like to submit that when Babar came to India and became victorious in war, he sent Mir Kashim to destroy Ram Setu and Ram temple...* Ram temple and Ram Setu are the symbol of our religious faith, our ideals and a way of life of this country. Its destruction will not be tolerated. If the Government does not believe in this, it may proceed and see its consequence. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I would request Shri Krishnaswamy to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, what are you doing? You are a very senior hon. Member of this House.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur): Sir, Sethu Samudram Project is around 150 years old project. It is the dream of the people of the Tamil Nadu. It is a national pride and honour. Though the project was conceived by the Britishers, it had never become a reality during the British regime. Though this project was commissioned after the UPA Government came to power, it was approved by the NDA Government. ... (Interruptions)

This was inaugurated by hon. Prime Minister and hon. Chairperson of the UPA. For the past two years, the BJP kept quiet. Now, after commissioning of this Project, they have started politicizing the issue. They are raising this issue to politicise it by referring to Ramlila and Ram Sethu. Actually, its name is Adam's Bridge. ... (Interruptions) Of course, the hon. Minister will reply to it. ... (Interruptions) Even in history it has been referred to as Adam's Bridge. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, please ask only clarifications.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: It is not Ram Sethu. ... (Interruptions) Kumari Uma Bharati also went there. ... (Interruptions) It is Adam's Bridge, not Ram Sethu or Ramar Bridge. ... (Interruptions) It was the dream of the British people. British people called it as Adam's Bridge. But definitely the BJP wants to politicise the issue. They want to penetrate South India. As they have politicized the Ayodhya Temple issue, they want to politicise this issue also. They want to enter Tamil Nadu through this issue. ... (Interruptions). This issue was raised in this same House by former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the hon. Aringar Anna. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, a question about alignment has arisen now. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in all how many alignments were considered from time to time before finalizing the existing alignment of the Sethu Channel; when the present alignment was finalized, whether any objection or reservation was expressed by any political party or any organization on the alignment issue. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri N.S.V. Chitthan.

Shri Chitthan, you are allowed to seek only clarifications.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Sir, Prof. V.K. Malhotra spoke so long. You have allowed him. I have not even started yet. Please be liberal to our side also.

Sir, at the outset I would like to thank our hon. Minister for his elaborate and detailed statement depicting the whole history of Sethu Samudram Project. As he has mentioned in his statement, this project was the dream of people of Tamil Nadu for more than 150 years. Long back, Poet Subramaniya Bharati, our tall national leader, Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, Shri K.T. Kosal Ram, Aringar Anna, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and almost all the leaders of different political parties had all along been pressing and demanding for the early implementation of this prestigious project.

As the hon. Minister stated, the hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the commencement of works of the project on 2nd July 2005 in the presence of Madam Sonia Gandhi ji, hon. Chairperson of the UPA Government, Dr. Kalaingar, the present hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and all other senior leaders of Tamil Nadu.

The work on the project has been progressing uninterruptedly since then. A quantity of 14.56 million cubic meters has been dredged on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now what is your question?

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: What were you doing during the inauguration time?...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I have not put my question. I have not yet come to the question. I warn the BJP and other allied Parties, any attempt to stop or delay the project by the BJP or by any other allied Parties will hamper the economic progress of the nation, particularly the coastal region of Tamil Nadu. It is also to be noted that the NDA Government had never declared during their regime that the canal did contain any UNESCO declared world heritage site or declared monument of national importance. BJP wants to gain political mileage by raising this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now what is your question?

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the likely repercussions in physical and financial terms, if any realignment takes places. In that case, what are the likely cost and the time over run in

the project? What is the present status of this on-going Sethu-Samundram Project? How much has been spent so far and how long will you take to complete the project as the project is connected with the economic progress of Tamil Nadu. Of course, Lord Rama is not the sole propriety of BJP. Our country is a secular State. There are so many Hindus this side. We believe in Rama and Hinduism.

Sir, for their information I would like to add that during the inauguration time, the heir of Raja of Ramanathapuram, who sent Swami Vivekananda to America was present. Sir, their main aim is to gain political mileage in raising the issue.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): The Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project envisages the creation of a navigable canal from the Gulf of Mannar to the Bay of Bengal through a stretch of Shallow Sea in the Palk Strait separating India and Sri Lanka by dredging.

The above Project was first proposed by a British, Mr. A.D. Taylor of the Indian Marines during 1860. At the instance of late leader, Shri K. Kamaraj, hon. late Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet cleared the Project for the first time in the year 1955. The Project was studied in 1955, 1983 and 1986. During NDA regime -1998 to 2003 - various feasibility studies were carried out and the Project was approved, including alignment by the Ministers Shri Thirunavukarasar, Shri Arun Jaitley and other BJP led NDA Ministers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kharventhan.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Consequent upon the request of Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and due to the strenuous efforts taken by our hon. Minister, Shri T.R. Baalu, the Scheme was launched at Madurai by hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on 2nd July, 2005 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,500 crore.

I want to know from the hon. Minister how this Project is expected to boost our National Defence?

Secondly, whether at any point of time the alleged heritage factor, "Ram Sethu" issue was raised during the investigation conducted by the BJP Ministers,

*Not recorded.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

Shri Arun Jaitley, Kumari Uma Bharti and by other Ministers during the BJP led NDA regime in the period 1998 to 2003?

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Sethu Samudram Project is an accomplishment of 150 years old dream of Tami Nadu British Naval Commander AT Taylor was the first one to meet the proposal. Thereafter we have been discussing about this every now and then. Government of India had set up a committee headed by Sir A.Ramasawmy Mudaliar to conduct a feasibility study of this project. It was recommended then that Sethu Samudram Project can be taken up along with Tuticorin Port Project. The cost estimate was a mere Rs. 10 crores then. But in 1963, permission was accorded only to Tuticorin Port Project. It was completed in 1975. Ever after that Sethu Samudram Project had its projected cost keep on increasing. In 1996, it required Rs. 760 crores of rupees. Only in 1999, an announcement came to give a hope that the project may be completed in a span of 3 years. But Rs. 4.83 crores was allocated late in 2001 that too to conduct further feasibility study of the project. However the study helped to arrive at a decision to take up 44 Km. Channel. The completion of the project would help every ship to save 30 hours of extended journey taking a circumlocutious route with 442 nautical miles more going round the island nation. Developing Tuticorin Project can help augmenting economic activity in 13 small harbours in Tamil Nadu thereby giving a boost to the economy of Southern States and Southern districts in particular. Tuticorin port which is being modernized now can handle two thousand ships per year emerging as a big and important port in this region than even Colombo and Singapore thereby help boosting Haldia port in West Bengal. This will help earning Rs. 50 thousand crores per year apart from great savings in fuel. Communal forces are now spreading a falsehood in the name of Ram Sethu if only to scuttle the economic development. NASA scientists have said that there are only sand tamboulines and not any man made structure in Adams Bridge the Shallow area in the gulf there. Let us progress with science and scientific temper. Ram Bridge is a myth and a mere belief and there is no scientific basis and has not been proved scientifically as 4 years of study has disproved the claims of BJP. Let superstition not come in the way of progress. The BJP is suggesting alternative alignment avoiding Kothanda Ramasawmy Temple-Dhanushkoddi alignment. The suggested alignment

infact would cause great ecological disaster. It would affect 21 coral reefs at a stretch of 12 Kms and a vast fish breeding area in that region. Considering the fact that there is only Adam Bridge and not Ram Bridge, we must go ahead to save the interests of fishermen in those coastal areas. Let us shatter myths and construct this economically viable and prosperous a project at the earliest. Hence I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the on going Sethu Samudram Project would be completed in time as per schedule without any further delay?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I would like to request the hon. Minister to give the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I want to seek a simple clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. According to rules, I have to give the time to five Members only. Otherwise, I have a very long list with me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is on his legs. Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all would like to know whether the alignment will be approved or not ...(Interruptions) the demolition be stopped or not. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister is replying.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, please allow me to seek a clarification. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)*

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank my very close, bosom friend Prof. Malhotra, the mover of the Calling Attention and my other close friends Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Member of Parliament; Shri N.S.V. Chitthan, Member of Parliament; Shri S.K. Karventhan, Member of Parliament and Shri M. Appadurai, Member of Parliament for their observations made in this House—whether they are good or bad.

At the same time, I would like to tell you that we, in the Government here, act according to the Constitution only. Article 51A is about Fundamental Duties. It says:

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—"

I quote two portions only. Article 51A(f) says:

"to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;"

Sub-clause (h) says:

"to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform."

What is meant by scientific temper? You are my friend Prof. Malhotra. *...(Interruptions)* He knows what is science, what is scientific temper. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That enactment about religious symbols was passed in this House. It says that except the Ramajanma Bhoomi, all other religious, symbols exist as they existed in 1947. *...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

No Religious symbol was demolished.

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am only on Article 51A of the Constitution. If you want me to be guided by the Constitution, I welcome it. I am directed by the Constitution. That is what I want to impress upon you.

Sir, I am guided by the Constitution of India and I want to develop scientific temper not only among the

Members of the Treasury Benches, but also among the Members of the Opposition Benches. We are clearly guided by scientific approach on this matter without affecting the religious sentiments of the people. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): What about Ram Setu? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There is no Ram Setu at all. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I would request you to keep the House in order. I have to answer to the points raised by hon. Members.

As far as the Indian map is concerned, whether during the tenure of the NDA Government or during the tenure of any other Government since Independence, no change has occurred. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is no Ram Setu at all anywhere in the Indian map. Where is Ram Setu? Where is Adam's Bridge in the map? Do they agree with me or not? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever is spoken without my permission will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that I have misled the House. I would like to categorically state that I have not misled the House. I have all the relevant records of the Government with me which state that Shri Arun Jaitley proposed this project, Shri Thirunavukkarasar endorsed it and Shri V.P. Goel finalized it. Over and above this, Shri Shatrughan Sinha, the last Minister who was holding this portfolio, wrote a letter to Rajya Sabha Members saying: 'We are going ahead with the project'. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, if they want, I will read everything here. These are all Government records which were there even during the tenure of the NDA Government.

Moreover, we have established 81 bore holes in the Adam's Bridge area. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, he charged that I have misled the House. I have not misled the House. I have never intended to mislead the House. In fact, we, in the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, never intended to hurt the religious sentiments of any community, including the Hindus. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, let them not disturb me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever is spoken without my permission will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, he said that I have misled the House. I would like to again state here that I have not misled the House. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, Sadhvi Uma Bharati, the then Member of Parliament of the BJP and a Minister in the NDA Government discussed the issue with the Geological Survey of India and directed the GSI to go for a palaeographic study. I would like to quote from the official Newsletter of the Geological Survey of India dated September, 2003, Volume XVII, No. 2. It says:

"Satellite imageries over the South Indian coast, the North Sri Lankan coast and the adjoining area released by NASA were published in the Indian newspapers to suggest that India and Sri Lanka were once joined by the Adam's Bridge. It was also reported that the bridge may have its origin at about 0.175 Ma."

Sir, 0.175 Ma means about 17.5 lakh years ago. It further says:

"Honourable the then Union Minister of Coal and Mines Sadhvi Uma Bharati evinced keen interest in this news item and discussed the issue with the Director-General, GSI and the Dy. Director-General, Marine Wing, GSI. She desired that the GSI should take up an R & D project on the past climatic fluctuations in the area to establish a probable palaeogeography of this terrain."

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What does it show? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, they should not disturb the Minister. *...(Interruptions)* They said, 'I am misleading' *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, he is misleading the House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am opposing them. *...(Interruptions)*

"Shri P.C. Shrivastava, Deputy Director General, Marine Wing, GSI accordingly planned and launched a special programme, "Project Rameswaram", in an incredibly short time in four phases - (i) reconnaissance survey, (ii) drilling in the Dhanuskodi Foreland, offshore surveys involving collection of bathymetric data, seabed samples, side scan sonar images of the seabed, (iii) drilling in one of the islands within the EEZ of India and (iv) laboratory studies including dating of the samples towards construction of the chronological climatic fluctuations in the past. The programme was implemented on a war footing from December, 2002 to March 2003 under the dynamic leadership and an impeccable supervision of Shri Shrivastava himself." *...(Interruptions)*

"Three boreholes, approximately 4 kms. apart, were drilled to collect subsurface sediment/rock samples towards generating geological data for suggesting a possible geological milieu of the Dhanuskodi Foreland and the Adam's Bridge. The first borehole at Mundram Chatram near CRPF Camp was drilled up to 120 metre depth, the second borehole at Dhanuskodi up to 205 metre depth and the third borehole at the first island of the Adam's Bridge up to 103 metre depth."

Finally, what is the result? "The sedimentation pattern clearly points to the past sea level fluctuations. Preliminary studies suggest that all the boreholes are within the Upper Quaternary period." *...(Interruptions)*

I would ask them what is Upper Quaternary period. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Baalu, please address the Chair.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, They should understand the facts. According to the scientific studies, there was no Ram Bridge up to 205 metres. There was no man made bridge *...(Interruptions)* Maybe, I am going up to 12 metres only. What is their problem? We are going to dredge the particular channel up to 12 metres. We may go up to 20 metres or 25 metres maximum, depending on the conditions there. *...(Interruptions)* We have done up to 205 metres. What is their problem? There is no man-

made structure as far as our dredging is concerned and moreover, if they want to contest Srimad Valmiki Ramayana, we will discuss the matter... *(Interruptions)* Where is the origination of the particular Setu? It has never been stated in the Valmiki Ramayana or in any other Ramayana. Where is it? They should mention, where is it stated? ...*(Interruptions)*

There are so many stories. This is mythology... *(Interruptions)* Ramayana is a mythology. Everybody has accepted it. What is their botheration? ...*(Interruptions)* We never hurt the feelings of Hindus, not only Hindus, but also Sikhs, Muslims, Christians and everybody. ... *(Interruptions)* I would advise them not to play their card. ...*(Interruptions)*

My friend, Malhotraji and other people have dismantled the existing 400 year old Muslim Mosque. Now, they are claiming that we are dismantling the Ram Setu, which is not available, whereas they have dismantled the 400 year old mosque. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: That was the history. This is not history. This is all mythical, ...*(Interruptions)*

We never intend to hurt the feelings of Hindus or any of the religions. We are secular; this Government is secular than you. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.30 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

14.31 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

- (i) Need to provide basic amenities and undertake the gauge-conversion of railway line from Gwalior to Sheopur Kalan under North Central Railway

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Sir, there is no basic amenities available in the trains which are being run along

Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan route. For last several years, passengers are facing the problems of drinking water and lack of toilet facilities and they have to face the hot air during the summer, cold wave during the winter season and rain during the rainy season, despite that the problems of passengers are not being solved.

So, I would like to request the Ministry of Railway that it should solve the problems by way of undertaking the gauge-conversion of said railway line.

- (ii) Need to restore the quota of ration being sold through PDS shops in Uttarakhand

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the Public Distribution System (PDS) is turning out to be a failure in distributing food grains in the country especially in Uttarakhand. The agriculture in hilly areas of Uttarakhand is negligible and other means of livelihood is also insignificant there. It is on account of this that most of the people of this area depend on the foodgrains being supplied by the Government through its fair price shops.

The crops of this area have got destroyed due to drought, heavy, snowfall and hailstorms and on the other hand the prices of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar etc, are skyrocketing in open market. It is on account of this that the survival of the people living below poverty line has become very difficult.

The foodgrains godowns in upper areas are lying empty. The ration quota of the people living below poverty line has been reduced and foodgrain distribution to the people living above poverty line has been stopped.

In this situation I would like to request the Central Government that it should allocate additional foodgrains to Uttarakhand State at the earliest and make available foodgrains to the people of the State as earlier and make available foodgrains to the people of the State at the earliest.

- (iii) Need to include Ajmer district of Rajasthan under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented through the Ministry of Rural Development by the Government of India for the alleviation of poverty prevailed in rural areas, checking the migration of rural people to urban areas and providing them employment at the local level. Even in the second stage of the scheme

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

only 6 districts of Rajasthan have been included under this scheme. I would like to request the Planning Commission that Ajmer district should also be included in it in the next phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as it meets all the necessary conditions and eligibility criteria of this scheme and is located in the middle of 1050 villages of Rajasthan which are facing the blow of famine continuously for last 8 years.

Maximum area of Ajmer district of Rajasthan comes under the category of over exploited and highly sensitive from the point of views of ground water. The ground water resources are continuously depleting. In 1984 the underground water level was recorded at 7.70 metre. But now it has gone down to 17-18 metre. There is continuous expansion of Thar desert in Ajmer district through Pushkar gap. There is starvation like situation in the district. There is lack of major industries in Ajmer and employment generation is negligible. Except during the rainy season, the people of this area are forced to go to places like Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh in search of jobs during the rest of the year.

So, I would like to request the Government of India that Ajmer district should be included under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for providing employment to agricultural labourers and poor farmers living in rural areas of Ajmer district.

(iv) Need to repair the damaged stretch of National Highway No. 63 between Hospet and Bellary District of Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the local people due to badly damaged roads between Hospet and Bellary District which is connecting to Andhra Pradesh on National Highway-63. The roads stretch of approximately 85 kms. between the above said place are in bad condition and even a small vehicle is not in a position to move on this road.

Due to the bad condition of roads, frequent accidents are taking place and the vehicular movement has become very difficult.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter and issue necessary instructions to get this stretch repaired on war-footing and also take steps to convert this stretch of NH-63 into 6 lanes on top priority basis.

(v) Need to run Rajdhani Express between Bhubaneswar and New Delhi via Keonjhar

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Bhubaneswar, the state capital of Orissa is connected by Rajdhani Express from New Delhi for only four days in a week. The 2421-2422 goes on Khargpur-Adra route and 2443-2444 goes via Khargpur and Tatanagar route. Both these Rajdhani Express trains join on separate days at Gaya and then go to New Delhi. There is no Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar on the remaining three days. Since the completion of Banaspani-Daitari line now there is a direct rail route from Tatanagar and Jajpur Road via Banspani and Keonjhar. This line touches upon major portion of Singhbhum and Keonjhar districts which are abundant with mineral resources and largest number of steel plants/sponge iron plants and other mining industries located in these districts. The people of these two districts also visit New Delhi for some vocation or the other. So there is a justification for connecting Rajdhani Express from these districts. If the Rajdhani Express diverts from Tatanagar for Keonjhar and joins at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and from there goes to Bhubaneswar, two backward districts of Orissa and Jharkhand will have a direct train to New Delhi. A large number of people will be benefited thereby and this will generate good amount of revenues for Railways as it is in the case of freight.

As such, I demand that Bhubaneswar and New Delhi may be connected by Rajdhani Express on the remaining three days via Keonjhar without any further delay.

(vi) Need to provide rail services between Hamirpur (U.P.) and Harpalpur (M.P.) and augment rail services/amenities between Mahoba & Khajuraho

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, ever since Independence railways have not done anything concrete in terms of laying down a new track in my parliamentary constituency Hamirpur. There is resentment among the local people due to this reason while public representatives have been making the demand for laying new railway tracks from time to time. There is an urgent

need to conduct survey of the 135 km. long railway line from Harpalpur (Madhya Pradesh) Railway station to Panwadi, Rath, Muskara, Vivar to Hamirpur Railway station via Hamirpur Headquarters with the laying of which the people of the area would be directly connected to Lucknow through Railway traffic and this would remove regional imbalance as well. At present the condition of railway connectivity in Hamirpur district is not satisfactory. This area is completely untouched by the development of Railways. Mahoba-Khajuraho railway line is to be completed by 30th June 2007. In a meeting of the General Manager, North Central railways, Jhansi Division on 8th February 2007 it was brought to the knowledge of the hon. Members that there was neither adequate space for parking an additional train nor basic amenities like that of a yard for changing engine in Mahoba/Khajuraho and nor is there any prospective scheme in this regard. Therefore, proper space should be allotted for parking trains for the convenience of the people and construction of additional platforms with sheds along with arrangements for changing engines should be undertaken. Adequate Housing facilities should be made available for the staff. Shatabdi, Rajdhani and other trains should be run immediately from Delhi to Khajuraho via Jhansi-Mahoba on the completion of this line. A railway workshop should be set up in my parliamentary constituency Mahoba Hamirpur under Chitrakoot division to remove regional imbalance and unemployment there.

Through this House, hon. Minister is requested to issue necessary instructions for the completion of all the said work on priority basis.

- (vii) **Need to amend the law with a view to maintain status-quo in the seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes from Jharkhand in Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, in the aftermath of Delimitation of Constituencies**

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Sir, owing to the delimitation of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha on the basis of Census 2001, there is loss of 5 and 1 seats respectively. In this regard a request for not reducing the number of seats reserved for tribals under the delimitation exercise was made by the delegation of Chief Minister of Jharkhand including representatives of all the parties of Jharkhand during a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister, Ministers of Home, Law and Justice. The Lok Sabha Members from Jharkhand and those of the Jharkhand

Legislative Assembly have from time to time riveted the attention of the Government, yet no action has been taken in this regard till date.

Welfare of the tribals is also a part of the agenda of the present Government, however, if the number of representatives of the tribals would reduce then who would voice their concerns in the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly.

Therefore, the Government should bring an amendment in the law with a view to maintain status-quo in the seats reserved for tribals and issue order to the Delimitation Commission to the effect for not reducing the number of seats reserved for tribals in Jharkhand.

14.32 hrs.

CENTRAL ROAD FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item 19; Shri T.R. Baalu ji.
...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

Sir, under Section 10 of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, the Central Government is responsible for allocation of fifty per cent of the cess on high-speed diesel oil for the development and maintenance of national highways, rural roads, state roads and construction of roads over or under railways.

The allocation under section 10 is utilized for provision of all-weather connectivity to rural habitations through Centrally sponsored scheme "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana", which is being administered by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development. Under this, a target has been set to provide road connectivity to all rural habitations having a population of 1000 and above (500 and above in hilly and tribal areas) by 2009. This will require an investment of about Rs. 48,000 crore. To bridge the funding gap it has been decided to borrow Rs. 16,500 crore over a period of four years.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

The Central Road Fund Act, 2000 does not have any provision for borrowing for rural roads and utilization of the proceeds of future cess for repayment of loans. The Central Government has to take such measures as may be necessary to raise funds for the development of rural roads, and it may use the share of the fund for the repayment of any loan taken for the purpose of development of rural roads in any State or Union territory. Therefore, the Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2006 seeks to amend the Central Road Fund Act 2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 9

Amendment made:

Page 1, for lines 6 to 9, *substitute—*

'2. In the Central Road Fund Act, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act), in section 9, in sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(b) take such measures as may be necessary to raise funds for the development and maintenance of the national highways and for the development of rural roads:". (3)

(Shri T.R. Baalu)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3 for "2006" *substitute* "2007" (2)

(Shri T.R. Baalu)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-seventh", *substitute* "Fifty-eighth". (1)

(Shri T.R. Baalu)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:-

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Global Warming—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 20 - further discussion on Global warming raised by Shri C.K. Chandrappan on 8th May, 2007.

Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult in the circumstances to discuss about global warming because of the tremendous heat generated in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* The BJP today represents the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We all know that when the level of carbon dioxide increases, the whole atmosphere gets polluted. ...*(Interruptions)* Once the levels of pollution

are this high, it will be impossible for the House to survive. ...*(Interruptions)*

The more this kind of sloganeering goes on in this House, the more the level of carbon dioxide will increase. In fact, the BJP does not represent just carbon dioxide but they represent Chloro Fluoro Carbon. Chloro Fluoro Carbon are the most polluting and destructive structure in the aerial atmosphere. ...*(Interruptions)* I, therefore, request that sincere efforts should be made by the polity of this country to reduce the level of these contaminants. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 17th May, 2007 at 11 a.m.

14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 17, 2007/Vaisakha 27, 1929 (Saka).

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